

NOT ASHAMED

I N W H O M I

BELIEVE

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

JUNE 2019

NOT ASHAMED

2019

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

JAN-FEB

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF MY WEAKNESS

MAR-APR

I AM NOT ASHAMED IN WHOM I BELIEVE

MAY-JUN

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST

JUL-AUG

I AM NOT ASHAMED TO TRUST THE LORD

SEP-OCT

I AM NOT ASHAMED TO LET MY LIGHT SHINE

NOV-DEC

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Solemn Assembly booklet is given a week early so that you can start using it to prepare yourself for the week of prayer and fasting. Read, study and start praying through the book. The Holy Spirit will already begin to speak and work in you.

FOREWORD — I AM NOT ASHAMED OF CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL

In this hour, when the end of all things is at hand, how should the Church live not ashamed of Jesus Christ and His Gospel? To live not ashamed is to live all sold out to God, completely and passionately, withholding nothing. It is to live in unrestrained and unbridled devotion, commitment and allegiance to Christ and His Gospel.

THIS IS THE HOUR WHEN THE CHURCH MUST BE HUNGRY AND MOST ON FIRE FOR GOD, living radically devoted and surrendered to doing His will and finishing His work. **This is the hour that every Christian's heart and life must be consumed by a zeal for God's house that obliterates all other desires.** Following Jesus Christ as the Bible teaches is never about compromise, moderation or procrastination in our love, passion or obedience to Him. Just as He was unrestrained, unbridled and uncompromising in His love and sacrifice for us, He demands that we prioritize and love Him the same way. This is the hour, if we are backslidden, do not procrastinate in repentance; if we have left our first love, do not procrastinate in returning; if we are lukewarm, do not procrastinate in seeking God until we burn for Him—lest He spit us out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16).

THIS IS THE HOUR WHEN THE CHURCH MUST RETURN TO KNOWING AND ABIDING BY THE PURE WORD OF GOD. We must not be ashamed or afraid to preach the pure Word and live by it just because the world and some Christians with *"itching ears"* have labeled it hard, harsh and irrelevant. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT) says, *"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths."* We must forsake trying to live by balancing and blending God's Word with the opinions of the world and the value system of this culture, lest we be guilty of preaching and living by *"a different Gospel"* (2 Corinthians 11:4) that is rejected by God. There is no harmony, agreement or the striking of an equal balance between the Way, the Truth and the Life (Jesus Christ) with anything that is of man and of this world.

THIS IS THE HOUR THE CHURCH MUST BE TRUE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, FORSAKING ALL TO FOLLOW HIM. Jesus Christ, our Lord,

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never feels the need to negotiate with us His clear terms of discipleship, which is *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"* Matthew 16:24 (NKJV). He is never afraid to demand of us to love Him more than our father, mother, spouse, children or even ourselves. All His discipleship requirements may seem unreasonable to the natural mind, but to Him they are totally right, sound, deserved and expected. We must forsake the thinking and practice of lukewarm Christianity which never produces any true disciple of Christ.

- **We must NOT THINK that it is acceptable to love God with less than all of our heart, soul and strength because "He understands."**
- **We must NOT BELIEVE in grace that permits or accommodates discipleship without sacrifice, cost, dying to self or forsaking all to follow Christ.**
- **We must NOT BELIEVE that loving Christ above all else and forsaking all to follow Him is optional, because He died on the cross and paid all for our salvation.**

THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT THE CROSS; THERE IS NO DISCIPLESHIP WITHOUT A COST. May our Christianity not be so sanitized and stripped of the fear of God and an honor for His Word because of the fear of man. Fear of man will cause the Church to dilute the Gospel by syncretizing its message with today's culture, worldviews and philosophies, resulting in a lame, anemic and powerless faith; in Paul's words, *"having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof"* (2 Timothy 3:5 KJV). Such a faith is worthy to be *"spit out"* (Revelation 3:16 NLT) by God.

The Church in the book of Acts was not ashamed to live for Jesus Christ and to preach Him. They stood up in the worst of times to obey the Holy Spirit and declare their faith in God. They were fully sold out to God. They knew and understood the potential cost of believing in Jesus. They knew that it might subject them to severe persecution and suffering, even to the point of losing their lives. They believed in a grace that enabled them to pray for more boldness to preach when threatened; to love and obey Christ when imprisoned; and to be ready to pay the ultimate price of laying down their lives for the Gospel when called upon. We are living in a time when the Church should be filled with a double portion of the early Church's anointing and courage, emboldened by grace to obey Jesus even unto death. Why? Because we have been called to do even *"greater works"* (John 14:12) than Jesus!

We must no longer be uncomfortable with the idea of living radically for Jesus Christ, unapologetically preaching the pure Word of God, or standing up unrepentantly for the Truth without fear. This is living not ashamed of Christ and His Gospel. THE ONLY WAY FOR THE CHURCH TO OVERCOME SATAN IS BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND THE WORD OF OUR TESTIMONY, AS WE LOVE NOT OUR LIVES UNTO

DEATH. We must not be ashamed, we must not be afraid, and we must not shrink back concerning our faith in Jesus Christ and the preaching of His Gospel. Unless we live, preach and obey in such a manner, we will fail to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth and the Church will lose its light; and we will be intimidated by powers of darkness, silenced by voices of criticism, and will buckle beneath the threat of being ostracized by an unbelieving society. We must not be ashamed, and we must not hate, but we must be bold, joyful and loving as we continue to let our light shine that others may know God.

THIS IS THE HOUR THE CHURCH MUST HEAR GOD, FEEL HIS HEARTBEAT AND WALK IN HIS RHYTHM—TOTALLY IN SYNC WITH HIM. The Church must hear and live in the rhythm of the Holy Spirit, not the world's rhythm or its culture. We must want to be in sync with God and not out of step with Him. When we hear God and walk according to His heartbeat and rhythm, we will know that—in this hour—God is intently searching and seeking for:

- **Agonizers for revival**, not organizers of programs
- **Pursuers of God**, not seekers of pleasures
- **Weepers in repentance**, not spectators of religion
- **Cross-bearing servants**, not pew-warming hearers
- **Intercessors for His kingdom**, not slothful idlers
- **Preachers of the Gospel**, not motivational speakers
- **Disciple-makers**, not man-pleasing compromisers
- **Followers of Jesus Christ**, not pursuers of the world
- **Obedient sons and daughters**, not selfish hirelings
- **Consecrated disciples**, not lip-serving confessors
- **Seekers of the lost**, not consumers of blessings

THIS IS THE HOUR THE CHURCH MUST LIVE IN AN UNCOMMON INTIMACY WITH GOD—NOT LUKEWARMNESS—AND POSSESS AN UNCOMMON FAITH. WHAT IS LUKEWARMNESS? It is having a huge desire to be on fire for God, to be full of His Holy Spirit, and to do great things for Him, but grudgingly making very stingy, miserly, and penny-pinching deposits of leftover time and resources into prayer, fasting and laying hold of God. A lukewarm Christian has a very generous and noble (but soulish) aspiration to know God, yet is beggarly in actual commitment, devotion, faithfulness, sacrificial love and worship of God. **May the unashamed Church remember that Jesus gave every last drop of His blood to seek, find and save us. Will we not give a single drop of our sweat to seek, love and serve Him?** Lukewarm Christians have become accustomed to and comfortable with investing most of their time in the cares of life and some religious activities rather than hungering after God in relentless pursuit of Him and His kingdom. They are absolutely unperturbed and undisturbed by their own spiritual apathy and lack of zeal for God. They are

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untroubled and unruffled by their lack of appetite for God and His kingdom, or by their stagnated and shallow relationship with God. They are at ease in not hearing God's voice and having no tears of longing for Him. They easily confess the name of Jesus, yet remain detached from the heart of God.

If we want to live and serve Christ not ashamed, then we must stop dithering between two opinions where God is concerned—living all for God or living measured. **We must stop measuring out our commitment, devotion, loyalty and passion for God. TO HAVE A MEASURED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS TO LEAVE OUR FIRST LOVE AND BE LUKEWARM.** A lukewarm Church can call it by any other terms—being relevant, sensitive or inclusive—but the Word calls it abhorrent, and God will spit anything lukewarm out of His mouth. There is no scale that can balance Christ on one side and the world on the other to determine the measure of Christ or the measure of the world we must have in our lives.

FINALLY, THE CHURCH MUST LIVE, WALK AND SERVE IN TOTAL ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST'S RETURN. We must believe it, preach it and live it consistently. Do not spend so much time teaching the Church only on how to deal with life on earth, because life on earth is temporal and will end. **We must spend more time teaching the Church how to live and serve God as those anticipating His return at any moment.** The Church must be trained to be heavenly-minded and not distracted by earthly things. Our priorities and agendas in life must be seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We must not have the same priorities as those who do not know Christ, because they have no eternal perspective; they live and strive only for what they can eat, drink or wear on this earth. These live as if there is no eternity and there is no heaven or hell, and their prayers and goals are only for what is on this earth. **AS FOR US, HIS CHURCH, WE WILL WHOLLY LIVE NOT ASHAMED OF CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL.**

Notes:

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

(written by Bob Moorehead)

I am a part of the fellowship of the Unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear for "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes .."

(Romans 1:16)

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DAILY PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 2–9, 2019

Day 1 (Sunday)	Ministry of the Word (AM and PM services)
Day 2 (Monday)	I Am Not Ashamed To Be Holy For He Is Holy
Day 3 (Tuesday)	I Am Not Ashamed Of The Suffering Of Christ
Day 4 (Wednesday)	I Am Not Ashamed To Trust The Lord
Day 5 (Thursday)	I Am Not Ashamed To Let My Light Shine
Day 6 (Friday)	I Am Not Ashamed Of The Holy Spirit's Power
Day 7 (Saturday)	Personal And Family Prayer (No Corporate Assembly)
Day 8 (Sunday)	Thanksgiving And Exhortation

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY PART I

PART I — WEEK OF PERSONAL PREPARATION

May 26 – June 1, 2019 (Sunday to Saturday)

Six Steps To Preparation For Solemn Assembly

May 26 to June 1, 2019 is a week of personal preparation before the Solemn Assembly. Like the Levitical priests who carefully prepared themselves before they entered the Tabernacle to minister to God, it is important that we take time to prayerfully prepare ourselves to enter Solemn Assembly in the spirit and posture of heart that is pleasing to God. *(Record all that God will be speaking to you throughout this season of prayer and fasting on the pages provided in this booklet.)*

STEP 1: Plan Your Week's Schedule To Include Corporate And Personal Prayer

1. Plan and schedule in both corporate and personal prayer times for the week.
2. Note all the corporate prayer times (morning, noon and evening) and plan to be there with your family .
3. **All ministries for the week of June 2–9, 2019 are canceled to release the Church to participate in Solemn Assembly in the noontime and evening prayers.**

NOTE: *Care/Net and ministry leaders are to inform their helpers and exhort them to be present for prayer.*

STEP 2: Personal Preparation (Psalm 51:1–19 NKJV)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me” (vv. 10-11).

1. **Prepare your heart** to come before God in humility and contrition.
2. **Prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit** to do a **deep searching** of your heart and life. Bring everything to light and let nothing be hidden.
3. **Pray through Psalm 51**; repent and ask God to forgive you, create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you.
4. **Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding**; remove all unbelief, hardness, pride and resistance to His Holy Spirit. Ask God to put truth and wisdom in your inward parts.
5. **Make relationships right with God and with others.**

STEP 3: Prepare As A Family (Joshua 24:14–15; Psalm 133 NKJV)

*“Now, therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! . . . **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”*

1. **Heads of families: help prepare your family.** Share the personal application of Solemn Assembly to each person in your family.
2. **Minister unity and oneness in family.** Bring healing and reconciliation in all relationships. Repent of sins committed against each other. Minister love and forgiveness to each other.
 - a. marriage (1 Peter 3:1–7; Colossians 3:18–19)
 - b. parents and children (Colossians 3:20–21)
3. **Have a family communion time** to seal the oneness of spirit, love and peace. Pray Psalm 133 and Colossians 3 into your family.

