

Hello my friends. I want to thank you for joining me today at the PUNLA Coffee Table. As you can see, I'm casual and comfortable here in our home in Texas.

So, grab your coffee or tea. So, get comfortable and settle in at PUNLA coffee Table and let's talk. I actually don't drink coffee and rarely tea. But I'll join you with my favorite plain old ice water.

Now I just want to start by telling you how thankful I am for all you being part of my life.

We are launching this media ministry for you. We know we are hard people to get to know, So our hope is you can get to know us better. We are very private people. I personally don't care for large gatherings and typically shy away moments I might be noticed or recognized. It's just not me. But we as a family have felt urged to share.

So here we are. When I mention we. I mean myself, my wife Judy and her sister Joy. As well as my Kids and other family.

I'm Kip and my viewpoints come from my deep devotion to Christ, my up bringing in rural middle America, Nebraska, and I'm an Engineer. So, I'll give my Christian Engineer's Perspective. My wife Judy and her sister Joy will join me from time to time and they help me with everything you will see here. They grew up very poor in rural Philippines, so they will give you that Perspective. They know the difference between wants and needs and how difficult it is when basic needs are met.

So, Why are we doing this? As I struggled with complications due to double COVID-19 pneumonia in the hospital, I realized how important the people God had surrounded me with are. I love you guys.

For three days, all I could do is wait for what expected to be my last breath. I expected to die. I felt peace and assurance which can only be explained as miracles. Jesus was with me in that room, holding my hand. And over the course of those days, my thoughts moved to you from myself. One day after I was released from the Hospital, I was readmitted with Kidney stones and myriad of other issues. As I experience pain which was beyond my limits for more than 12 hours, Two scriptures bounced around in my head. Mark 9:24 and John 21:15-17

Let me read from the New Living Translation Mark 9: 24 *<sup>24</sup>The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"*

I was really taken by what the father said. I believe Jesus spoke to me with a simple concept, are you willing to help them overcome their unbelief. My answer was simply Yes, Jesus I am willing, please make me able.

The second scripture in the Gospel of John is about how Jesus restored Peter to Him and gave Peter purpose after His failures when Jesus was being tried.

Let me read again from the new living translation in the Gospel of John 21:15-17 (NLT)  
*<sup>15</sup>After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. <sup>16</sup>Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. <sup>17</sup>A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.*

Feed my sheep. Take care of my sheep. This call to Peter spoke to me. With so many hurting people around us. Jesus is asking us. Asking me to Feed His sheep.

So, I asked God, What can I do.? I’m nobody, I’m imperfect, flawed but literally born again in my relationship with Jesus in a way I want to share. I’m broken. I’ve made so mistakes, I’m not worthy. But Jesus’ message is, I want you to feed My sheep.

So, I’m going to pour myself out for those of you that wish to listen. I’m going to share my journeys, fears, failures and how God has ultimately given me reason and purpose.

So, let us begin. For those of you that don’t know me, My name is Kip Wehrman. Here is a picture of me from 1986. I thought I had it all. I was on the University of Nebraska’s football team. But below the surface I was empty. As you can also see in the picture, I’d just had surgery on my knee. My ankle was completely wrecked from an injury I had in high school. My dreams were about to change dramatically. And they did.



I often talk about the different ways that God directs us. Most of the time it is soft and subtle, and we have to choose. Other times it firm and direct in the form a closed door. In my case my ankle got slammed in that door. And I’m so grateful for that redirect. It took me 30 years to realize it. But what a gift.

I am an engineer and a scientist. I have a PhD in Chemical engineering and I did research for NASA. I was an instructor at Auburn University in graduate school which gave me the itch to teach. My career has taken me all around the world. It’s been an amazing ride. But that’s enough about me for now.

What all this taught me was to value information and discovery. But, as an engineer, I want to be concise and specific. So, I’m going to try to keep these messages short. And they are of course going to be from the view point of an Engineer and Scientist.

And again, the only really special thing about me is I’m completely devoted to Jesus. He is my friend, my savior, my lord. He has given me the strength to subdue my selfish self-centered nature and pride, so that I can have a life of wonder and love and peace.

I believe that when we shift our focus from us to others our life broadens. We are better together than we can be on our own. God brings people into our lives to share this life with. Ups and downs. Tears and pain. Together we prevail in unexpected and extraordinary ways.

