

Announcer: Welcome to the Carey Nieuwhof Leadership podcast. A podcast all about leadership, change and personal growth. The goal? To help you lead like never before in your church, or in your business. And now, your host, Carey Nieuwhof.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, hey everybody, and welcome to episode 268 of the podcast. My name is Carey Nieuwhof and I hope our time together today helps you lead like never before. Well, I got a little secret for you. It's not every episode, and it's not this one, but we have been quietly uploading some video versions of this podcast to YouTube, yeah. You can find it in the show notes.

Carey Nieuwhof: It's not every episode. We may get there one day, I don't know. It's not a particular goal, but a number of you have been saying, "Hey, would you ever do a video version of this?" So the answer is, yeah, we started. We just started real quietly, but if you look back, you can go to my YouTube channel, we'll link to it in the show notes to this episode.

Carey Nieuwhof: But my YouTube channel is simply Carey Nieuwhof, just Google that. You will find the episodes from Nona Jones, Micheal Hyatt, Sean Cannell, Les McKeown, and some future episodes as well on there. So if you prefer video and video seems to be all the fire these days, you will see more and more of these episodes on YouTube. So, just wanted to let you know that. You can search YouTube, you can just search my name, Carey Nieuwhof, and we started a new channel there and that will ... You'll see the occasional episode.

Carey Nieuwhof: For the rest, you'll just have to use your imagination, or maybe you're like me, primarily an audio listener. That's what I am. But, hey, I wanted to let you guys know about that. Today, ah man, this is ... We are so fortunate to be able to have conversations like the ones that I was able to have today. Every once in a while I get to talk to someone who really is just a legend, who leaves behind a legacy that is incredible.

Carey Nieuwhof: I've interviewed Chuck Swindoll years ago, Eugene Peterson, honestly about a year before he died and right before he retired from public life, I had that interview, and some others as well. Horst Schulze, I think, a legend in the business world, and today you're going to hear my conversation with Luis Palau.

Carey Nieuwhof: Now, a lot of you know who he is. If you don't, he is an evangelist who was really good friends with Billy Graham, has had a remarkable career over the last, almost, 50 years, and I'll tell you, at 84 has more energy than most 24 year olds I know, plus we had this conversation, as you'll hear, when he was suffering, or he is right now suffering from stage four lung cancer, and I got to tell you, it's just unbelievable to see his energy, his passion for the gospel, and I hope at age 84, if I make that far, that I've got half of his energy. I think you're just going to love this.

Carey Nieuwhof: Buy the end of the interview, we're both in tears, and although I pray, and he prays all the time, I don't usually pray on this podcast, but we finished by

praying. So, it's powerful and I ran into Luis Palau's son in London, England last month, and we were talking about the interview, and he said it was just one that really special to his dad as well. So, this is just really sacred space, and I'm glad that you're joining us for this podcast. Hey, I started tell you guys about video, and on that point, what is your solution for video?

Carey Nieuwhof: Here's the reality, the vast majority of churches are small, and the vast majority of businesses are small, and so you're saying, "I can't really afford to hire anybody," but have you heard about Pro Media Fire? Because we really aren't a video generation, and they are like virtual staff for you at a fraction of the cost. I think a partner like Pro Media Fire is vital, and we're using them for some of the stuff that we're doing these days.

Carey Nieuwhof: They have a whole team of graphic designers and video editors who will create custom videos and graphics for you, each month for a flat rate. So if you're producing sermon series, if you just want someone to handle the graphics for your social, that's what Pro Media Fire does, and because you listen to this podcast, you get a 10% off deal for life, for what you get with Pro Media Fire. So, to claim that, you have to go to this site. You go to promediafire.com/Carey, that's promediafire.com/Carey, C-A-R-E-Y, and I really hope you check that out.

Carey Nieuwhof: Hey, I know a lot of you had very, very positive feedback on the church growth master class that we ran last month, and if for some reason you missed that, I want you to know the course is still open. So we had some introductory bonuses and that kind of thing, but you can still get in, and if you want to help your church grow, and 94% of churches are not growing, they're plateaued or declining. Maybe it's that you're attracting new people, but you're running into church growth barriers, we cover that in the master class.

Carey Nieuwhof: But, here's what else we cover, and this is kind of for the very first time, we cover all the reasons that churches are not growing. Why can't we reach the culture? Why don't we have new people? And so, if you're a declining church going, "I really, really hope we could reach people," but you don't know how to crack that code, obviously I can't make a church grow, you can't make a church grow, only God can make a church grow, but I do believe we can position ourselves to grow.

Carey Nieuwhof: What I've discovered in over 20 years of local church leadership is there are things I can do that really make a difference in reaching the culture. I share all of that and more in the church growth masterclass. So if you haven't checked that out, head on over to churchgrowthmasterclass.com. It is not too late for you get in, and I'd love to join you inside that course.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, speaking of somebody who has reached millions of people with the gospel, who's changed with the times, and who has a legacy of prayer. I talk about meeting him for the first time, and I won't spoil it because we go there in

the interview, but it was an absolute joy to spend some time with Luis Palau. It's my privilege to bring you that conversation right now.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, Luis Palau, what an honor to have you on the podcast. Welcome.

Luis Palau: Thank you very much. It's good to be on, and an honor that you would put me in front of a Canadian based program. I'm honored as an Argentinian living in the States.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, we met in Canada. We met a couple of years ago in Edmonton at a dinner, and I was so impressed. I was so impressed. We're going to talk about your prayer life later, but you prayed for the bunch of us who were gathered in that room for dinner, it was just a handful of people and I thought, "There's a man who has spent a considerably greater time in prayer than I have in my life," so I was very humbled and honored to have you here.

Carey Nieuwhof: Now, most of my listeners are American, even though I'm Canadian. But, there are like five Canadians listening, so that's impressive. That's great. So, let's start with your health, because you've been very public about your health, and my goodness, your vitality amazes me, but can you give us an update on how things are going with you?

Luis Palau: Oh, sure, sure, Carey. Thank you. Yeah, on December 22nd, as a Christmas gift, my doctor said, "I'm sorry to tell you, but you have a cancerous tumor, stage four, on your left lung," and wow. That was quite a shock, because I was 83 and I never been in a hospital one night, except for a broken bone, which was not a sickness, but a stupidity on my part at a camp.

Luis Palau: So, it became as a surprise, because we never been sick, and I asked them, "What happened to stages one, two and three that we jumped to four?" He kind of half heartedly laughed. But anyway, he said, "It's serious. There's no cure for this kind of cancer. There's no medicine to help you," I said, "How about surgery?" "Surgery won't do it either. It's just, I'm sorry to tell you, but it's pretty much of a final deal."

Luis Palau: So I said, "Okay. I'm a big boy. How many months have you give me?" He said, "Well, if you do chemo, nine to 12 months," and if I don't do anything, he said, "You'll probably be gone in four months." So we decided for chemo, and they said, "Well, by next Christmas, it'll probably be the end." Well, we're beyond Christmas now, it's four months beyond, so the Lord is having a good laugh at my good doctor, and oncologist confirmed it all.

Luis Palau: So right now, I'm feeling pretty good. In fact, if I didn't have cancer, I feel very well. But, I'm not breathing as well as I used to going up and down stairs, or walking 100 yards to pick up the mail makes me breath hard. So tomorrow, I'm on for surgery. They're going to put a permanent something or other, I don't

know medical terms, which is a good thing. They're going to place something so they can eliminate fluids from the lung every week or so.