STEP 4: Spiritual House-Cleansing (2 Chronicles 34:3–27 NKJV)

*“For in the eighth year of his (Josiah’s) reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year **he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images . . . in the eighteenth year of his reign, . . . he sent Shaphan . . . to repair the house of the LORD . . . because your heart was tender . . . and you humbled yourself before Me . . . I also have heard you, says the LORD.**”*

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1. **Do spiritual house-cleaning** (2 Chronicles 34:1–33) If there is any item in your possession that contains spiritually defiling material and is not pleasing to God, get rid of it.
2. These things defile us and our homes. They also become gateways for the enemy to infiltrate.
3. **Repair your personal and family altar**
(daily devotions—prayer and Word)

STEP 5 - Prepare All Ministries (Colossians 3:12–15 NKJV)

*“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another; and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.**”*

1. **Heads of ministries: prepare all helpers and others** under their care. Ensure that everyone is informed concerning the purpose and times of prayer.
2. **Exhort all to participate** in the blessing of the Solemn Assembly.
3. **Minister unity, reconciliation and oneness.** If there is any rift in ministerial relationships, prayerfully bring reconciliation and oneness.
4. **Pray Psalm 133 and Colossians 3** into the ministry. **Renew commitment to God and each other.**

STEP 6 - Ask God To Infuse Great Faith In Us (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**”*

1. **Seek God diligently** and believe in Him for great things.
2. Step into the week of Solemn Assembly with a contrite heart and great faith.

WHAT IS SOLEMN ASSEMBLY?

The Call To Humbly Seek God In Prayer And Fasting

*Joel 1:14—“**Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God and cry out to the LORD.**”*

Solemn Assembly is a **corporate** and **personal call** to humbly separate

ourselves unto God for a time of **Consecration, Prayer and Fasting to seek His face for a specific purpose. It is humbling ourselves before God in repentance and consecration.**

- It is a time of “breaking up the fallow ground” of our hearts before God.
- It is a time of repenting of all sins and returning to God wholeheartedly.
- It is a time of total consecration to God as His redeemed people.
- It is a time of waiting on God to hear from Him and take heed.
- It is a time to resolve to obey and please Him alone.

HOW DO WE DO SOLEMN ASSEMBLY?

We Consecrate A Fast, Call A Sacred Assembly

Corporately and individually, we set aside time to seek God in prayer and fasting.

What is fasting and prayer?

Fasting and prayer are **very powerful spiritual ministries that God responds to.** In fasting, the abstinence from food (and other things) is an outward demonstration of an **inward heart of contrition and repentance toward God. It is also a spiritual act of humbling and emptying ourselves before God in submission to His Lordship. Fasting is crucifying our flesh and self and enthroning God.** It brings us into total submission to Him. We deny all that is of ourselves - our will, needs, appetites, desires, priorities, motives and embrace all that is His. There are different ways of fasting. Let the Lord lead you at all times. We fast on:

- **Food** – abstinence from food (*depending on how God will direct you*)
- **Time** – setting aside time to pray and wait on God
- **Priorities** – denying personal priorities; make seeking Him first priority
- **Pleasures** – abstinence from things or activities we enjoy (*hobbies, TV, internet, entertainment, recreation, social media, etc.*) and devote that time and energy to God

How do we fast?

We are to fast as **the Holy Spirit leads us.** Let Him show us what He is dealing with us in our life. **Fasting must be accompanied with prayer:**

- **Total fast** – Abstaining from solid foods for all meals. Taking only liquids (*water*). If you have a health need, consult your doctor before fasting.
- **Partial fast** – Abstaining from certain meals or reducing the normal portions of intake. (*No snacking to make up for fasted meals. Take much water*)

DAY 1 — SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019
PRAYER FOCUS— MINISTRY OF THE WORD
(AM AND PM SERVICES)

Isaiah 50:5–10 (NIV)

*The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered My back to those who beat Me, My cheeks to those who pulled out My beard; I did not hide My face from mocking and spitting. **BECAUSE THE SOVEREIGN LORD HELPS ME, I WILL NOT BE DISGRACED. Therefore, I have set My face like a stone, determined to do His will. AND I KNOW THAT I WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.** He who gives Me justice is near. Who will dare to bring charges against Me now? Where are My accusers? Let them appear! **See, the Sovereign Lord is on My side! Who will declare Me guilty?** All My enemies will be destroyed like old clothes that have been eaten by moths! Who among you fears the Lord and obeys His Servant? **If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God.***

Mark 8:34–38 (NKJV)

*When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**”*

2 Timothy 1:8–12 (NKJV)

THEREFORE DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD, NOR OF ME HIS PRISONER, but share with me in the sufferings for the Gospel according to the power of God, Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. FOR THIS REASON I ALSO SUFFER THESE THINGS; NEVERTHELESS I AM NOT ASHAMED, FOR I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED AND AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP WHAT I HAVE COMMITTED TO HIM UNTIL THAT DAY.

DAY 2 — MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

**PRAYER FOCUS – I AM NOT ASHAMED TO BE HOLY
FOR HE IS HOLY**

1 Samuel 2:2 (NKJV)

NO ONE IS HOLY LIKE THE LORD, FOR THERE IS NONE BESIDES YOU, nor is there any rock like our God.

Exodus 15:11 (NKJV)

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? WHO IS LIKE YOU, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, FEARFUL IN PRAISES, DOING WONDERS?

Ephesians 1:4 (CSB)

FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM, before the foundation of the world, TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN LOVE BEFORE HIM.

Leviticus 20:24–26 (NKJV)

I am the LORD your God, Who has separated you from the peoples. . . AND YOU SHALL BE HOLY TO ME, FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY, AND HAVE SEPARATED YOU FROM THE PEOPLES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE MINE.

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NKJV)

FOR YOU ARE A HOLY PEOPLE to the LORD your God; THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

1 Peter 2:5–9 (NLT)

And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, YOU ARE HIS HOLY PRIESTS... FOR YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE. YOU ARE ROYAL PRIESTS, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S VERY OWN POSSESSION. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.

Leviticus 11:44–45 (NKJV)

For I am the LORD your God. YOU SHALL THEREFORE CONSECRATE YOURSELVES, AND YOU SHALL BE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the LORD Who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. YOU SHALL THEREFORE BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.

Ephesians 5:23–27 (NLT)

... Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church. . . just as Christ loved the church. HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR HER TO MAKE HER HOLY AND CLEAN, WASHED BY THE CLEANSING OF GOD'S WORD.

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He did this to present her to Himself as A GLORIOUS CHURCH WITHOUT A SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY OTHER BLEMISH. INSTEAD, SHE WILL BE HOLY AND WITHOUT FAULT.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–7 (NKJV)

For THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, YOUR SANCTIFICATION: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO POSSESS HIS OWN VESSEL IN SANCTIFICATION AND HONOR, not in passion of lust. . . FOR GOD DID NOT CALL US TO UNCLEANNES, BUT IN HOLINESS.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NKJV)

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." **THEREFORE "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU. I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."**

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FILTHINESS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE.** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Corinthians 6:17–20 (NLT)

BUT THE PERSON WHO IS JOINED TO THE LORD IS ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM. Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. **Don't you realize that YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, FOR GOD BOUGHT YOU WITH A HIGH PRICE. SO YOU MUST HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODY.**

Romans 6:6-14 (NLT)

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. **WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN. FOR WHEN WE DIED WITH CHRIST WE WERE SET FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN... WHEN HE DIED, HE DIED ONCE TO BREAK THE POWER OF SIN.** But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. **SO USE YOUR WHOLE BODY AS AN INSTRUMENT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. SIN IS NO LONGER YOUR MASTER, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. INSTEAD, YOU LIVE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF GOD'S GRACE.**

Romans 6:16-23 (NLT)

Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? **YOU CAN BE A SLAVE TO SIN, WHICH LEADS TO DEATH, OR YOU CAN CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD, WHICH LEADS TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING.** Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. **NOW YOU ARE FREE FROM YOUR SLAVERY TO SIN, AND YOU HAVE BECOME SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING.** . . . Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. **Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.** . . . You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. **BUT NOW YOU ARE FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN AND HAVE BECOME SLAVES OF GOD. NOW YOU DO THOSE THINGS THAT LEAD TO HOLINESS AND RESULT IN ETERNAL LIFE.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 5:1-17 (NLT)

IMITATE GOD, THEREFORE, IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS DEAR CHILDREN. . . . Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. . . no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God... Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey Him. . . **For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! FOR THIS LIGHT WITHIN YOU PRODUCES ONLY WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT AND TRUE."** . . . So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

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Exhortation—I Am Not Ashamed To Be Holy For He Is Holy

We want to understand God's call for our holy consecration unto Him from the relationship He has with us. Even before time began, God already had us in His heart and thoughts to make us the focus of His love. Ephesians 1:3–10 (MSG) says, "*Long before He laid down earth's foundations, **HE HAD US IN MIND, HAD SETTLED ON US AS THE FOCUS OF HIS LOVE, TO BE MADE WHOLE AND HOLY BY HIS LOVE.** Long, long ago He decided to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure He took in planning this!) ... **BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICE OF THE MESSIAH, HIS BLOOD Poured OUT ON THE ALTAR OF THE CROSS, WE'RE A FREE PEOPLE... NOT JUST BARELY FREE, EITHER. ABUNDANTLY FREE!**"*

When God says that He is jealous over us, it is because of this very unique, special and eternal relationship He has brought us into by giving us His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. There is no other relationship that has existed from eternity past into eternity future that will ever be even remotely comparable, equivalent, parallel or alike to God's relationship with us. Who can we compare Him with? God speaks of Himself in Isaiah 40:25 (NLT), "***TO WHOM WILL YOU COMPARE ME? WHO IS MY EQUAL?**"* It is not just the nature and measure of His love, tender mercies, thoughts and grace towards us that are incomparable, for He, Himself, is absolutely incomparable. **This Wonderful, Almighty and Eternal God, Who created everything by His word, has stooped down to woo and love us, and has BROUGHT US INTO A BLOOD COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON.** Who are we, formed out of dust, that He should be mindful of us, let alone love us so extravagantly, lavishly, and excessively that He would so recklessly spend the life and blood of His Son to redeem us? It seems almost wasteful to spend so much for so little—the priceless for the least and the immortal for the mortal. The Psalmist wondered about this when he wrote:

- "*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, **WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM,** and the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:3–4 NKJV)*
- "***LORD, WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU TAKE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM?** Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him? Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow" (Psalm 144:3–4 NKJV).*

If we were to try to fathom this extraordinary and unequal love relationship—God, the greatest and we, the least—it would be too much for us to comprehend. Yet, this is how He loves us and is jealous for us. Therefore, is it not just, right and true that we, whom He loves, should consecrate ourselves wholly to Him for His pleasure and glory? Is it not fitting that we should confess we are not our own but His, for He had

bought us with a price? **We belong to Him exclusively. Therefore, we are not ashamed to be holy, for He is holy.**

When God says in Exodus 34:14 (NKJV), ***“YOU SHALL WORSHIP NO OTHER GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS, IS A JEALOUS GOD,”*** we must comprehend that He is righteously and rightfully jealous over us. **THERE IS NO TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD UNLESS WE WORSHIP HIM ALONE. THERE IS NO TRUE LOVE FOR GOD UNLESS WE FIRST LOVE HIM ABOVE ALL ELSE.** This is reiterated in Deuteronomy 5:9 (NKJV) where it says, ***“You shall not bow down to them nor serve them (idols). FOR I, THE LORD YOUR GOD, AM A JEALOUS GOD.”***

Because we have been chosen and bought with a price, we are God’s own special treasure belonging exclusively to Him, and He is rightfully jealous over us. His jealousy is not as man’s fallen, selfish and sinful envy. His jealousy is pure, righteous, just and selfless. There is no evil or error in it. It is duly and justly so because we are His royal priesthood, a special people and holy nation called out of darkness into His marvelous light to show forth His praises and glory (1 Peter 2:9). **It is His jealousy that guards and protects our consecration unto Him against any illegal intrusion or incursion that would corrupt, contaminate or defile our relationship with Him.** He protects and guards all those who belong to Him for good, not evil. It is for love, blessing and prosperity that He shields and keeps us. His command for our consecration unto Him is for our gain and His pleasure and glory. **CONSECRATION PROTECTS OUR LOVE, RELATIONSHIP AND WORSHIP OF HIM.** Sin will violate our love relationship with God and will separate us from Him; for without holiness, we cannot see God.