My personal shift was really our family's rebirth. When we started our family foundation, PUNLA Christian Ministries.

I have to be honest in many ways my personal motives in getting started was all wrong. I liked the tax benefits. I liked the concept of doing something but my motivation was more about how I would feel about doing it than the people we might help. But with God's grace and kindness we made some early decisions that would permanently change our lives in ways that words will never be able to describe.

The first thing we did right was to not put our family name in the foundation name. For me, I wanted to make sure it would never be about us or what we do. My whole family agreed, make the focus about God not us. And that started with the name. Eventually we settled on the PUNLA which in Tagalog, the national language of Philippines, means growth or seedling. Philippines was our targeted location, so choosing a name the people there would associate with mattered.



Why PUNLA? As with everything we do, it's a God thing. The name parallels us and the people we so desperately wanted to help. Our logo probably captures this the best. A creation of my wife's sister Joy. The logo shows a single sprout growing up around a simple basic cross. This Symbolizes how we can grow despite our weaknesses when we are rooted in the cross.

PUNLA Christian Ministries purpose is answer God's call to "do something". One of my favorite scriptures is 1 John 3:18 which says ...*"let us love not (merely) in word or speech, but in action and truth."* Basically, stop just talking about it or thinking about it and get off my backside and go do something about it in the name of Jesus the only source of genuine truth. Jesus needs to be the center, the sides, top and bottom. It all must be about Jesus and what Jesus wants us to do. Everything is about helping people to have a relationship with Jesus. We are saved by grace the God through faith in Jesus Christ as our redeemer not by our own efforts or work. Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Our eternal life starts now. We need to start living like it. Bringing the Kingdom of God here now.

Over time we identified core principles that guide what PUNLA does.

First, I love God and God loves them. God says, "you Do Something!" Whatever that thing is that has been put on your heart. You are the one God wants to do something.

Second, Our Only Objective is Reach and Grow Believers. But we as a family are not skilled speakers or evangelist. God repeatedly urges us to recognize the power of collaboration. Primarily with God but also with others God has called. We want to help equip those already called by God to reach their communities for Christ

Lastly, Stewardship. At the core of our mission, is the desire to use what God has so graciously trusted us with for His glory. We know that ALL MONEY is God's, ALL TIME is God's, ALL RESOURCES are God's. So, we take how we use these resources very seriously. We work to stretch our resources to have the greatest impact possible.

Part of this exercise in obedience is surrendering our activities entirely to God. Jesus is in-charge of our decisions. We live in a constant state of awe and eager anticipation, waiting for the next thing God will ask us to do.

So, Why are we starting this video ministry? The simple answer is for you. I want more people to find this feeling of awe and eager anticipation that we live with. The Peace of knowing God is in control of everything. No matter what the world throws at you. You can have the assurances from Jesus that will take away the worries and cares and give you Peace.

Now I'm still just a broken sinner. I make lots of mistakes. I'm a work in progress. I know I need to grow and that growth will continue until the day die. So let us grow together.

Please visit our website at [www.punla.org](http://www.punla.org). I'll be sharing many of our PUNLA stories in the coming weeks. We have had some great moments and some spectacular failures by human standards. But through it all God has molded us and directed us to do things that I would have never imagined.

I welcome your questions and comments. You can leave comments here, on our website, or email me at [kip@punla.org](mailto:kip@punla.org). And please subscribe to our channel.

God has been so gracious to me and my family despite all of my failures and faults. I know God brought me back for a reason, to share my life with others. And, I promise if God can use Me. Imagine what God can do with you. Just say yes to God's calling and do something.

### **Let's Pray**

**Lord Jesus, thank you so much for the people you have placed in my life. God use me in any way you wish to accomplish your goals. Fill my mouth with your words in a way that will encourage others.**

**Lord be with my friends today. Give them a glimpse of this amazing peace and assurance that you have so graciously given to me. I know I did not deserve**

**such a gift. So, May I be one of the vessels you use to show this dark world the light. I pray these things in your name Jesus, Amen**

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please mark like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at [kip@punla.org](mailto:kip@punla.org). I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

[Punla Christian Ministries - YouTube](#)

[www.PUNLACoffeeTable.org](http://www.PUNLACoffeeTable.org)

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