Luis Palau: But yesterday they did a very big test, and the tumor has not grown, so that's a good word. The fact that I don't breath good, that's not so good. So it's a mixed bag, and we have lived now for 15 months, or 16 anyway, 16 months, day by day, which is what every Christian is supposed to do anyway. I mean, a lot of people die unexpectedly. They leave in the morning, say, "Bye-by, babe. I'll see you tonight," and they never come home. So it's been a good time of 16 months of lots of time with my wife, which I never did have much before, and with my sons and the team.

Luis Palau: So it's been a good time. Sorry to take this long, but-

Carey Nieuwhof: No, I really appreciate it. It's rare that you get a diagnosis like that, and vitality, that life force. I mean, you can hear it in your voice. Are you 84 at this point?

Luis Palau: 84, and I'm sorry to admit, yes. I'm 84, but spiritually, I'm at one of my best spots I think in my life. On the radio, I'm on every day in Spanish and English, and then I take a conference or two, I'm going to one in California. I think spiritually, I'm walking with the Lord as good, probably as ever. Physically, the body, you have to be careful.

Carey Nieuwhof: Yeah, you told me before we started recording, you've become an expert on heaven. You know the entire place. You want to tell me about that?

Luis Palau: This is like when you take a tour of a river in France, if you ever do that. I did it with my wife. I want to know everything I can, so I can enjoy the tour. Well, I thought, "I know a lot about heaven. I've preached on it ever since I was a kid, but now I want to know more details," and I discovered a few good ones. If you got time, I'll give you about 30 unusually, unexpected things about heaven that most people never talk about.

Luis Palau: But, I think we're going to leave-

Carey Nieuwhof: Let's do it. Let's ... I want to hear it. I want to hear this.

Luis Palau: I didn't bring my notes anyway. No, but it is unusual, it's beautiful to think about heaven. To me, my father died, as you are well aware of, when I was a boy, 10 years old, and he died as a believer the missionaries brought the Gospel, and he believed in Jesus Christ and when he suddenly got bronchopneumonia there was nothing they could do for him, the doctors that dealt with him, but he was ready to go.

Luis Palau: In 10 days, the Lord took him home. He sang a song, Salvation Army song, about heaven, bright grounds up there, bright grounds for you and me, clapping his hands like kids we did in Sunday school, now everybody does it. Then, he

pointed up to heaven, his head fell on the pillow, because of exhaustion and he pointed up to heaven and quoted St. Paul, "I'm going to be with Jesus, which is better by far," and a few seconds later, he went to be with the Lord. The family was around the bed, and that impressed me so much, I was a kid, that my dad died singing, clapping his hands, quoting the Bible, and going to be with the Lord.

Luis Palau: I thought, "Man," even as a boy I remember thinking, "That's a way to go." I mean, singing, clapping, quoting the Bible. There's nothing better. And so, ever since then, I preached about heaven, and it's so real to me, I can't wait to get there and see my dad. Jesus first, then my dad, and then all the rest of my friends including Billy Graham, and say, "Hello," to them, sit down, chat. I mean, to me, heaven's going to be one big party. There will be some duties, apparently, but I look forward to the fun times.

Carey Nieuwhof: So when your dad died, that left a huge impression on you. You gave your life to Christ, was when you were 12 years old? They just made a movie about your life.

Luis Palau: Yes, I was 12, and the counselor ... It was a all boys British boarding school, funniest idea I've ever heard of, but it's a good one. Actually all boys, you know. My dad wanted me to learn English, it was a Cambridge overseas program, they called it then and now, and so one of the teachers was a Jewish Christian from England, Mr. Cohen, Charlie Cohen. He was the cricket coach and also arrhythmic and trigonometry, things that I hated. He was a great Christian guy, and that counselor had seven boys, and he took one out, it was a two week camp, and took one out a night, the second week and tried to lead us to the Lord.

Luis Palau: Frank Chandler was his name, I still have letters that he wrote me as followup. So he led me to the Lord using Romans 10, 9 and 10. That's why I've always loved camps, I love counselors and I believe little boys and girls can be saved and know it from their childhood. I think one of the things we're missing out on the church today is a strong outreach with children. So anyway, I've been a believer since I was 12. I've always preached about heaven, but now I'm more detailed into it, because I want to know every nook and cranny of the place.

Carey Nieuwhof: You already mentioned your friendship with Billy Graham, and he's someone, I think, who greatly influenced you. Is it true that he helped you start your ministry?

Luis Palau: Absolutely, yeah, in so many ways. The ministry really started earlier. We belong to a very good Bible center, congregation, a church. They used them Plymouth brethren, nobody knows that means, but they're a very solid group. They taught me the word well. I had a passion to [inaudible 00:14:44] then, but Mr. Graham gave me an example. When I was dreaming about touching the big cities, that it could be done. He was only 29 when I read the story of his ... Yeah, he's with

the Lord now, just as he was 100. But, he showed me by his life and the, what you call it, biography of his life was called, Revival in our Time.

Luis Palau: It was Billy Graham's first big campaign in Hollywood, California. It seemed big then, by today's standard, it was puny, 3000 people in a tent and in nine weeks, 3000 decisions look like a revival back then. Today, any old Evangelist sees 3000 people come to the Lord in Africa or Latin America, or even some in the States. Anyway, the fact is that he inspired me by showing you can be young, but the thing ... I learned a whole bunch from him. I could write a book, and I should probably, but his wisdom, he was far wiser.

Luis Palau: Evangelist are always treated like halfwits, all they know is John 3:16 and shout and wave their arms, which is not the worst thing you can do. But nevertheless, he was very bright, very spiritual. He would whip out his new testament, which he carried in his pocket at any given point. He knew the Bible, I feel, better than most people I ever met. He lived it, his humility impressed me, his courage, his boldness, his wisdom in dealing with secular people. I learned so much, but yes, when we were missionaries with a good mission called OC, but when I met him, for some reason, he got to like me. He began to give me advice and we corresponded.

Luis Palau: I've got a whole ... I didn't remember we had so much correspondence over through the years, besides phone calls. They're wonderful stuff, and he cared about my wife, and cared about the boys. When we finally left for mission and formed our own team with a blessing of the mission, he gave me a lot of advice. He said, "Take it for two years. If it works in two years, it means the Lord has something." But, he said, "I took a college, Northwestern College in Minneapolis, and in two years I knew it wasn't for me. After two years with the mission, I knew I shouldn't be the president of a mission, because I'm too pushy, too Evangelistic, to go, go, go, and not the patience with dealing with mission here, the mission there, the Brazilian bunch, or the Filipino bunch and all this kind of stuff. It wasn't for me."

Luis Palau: So we all figured it out. So then he said, "Luis, I'll put one of my top guys on your board if you want. I'll give you ..." he gave me a significant amount of money to kick off going, "We're behind you. We feel the Lord wants you to do this," and all my life, if I called him, he gave me advice. Sometimes without asking for it, often I would ask. He gave me very good advice. I really could tell you more about it, but it's too long. The main lesson to me, about Mr. Graham, of all the lessons was, you can speak to the world boldly, and yet respectfully, but not be one of them.

Luis Palau: Secondly, humility. He was as very humble guy. When you think how well known he was, how lionized he was, how he was one of the first two or three most famous Americans every year, for years, and years, and yet, he would walk into a room and shake your hand and say, "Hello. I'm Billy Graham," like, "Oo,

surprise. I didn't know who you were." But he wasn't doing it ... It wasn't a show.