God’s Love Is Unconditional; Relationship Is Not

GOD’S CALL FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE HOLY AS HE IS HOLY IS AS TIMELESS, ETERNAL AND UNCHANGING AS HE IS. Holiness is part of His divine nature; He is inherently, absolutely and eternally incorruptible, undefileable and incapable of evil, error or unrighteousness. No evil, sin or unclean thing can enter His presence, for His holiness totally annihilates all just as fire consumes wood to ashes. **WITHOUT HOLINESS NO MAN CAN SEE GOD.** God’s jealousy is also about His righteous indignation at having His holy boundaries (that protect our consecration) intruded on, broken and violated by our choices. These holy boundaries are the bedrock for our relationship with Him. If they are broken, then our relationship with Him is also broken.

GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS UNCONDITIONAL—He loved us while we were yet in sin—**BUT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IS NOT. HE REQUIRES US TO BE HOLY, FOR HE IS HOLY.** His unconditional love makes us whole, holy and acceptable before Him, but it is not a permit to compromise, sin, or become defiled and polluted with anything unclean. In His unconditional

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love, He sacrificed His only begotten Son on the cross to forgive, cleanse and redeem us from all sins, and adopt us into His family. **HOW THEN COULD THIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THAT HAS PROVIDED THE PRICELESS WAY TO ABOLISH ALL SINS, ALSO GIVE ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE SINS?** To think this way, is to have an erroneous and false understanding of God's love and His grace. Hebrews 10:26–29 (NLT) makes this very clear: ***“Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SACRIFICE THAT WILL COVER THESE SINS. There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume His enemies. For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God’s mercy to us.”*** **TREATING THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD AS A LICENSE TO CONTINUE TO SIN IS TRAMPLING ON THE SON OF GOD, TREATING HIS BLOOD AS COMMON, AND INSULTING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS GRACE.**

GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR US WILL NEVER ALLOW HIM TO COMPROMISE HIS REQUIREMENTS OF HOLINESS ON THE PART OF HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS. Holiness protects our relationship with Him. If our relationship were unconditional, He would not have called Himself a jealous God.

God’s relationship with us is like a marriage: a husband may love his wife unconditionally and be willing to lay down his life for her, but he will never compromise on his demand and expectation of her to be exclusively and entirely committed, true and faithful to him. He will never permit her to give one jot of her affection or attention away to another. His love is never equivalent to giving permission to flirt and dally with other men. **HIS LOVE FOR HER IS UNCONDITIONAL, BUT INTIMACY WITH HIM IS NOT; IT IS EXCLUSIVE.** Intimacy with him is dependent on her remaining solely set apart for him, totally undefiled and uncompromised in her affection for him. **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IS WHAT HE GIVES TO HER BUT CONSECRATION IS WHAT SHE GIVES TO HIM. Being set apart exclusively for each other is essential for consecrated intimacy and relationship in a marriage. In human relationships, marriage is the highest, most intimate relationship that anyone can hope to enjoy. THEREFORE, IT IS TOTALLY AND UNAPOLOGETICALLY EXCLUSIVE.** So it is with our relationship with God. It is totally unlike any other, absolutely incomparable and exclusive.

The carnal human mind, in error will assign to God’s love a laxity that accommodates compromises and deflections from holiness because we are weak and we think He understands. Ephesians 1 says that before the

foundation of the world, God chose us to be holy and faultless before Him. **WHEN WE SET OUR WHOLE HEART TO WALK CAREFULLY BEFORE GOD, THERE IS A LIGHT IN US THAT SHINES INTO EVERY AREA OF WHO WE ARE AND OUR LIVES.** This light reveals and shows us the truth whether we are living in righteousness or sin. This light not only shows, but this light has a voice called conscience that speaks to our inner man regarding what is good and evil; what is acceptable to God and what is not. Do not sin against this voice by ignoring, rejecting or rebelling against it. Do not let other voices—those of temptation, compromise, reason, pride, selfish desires, worldliness or self—be louder than the voice of conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Intimacy With God Through Holiness

HOLY INTIMACY TAKES US INTO A PLACE WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO HEAR GOD CLEARLY, FEEL HIS HEARTBEAT STRONGLY AND KNOW HIM TRULY. Genesis 5 says that Enoch walked with God so closely and intimately that after 365 years God took him unto Himself. This was also how Moses and Paul walked with God. **THEY LIVED FOR ONE PURPOSE—TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE. They were absolutely radical, relentless and extreme in their hunger, pursuit and love for God, and they were not ashamed. IN THIS UNCOMMON INTIMACY WITH GOD, HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO THEM IN AN EQUALLY RADICAL AND UNCOMMON WAY.** These men encountered, experienced and knew God in a way that very few did. In 2 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT), Paul was taken to the third heaven and received revelations that are *“so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.”* In Exodus 34, Moses was so soaked in God’s presence at Mt. Sinai that when he came down, his face was radiant with God’s glory and it had to be veiled because Aaron and the children of Israel were afraid to come near him.

It was not because of the great things these men did that God walked with them in such an extraordinary way. It was their abandoned, uncompromising, uncommon, unrelenting, passionate, die-to-all and all-in pursuit of holiness and intimacy with God that He revealed Himself to them in a manner that He would not to others. **EVERYTHING WITHIN THESE MEN WAS COMPLETELY DIALED INTO GOD, AND THEY MADE NO ROOM FOR ANY SIN, RIVAL LOVE OR THRONE TO EXIST—ONLY GOD AND GOD ALONE!** Out of holy intimacy with God, their hearts and minds were shaped and formed to be more like His. Through every trial, their faith, refined by fire, remained unshaken, unbeaten and unashamedly trusting in Him. Such consecration was developed over years of relentlessly pursuing of God and mercilessly dealing with anything that would compete against God for their love. As Paul put it in Philippians 3:8 (NKJV), *“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whom I have*

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suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

GOD IS SEEKING FOR THE ENOCHS, MOSES AND PAULS OF TODAY AMONG THOSE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM AND FOLLOW HIM. Hebrews 11 recounts the stories of countless men and women who loved God as these three did. Can God see the same consecration, heart, love and service in His Church today? If He were to compare the consecration, passion, commitment and devotion of today’s Church against that of those who came before us, what would He see? Would He be able to entrust us with the same measure of His presence, glory, revelation and knowledge of Him as He did with Enoch, Moses and Paul? How much of Christ is today’s Church manifesting to the world? **APART FROM THIS CONSECRATION, THE CHURCH WILL NOT HAVE A FAITH, LOVE AND DEVOTION SUFFICIENT FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.** Without consecration, the Church will be inconsistent in faith and commitment, and will buckle and compromise under fire, offering nothing more than lip-service allegiance, watered down faith, sporadic conviction, shallow devotion and token sacrifices to God.

Thank God for preachers and teachers of God who are the Enochs, Moseses and Pauls of today. Be wary of preachers who are lukewarm and apathetic concerning holiness and passion for God—who use a few scriptures to spiritualize their sermons—but they fear speaking the whole counsel of God and His truth because it is offensive to today’s culture and the spirit of this age. **HOWEVER, THE TRUE CHURCH MUST NOT HESITATE IN PREACHING THE CROSS, DYING TO SELF, LOVING GOD FIRST AND BEING HOLY FOR HE IS HOLY.**

Finally, we can be holy and live holy by:

- **LIVING IN THE POWER OF THE CROSS**—in the grace of Jesus Christ.
- **RECKONING OURSELVES DEAD TO SIN**—but alive to righteousness in Christ.
- **PRESENTING OUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE**—holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service.
- **NOT CONFORMING TO THIS WORLD**—but being transformed by the renewing of our mind, proving what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **STRENGTHENING OUR INNER MAN (SPIRIT) IN THE POWER OF GOD**—through prayer, the Word and intimacy with Jesus Christ.
- **BEING FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**—because we are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

We must Remember the end is near and Jesus Christ’s eternal will for us is found in Ephesians 5:23–27 (NLT), which says, **“Christ is the head of the Church. He is the Savior of His body, the Church... just as Christ loved the Church, HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR HER TO MAKE HER HOLY AND CLEAN, washed by the cleansing of God’s Word. HE DID THIS TO PRESENT HER**

TO HIMSELF AS A GLORIOUS CHURCH WITHOUT A SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY OTHER BLEMISH. INSTEAD, SHE WILL BE HOLY AND WITHOUT FAULT:" Christ loved us and gave up His life to make us holy and clean, His eternal bride without spot, wrinkle or blemish. **THEREFORE, LET US NEVER HESITATE IN BEING WHOLLY CONSECRATED UNTO HIM.**

Prayer Focus

A. Pray to understand the heart and the will of God concerning us:

1. His eternal, unceasing and matchless love for us
2. His ultimate sacrifice of giving His only begotten Son to redeem us
3. His unstoppable and reckless passion to make us His own
4. His jealousy over us that we should worship Him alone and love no other more than Him

B. Pray for a new heart to love and worship God as He deserves

C. Repent of areas of idolatry that have provoked Him to jealousy:

D. Pray for revelation, understanding and knowledge of God in all His holiness

1. **Pray until we encounter Him in the fullness of:**
 - a. the beauty of His holiness
 - b. the awesomeness of His holiness
 - c. the fearfulness of His holiness
 - d. the power of His holiness
 - e. the glory of His holiness
2. **Pray that we be saturated and overwhelmed by the presence and glory of the Holy God**

E. Allow the Holy Spirit to thoroughly SEARCH, EXAMINE AND SPEAK

1. **IDENTIFY, ACKNOWLEDGE AND DEMOLISH all walls, arguments and resistance to the Holy Spirit's work** of searching, exposing and confronting sins, defilement and anything offensive to God
 - a. **arguments and justification of unrepented sins** leading to self-deception and spiritual delusion

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b. strong walls of resistance against the Holy Spirit

with unwillingness to yield because of:

- issues of the heart—unrepented sins and offenses
- pride—being right is more important than being holy; lacking in humility; unwillingness to yield
- self (flesh)—enthroning self; protecting, preserving and defending self is priority; being unwilling to crucify flesh or die to self
- fear of exposure and shame—hiding and running from truth; fearing the pain of exposure

2. PERSIST IN PRAYER UNTIL TOTAL FREEDOM IS OBTAINED

F. Deal with the FLESH (SELF) completely—THE STRONGEST ENEMY TO BEING HOLY AND LIVING HOLY

1. Be prepared and arm our hearts with courage to **WRESTLE IN PRAYER UNTIL FLESH IS CRUCIFIED AND DEAD**
2. Pray until we are fully convinced and persuaded that:
 - a. we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection
 - b. sin has lost all influence, power and authority over us
 - c. we are completely alive in Christ and His power
3. **PRAY UNTIL OUR SPIRIT IS STRONG in knowledge, conviction and willingness to be holy as God is holy**

G. Humble ourselves in total agreement with the Holy Spirit—acknowledge, confess and repent of all sins and defilement

1. **SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT in failing to:**
 - a. respect, honor and heed the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - b. offer up our body to Him as a living and holy sacrifice
 - c. keep the temple of the Holy Spirit—our body—holy and pure
2. **INTRUSION OF SINS AND DEFILEMENT we allow in our lives:**
 - a. rebellion, pride and unforgiveness

b. pollutions we permit, see, think, do, hear or are involved in

c. compromises any thing that is offensive to God

d. impurities of the heart, mind and soul (emotions)

- e. unrighteousness of attitudes and motives
-
-

- f. uncleanness of the conduct, behavior and speech
-
-

3. DISOBEDIENCE AND REBELLION against God, His Word and the Holy Spirit

H. In trust and gratefulness accept forgiveness, cleansing and restoration in Christ Jesus

I. Cry out for A NEW WORK IN OUR SPIRIT concerning being holy as He is holy

- 1. **To be strengthened in our spirit so that we are strong in:**
 - a. **our WILLINGNESS of spirit to live holy**
 - b. **our inward CONVICTION to hate sin**
 - c. **our spirit, soul and heart to RESIST, DEFY AND DEFEAT every weakness of the flesh**
 - d. **our spirit COMMITMENT to be holy and live holy unto God**
- 2. **To be filled with profound hunger FOR HOLINESS AND PLEASING GOD**
- 3. **To be filled with profound hunger for absolute ONENESS with God and INTIMACY with Him**

J. Acknowledge, confess and commit to be holy as God is holy

- 1. Live and serve Him as His holy priesthood, servants and nation
- 2. Offer ourselves to Him in worship as holy and living sacrifices
- 3. Commit to living holy to glorify Him anytime and anywhere
- 4. Obey and fulfill His holy calling

K. Live and walk in the power of holiness in Jesus Christ

- 1. Power of union and oneness with Jesus Christ
- 2. Passion of first love for and intimacy with Jesus Christ
- 3. Fires of revival and of His glory
- 4. Boldness, courage and faith for world evangelization

DAY 3 — TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019

**PRAYER FOCUS — I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE SUFFERINGS
OF CHRIST**

Hebrews 2:9–10 (NLT)

*What we do see is Jesus, Who was given a position “a little lower than the angels”; and **BECAUSE HE SUFFERED DEATH FOR US, HE IS NOW “CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR.”** Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. God, for Whom and through Whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. **And it was only right that HE SHOULD MAKE JESUS, THROUGH HIS SUFFERING, A PERFECT LEADER, FIT TO BRING THEM INTO THEIR SALVATION.***

1 Peter 4:1–19 (NLT)

*So then, **SINCE CHRIST SUFFERED PHYSICAL PAIN, YOU MUST ARM YOURSELVES WITH THE SAME ATTITUDE HE HAD, AND BE READY TO SUFFER, TOO.** For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have **finished with sin.** You won’t spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God... Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. . . **Dear friends, DON’T BE SURPRISED AT THE FIERY TRIALS YOU ARE GOING THROUGH, as if something strange were happening to you. INSTEAD, BE VERY GLAD—FOR THESE TRIALS MAKE YOU PARTNERS WITH CHRIST IN HIS SUFFERING, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world. IF YOU ARE INSULTED BECAUSE YOU BEAR THE NAME OF CHRIST, YOU WILL BE BLESSED, FOR THE GLORIOUS SPIRIT OF GOD RESTS UPON YOU.** If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people’s affairs. **BUT IT IS NO SHAME TO SUFFER FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN.** Praise God for the privilege of being called by His name! . . . **So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God Who created you, for He will never fail you.***

Romans 8:17–19 (NLT)

*And since we are His children, we are His heirs. **In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. BUT IF WE ARE TO SHARE HIS GLORY, WE MUST ALSO SHARE HIS SUFFERING.** Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are.*

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1 Peter 2:19–25 (NKJV)

For THIS IS COMMENDABLE, if because of conscience toward God ONE ENDURES GRIEF, SUFFERING WRONGFULLY. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. **FOR TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED, BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS:** “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him Who judges righteously; Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by Whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Philippians 3:7–11 (NASB)

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I COUNT ALL THINGS TO BE LOSS in view of the SURPASSING VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD, for Whom I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND COUNT THEM BUT RUBBISH SO THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, **that I MAY KNOW HIM and the POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION and THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, being CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH;** in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 1:27–30 (NLT)

Above all, you must LIVE AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ . . . fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. **DON'T BE INTIMIDATED in any way by your enemies.** This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God Himself. **FOR YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN NOT ONLY THE PRIVILEGE OF TRUSTING IN CHRIST BUT ALSO THE PRIVILEGE OF SUFFERING FOR HIM.** We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

1 Peter 5:8–10 (NKJV)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him, steadfast in the faith, KNOWING THAT THE SAME SUFFERINGS are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE, PERFECT, ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN, AND SETTLE YOU.**

1 Peter 3:13–18 (NKJV)

*And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? **BUT EVEN IF YOU SHOULD SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, YOU ARE BLESSED.** "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." . . . **FOR IT IS BETTER, IF IT IS THE WILL OF GOD, TO SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD THAN FOR DOING EVIL. For CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED ONCE FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.***

Colossians 1:24–29 (NLT)

*I am glad when I **SUFFER FOR YOU** in my body, for I am **PARTICIPATING IN THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST** that continue for His body, the church . . . We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. **THAT'S WHY I WORK AND STRUGGLE SO HARD, DEPENDING ON CHRIST'S MIGHTY POWER THAT WORKS WITHIN ME.***

2 Timothy 1:8–12 (NKJV)

*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, **BUT SHARE WITH ME IN THE SUFFERINGS FOR THE GOSPEL** according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our Works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began . . . to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. **FOR THIS REASON I ALSO SUFFER THESE THINGS; NEVERTHELESS I AM NOT ASHAMED, FOR I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED AND AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP WHAT I HAVE COMMITTED TO HIM UNTIL THAT DAY.***

Hebrews 10:32–39 (NLT)

*Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. **REMEMBER HOW YOU REMAINED FAITHFUL EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT TERRIBLE SUFFERING.** Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. **You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, YOU ACCEPTED IT WITH JOY. YOU KNEW THERE WERE BETTER THINGS WAITING FOR YOU THAT WILL LAST FOREVER. SO DO NOT THROW AWAY THIS CONFIDENT TRUST IN THE LORD. Remember the great reward it brings you! PATIENT ENDURANCE IS WHAT YOU NEED NOW, SO THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO GOD'S WILL.** Then you will receive all that He has promised. "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. **And My righteous ones will live by faith.** But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.*

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1 Peter 5:8–10 (NASB)

*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED FOR A LITTLE WHILE, THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, WILL HIMSELF PERFECT, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN AND ESTABLISH YOU.***

Exhortation—I Am Not Ashamed of the Sufferings of Christ

To suffer means to experience, undergo or be subjected to anything that causes or inflicts pain, harm, hurt, distress, agony, misery or sorrow, whether physically, mentally or emotionally. The Greek word “sufferings” in Philippians 3:10 is “*pathēma*,” and one of its’ references is “*the afflictions which Christians must undergo in behalf of the same cause which Christ patiently endured.*”

The Sufferings of Christ

FOR THE CAUSE AND PURPOSE OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER, JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED. His afflictions were never the self-induced common sufferings brought on by being in sin, the flesh, carnality, selfishness or disobedience to God. He suffered vicious persecution because He gave Himself fully to His Father’s will. In **OBEDIENCE, FAITH and LOVE** for His Father, Christ paid the ultimate price and laid down His life to take away the sins of the world.

CHRIST SUFFERED BECAUSE OF HIS ABSOLUTE LOVING OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER AND IN THAT LOVE HE COULD NOT DO LESS. He was subject to extreme sorrows, adversities and persecutions. Yet Christ did not consider it strange, preposterous or unusual that He, as God’s only begotten Son, should be rejected, scorned, whipped, spat at, accused, beaten beyond recognition and ultimately hung on a cross like a criminal for the sins of man. Isaiah 53 speaks of Him as a man of sorrow and acquainted with the deepest grief. He was not surprised, puzzled, confused, embittered or offended when treated vilely at the hands of those who hated Him. Jesus expected sufferings and prepared Himself for them by submitting His life into His Father’s hands, enduring everything for the joy and reward that were set before Him. In the same way, the Bible exhorts us to be of the same mind as Christ, prepared to suffer for the same cause.

Hebrews 5:8 says that CHRIST LEARNED OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS HE SUFFERED. He chose obedience, although accompanied by agony, rather than disobedience to escape the anguish. He did not seek to protect, preserve, defend, vindicate, justify or speak up for Himself when persecuted because of doing His Father’s will. **HE LIVED DEAD TO ALL**—His

rights, ways, expectations and will—**SO THAT HE COULD LIVE FOR GOD.** Philippians 3:10 (NKJV) says that we, who have been redeemed through Christ's sufferings and sacrifice, are called to **"know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."** The word "fellowship" (translated from the Greek "koinonia") means to be in communion, joint participation or intimacy; therefore, to know the "fellowship of His sufferings" means to fully and intimately participate in suffering with Christ. When the compelling passion to know Christ far exceeds any other passion, then there is no sacrifice too great, no cost too high and no suffering too severe that we will not be willing to bear in order to know Him.

We know we are called into Christ's suffering because the Scriptures say:

- **"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS" (1 Peter 2:21 NKJV).**
- **"For you have been given not ONLY THE PRIVILEGE OF TRUSTING IN CHRIST but ALSO THE PRIVILEGE OF SUFFERING FOR HIM" (Philippians 1:29 NLT).**
- **"And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, TOGETHER WITH CHRIST WE ARE HEIRS OF GOD'S GLORY. But if we are to share His glory, WE MUST ALSO SHARE HIS SUFFERING" (Romans 8:17 NLT).**

As God's children, we are joint heirs with Christ both to share in the Father's glory and Christ's suffering. **IT IS PART OF OUR SONSHIP IN GOD, BOUGHT BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.** Therefore, it is our inheritance, and a privilege, an honor and a blessing. In all this, we must emulate Christ by having the same mind, attitude, response and purpose. How then could anyone who knows Christ be ashamed of His sufferings?

The Privilege of Suffering For Christ Because of Love

Philippians 1:29 (NLT) says, **"For you have been given not only THE PRIVILEGE OF TRUSTING IN CHRIST but also THE PRIVILEGE OF SUFFERING FOR HIM."** Trusting a person and being willing to suffer for their sake is the result of an intimate love relationship. One trusts because one intimately knows the person. One is willing to suffer for that person because of profound love. **TO THE EXTENT WE LOVE JESUS CHRIST, IS THE EXTENT WE ARE WILLING TO SUFFER FOR HIM.** Yet whether we are willing to suffer much or not at all, those whose allegiance belongs to Christ will suffer—and we are warned not to be surprised when we do.

We cannot remove suffering from the preaching of the Gospel, living by faith or serving His kingdom. For love, God and all of heaven suffered

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when He gave His only begotten Son to be the Lamb slain for a sinful world. For love, Jesus suffered when He emptied Himself to come in the flesh and be crucified in our place. He took our sins, He bore our sorrows, He shed His blood, His body was torn for our healing, He was nailed to the cross and He was buried as a criminal in our place. **He died so that we can live; He was buried so that our former life of sin and death are forever canceled out; He rose again so that we are resurrected with Him as God's children to be seated with Him in the heavenly places.** All because of love there was no pain, affliction, sorrow, agony, distress and hardship that Christ would not bear for His Father's sake and for our salvation. How much do we love Him? Will we embrace Christ's sufferings and count it all joy that we can have fellowship with Him in His sufferings? Charles Spurgeon said, ***"ONLY LOVERS OF THE LORD WILL HOLD OUT IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL; THE REST WILL EITHER SINK OR SULK, OR SLINK BACK TO THE WORLD."***

To the extent we love Christ is the extent to which we are willing to identify, partner, and share in His sufferings. If we love little (or love something else more), we will compromise, deny, hide, run away and disassociate ourselves from Him when called to suffer. **When the Church becomes SELF-CENTERED AND MAN-CENTERED, there will be VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE OF SACRIFICE, COST AND SUFFERING borne for the sake of Jesus Christ and His will.** This is the time when we must examine our hearts—what are they focused on? Is our heart seeking to please God above all else or just be blessed by Him? We must examine how we pray (if we do pray)—are we praying for His kingdom and His righteousness, or for the cares of our own lives? **IS CHRIST OUR PRIORITY PASSION IN LIFE OR ARE WE OUR OWN PRIORITY PASSION?**

Paul's Example of Not Being Ashamed to Suffer for Christ

Paul loved Jesus Christ so wholly—holding nothing back—that he declared in Philippians 3:7–10 (NASB), *"... whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, and count them but rubbish SO THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST... that I may know Him and the POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION and the FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, being CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH. . ."* Such was Paul's love that he counted everything he had gained as worthless when compared to his passion for Christ. He sought to be one with Christ in His resurrection power, suffering and death.

AS CHRIST WAS TO HIS FATHER, PAUL SOUGHT TO BE TO CHRIST FOR THE SAME CAUSE AND PURPOSE. He wrote in Galatians 6:17 (NLT), ***"From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. FOR I BEAR ON MY BODY THE SCARS THAT SHOW I BELONG TO JESUS."*** For Paul, the

scars he bore from sufferings for Christ certified that he belonged to Christ, and he carried them with joy, honor and gladness. He was not ashamed, offended or regretful. How much do we want to know Jesus? How much do we hunger for Him? How much do we love Him? How much do we value and prioritize Him? Will we be like Paul?