Luis Palau: It was the way he was. He didn't think much about himself, and I could tell you stories of humility is a big deal. One of his verses was, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time, he may lift you up." The Lord sure lifted him up, yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof: How did you experience that humility? I would love to know, because I never had the opportunity to meet Billy Graham, I would love to. But, can you think of a moment when you met him that encapsulates that? I mean, now when you first met him, but just at some point on your interaction, is there a story, is there a moment that you can tell us about?

Luis Palau: Absolutely. I will, I'd be glad to do it. We were in Germany together at a conference for young people, in Dortmund, I think it was. We were there in this hotel room chatting, and suddenly a young Evangelist knocked on the door and TW Wilson, his assistant said, "Okay, just a minute." He asked, he said, "Billy, here's a fellow who says he was converted through you 20 years ago. He wants to an Evangelist like you. He went to seminary theological college," as the Europeans call it. "He's got a team, he's got money, but no invitations to preach, so could he talk to you?"

Luis Palau: So he said, "Okay, bring him in." So he came in and this Evangelist was really overwhelmed to meet his spiritual father, and Billy Graham in his prime, this was in '74 or something. Mr. Graham received him warmly, and he said, it really shocked him, because he says, "I've a team. I've got money. I've got the education, but no invitations. Could you give me some suggestions?" Billy Graham looked around like, "Somebody help me," he never had that problem. I don't think he ever thought, "How did I get ..."

Luis Palau: What he had to think was, "How do I say, 'No,' to this invitation?" Because he got so many. So he gave a few ideas, "Well, pray about it, and maybe you might dah, dah, dah." Finally, the fellow [inaudible 00:20:20] time was up and TW said, "Hey, it's up." So he said, "Mr. Graham," he was a Lutheran, "Would you bless me, please?" Billy looked like, "What do I do?" He said, "Let's pray." So we all got on our knees, and Billy began to pray for this Evangelist, who probably never met him again, and probably never talked to him again.

Luis Palau: But, he poured out his heart. Mr. Graham was praying, and I could hear his voice was muffled, so I sinned against the Lord, I opened my eyes to see what was going on, and Mr. Graham was spread eagle on the floor, on the carpeting of his hotel, praying his heart out for this Evangelist he never met before. He probably never saw him again, and he asked the Lord, "Open doors for him, Lord. Anoint him with a spirit." He poured out his heart, and I thought, "This is amazing." I still break down when I tell you the story, to see-

Carey Nieuwhof: Yeah, that's ...

Luis Palau: Yeah. To see Mr. Graham flat out on his face, and when he finished, the guy got up and said, "Oh, thank you, thank you." Billy hugged him and everything, and when he walked out, I was so shaken by seeing Mr. Graham, I mean, flat on his face for this fellow. I don't know what stupid question I asked, but Mr. Graham said, "Luis, I read in first Peter, 'Humble yourselves before the mighty hand of God that in due time, he may life you up,'" and he said the theologians have their theories on that verse.

Luis Palau: But, I take it to heart, humble yourself. The more we humble ourselves, the Lord will open doors. But, that was a touchy moment. You see a visible thing, you ask me a picture, that was what he was like. He would never brag, he never told you stories about himself. He was always asking you about your ... Where are you? How are you doing? How's your wife? He remembered my wife's name and my boys. He was just a loving guy, and that's why he honored the Lord so highly, and I think we all should.

Carey Nieuwhof: I got to say, and I don't want to embarrass you, but I mean, we did meet in person once at that dinner, and there may be 10 or 12 people at that dinner, so it wasn't a big room, it wasn't a super small room. But, I thought, "Wow, I can't believe I'm actually meeting Luis Palau." It was so amazing, and you prayed for all of us, but then over the course of the dinner, it amazed me.

Carey Nieuwhof: There were a couple of people between you and me, and my wife was there. I didn't say a lot at that dinner. There were a number of people who were talking, and as the evening went on, you didn't say much, because it was one of those events where there were so many public speakers it was hard to get a word in edgewise. You've been at those dinners before, whether you remember that one specifically.

Luis Palau: Sure, sure. Yeah, I do, I do.

Carey Nieuwhof: I started thinking, I just started thinking. I thought, "My goodness, we have one of the greatest Evangelist of our lifetime sitting at dinner and nobody is talking to him, and nobody's asking him any questions. He prayed and it melted my heart." I said to Tony after it was all over, we shook your hand before the evening was over, we thank you and I thought, "Oh, what a lost opportunity." I would encourage young leaders, man, when you have an opportunity like that in the room, be quiet, take notes, listen, don't dominate the conversation.

Carey Nieuwhof: I'm just so thrilled that we have the opportunity to pick up the conversation a year and a little bit later. I love your heart for that, because I think when you're in the presence of greatness, which usually means you're in the presence of humility, the two are very tied together, you're right. You just take notes, and the truly great leaders are always interested in you, and always listening, and

always trying to learn in that moment. So, it was something really that I will remember the rest of life.

Carey Nieuwhof: Anything else on Billy Graham? I want to talk more about you, and everything you've learned in your life. But, it was such an amazing friendship and I think the church misses him, and certainly I miss him, even as someone who has never met him.

Luis Palau: Yes. No, you're right. He left a legacy of honor, transparency, truthfulness, what some people considered a mistake, it was probably needs to be asked a question. Was it a mistake, or was it that he told you the truth, and you didn't like it? There are many such things in life that people accuse you. The point is, I always ask when somebody says, "So and so is out of order. Blah, blah, blah."

Luis Palau: The question is, was his style to your disliking or was the truth that he spoke, he just didn't say it quite, maybe as graciously some people do. Billy Graham had a graciousness, so much so that if you remember watching him on TV shows, the guys in charge, the host, usually said a few questions, sat back and start drinking tea, or whatever they had in their cup.

Luis Palau: They'd let Billy Graham take over the show. I also learned how with humility, they would actually turn the show over to you, and I've learned it watching him. He never told me that, but I watched him and I could tell what he was doing. As soon as they gave an opening, he wouldn't only answer the one question, he'd throw in 20 questions they should have asked, and was answering those 20 questions. Usually the host knew that this would happen, because he was so gifted.

Luis Palau: So I tried to learn some of that, and it's worked through the years. If you're well informed, and you do it with an attitude of I'm not telling you, I'm not ordering you, you're not inferior knowledge. I tell pastors and leaders, "Remember that the journalist usually want to communicate properly. Educate them without telling them you're educating." For instance, many journalists make mistakes between evangelical, evangelistic, evangelist, and what is the gospel.

Luis Palau: So you teach without teaching. You say, "Well, let me tell you. In English, the word evangelist is a person who proclaims [inaudible 00:26:21]. Evangelism is trying to get people to connect with God and have eternal life. Evangelism is not recruiting people to join a church just to get numbers, it's to get people into heaven. God wants heaven full of people." So without pretending to be superior and a high school teacher, you're really helping the journalist to report correctly, and not mistake the terms.

Luis Palau: In the Spanish world, we have quite a bit of confusion between an Evangelist, evangelistic, and evangel. So, I learned that, and then also with humility you can speak full, but you must never forget that you're an ambassador for Christ, and therefore, you do it with dignity, with highness, with, what do the French call it?

Grandeur. A sense of grandeur, a sense of authority, but humility. You're an ambassador, therefore, it's not just some little weasel trying to get his time in on a TV show. You are here as God's ambassador for the kingdom of God.

Luis Palau: The attitude, when it comes to, for instance, since some of your listeners might be interested, the kingdom of God is above the kingdoms of this world. We are not here to promote one party. I learn, being from Latin America that if you take sides, you close the other side. We evangelist, and pastors to be honest, you don't know who you have in your audience on Sunday morning. There's bound to be democrats, republicans, greens and all sorts of other descriptions of individuals. We are supposed to be above all that.

Luis Palau: We're not here to promote a party, even the way we may bend our voting, our secret voting, may be towards this or that side, but when you're speaking for the Lord, you're not taking sides. You actually want all people, left, right and center, whatever else, into the kingdom of God. If you shut the door by making statements that close the door, you're really not representing the king as an ambassador. We need to be very careful in days when the political heat is heavy, that we don't allow ourselves to be buttonholed as of this or that side.

Luis Palau: No, sir. I'm sorry, I do not represent any party. I represent the kingdom of God, and the king, Jesus Christ. I'm in town to proclaim him, not myself or my opinions about politics, or society and other things that don't belong in a preacher's preaching or teaching.

Carey Nieuwhof: Luis, I'm glad you said that, because it made me think back. Your first crusade was ... publicly. What would you say your first crusade was? Which year? Was it 19 ...

Luis Palau: Well, you mean a big one? A united one?

Carey Nieuwhof: Yeah, a big one, yeah. I saw 1970 in some of my research, but was it around that?

Luis Palau: Well, '66.

Carey Nieuwhof: '66?

Luis Palau: '66. The first one in Bogota, Columbia. It was a very violent time in the country. It was partially political, and partially religious. So it was quite a frightening time to actually ... But, the Lord protected, blessed and it was a memorable time. That was 62 years ago.

Carey Nieuwhof: Wow.

Luis Palau: 52, 52 years ago, excuse me. Yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof: Because you think about your crusades, and then even Billy Graham starting out in the '40s, and really ... I think at his peak, in the '60s, '70s, '80s, which were not unified times. It's different today, but I mean, you had all kinds of issues in the United States and around the world in the '60s and '70s. But, you're reminded me something that I think is missing in the church, which is that the gospel and evangelism is fundamentally a voice of unity.

Carey Nieuwhof: Where the kingdom of God is above the fray, how did you navigate that in that era, in the '60s and the '70s. How did you navigate the division that was there in the culture that you were preaching to then?

Luis Palau: Oh, yeah. Well, those were really frightful days. In Latin America where I started, it was very politicized with Castro in Cuba openly defying and saying, "First thing we do when we take over a country," he used to say it publicly, "Kill all the priest ..." No, "First get rid of all the lawyers. Secondly, all the priests and all the pastors." So you kind of felt like you were targeted. You couldn't help by be defensive.

Luis Palau: I started out, as a young guy, fired up and ready for warfare. I made a program that was called, Christo or Castro in Spanish. So, Christ or Castro, a play on words as well. Okay, I found out about three years later that Castro heard the program, and he did not like me at all. I still can't get into Cuba because of that one speech, even though he's been in eternity past our of planet earth for two years, I still can't get in, because-

Carey Nieuwhof: Still can't go to Cuba? Wow.

Luis Palau: No, I can't, so thank God others can. But anyway, so I learned a lesson, you better watch it, and then I led some very hardcore marches [inaudible 00:31:27] in Latina America to the Lord. One lady who was [inaudible 00:31:31] of the party, it's in the movie that you mentioned. She said to me one day, "You know, Palau, you got to stop attacking the communist by that name. If you disagree, and you should, talk about Atheist, but don't talk about communist, because when you talk communist you're insulting the person. That's their conviction. I am a communist because it's good for the working man and so one, and I don't happen to believe in God because blah, blah, blah."

Luis Palau: Okay, so I learned a lesson and I took it very clearly. Then we talked with the lead young student of the university, who was also an atheist [inaudible 00:32:05], and he said to me, "How come you came to dinner, to my house? Don't you realize I could have poisoned you?" I said, "Yes, you could have, but then God could have poisoned you too."

Luis Palau: He said, "Oh, yeah. You're right." From there the conversation got really good, and we became friends, even though he was never converted. But, you learn as you go along. One of the things in Latin America that I soon learned is, look, you represent the gospel, the God Almighty, not these puny little fellows who come

and go, and call themselves president, or something, when in fact, they take it over my military force, and they impose themselves with secret police and so on.

Luis Palau: You're not here to fight that. You do fight it, but you fight it by winning them to Christ, or the masses to Christ, not by getting involved in politics. So, once I learned that lesson, I've been spreading it around, because a lot of believers with a sincere heart get themselves entangled, or even run for office as believers, vote for me because I'm a Christian kind of thing. Then they fail miserably. One fellow in Central America said the Lord told him he was going to be president. He got four percent of the vote.

Luis Palau: Well, how embarrassing is that, among other things? We had one in the States, actually, who also got four percent in Iowa, and who luckily, so to speak dropped out of the race. But when you insist that the Lord told you to do it, okay, you better be sure. Sure that you should become president, otherwise what happened? Who told you? So we could get into this, it gets a little thick of a subject.

Carey Nieuwhof: Yeah, for young leaders, we have a lot of young leaders, some in the church base and then a lot of business leaders listening as well. But, what would you say to young preachers? What are some traps to avoid based on all of your experience? Because you have led and preached in very divisive times.

Luis Palau: Yes, yes.

Carey Nieuwhof: So what would you tell them to avoid or to do?

Luis Palau: Well, I would say, first, stick with the scriptures. Billy used to say, "Most people know so little about the Bible that when you start quoting the Bible by heart, and you say, 'St. Paul said this, and Jesus Christ ...' they're going to think, 'My goodness, this guy's got all the stuff memorized.'" So you have an authority that you don't even realize you have by knowing the word of God. Use that authority, because I used the term earlier, the grandeur. The grandeur of being called to teach the word and to proclaim Jesus Christ, and if God has led you into the pasture of work to be a sheperd, think of the grandeur of it.

Luis Palau: Jesus Christ gave me these 200 souls and said, "They're might sheep. Take care of them, feed them, build them up, protect them." I mean, that itself is an honor. Secondly, think of the authority that it gives you. You'll receive power when the Holy Spirit comes above you. We should not feel like little nobodies in a corner of a big city. We are God's ambassadors in that corner of the city. Think of the grandeur of it, and think of the authority.

Luis Palau: In other words, you speak not with arrogance, but with the humble authority. "I'm telling you what the word of God says, and here's the book. If you want to know it, I didn't get it from anywhere but from the book itself, form Jesus

Christ." Thirdly, think of the influence you have. I really want to take advantage of this moment that you give me. You can always erase me, but I just feel most pastors forget that they have tremendous influence in society without meddling in the details of political parties and people who spout off this way or that way.

Luis Palau: The influences, you're the salt of the earth, you're the light of the world. Even a group of 200, many a pastor feels, "My church is so puny. What influence can it possibly have?" Hey, there's 200 souls who are salt and light. It doesn't say try to be the salt and light. It says you are the salt, you are the light. Just those 200 people that you're feeding every week, and that you're encouraging, and praying for, they are in the city.

Luis Palau: Now that I'm sick, in hospitals and I'm staying home so much, I'm embarrassed not to be traveling. I'm in restaurants and in shops, and in the hospital, and people come up and say, "Oh, Mr. Palau, I recognize your voice. I hear you on the radio." "What church do you go to?" "No, I don't go to church. I just enjoy listening to you." I think, "Now there goes salt and there goes light without my even knowing it." So remember that, the greatness.