Suffering is part of the journey of faith, but it is not the goal; it is simply a God-ordained and necessary process through which He purifies, works in and shapes us according to His will. Tim Keller (a pastor, theologian and author) put it this way, ***“CHRIST DID NOT SUFFER SO YOU WOULDN’T SUFFER. HE SUFFERED SO THAT WHEN YOU SUFFER, YOU WILL BECOME LIKE HIM.”*** The Church must not be ignorant or apathetic about the teachings of Christ on suffering and persecution. We must be ready now. It is not a question of, *“will we suffer?”* It is the question of, *“when we suffer, will we run, hide, deny Him, be embittered or count it all joy?”* **OUR MIND SHOULD NOT BE ON HOW TO ESCAPE, BUT HOW TO ENDURE.** If we partake of Christ’s sufferings, we will also partake of Christ’s glory when it is revealed.

The Necessity of Being Armed With the Mind of Christ to Suffer as He Suffered

If we are to be not ashamed of the sufferings of Christ, then we must arm ourselves with Christ’s mind, attitude and purpose. 1 Peter 4:1 (NLT) says, ***“So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, YOU MUST ARM YOURSELVES WITH THE SAME ATTITUDE HE HAD, AND BE READY TO SUFFER, TOO.”*** To have Christ’s mind, attitude and purpose concerning sufferings is to be not surprised, alarmed or offended when we go through fiery trials as if something strange is happening to us. We are not to be shocked, bewildered, discouraged or embittered. We are to expect sufferings according to God’s will and consider them normal. **Our focus in life is not to live a suffering-free, pain-free and problem-free life; it is to love God, follow Jesus and obey Him at all costs.** We must expect faith in Him and service to Him to come with pressures, adversities and pain. **Therefore, let us arm ourselves with the same MIND of Christ, same ATTITUDE and same PURPOSE.**

When our perspectives and attitudes towards Christ’s sufferings are more of the flesh than of Christ’s, we will miss the mark because we will be more concerned about being sensitive to the cares of life, being inclusive of today’s culture and having relevancy with worldly perspectives. We become uneasy because we fear being in conflict with the world, suffering their disapproval, risking their ostracism or facing their accusation of being peculiar, bigoted and outdated. Have we become so alienated from the Truth that every bit of suffering or trouble will shake and disappoint us—perhaps to the point of turning away from Christ? Have we become so impotent, anemic and feeble in our belief in God and our relationship

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with Him that we have no true testimony for the world? **ARE WE SHOWING THE WORLD THAT FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ENTITLES US TO ALL OF HIS BLESSINGS BUT NONE OF HIS SUFFERINGS?** Often it is not the fiery ordeal that will defeat us, but our wrong attitude towards it.

Perhaps when the church is powerless, it is because we have yet to fully enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and be conformed to His death. Perhaps we have expended much attention, effort and resources into learning and perfecting the skills, methods and science of ministries that we miss the necessity of bearing the cross to follow Christ, and consequently also missing the power, anointing and glory of God. **Have we become lukewarm believers, insipid worshippers and powerless servants of God because we lack conviction, courage, boldness and strength to know Christ intimately in His sufferings?** Have we become accustomed to not seeing the lame walk, blind see, brokenhearted healed and dead raised? **When we fear sufferings, we have FALLEN INTO SATAN'S TRAP WHEREBY HE IS HOLDING US CAPTIVE AND RENDERING US QUITE POWERLESS.** We need our minds renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need a drastic paradigm shift of our belief system concerning our call to suffer as Christians. We must renew our spiritual wineskins so we can experience the fresh wine God wants to pour into His Church (Matthew 9:17).

The Necessity of Examining Our Beliefs Concerning Christ's Sufferings

Where Christ's sufferings are concerned, we must examine our Christian beliefs and perspectives as to what we actually subscribe to. Is our understanding of suffering accurate and true according to God's Word? Or is it based on our own natural understanding, and humanistic viewpoints? Are we seeing the sufferings of Christ from the perspective of a God-centered or man-centered faith? Remember, God says in Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV), ***"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*** If we try to live out our faith according to our own thoughts and ways rather than God's, we are missing the truth and will be easily confused and defeated. It is trying to walk the Christian faith in the flesh, not in the Spirit. For this reason, many Christians who attempt to obey God are surprised, confused, offended and discouraged when they encounter opposition, pain, negativity and adversity. On this subject, may we be Christ-centered and not self-centered. A common bitter complaint is, *"I was obeying God and now bad things are happening to me. I did not ask for this. How can God allow this to happen?"* It is as if we believe that faith in God should sanitize our lives of any difficulty, trouble or adversity. We may not admit it, but by the way we live, we portray it.

Unless we have the mind, attitude and purpose of Christ, we will be surprised, defeated and offended when reviled for preaching the Gospel, despised for serving God and falsely accused when doing good. **We need to fully grasp and accept the call to participate in Christ's sufferings and accord it the rightful place in our walk with God and service unto Him.**

The Necessity of Making Disciples Who Are Not Ashamed of Christ's Sufferings

One of the tragedies in Christian discipleship is THE FAILURE TO TEACH BELIEVERS ABOUT THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST and how to embrace them and thrive by the grace of God. Unless we believe and live as Paul did, we will not be able to teach others. If the Church fails in such discipleship, we will be raising Christians who feel entitled to blessings, provisions, possessions, promotions, protection, recognition and every good thing under the sun simply because they believe in Jesus. Such Christians will not know the cross we are called to bear, the sufferings we are called to endure for choosing to live godly, and the anguish we are called to accept in learning to obey God unto death. They will be terribly afraid, awfully uncomfortable and traumatized at the very thought of having to suffer for Jesus Christ.

The sufferings that men and women of God went through in the Bible had one common main thread—**THEY DID SO IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND FOR HIS KINGDOM.** These chose to suffer for God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of life because they trusted God. They experienced the power of God as the Spirit of glory rested upon them when persecuted, hated and some killed for their faith in Christ. When the apostle Stephen was being stoned, he forgave his persecutors and saw heaven opened and Jesus standing up for him. According to Hebrews 11:24–26 (NLT), Moses by faith, *"... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. HE CHOSE TO SHARE THE OPPRESSION OF GOD'S PEOPLE instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. HE THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER TO SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST than to own the treasures of Egypt, FOR HE WAS LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS GREAT REWARD."* We too must purpose in our hearts to accept, prefer and choose sufferings according to God's will over security, safety, comfort, ease, pleasures and self-preservation.

The glory and power of being in fellowship with Christ's suffering can be seen in the testimonies of those who had lived in such a manner. In China, many persecuted Christians in house churches have chosen to identify with Christ in His sufferings and be conformed to His death. One of them was Samuel Lamb, an evangelist and pastor who was targeted and persecuted by the Chinese government for his faith in Christ and for preaching the Gospel. He was first imprisoned in 1955 for almost 18 months. In 1958, he was again arrested and sentenced to twenty years in

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prison and labor camps. He suffered years of threats, torture, affliction, pain, hard labor, cold, hunger and misery, yet he refused to recant his faith and would not stop preaching the Gospel even in the labor camps. His wife and family also suffered while he was imprisoned. Just before he was released, his wife passed away. Upon his release, he resumed preaching the Gospel and planting churches. He taught that Christians should always obey the government unless government leaders directly opposed God in their law enforcement, and that *“the laws of God are more important than the laws of man.”* **HE ALSO TAUGHT THAT CHRISTIANS MUST BE PREPARED TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD.** Suffering for Christ was an important part in many of Lamb’s sermons. **He was known for repeatedly declaring, “MORE PERSECUTION, MORE GROWTH.”** He was referring not only to the number of believers, but also their spiritual growth and maturity. Lamb wanted to make sure that Christians did not too easily assume that nothing will happen to them. He would always teach and warn, **“WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SUFFER.** *We must be prepared for the fact that we may be arrested. Before I was sent to prison, I already prepared a bag with some clothes, shoes and a toothbrush. When I had to go to the police station, I could just pick it up. I was ready. People are still being arrested. You don’t know what will happen tomorrow. Today the authorities are not bothering us, but tomorrow things may be different. I PRAY THAT WE WILL RECEIVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND FIRM.”*

The Chinese house churches grow with unprecedented speed because they have learned to know Christ in the power of His resurrection, to fellowship with Him in His sufferings and be conformed to His death. They pay the price and suffer for their faith in God. They live dead for Christ, and resting upon them is the Holy Spirit’s grace and anointing for boldness, courage and power to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons and see explosive growth in their churches. **They live with an attitude of having nothing to lose in this life, but everything to gain in eternity. THESE KNOW THAT THE GOSPEL IS NOT GOING TO BE PREACHED WITHOUT PERSECUTIONS; THEY CANNOT SERVE GOD WITHOUT SUFFERINGS; AND THERE IS NO WORSHIP OF CHRIST WITHOUT COSTS.** Therefore, they purpose to live not ashamed of the sufferings of Christ by:

- **LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF THEIR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH**—There is nothing in them that satan could hold for a ransom against them. They live for God and His kingdom only. There are no other loves in their lives to compete with their affection for Jesus Christ.
- **LIVING DEAD FOR GOD**—Like Paul, they count their lives not dear to themselves unto death. They live dead to the world and the things of the world so that nothing has a hold over them. They

cannot be threatened by fear of loss of anything—things, possessions, people or life.

- **FIXING THEIR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF THEIR FAITH**—They have eyes on no other but the Savior of their souls.

Although suffering is one of satan’s most favored and used weapons to try to destroy the Church, it is God’s most effective instrument for the Church’s sanctification and transformation, that His greatest glory can rest upon us to manifest Him. **AS IT WAS FOR JESUS CHRIST, SO IT IS FOR THE CHURCH. We give that others may have; we die that others may live; we are imprisoned that others may be set free and we suffer that others may be saved.**

FINALLY, IF WE ANGUISH IN PRAYER, GOD ENABLES US TO OVERCOME THE ANGUISH OF SUFFERING. We are never on our own when we go through pain, sorrow and affliction. God is always with us especially in prayer. It was in prayer that Christ was strengthened by the Holy Spirit and He was able to drink the bitter cup of suffering according to the Father’s will. As He was not ashamed of His sufferings for the Father’s cause, neither should we.

Prayer Focus

A. Identify With Christ And Live As He Lived Concerning Sufferings

- 1. Living in His FATHER’S LOVE through INTIMACY**
- 2. Living in the FATHER’S POWER through HIS WORD**
- 3. Living in the HOLY SPIRIT’S COMFORT through PRAYER**

B. Cry Out To The Holy Spirit For A HEART TRANSFORMATION

- 1. Concerning our RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ:**
 - a.** to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength
 - b.** to let Christ truly be our first priority, passion and pursuit in life
 - c.** to prefer Him above all else, even our own life
- 2. Concerning our FAITH in Jesus Christ:**
 - a.** Christ-centered and not self-centered
 - b.** not only for blessings, but also for sufferings
 - c.** not based on earthly, but eternal goals
 - d.** not to acquire, but to give

C. Examine Beliefs And Areas Where We Have Fallen Short Concerning Suffering For Christ

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- 1. Identify and repent of all:**
 - a. wrong teachings, beliefs and perspectives
 - b. wrong thinking, mindset and attitudes
 - c. man-centered and humanistic worldview
 - d. wrong reactions – rejection, confusion, denial or anger
 - e. bitterness, unforgiveness and offense towards God and people
- 2. Healing of injuries and deliverance from strongholds**
 - a. emotional shock, trauma and confusion
 - b. spiritual apathy and slumber
 - c. fears and intimidation
- 3. Be set free and anointed with grace and faith to identify with Christ in His sufferings**
- 4. As co-heirs with Jesus Christ, understand and embrace both the Father's glory and Christ's sufferings**

D. Areas Of Sufferings Where We Need CHRIST'S GRACE, STRENGTH AND COMFORT

- 1. Grace, strength and comfort when suffering for Jesus Christ, His will and His kingdom because of:**
 - a. obedience to Him first
 - b. putting and serving Him first
 - c. loving Him and others first
 - d. preaching the Gospel first
- 2. Grace, strength and comfort to heal wounds and injuries because of:**
 - a. adversities, traumas, crises and tribulations
 - b. injustices, unfairness, accusations and gossips
 - c. shame, disrespect and dishonor
 - d. betrayal and deception
 - e. disappointment and discouragement – with God or people
- 3. Grace, strength and comfort when intimidated by fears of persecution, threats and pressures**

E. Purpose And Commit To Not Be Ashamed Of The Sufferings Of Christ

1. Pray for a love and faith that chooses suffering for His sake above the pleasures of the world
2. Choose to fellowship with Christ in His sufferings
 - a. Have the same mind as Christ
 - b. Respond to sufferings as Christ responded
 - c. Pray and submit to the Father as Christ did

- d. Embrace, accept and receive sufferings as Christ did.
- e. Overcome all fears as Christ overcame in prayer
- 3. Have a heavenly perspective that looks towards the reward, not the process; and toward the end and not the journey
- 4. Purpose to have victory over the adversary by
 - a. the blood of the Lamb
 - b. the word of our testimony
 - c. not loving our lives unto death

F. Commit Our Lives Absolutely to God

- 1. **TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, soul, mind and strength – that satan has nothing to hold for a ransom against us**
- 2. **TO LIVE FOR GOD’S KINGDOM AND HIS CAUSE ONLY - that no other loves competes**
- 3. **TO LIVE DEAD FOR GOD BY:**
 - a. not counting our lives dear to ourselves even unto death
 - b. living dead to the world and the things of the world so that nothing has a hold over us
 - c. living not threatened by fear of loss of anything – things, possessions, people or life
- 4. **TO FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF THEIR FAITH – have eyes on no other but the Savior of their souls**

Notes:

DAY 4 — WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

PRAYER FOCUS — I AM NOT ASHAMED TO TRUST THE LORD

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, and lean not on your own understanding; **IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS.**

Nahum 1:7 (NKJV)

THE LORD IS GOOD, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and HE KNOWS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.