Luis Palau: And fourth, there's many points you could have on this. But, remember to exposit the word of God. When you go through a book, and you say, "For the next few weeks, I'm going to study Second Corinthians, I love that book so I mention it. Secondly, you start from verse one, chapter one and you just go through. You give an exposition, and eventually you come to a few controversial points. Well, okay, deal with them as from the word of God. Don't skip them, don't be embarrassed, don't be ashamed. It's the word of God.

Luis Palau: But, you don't do it selecting. When you do topical, it feels like, "Oh, he picked this point because last week in Washington, blah, blah, blah." No, you're going through Second Corinthians, that's the value of expository preaching, that you teach the church, you encourage the church, you educate the church without even telling them you're doing it, because you're just expositing God's words. So exposition is good for the church.

Luis Palau: Now, when it comes to evangelistic preaching, which I think every pastor ought to, at minimum once a month, give a gospel invitation. The interesting thing, sort of sarcastically say, "You know it's a funny thing, all the big churches happen to give an invitation every Sunday. Isn't that surprising?" Well, yeah, it's sort of surprising, but it's logical too. I think we make a mistake, and if you don't feel like to give an invitation, invite an Evangelist with a gift of evangelism to preach and tell them a few things not to say. We don't want any partisan stuff here.

Luis Palau: We don't want divisive inter-denomination things, just give us the good news, and you know, that's another point, if I may say so, Carey. Remember that evangelism is proclaiming good news. The Holy Spirit is there before you. This is a great relief to Evangelist. The Holy Spirit was there before you showed up in

town, okay? The Bible says, "Thou spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment." The people seated in front of you already have a sense of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. They know it. How do I know?

Luis Palau: Because Jesus said so. The Holy Spirit will convict us the world of sin. So, when I come in, he gives us the privilege of proclaiming the good news to people who are conscious of sin, righteousness and judgment. I don't have to point the finger and jab their nose, and ... You got two fingers in their eyes, "You dirty little sinner." They already know it full well. I am there to say, "For all of you who feel that sense of guilt, and condemnation, just like I did for many years, I'm telling you there's very good news, and the good news is the blood of Christ cleanse this from all sin."

Luis Palau: Now, I believe in proclamation. I prefer the word, proclaim to preach. Preach is sort of a professional position. Proclamation, my mother did proclamation, and she was never a preacher. She'd put you to sleep in three minutes, but in person my mom could easily proclaim Jesus Christ without preaching Jesus Christ. One of the great honors I heard the other day, we let a banker to Christ, here in town, that my dad has been taking to the alfa course, you know?

Luis Palau: He came and we had dinner, and the next day he shows up in our church, seated in my pew. I have a pew in my church. Don't you sit in my pew. So he's there, and he said, "Luis, Friday night you told me about it's a gift that you receive. I've been rejecting it for years. First time in 17 years that I show up in church." He said, "The thing that got my attention was you didn't preach at me. You spoke with me." That's what a preacher should feel, even from the pulpit, they should know that you're not preaching at them, like holier than thou. But, I'm just another fellow who received eternal life, and the young believers instantly notice a difference. So, give the good news, good news is good, so why be embarrassed about it?

Carey Nieuwhof: When you started crusades, you go back to the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, it was amazing. I mean, tens of thousands, you preached to millions. Billy Graham preached to millions. I know we still see traces of that, and you're still preaching. I mean, very strongly, you're still doing crusades and evangelism. Was there something special a generation ago that really made that mass momentum possible? Is it still there? What would you say when you look back on it now and you've got some perspective? Was that a different era, a special era? I'm trying to figure out what made that so compelling for so long.

Luis Palau: Well, you know, Jesus said go into all the world and proclaim the good news to everyone, not just a few who are lucky that you could find them on the street. So, you make an effort to speak to a city, a true blue proclamation evangelist will never sleep at night if he didn't try to touch the whole city in this one big blast of an appearance.

Luis Palau: Now, it takes months to prepare for it. The long ones are the best ones, but nowadays we can only take two days and that seems horribly long, because everybody's busy and all sorts of things. But, mass proclamation is not any better or worse than one on one. Some people say, "Well, it's flighty, it's emotional." Come on, think a little deeper. Just because I'm sitting with you nose to nose at a Starbucks, doesn't have more power than 60,000 people in a stadium.

Luis Palau: The Holy Spirit personalizes the message, not you, not the physical situation, not the coffee that you're drinking. The point is, if the Holy Spirit has worked through you, the Holy Spirit can deal with 60,000 as well as with one person across a coffee table. So, you deliver the same message with a little more dynamics when you have a crowd than a fellow in front of you. But, nevertheless, it's the same gospel. You don't convert him. The method doesn't convert him.

Luis Palau: It's the gospel by the Holy Spirit through the word of God that turns a person around. So, we mustn't confuse methods with message. Message is sacred, it never changes. The method, do whatever you want, as long as it's honorable and not unjust, or improper. Any method is valid. And so, the Lord never left methodology really, although the apostle preached to multitudes.

Luis Palau: In the new testament, I counted, I don't know in English, but in Spanish I think it's 152 times, in the new testament, mentions the crowds, the [inaudible 00:43:09], the city, the multitudes 152 times. How could it be wrong if Jesus did it, and Paul did it, why would it be wrong in the year 2020, or whatever.

Carey Nieuwhof: When you look at how you did crusades and approached crusades in 1975, and you look at the ones you're doing now, more recently, last five years, what's the same, and what has changed?

Luis Palau: Oh, okay. What's the same, churches working together, prayer going up in the spirit, having spirit feel revival meetings for the church to be really in the spirit during the campaign. An old missionary who was one of my mentors, I've had a ton of mentors, I need them. He said to me, he said, "Mobilizing the flesh brings nothing but a big stink, and God hates the flesh. But, if you mobilize revived spirit filled Christians, that pleases the nostrils of God."

Luis Palau: That was an old fashion way of putting it, but it's true. We try to revive the church, and realize this is not a game, this is not a show, this is not Hollywood, this is not sports. We may be in a sports arena or a beach. There may be ... So what's changed? What's changed is venue. Instead of stadiums, more and more, we do beaches, parks, and shut down main avenues in cities if we can persuade the city to do it, and it works more often than you think. In the old days-

Carey Nieuwhof: Can I ask why?

Luis Palau: Yes.

Carey Nieuwhof: Why did you switch from stadiums?

Luis Palau: Well, stadiums are good, and I miss them, I'll tell you the truth. But, to get non-believers into a stadium is getting harder and harder. Whereas if you're on the street, or the beach, or a park it's a place everybody shows up. You're not feeling like, "I went to a religious meeting. I just went because they said its good music and this guy's going to give a message on blah, blah, blah/." So they show up. They don't have to justify with their friends or family, "Why did you go here?" That nutty preacher type of thing, you know.

Luis Palau: "I just went to the park." So it makes it easy for the non-believer. It draws people, the young people like it. What's changed then is location, as we just discussed. Secondly, the style of music. In the old days, the crusades used to be a church service in mass. You know, choir, preacher's with their ties on sitting on the platform looking solemn, and so on. It was all good, it was worthy. But now, people don't care about that, so everybody shows up in jeans. I have too much dignity for jeans, I wear other kind of clothing.

Luis Palau: But you know, no tie, no preacher sitting solemnly on the platform. Instead of choir, now you have contemporary music. Therefore, you draw the younger people, which in a way is your number one goal. Even old Christians will admit they want somebody to win the young people and the kids to Jesus Christ, and the kind of music is what draws them in part. But, the key is the spirit is there, that doesn't change. The gospel is the same, it doesn't change. You may use different stories.

Luis Palau: In the old days we never talked about an iPhone, or anything like that. It didn't exist. But now, you just deal ... It's a method, that's all that's changed, and they're longer. In the old days, an hour and a half people would start walking out. Now, you better arrive at 2:00 and leave at 10:00 at night. People come and go, they bring their kids in the afternoon, there's sports.

Luis Palau: We use a lot of sports, skateboarding, motorbikes, bikers who do incredible stunts in the air, and they're with us for Christ. It touches a certain sub-tribe of the city to talk about skaters, or bikers, or whatever. So you use every method you can change for the situation. The message never changes.

Carey Nieuwhof: So was that difficult for you to change the method, or do you have a personality that found that really easy to do?

Luis Palau: Yeah. At first, I was afraid. I thought, "The churches are not going to support me anymore. My mother-in-law's going to chuck me out of the house," and I thought, "This is really dangerous. Loud, free wheeling, cheering, clapping. It's a whole new approach." I mean, I wasn't at kid when we changed. I was in my 60s here in Portland, Oregon.

Luis Palau: At first, I thought, when I got off the first night, I thought, "There're going to be a bunch of clergy waiting to tell me off." They were there, but said, "Let's do it again next year." I thought, "Wow. Something good has happened," and I was listening to my sons and the young members of the team, because they said, "You know, dad. I mean, the stadiums were great in his day, but look, we're not getting non-believers. Look, the number of people converted has dropped. Something isn't right."

Luis Palau: So, I'm glad I listened to them. In fact, the first day I went to the downtown Marriott, and I said, "Not my wife, nobody else. I want to be alone. I'm going to pray, and pray, and pray," because I thought it could be the end of our ministry when we switched to this festival. We call them festivals now. In the old days, we copied Billy Graham, you imitate the best, not the losers, but the winners. So we called it crusades. But then we realized, even crusade was old fashioned.

Luis Palau: My. Graham himself started calling them other things. In Europe, he called them Mission to London, or something like that. So anyway, he was adaptable too, and eventually he had Toby Mac singing and he had bikers doing their thing. In the end, he adapted to the new methods also. He was very smart. I mean, his goal was to reach people just like your goal, and mine.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, I love what you said too. You were asking me, "So, what exactly do you do?" And I'm like, "Well, a lot of things. But, I do a lot of podcasting these days," and you said, "Oh, podcasting is preaching." I love that, right?

Luis Palau: Yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof: Yeah.

Luis Palau: Well, it is. In your own way, low key, microphone in front of you, some books in the background, you're podcasting us. You're teaching us, yeah.

Carey Nieuwhof: You mentioned prayer a number of times, and I was really struck. It was just a prayer for grace, but it really impacted me. And so, I pray every day, it's not my top spiritual gift, but I would love to know what have you learned about prayer over your lifetime?

Luis Palau: I learned a lot. I started out watching my mother, the widow, trusting the Lord. We were well off when my dad was alive. He was as brilliant business man. He left lands and properties, but we didn't know it. He had no paper work, he didn't expect to die at 34 after a 10 day illness. So, he left ... And my mom knew nothing about business. Five sisters, me and a brother. All she knew was to bring up kids.

Luis Palau: So she was done in, we lost everything. We ended up in debt, we didn't even know what we owned. It took years for one of my sisters, who was single, to dig up all the places we owned, but we lost them because somebody else took

them. Anyway, it was a dramatic time, but my mom would always ... We would thank the Lord even when we had very little food, we thanked the Lord like we were rich.

Luis Palau: We had food for tonight, praise God. We would get on our knees by the table before we ate, and I saw my mom trust the Lord through all the troubles of widowhood, and losing everything we owned. We lost it, practically all. We paid back debts 20 years later when we all got out into the world and began to make some money, we were able to pay everything off, and we discovered a few pieces of land that we were able to sell anyway. But, that all took years of learning to pray to the Lord. Trust the Lord.

Luis Palau: My mom taught us that God makes no mistakes. All things work together for good to those who love God. Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. My God shall supply all your needs according to riches and glory. So you learn to pray, and I've said more than once, you learn to pray by praying, just like you learn to swim by being pushed into the pool. Some kid pushes you and you scramble out of there huffing and puffing. Eventually, you learn to swim properly if you weren't trained, and so on.

Luis Palau: But then, as through the years, I've learned more and more, and now, of course, with my cancer, I think is the ultimate lesson. Believers send you all sorts of suggestions, and they're sweet and they pray for you. I got millions of people praying, so maybe that's why the Lord prolonged my months on planet earth. But, you learn to pray with understanding, not only with your spirit as Paul says, but with your understanding.

Luis Palau: It's a beautiful thing to see, but you know, one African fellow, we were at a conference in California 35 years ago. I was talking about prayer, and he came up to me and he said, "You know, Luis," he was in the audience. He said, "In African, we say God answers prayer four ways, and then I added a fifth one." He said, "God answers," he says, "Yes, I thought you'd never ask." He said, "We often tell everybody except the Lord that we need this, or we want that."

Luis Palau: Secondly, no, "I love you," too much. That's a good answer to prayer. Many times the Lord answers, "No, buddy. I know better, and I love you too much to give you that one." Number three, "Yes, but not yet." Timing. Number four, "Yes, and here's more." That's the one I really like.

Carey Nieuwhof: Me too.

Luis Palau: The Lord not only answers your prayer, but he throws in some extras. Then I added one that struck me when I was in China. "Yes, but differently from what you thought." My thought was, "I'm going to get permission to be in Tienanmen Square," I told this to all the communist leaders that I met, and I was able to meet some of the top guys in China in the past season of government. I would say to them, "I want ...

Luis Palau: "Palau, why are you in China? What is it you want?" I would say, "I want a million Chinese in Tienanmen Square, and you allow me to speak to them about Jesus Christ." They went, "Yeah, that's good, Palau. Come back, come up. Keep coming back. One of these days it'll happen." Well, the Lord suddenly allowed me to meet one of the Ministers of State, who was reading the Bible, openly telling people. He was like, "I'm a Marxist-Leninist, I'm an atheist, but I read the Bible three times."

Luis Palau: So, I said to him, "Well, when you retire from politics, you should become a preacher. You must know the Bible real well." "What does it teach?" I said, "I'm interested in the Bible." He gave me the four laws like a campus crusader in the old days. So he became a believer, and we wrote a book together called, Riverside Talks: A friendly dialog between and Atheist and a Christian. The book has been the fourth best seller in China.

Luis Palau: They're going to do another edition with another introduction in the coming months, and the top leaders of China read it. The Lord one day said to me, "So, you wanted a million people to brag and tell everybody that you had a million people in Tienanmen Square. I'm going to do it differently. I'm going to have you write a book that they're going to read, and they're going to get the same gospel. But, you're not going to get the kicks that you wanted to see Tienanmen Square filled with people." I really think it was the Lord's discipline. I hope my son, Andrew, gets to do it and I can watch from heaven, him preaching to a million Chinese. It would be so terrific, and the Lord can do it, yet.