Proverbs 16:20 (NKJV)

He who heeds the Word wisely will find good, and **WHOEVER TRUSTS IN THE LORD, HAPPY IS HE.**

2 Samuel 22:3 (NKJV)

THE GOD OF MY STRENGTH, IN WHOM I WILL TRUST; MY SHIELD AND THE HORN OF MY SALVATION, MY STRONGHOLD AND MY REFUGE; MY SAVIOR, You save me from violence.

2 Samuel 22:31 (NKJV)

As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD is proven; **HE IS A SHIELD TO ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM.**

1 Chronicles 5:20 (NKJV)

And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. **HE HEEDED THEIR PRAYER, BECAUSE THEY PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.**

Psalms 2:12 (NKJV)

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. **BLESSED ARE ALL THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.**

Psalms 5:11 (NKJV)

BUT LET ALL THOSE REJOICE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU; let them ever shout for joy, BECAUSE YOU DEFEND THEM; let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.

Proverbs 28:25 (NKJV)

He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but **HE WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD WILL BE PROSPERED.**

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Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV)

*The fear of man brings a snare, but **WHOEVER TRUSTS IN THE LORD SHALL BE SAFE.***

Isaiah 26:3–4 (NKJV)

YOU WILL KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON YOU, BECAUSE HE TRUSTS IN YOU. *Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.*

Psalms 34:22 (NKJV)

*The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and **NONE OF THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM SHALL BE CONDEMNED.***

2 Kings 18:5–8 (MSG)

Hezekiah PUT HIS WHOLE TRUST IN THE GOD of Israel. There was no king quite like him, either before or after. HE HELD FAST TO GOD—NEVER LOOSENED HIS GRIP—and OBEYED TO THE LETTER everything God had commanded Moses. AND GOD, FOR HIS PART, HELD FAST TO HIM through all his adventures. *He revolted against the king of Assyria; he refused to serve him one more day. And he drove back the Philistines, whether in sentry outposts or fortress cities, all the way to Gaza and its borders.*

v5-7 (NLT): HEZEKIAH TRUSTED IN THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before or after his time. *He remained faithful to the Lord in everything, and he carefully obeyed all the commands the Lord had given Moses. **SO THE LORD WAS WITH HIM, AND HEZEKIAH WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EVERYTHING HE DID.***

Psalms 37:1–11 (NKJV)

*Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. **TRUST IN THE LORD, AND DO GOOD; DWELL IN THE LAND, AND FEED ON HIS FAITHFULNESS.*** *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. **COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD, TRUST ALSO IN HIM, AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.*** *He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. **Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;** do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. **For evildoers shall be cut off; BUT THOSE WHO WAIT ON THE LORD, THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.*** *For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Psalm 56:1–4 (NKJV)

*Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; fighting all day he oppresses me. My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. **WHENEVER I AM AFRAID, I WILL TRUST IN YOU. IN GOD (I WILL PRAISE HIS WORD), IN GOD I HAVE PUT MY TRUST; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN FLESH DO TO ME?***

Psalm 62:1–8 (NKJV)

TRULY MY SOUL SILENTLY WAITS FOR GOD; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I SHALL NOT BE GREATLY MOVED . . . MY SOUL, WAIT SILENTLY FOR GOD ALONE, FOR MY EXPECTATION IS FROM HIM. *He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. **In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES, YOU PEOPLE; POUR OUT YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM; GOD IS A REFUGE FOR US. Selah***

Psalm 46:1–7 (NKJV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore WE WILL NOT FEAR, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; *though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. **God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.** The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. **THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE. Selah***

Genesis 39:21 (NLT)

But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and SHOWED HIM HIS FAITHFUL LOVE. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT)

*Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. **HE IS THE FAITHFUL GOD WHO KEEPS HIS COVENANT for a thousand generations AND LAVISHES HIS UNFAILING LOVE on those who love Him and obey His commands.***

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NLT)

HE IS THE ROCK; HIS DEEDS ARE PERFECT. *Everything He does is just and fair. **HE IS A FAITHFUL GOD WHO DOES NO WRONG; how just and upright He is!***

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Hebrews 11:33–40, 12:1–4 (NLT)

By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. **THEIR WEAKNESS WAS TURNED TO STRENGTH. THEY BECAME STRONG IN BATTLE AND PUT WHOLE ARMIES TO FLIGHT.** Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. **They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.** Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us. **(Heb 12:1-4)** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, **Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE GOD HAS SET BEFORE US. WE DO THIS BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE CHAMPION WHO INITIATES AND PERFECTS OUR FAITH.** Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

Exhortation—I Am Not Ashamed To Trust The Lord

Nahum 1:7 (JB 2000) says, "THE LORD IS GOOD, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and HE KNOWS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM." The most important thing about not being ashamed to trust God is that He knows those who trust in Him. Nothing else can be compared to this. **It puts us in a relationship where He knows us and we know Him.** The word "know" in Hebrew is "yada" which refers specifically to a deep, intimate, unveiled and full-on knowing that comes only through profound closeness and intimacy.

In the following scriptures, "yada" has these meanings:

- **TO DEDICATE ourselves to another so we can ENGAGE THEM with our love and affection (Genesis 4:1, 17, 25)**
- **TO UNDERSTAND the needs of another and TAKE CARE of them (Proverbs 12:10)**

To be known (yada) by God means that He dedicates Himself to engage us in His love and affection. He also fully understands our needs and He takes care of us.

TRUST IS NOT BASED ON WHAT WE SEE, BUT ON WHO WE KNOW: JESUS CHRIST, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS OVER ALL. To be not ashamed to trust Him is to choose to trust without apology, hesitation or doubt, even against our own understanding, knowledge and judgment. Therefore, unashamed trust is having a sure and unshakable confidence, conviction, hope and expectation in God. It is unabashed, unapologetic and not regretful. **IT IS THE RESULT OF HAVING A CERTAINTY AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD BECAUSE WE KNOW HIM. Consequently, trust in God always puts us in the place where we have access to all that God is and all that God has. GOD WITHHOLDS NOTHING FROM THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.** The scriptures say:

- **“Those who trust in the LORD are as SECURE AS MOUNT ZION; THEY WILL NOT BE DEFEATED but will endure forever”** (Psalm 125:1 NLT).
- **“BECAUSE YOU TRUSTED ME, I WILL GIVE YOU YOUR LIFE AS A REWARD. I will rescue you and keep you safe. I, the Lord, have spoken!”** (Jeremiah 39:18 NLT).
- **“The LORD says, ‘I will rescue those who love me. I WILL PROTECT THOSE WHO TRUST IN MY NAME’”** (Psalm 91:14 NLT).
- **“They do not fear bad news; THEY CONFIDENTLY TRUST THE LORD TO CARE FOR THEM”** (Psalm 112:7 NLT).
- **“Those who listen to instruction will prosper; THOSE WHO TRUST THE LORD WILL BE JOYFUL”** (Proverbs 16:20 NLT).
- **“OUR ANCESTORS TRUSTED IN YOU, AND YOU RESCUED THEM. They cried out to You and were saved. THEY TRUSTED IN YOU AND WERE NEVER DISGRACED”** (Psalm 22:4–5 NLT).
- **“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, BUT WE TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD. They are brought to their knees and fall, BUT WE RISE UP AND STAND FIRM”** (Psalm 20:7–8 NIV).

Jesus Christ has proven Himself to be trustworthy, and the Bible invariably testifies to His unfailing, unending and abiding faithfulness. **HE IS SO TRUSTWORTHY** that Psalm 46:1–7 declares that even when the ground gives way and our mountains are shaking in chaos, **THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM SHALL NOT BE MOVED AND SHALL NOT BE AFRAID.** Everything in life and around us can be shaken or devastated, but when we trust God, we shall not fear, fret or flee, because He is our stronghold, rock of defense, refuge and mighty tower. **As it says in Hebrews 11, THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST ARE MADE STRONG OUT OF WEAKNESS, AND BECOME “VALIANT IN BATTLE.”** They will find strength to endure and finish well, for the faithfulness of God remains strong from generation to generation.

Trust Frees Us From Fear And Makes Us Strong In God

TRUST IN GOD FREES US FROM DEPENDENCY ON ANY ONE PERSON OR THING; THEREFORE, IT MAKES US STRONG IN HIM. Jesus did all that His Father called Him to do by absolutely trusting His Father and the Holy Spirit. He did not depend on His own or other's strength, power, wisdom or ability. He was absolutely and unashamedly dependent on His Father. **In this TRUSTING DEPENDENCY, He crushed every demonic power, overcame every temptation, turned all impossibilities into miracles and finished His Father's work.** He never shrank back even when mocked, scorned, insulted or opposed for His trusting obedience. In Matthew 27:43 (NLT), when Jesus was being crucified on the cross like a criminal, the crowd ridiculed and mocked His trust in His Father as they cried out, *"He trusted God, so let God rescue Him now if He wants Him! For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"* Though Christ had the power and authority to command angels to rescue Him, His trust in His Father kept Him on the cross, according to the Father's will that the scriptures would be fulfilled.