Luis Palau: So, anyway, so answered prayer is you learn to walk with God, and you know one favorite verse, since you brought up prayer, I hope I'm not over doing it, but Psalm 37:4. Last week, I did a wedding here in Portland for a couple I know, and a lady and her husband came and said, "If God knows everything, and if God knows what's happening, what's the point of praying?" I said, "Well," I gave her the five points, "The Lord said pray at all times. Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open."

Luis Palau: But, the one I really nailed her one was Psalm 37:4. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." In other words, you delight yourself in the Lord, you get in-tuned with the Lord's mind through scripture, through meditation in the scripture, and through comments from other believers. You sense the mind of God and therefore, your prayer is in tuned with God's mind that you have seen in scripture, you meditate on its application, and the Lord will answer, because he puts the desire in your heart to pray, and you pray.

Luis Palau: He incites you to pray to do ... You probably haven't even noticed, but the Lord led you into podcasting. We've never talked about how you came into it, but probably it was a desire in your heart to communicate to leaders, so you start praying and say, "Lord, this is what I'd like," and if the Lord is in it, he says, "Of course, I want it too. I'll open the doors for you. Get going." Whoever is faithful

in little, is faithful also in much. Whoever is faithless in very little, is faithless in ...

Luis Palau: So your faithful in the little things, and I believe, I tell young Evangelist, the Lord is watching, and he sees you're faithful in the little things, he'll open a door. You're faithful in the big door, he'll open another door and there's no limit to what the Lord will do, as long as you're in tuned with him. Delight yourself with the ... Then, the prayers flow from that. Then intercessory prayer, of course, is different. Intercessory prayer, when we went to the Soviet Union, I'll tell you the truth, Carey, I don't know today how I got in there.

Luis Palau: It was in the days when Marxist was still in power. We had campaigns in over 10 cities of the old Soviet Union, with their blessing and giving us permissions and letting us preach in stadiums and coliseums. The head of the secret police over there, what was it called in the old days?

Carey Nieuwhof: The KGB.

Luis Palau: KGB, there you got it. The head of the KGB in one of those countries had put in jail the top Christian leader three times. He was in the audience one night, the fellow who had been put in jail, was now out and was the head of the campaign. He said to me, "Palau, you won't believe who's sitting in the second row. The leader of the KGB who threw me in jail three times." He said, "Can I bring him on the platform and let him sit here?"

Luis Palau: I said, "Go ahead. What have I got to lose?" He went, and I could tell the fellow say, "No, no, no." But he said he'll come tonight to my home for dinner. He came that night, he brought a gift, and he gave his life to the Lord. I mean, the head of the KGB. So, if you ask me, "How did you get in there?" Honestly, I can't remember how they got me in there. If you ask, "How did you pay for it?" We were a small team, I still don't know how we paid for it, but it all happened, and we got on free TV nation-wide in Marxist Lenin's territory.

Luis Palau: They put us on television out of one of the countries nationwide four Saturdays in a row, same message, and we were giving away a booklet called, What is a Real Christian, that I wrote, it was translated to Russian. A million copies went out, and I've heard since then, this was in '89, or something. I heard how many thousands have come to the Lord, because of that national ...

Luis Palau: So, you pray, you intercede, you use spiritual authority and prayer, but it's a mystery of interacting between you and the living God. He lays desires in your heart, you pray that desire and the Lord says, "I will do it," and he does it beyond our potential, beyond our finances, beyond our influences. I didn't know a soul in the Soviet Union except one fellow who lived in Canada, who was Russian but had escaped, and he came and became our interpreter and now he's Franklin Graham's interpreter. So there you go.

Carey Nieuwhof: That is so inspiring, it really is. I've seen that again, and again in my life where I think, "Okay, this is how it's going to happen," and then God goes, "Actually, no. We're going to turn left here, and we're going to do this. We're going to turn right now." It's crazy. We only have a few minutes left in our time together. I want to ask you, 84 years old, the energy. I mean, you and I are looking at each other through a screen, but I almost feel like you're here.

Carey Nieuwhof: You have more energy than a lot of 44 year olds I know. What are some of the habits, the rhythms and the disciplines that have kept you fully alive over eight decades?

Luis Palau: You know, I knew you were going to ask me that. I said to my wife who is my number one counselor, nobody knows it but it's true. She doesn't even believe me, but I quote her more often, especially when she's not around. But she said to me, "You spent a lot of time with your family, and refuse to go ..."

Luis Palau: I gave up golfing at age 30, I think. One day I came back from a five week trip, and I told her how much I missed her, and blah, blah, blah and I couldn't wait to be home. The next morning, I take off to golf with my pastor and I suddenly know ... The Holy Spirit says to me, "You lied to your wife. You weren't so happy to see her. You wanted to go golfing with Mr. Walden." So, I said, "The golf carts are going. I'm going to stay home when I come home. I'm on the road so much."

Luis Palau: So she thought that one of the great things I did was stay home with them rather than hit the road with my buddies, as much as I wanted to. But, I think the disciplines, you asked an interesting question there. I think, of course, like every other believer time with God, I have learned to talk to the Lord all day long. I talk about things that seem trivial and profound, heavy and some light. If I told you everything I pray for, you'll think I'm a child. That's how I see myself.

Luis Palau: I see God as not only my creator in the early years, remember your creator in the days of your youth. Secondly, he's my father. He became my real father from the day my dad died. I just clung to the Lord. My dad told me, "Use the book of Proverbs," I was six years old, and I walked in on him in the morning. He was on his knees with a blanket on his shoulders. There was no central air conditioning in Argentina in those days, and he was praying, reading his Bible.

Luis Palau: I was six or seven, no more, because then I went to boarding school. I said, "Dad, what are you doing?" He said, "I'm reading the word." I said, "What are you reading?" He said, "The book of Proverbs," and he said, "When you grow up, you read the book for Proverbs, one chapter a day, and you'll be a successful man, you'll be a good dad, you will serve the Lord, and you will avoid sin." Anyway, he sold me on it.

Luis Palau: When I was 16, one day I was really desperate. We were losing everything, and hard times. It was the only time in my life, God, I still feel embarrassed to say it, I was, "Mad at God." I'm sure it frightened him terribly, and he was really

shaken. "Oh, Palau is mad at us. What do we do now?" But anyway, I remember my dad saying, "Read Proverbs," and I took it to heart. Even to this day, not every day anymore, but often, very often, I listen to it on my iPhone, and it speaks to me. It speaks about sex, it speaks about love, marriage, money, fatherhood, motherhood. I didn't know how to be a dad, and no one in the church ever came to me and said, "Hey, man. You're a teenager, you don't have a dad, let me help you out."

Luis Palau: Until I was 24, finally one missionary from California, Mr. Benson. He said to me, "Luis, marriage is so great. Man, there's nothing like it." I was drooling, I wasn't married. What a nice thing it sounds like. Finally at 27, met my wife and got married. But, the book of Proverbs, the book of John, the missionaries emphasizes the Bible, so that discipline is tremendous. How could you know the mind of God without it? Then, another big thing is proclaim the good news, and don't forget it is good news.

Luis Palau: I did it before, I got to say it again, because it's vital. Good news, good news, good ... When people see us coming, they should say, "Here come the good news guys. Not the bad news, the good news." Because God is on his throne, Jesus Christ, the resurrected. He's coming again, he forgives sins, you can receive the Holy Spirit. You become a temple of God, you go straight to heaven. What better news than that? So don't forge that, then you'll never have regrets. I'm old now, I have no regrets looking back. I could have done a few things that I wish I had, but didn't. Some sins we won't talk about, because they're washed by the blood, that you wish you never spoken some of your thoughts or said some of the things, you're mean ... We simply ...

Luis Palau: But the other thing is local church involvement. I got to emphasize that, and you as a podcaster now, don't neglect your local church. I'm exhorting you, since you could be much younger than I am, I have authority to exhort you, you know. The local church is the only institution the Holy Spirit has left on earth. All us, you podcasters, we radio people, Evangelist, they're all good as long as we honor the body of Christ, which is a local expression in a local church. I've been an elder in my church for 40 some years.

Luis Palau: Finally, last February when it looked like I'm out of here, I resigned and they accepted it, and I'm not an elder this year. I'm just old, not an elder. But, the local church, we insist to our guys on the team that they belong to a church. If they're invited to be deacons, be deacons. Elders be elders, teach Sunday school, show up, worship. Don't act like the church is a burden. I have learned, I got to tell you the truth, in this illness, the church is much better than we ever give it credit for. In a crisis, they're weak, but they're spiritual people, and the church is a glorious place.

Luis Palau: Jesus Christ died for it, so don't mess with the Lord and treat it like its garbage. Christ died for the church. In Acts 20, Paul says to the elders, "Take care of the church of God that he bought with his own blood." So he doesn't take criticism

of the church lightly. He bought it with his own blood, flaws and all, it's still the body of Christ. So, I think those are some of the secretes that I would pass on to the new generation. Don't neglect the church, and don't allow the church to be attacked like it's the worst scum of the earth. Everything else is scummier than the church ever thought of being.

Carey Nieuwhof: Wow. Last question. What is one ... You've been interviewed thousands of times. What is one question you never get asked that you wished someone would ask you?

Luis Palau: You know, I thought about that and I can't think of one.

Carey Nieuwhof: I guess that's what happens when you get interviewed thousands of times, right?

Luis Palau: Well, yeah. It's true. I mean, we're on the radio. We have a program in Spanish, which is Luis Palau Responds, and it's questions people ask. There's so many, but there's a variety of them. You know, I wish I could give you one, but I can't. I'm embarrassed. I said to my wife-

Carey Nieuwhof: That's all right.

Luis Palau: I said to her, "Babe, if they ask me about this on the podcast, what should I say?" She said she couldn't give me one either. So there you go, the answer is, I don't know.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, that is a life well lived. I never do this, but what I would love, if you're willing, is would you pray for us? Would you pray for the leaders listening? The Christians, the non-Christians listening. Would you pray for us? That would be such an honor for me to have you do that.

Luis Palau: Absolutely, thank you, Carey. I really will do it. I will lead in prayer, and if anybody is in the audience who still are not sure if you have eternal life, it would be a great moment to give your life to Christ, and know that you have eternal life, forgiveness of sins, that you become the temple of God and when you die, you go to heaven. That is the gift of God.

Luis Palau: Oh, God, our father. Thank you so much for our brother, Carey. Thank you that he had the burden to podcast good stuff to people how are hungry to know how to walk with you, how to serve you, how to lead others into your kingdom. Lord, we thank you for giving us an opportunity. We thank you for the grandeur of being called servants of God. Oh, Lord, we submit to you, we are your slaves, we do what we're told.

Luis Palau: We're not great people, we're not famous people, we're not movie stars. This is not a façade, this is not a show, this is serving you, Lord, and serving the spiritual and needy, multitudes, all over the world. So I pray your blessing on

this podcast, week after week, month after month, year after year. Oh, Lord, may millions and millions of those who listen to this podcast be multiplied, share the good news, win others to your kingdom so they can enjoy your presence on earth, and also the assurance of eternity with you in heaven.

Luis Palau: Oh, Lord, thank you for those who brought us the gospel. I thank you for the missionaries that came to Argentina and brought us two things, Jesus Christ and the Bible, and we thank you, Lord. We pray that their descendants will be blessed and I just thank you for this opportunity to lead your people on Carey's podcast to a better life, a joyful life, a fruitful life. We ask it with knowing that you will bless it in the name of the Lord, Jesus. Amen.

Carey Nieuwhof: Amen. Wow. That was moving, and extremely powerful. Luis, thank you so much. Thank you so much.

Luis Palau: I apologize for crying.

Carey Nieuwhof: No, I'm crying too. I'm crying, you're crying. It's a good day. It's a good day. There's something really special that happened today in this time together, so thank you very, very much. You spoke to my heart.

Luis Palau: Thanks, Carey. Lord bless you.

Carey Nieuwhof: Well, it doesn't get a lot better than that, does it? Man, I am so grateful for that, and this is one of those interviews I'm going to look back on years from now and be so grateful that we had it. I don't know about you, but when I get around older adults, it's just very challenging, to me, to think about how I want to live out the rest of my years, and how hopefully, I can serve and make a small difference in some way.

Carey Nieuwhof: And so, I hope that inspired you. We do have links to everything we talked about in the show notes, so you can go to CareyNieuwhof.com/episode268 and we also have transcripts, and remember, not for this episode, but for some other ones that we've launched recently, we're now on YouTube. So, you can just find me, Carey Nieuwhof on YouTube, and you'll see the videos there. I'm just so excited to bring that to you.

Carey Nieuwhof: If you haven't yet checked out Pro Media Fire, make sure you do that. Go to promediafire.com/Carey, C-A-R-E-Y. Get 10% off for life on all of your video and social needs. We are back in just a couple days with an episode, and again, we're all over the place in this podcast, in terms of subjects, which you keep telling me you love, and I love, because it keeps it interesting. I am an Enneagram eight with a seven wing, so I like fun. I like different, and I like honest, and Dave Ann and Wilson are incredibly honest.

Carey Nieuwhof: I don't know, I talked to most couples, and when you really poke through the veneer, it's pretty powerful to see what's really going on. I know some of you

are struggling in your relationships, some of you are like, "It's not good." But, have you ever said to your spouse, "I'd rather be dead than married to you?" That's what we ... That is the level of honesty that we're talking about. It was one of these interviews where, in the middle of the interview, Dave and Ann just kind of said, "Okay, we're actually talking about this? Yeah, I guess we're talking about this, aren't we?" Anyway, here's an excerpt from the interview that's coming out in just a couple of days.

Ann Wilson: They're wondering what's our mission? We were raising these kids together that joined us, that combined our passions, but now what? I think so many couples are wondering, "What's our mission now?" I just feel like oh, God has so much for us as couples. So that's not one of ours. I think the thing that I will always struggle with in our marriage, even though I've realized that, I think it's real important for couples to recognize the pain in your past comes into your present.

Ann Wilson: So recognize if you're struggling with your pain in your present, go back to the extension cord of what it's connected to, because I always know that's going to be my little button of, "Oh, I'm not seen? Am I important? Do I matter? Am I here?" And so, that's always mine. It's just helpful that we're doing it together now. But I wonder about Dave sometimes like, "Ugh, is that lure of ministry always more fascinating than me?"

Carey Nieuwhof: Man, you're going to love that, and if you subscribe you get it automatically, and you get it for free on any device. So thank you so much for sharing when episodes have made an impact on you. Thanks for telling your friends. Thank you for doing what you do. I really appreciate you, and I hope our time together today has helped you lead like never before.

Announcer: You've been listening to the Carey Nieuwhof Leadership podcast. Join us next time for more insights on leadership, change, and personal growth to help you lead like never before.