AS LIKE JESUS, UNASHAMED TRUST IN GOD PUTS A STRENGTH IN US THAT WILL KEEP US IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL EVEN IN THE WORST SITUATIONS. Trust enables us to love our most hateful enemy, strengthens us to endure the most trying adversity, and empowers us to overcome the fiercest warfare. Trusting in God was how Job triumphed over satan's most horrific and devastating attacks on his life. In Job 13:15 (KJV), even after tragically losing everything—his wealth, children and health—Job declared, **"THOUGH HE [GOD] SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM."** Therefore, we too should be neither afraid nor ashamed to trust in God. We are fully persuaded that no matter how devastating a crisis, how impossible a need, how hopeless a situation, how daunting a challenge or how overwhelming a trial, **GOD IS INFINITELY GOOD, ETERNALLY ALMIGHTY, ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL, AND WORTHY OF ALL TRUST.** We may not know how He will work on our behalf as we pray, but we do know His ways—they are ways of everlasting love, devotion, commitment and kindness towards all His people. **IF THE CHURCH IS TO ARISE AND DO THE WILL OF GOD AND FINISH HIS WORK, WE HAVE TO LEARN TO TRUST GOD UNASHAMEDLY.**

Because Hezekiah, the king of Judah, wholly trusted the Lord in everything, God made him so successful that 2 Kings 18:5 (NKJV) says, **"... There was NO ONE LIKE HIM among all the kings of Judah, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS TIME."** What made King Hezekiah such an extraordinary king, standing head and shoulders above all other kings? **WHAT ENABLED HIM TO BE SO EXCEPTIONALLY SUCCESSFUL AND FAVORED BY GOD?** It was not because he was perfect and without faults. **IT WAS PURELY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ASHAMED TO TRUST AND OBEY GOD.** 2 Kings 18:5-6 (MSG) says, *"Hezekiah PUT HIS WHOLE TRUST IN THE GOD of Israel. There was*

*no king quite like him, either before or after. **HE HELD FAST TO GOD—NEVER LOOSENED HIS GRIP—and OBEYED TO THE LETTER everything God had commanded Moses. AND GOD, FOR HIS PART, HELD FAST TO HIM THROUGH ALL HIS ADVENTURES.***

Hezekiah came to the throne when he was twenty-five years old in the midst of extremely difficult spiritual and political times. His father, Ahaz, one of the worst kings, was corrupt, evil and idolatrous who led the nation into darkness and idolatry. During Hezekiah's reign, God enabled him to successfully turn the nation back to God. **THERE WAS NOT ONE AREA OF HIS LIFE AND SERVICE TO GOD AND NATION, IN WHICH HE DID NOT CONSISTENTLY AND WHOLE-HEARTEDLY TRUST AND OBEY GOD, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES. WE TOO MUST LEARN TO TRUST GOD EVERY TIME, EVERY OCCASION, WITHOUT FAIL, WITHOUT EXCEPTION AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CIRCUMSTANCES.** Hezekiah trusted and was unwaveringly committed, dedicated and loyal to God. **HIS UNASHAMED TRUST PLEASSED GOD, AND AS HE HELD FAST TO GOD, GOD WAS NOT ASHAMED TO HOLD FAST TO HIM. God made him thrive, overcome and prosper supernaturally in everything.** In the midst of great national adversities, Hezekiah brought about great national revival, reformation, strength and prosperity. Judah thrived and was secure under his reign because he was a king who was not ashamed to trust and obey God in all things.

As God did for Hezekiah, so He will do for all who are not ashamed to trust Him. Those who are not ashamed to trust the Lord are:

- able to rest when surrounded by chaos
- able to obey in the face of threats
- able to hope where there is no hope
- able to wait when time seems to be running out
- able to be still and see the salvation of God in impossible situations
- able to move forward in obedience even when dangers seem to lurk ahead
- able to overcome and prosper in the midst of trials

Trust Comes From Knowing God

Trust puts us into a knowing relationship with God. Daniel 11:32 (ASV) says, “. . . **THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG AND DO GREAT EXPLOITS. . .**” Like Daniel, we are **STRONG AND ABLE TO DO “GREAT EXPLOITS” because we have a CERTAINTY AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD THROUGH KNOWING HIM.** Truly knowing God does not come from attending seminars or hearing a sermon, which may be intellectual and informational. **It comes from having a close, personal and experiential and one-on-one relationship and intimacy with Him.** It is experiencing Him first hand and He experiencing us. 1 John 1:1–4 (NLT) puts it this way,

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“We proclaim to you the One Who existed from the beginning, WHOM WE HAVE HEARD AND SEEN. WE SAW HIM WITH OUR OWN EYES AND TOUCHED HIM WITH OUR OWN HANDS. He is the Word of life. THIS ONE WHO IS LIFE ITSELF WAS REVEALED TO US, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIM. And now we testify and proclaim to you that He is the one Who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what WE OURSELVES HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN AND HEARD so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.” The closer we are to God, the more we will know Him and the more we will be able to trust Him. **THIS IS AN INWARD KNOWING OF GOD.**

When Jesus was about to be tried and crucified, He sought His Father in great agony, sweat and blood. He cried out to His Father with vehement cries and committed Himself to His Father until He could say, *“Not My will, but Your will be done.”* **HE ENTRUSTED HIMSELF TOTALLY INTO HIS FATHER’S HANDS BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WOULD NOT BE PUT TO SHAME FOR HIS FATHER WOULD RAISE HIM UP AGAIN.** Although His disciples were with Him, He could not count on them in His weakest, most needful and trying moments. He asked them to pray, but they fell asleep because their spirit was willing but their flesh was weak. Still He entrusted Himself totally into Father’s hand and was not disappointed.

WHEN WE KNOW GOD AS JESUS KNEW HIS FATHER, WE WILL BE NOT ASHAMED NOR AFRAID TO TRUST HIM AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SITUATIONS. This is the same unashamed trust that caused the apostles to break out in worship of God when in prison; to pray for more boldness to preach the Gospel when threatened, and Stephen, to forgive his murderous persecutors when being stoned to death. These had their eyes fixed on God steadfastly amidst very pressing oppositions, conflicts, chaos, persecutions and life-threatening adversities. They stood still and rested quietly in God, unmoved and unafraid; and at His Word, they did great exploits. Their trust stood firmly on a personal and intimate knowledge of God. They needed no other proof, sign or word to verify the faithfulness and goodness of God or to make them strong. These faithful men and women were not ashamed to trust God and witnessed His power at work:

- **ABRAHAM trusted God and became the FATHER OF NATIONS**
- **JOB trusted God and HE SAW GOD WITH HIS OWN EYES**
- **MOSES trusted God and DELIVERED ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY**
- **PETER trusted Jesus and WALKED ON WATER**
- **ELIJAH trusted God and BROUGHT RAIN TO A LAND IN FAMINE**
- **MARY trusted God and BORE THE SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST**
- **DAVID trusted God and KILLED GOLIATH**
- **JOSHUA trusted God and TOOK ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND**

- **JOSEPH trusted God and EXCELLED IN THE LAND OF HIS SUFFERINGS**
- **ESTHER trusted God and SAVED HER PEOPLE FROM ANNIHILATION**

Make Disciples Who Know And Trust God

Our trust must not be in our confession only, but also in our obedience. We must no longer just profess, preach and teach a relationship with God; we must live it out in a firsthand, one-on-one and face-to-face intimacy with Him. **If the Church is to be not ashamed to trust God, especially in these hours, the Church must be willing to put aside all other things and seek Him first.** Seeking Him must be the most important priority in our lives. If shepherds, overseers and those in spiritual authority would disciple others to hunger and seek God first, they would have pleased God and done excellently. **WE MUST PRIORITIZE MAKING DISCIPLES WHO ARE SEEKERS, FOLLOWERS AND LOVERS OF GOD, NOT JUST BELIEVERS.** We must teach believers more than just how to handle life's cares, be blessed and become successful; we must make them pursuers after God's own heart, lovers of Jesus Christ and passionate seekers to know the Holy Spirit. **If we produce seekers of God after the manner of Moses, Daniel and Paul, we will have done well. We will have PRODUCED PEOPLE WHO KNOW GOD, TRUST GOD UNASHAMEDLY AND ARE ABLE TO DO GREAT EXPLOITS FOR GOD.**

We must re-examine the spiritual menu we are offering to those placed in our care. What are we feeding them? Are we acting more as counselors, comforters and motivators only, and not true shepherds who love, hear, know and trust God? Are we raising sheep with the same spirit, passion, knowledge and unashamed trust in Him? Should we not follow in the footsteps of Moses in raising up a Joshua, Elijah in raising up an Elisha, Paul in raising up a Timothy, and Jesus in raising up His twelve disciples? **Such passion for God, knowledge of God and trust in God must not die. This fierce devotion, deep intimacy and unashamed trust must increase with each new generation that they do even greater exploits for God.**

Prayer Focus

A. Prayerfully Examine Our Relationship With God

1. Is God our first love, priority, passion and pursuit in life?
2. Is our life centered on knowing Him; loving Him and serving Him?
3. Do we earnestly seek Him daily?
4. Have we built our faith on intimacy with Him?
5. How much do we know Him and trust Him?

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B. Cry Out For Holy Spirit To Do A Deep And Profound Work In Our Heart

1. Identify all areas that hinder knowing God and trusting in Him:
 - a. spiritual apathy and lethargy
 - b. seeing no further need to know Him more
 - c. settling and stagnating in our relationship with Him
 - d. being worldly—loving the world and the things of the world more than God; having a worldly agenda and perspective; living more for the world than for God;
 - e. having hardness of heart—dull of hearing and calloused in heart towards God
 - f. being lukewarm— no urgency to know Him; deceived to believe that lukewarmness is acceptable by God
2. Repent and renounce all these hindrances
3. Commit and turn to wholly seeking after God above all else
4. Cry out for a heart transplant by the work of the Holy Spirit

C. Identify And Repent Of All Areas Of Doubt, Fear And Unbelief Concerning Our Life, Walk, Call And Ministry

1. **Doubt**—being double-minded; trying to have faith by fleshly efforts (trying to convince self) instead of seeking God; oscillating between fear and faith; needing to seek God, encounter God and experience God
2. **Fear**—being in severe emotional and spiritual darkness that we cannot perceive that God is with us; that He is for us and He is faithful; needing to pray, wage war and tear down all spiritual forces of darkness; be delivered and arise
3. **Unbelief**—being hardened in heart with skepticism and cynicism; needing to humble self, repent and seek God until He comes and rains His love and Holy Spirit upon us
4. **Come into the knowledge of God, faith in God and trust in God**
 - a. in our life—all areas
 - b. in our walk—relationship with God
 - c. in our call—vision, destiny and purpose
 - d. in our ministry—service unto God and His kingdom

D. Commit To Seek And Know God So That We Do Great Exploits For God

1. Seek to know God
2. Seek to have faith in God

- 3. Seek to trust God
- 4. Arise to do great exploits for God

E. Cry Out To God For His Church To Arise And Not Be Ashamed To Trust Him And Do Great Exploits

- 1. Pray for all God's true churches in every nation:
 - a. to awake and shake off apathy, slumber, sins and everything that offends God
 - b. to arise for God's kingdom and will for such a time as this
 - c. to know God's times and seasons and know what we ought to do
 - d. to seek God unceasingly and relentlessly as never before
 - e. to live only to serve God and His purpose
- 2. Pray for all churches in every nation:
 - a. to know God, have faith in God and do great exploits for God
 - b. to have unwavering faith to reach the nations for God
 - c. to be able to stand and withstand all adversities, attacks and warfare

F. Pray for all churches in every nation to have mighty revival

Notes:

DAY 5 — THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

**PRAYER FOCUS — I AM NOT ASHAMED TO LET MY
LIGHT SHINE**

John 1:1–13 (NLT)

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. **THE WORD GAVE LIFE TO EVERYTHING THAT WAS CREATED, AND HIS LIFE BROUGHT LIGHT TO EVERYONE. THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS CAN NEVER EXTINGUISH IT.** God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. **THE ONE WHO IS THE TRUE LIGHT, WHO GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE, WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD.** He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. **BUT TO ALL WHO BELIEVED HIM AND ACCEPTED HIM, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.** They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

1 John 1:5 (NASB)

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.***

John 8:12 (NLT)

*Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. IF YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WALK IN DARKNESS, BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS TO LIFE."***

Colossians 1:9–18 (NKJV)

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **giving thanks to the Father Who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS AND CONVEYED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON OF HIS LOVE, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that*

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are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the Church, Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

But you are a CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Isaiah 60:1–7 (NLT)

ARISE, JERUSALEM! LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR ALL TO SEE. FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES TO SHINE ON YOU. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT; MIGHTY KINGS WILL COME TO SEE YOUR RADIANCE. Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands. Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshipping the Lord. The flocks of Kedar will be given to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for My altars. I will accept their offerings, and I will make My Temple glorious.

Matthew 5:13–16 (NASB)

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”

Matthew 5:14–16 (MSG)

“Here’s another way to put it: YOU’RE HERE TO BE LIGHT, bringing out the God-colors in the world. GOD IS NOT A SECRET TO BE KEPT. WE’RE GOING PUBLIC WITH THIS, AS PUBLIC AS A CITY ON A HILL. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you?

I'm putting you on a light stand. NOW THAT I'VE PUT YOU THERE ON A HILLTOP, ON A LIGHT STAND—SHINE! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

2 Corinthians 4:5–18 (NLT)

*You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, Who said, "LET THERE BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS," HAS MADE THIS LIGHT SHINE IN OUR HEARTS SO WE COULD KNOW THE GLORY OF GOD THAT IS SEEN IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. **BUT WE CONTINUE TO PREACH BECAUSE WE HAVE THE SAME KIND OF FAITH THE PSALMIST HAD WHEN HE SAID, "I BELIEVED IN GOD, SO I SPOKE."** We know that God, Who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself together with you. All of this is for your benefit. **And AS GOD'S GRACE REACHES MORE AND MORE PEOPLE, there will be GREAT THANKSGIVING, and GOD WILL RECEIVE MORE AND MORE GLORY. THAT IS WHY WE NEVER GIVE UP.** Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

2 Timothy 1:8–14 (NASB)

*Therefore **DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD or of me His prisoner, but JOIN WITH ME IN SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE POWER OF GOD, Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, WHO ABOLISHED DEATH AND BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but I AM NOT ASHAMED; FOR***

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I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)

Indeed He says, “‘t is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I WILL ALSO GIVE YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE MY SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**”

John 12:36 (NASB)

While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so THAT YOU MAY BECOME SONS OF LIGHT.

Ephesians 5:1–14 (NLT)

IMITATE GOD, THEREFORE, IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS DEAR CHILDREN. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ . . . **For once you were full of darkness, but NOW YOU HAVE LIGHT FROM THE LORD. SO LIVE AS PEOPLE OF LIGHT! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.** . . . Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. **But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible.** This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Exhortation—I Am Not Ashamed to Let My Light Shine

Who can save the world from sin? Who can liberate the world from darkness? There is only One Who can: Jesus Christ, the Light and Life Eternal. John 1:1–12 (NLT) says, “*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . **The Word gave life to everything that was created, AND HIS LIFE BROUGHT LIGHT TO EVERYONE. THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS CAN NEVER EXTINGUISH IT.** God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony . . . but the world didn’t recognize Him . . . His own people . . . rejected Him. **BUT TO ALL WHO BELIEVED HIM AND ACCEPTED HIM, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.**”*

In Isaiah 60 there is a strong prophetic call for Zion—the place where God’s presence dwells, or the Church—to arise and shine because our Light, Jesus Christ, has come and His glory has risen upon us. **AS THE**

WORLD WAS IN DARKNESS, OBSCURITY AND DESTRUCTION, ISAIAH BOLDLY PROCLAIMED THAT THE LIGHT HAD COME TO SHINE, REVEAL AND SAVE.

We have been commanded to shine because “deep darkness” has covered the earth. **The word *darkness* is translated from the Hebrew *choshek*, which means to obscure, obscurity, grow dim or secret place. Figuratively, it can refer to misery, dread, terror, destruction, ignorance, sorrow, confusion, wickedness or death.** Satan has fought to cover the whole world in sinful obscurity, ignorance and confusion, hiding humankind from the Light and making many prisoners of darkness, or choshek. Ultimately, satan aims to bring all into eternal death, destruction and hell. **We who have seen the Light of Christ, have believed and been made His children of Light, are now called to arise and shine so others may also be saved.** Christ did not hide Himself in heaven with all its glory and splendor, but stepped into a world imprisoned in darkness, so that all may see the Light, believe and be saved. We too must leave our places of comfort, ease, convenience and safety to shine in the deep places where many have been trapped, hidden in darkness and condemned. Consequently, as Isaiah 60:3–4 (NLT) says, **“ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. ‘LOOK AND SEE, FOR EVERYONE IS COMING HOME! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.’”**

JESUS CHRIST DID NOT COME AS LIGHT TO SAVE ONE, BUT EVERYONE—NATIONS, PEOPLES, YOUNG, OLD, RICH AND POOR. His will is to do this through His Church, His children of Light. We are called to imitate Him to let our light shine. 2 Corinthians 4:6–7(NLT) teaches, **“FOR GOD, Who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ HAS MADE THIS LIGHT SHINE IN OUR HEARTS SO WE COULD KNOW THE GLORY OF GOD that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. WE NOW HAVE THIS LIGHT SHINING IN OUR HEARTS, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. THIS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR GREAT POWER IS FROM GOD, NOT FROM OURSELVES.”** The power, ability and glory of the Light are from God, not us. God has not given us the Light to remain hidden, but to magnificently shine for all to see that they may come to Him.

How Else Can the World Be Saved Unless We Shine Our Light?

The kingdom of God is the kingdom of light, and the kingdom of satan is the kingdom of darkness. God’s plan is for all humankind to be in the kingdom of light and be children of light. Adam and Eve were created as children of light to dwell in God’s presence and take dominion over all the earth. When they sinned, they gave access to satanic darkness to invade the world. They lost the presence, glory and the light of God. From then onwards, every child born of the Adamic lineage is a child of darkness,

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and under the dominion of sin, sorrow, death, and eternal destruction. However, God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son—the eternal true Light—to die on the cross for us. **CHRIST, BY HIS ONE ACT OF SACRIFICE, TOTALLY CRUSHED EVERY DEMONIC SPIRIT, DOMINION AND PRINCIPALITY OF DARKNESS. All who believe in Him, He saves and forcefully plucks out of the kingdom of darkness and translates them into His kingdom of Light.** Darkness no longer has power over them for they have become children of Light; triumphing over darkness and satan. They are not ashamed to let their light shine.

Jesus Christ has all intention for every one in darkness to encounter the Light, be rescued and made a child of the Light. He has commanded and entrusted His chosen people and light-bearers to go into all the world and shine. Darkness can never extinguish the Light. **AS LIGHT SHINES, DARKNESS IS OVERCOME AND MUST YIELD ALL ITS CAPTIVES AND PRISONERS TO THE LIGHT NO MATTER WHERE—locally or overseas.** This Light will free every prisoner from sin and bondage, releasing them into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is why we shine in homes, offices, schools, communities and streets. **WE SHINE WHETHER WE ARE WELCOMED OR DESPISED, LOVED OR HATED, BELIEVED OR REJECTED.** Everyone in darkness needs the Light, regardless of their awareness, response or rejection.

The world needs the Light and yet the world hates the Light, because the world loves darkness and Light exposes their sins. When we prepare to let our light shine, we must be prepared for the world's scorn, rejection and hatefulness; do not expect their gratitude, approval or agreement. Satan uses the unredeemed world to attack the Church and tries to shame us into hiding our light and not shining for Jesus Christ. Nonetheless, while we may be shamed by the world, we will not be ashamed of the Light. We refuse to let shame stick to us. We will not hide, run or flee in the face of ridicule, rejection or rebuke. We will not apologize for believing in Christ, preaching Christ and declaring that He is Lord. **WE WILL NOT LET THE WORLD DEFINE CHRISTIANITY AND OUR FAITH FOR US OR DICTATE WHAT WE CAN OR CANNOT DO FOR CHRIST.** Therefore, even in the darkest of times, we will not be negated, prevented, deflected, deterred or obstructed from shining for Jesus.

How Should We Shine As Christ's Lights?

The whole purpose of shining our light is to dispel darkness and bring others to Christ, the source of eternal life. There is no greater call, duty or obligation than this. If we do not shine then we have become futile and useless. In Matthew 5:14–16 (MSG), Jesus says, ***“YOU'RE HERE TO BE LIGHT, bringing out the God-colors in the world. GOD IS NOT A SECRET TO BE KEPT. WE'RE GOING PUBLIC WITH THIS, as public as a city on a hill. IF I MAKE***

YOU LIGHT-BEARERS, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? **I'M PUTTING YOU ON A LIGHT STAND.** Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, **ON A LIGHT STAND—SHINE!** Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

We are not to fear or hide, but go out and be seen, heard and touched by the world so that they too may know Christ. **WE ARE TO IMITATE JESUS BY LOVING OTHERS**, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, sheltering the homeless, protecting the defenseless and sharing the Good News that the Savior has come and they can be saved. Ephesians 5:1 (NLT) teaches that we are to **"IMITATE GOD, THEREFORE, IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS DEAR CHILDREN."**

The Light will expose and confront the darkness, and it will also reveal the Way, the Truth and the Life: Jesus Christ, Savior of the whole world. 1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) says, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE PRAISES OF HIM called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* Once we were sinners and in darkness, but as His Church, we now have obtained mercy from Him and have been saved out of darkness and placed in His kingdom of Light. He has made us His own special people—a chosen generation, royal priesthood and holy nation—to declare His glory and praises so that those in darkness may see His Light and obtain mercy unto salvation. In Isaiah 60, the Hebrew word for *arise* means to stand up, and the Hebrew word for *shine* means to illumine, kindle, become bright or cause to light up. **Therefore we are to rise up, go where Christ would go and do what He would do to light up the world for all who are living in darkness.**

We Are Not Ashamed to Shine Everywhere and Everytime

WE ARE THE ONLY TRUE LIGHTS THIS WORLD WILL EVER HAVE. How do we let our light shine? It is to be as Jesus was to the world—WE MUST LOVE AS HE LOVED, CARE AS HE CARED, HEAL AS HE HEALED AND LEAD OTHERS INTO SALVATION AS HE DID. We must shine wherever God has placed us. Do not hide our light because of fear or intimidation by the demonic darkness that comes to shroud, oppress, imprison and blind the world to the Gospel. **We must shine even in the most difficult and darkest of places; places of persecution, opposition, pain, suffering, gross wickedness and hardness of heart.**

There are many examples of people in the Bible who let their light shine in the darkest and most dangerous situations— John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching the Light, Elijah was persecuted for confronting 400 false prophets of Baal, Daniel was thrown into a lions' den for praying, Joseph was thrown into jail for refusing to sin; Paul and Silas were beaten

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

and imprisoned for preaching Jesus Christ and Mother Teresa chose to live in the most impoverished areas of India to rescue and care for the lost. Just as these had shone brilliantly for Christ, so must we. **The Church cannot hide within the four walls of our buildings and only minister to ourselves, comfort ourselves, pray for ourselves and be concerned about ourselves. WE ARE GOD'S LIGHTS AND WE MUST EXIT THE DOORS OF THESE BUILDINGS TO GET INTO THE WORLD AND BRING LIGHT WHEREVER THERE IS DARKNESS.** Many who are hidden in darkness need this Light. **THEY NEED HOPE, THEY NEED COMFORT AND THEY NEED THE GOSPEL. They will not come to us, we must take our light, go and seek them out.**

Did not Jesus, the Great Shepherd, leave ninety-nine in the fold to look for one sheep lost in the darkness? When He found it, did He not bring it home upon His shoulders rejoicing? **Do not let it be that God is waiting for us to go and shine our lights, but we choose to hide indoors and cry for more help, comfort and blessings for ourselves!** It is time that we lift up our eyes to see that the fields are ripe unto harvest and know that night is coming—and when it comes, no man can work. **Now is the time to awake, arise and go! BY ANY MEANS AND IN ANY WAY, PRAY, GO AND SEEK OUT THOSE IN DARKNESS—IN OUR HOMES, COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS, OFFICES, STREETS AND OVERSEAS.** Let us not spare anything to shine the Light; whether finances, efforts or time. **WE CANNOT HOARD THE LIGHT OR OUR LIVES TO OURSELVES. WHAT WE KEEP, WE WILL LOSE, YET WHAT WE LOSE FOR GOD'S KINGDOM WE WILL RECEIVE BACK A HUNDREDFOLD.**

What are our excuses for not going and letting our light shine? Are we too busy, too shy, or too fearful? Do we not have the time or the know-how? Are we worried because we have never done it before, do not feel called, have other things to take care of or are simply procrastinating? In Luke 14, Jesus told a parable about a man who prepared a large banquet for many to attend. When He sent out invitations to his guests, all of them gave him "legitimate" excuses as to why they could not come. One had just purchased a field and wanted to see it, a second purchased livestock and wanted to examine it, and a third had just recently gotten married. These guests could have attended, but they chose not to because they considered their own agendas more important than the Master's invitation. So it is with all our own "legitimate" excuses for not going forth to let our light shine. The world is dying while we are spending all of our time and resources in taking care of our own lives. Is this fine with God? Absolutely not! He will hold each of us accountable for hiding, refusing, ignoring or disobeying His call to shine. May our hearts desire the salvation of others more than anything else in this world. **MAY WE EXPEND OUR LIVES TO BRING THE LIGHT TO THEM JUST AS JESUS EXPENDED HIS LIFE TO BRING HIS LIGHT TO US.**

Kryzayda Rodriguez, a famous and wealthy fashion blogger, who died of cancer in 2018, spoke these words on her last days before death: *“I have a brand new car parked outside that can’t do anything for me. I have all kinds of designers’ clothes that can’t do anything for me. I have money in my account that can’t do anything for me. I have a big well-furnished house that can’t do anything for me. Look, I’m lying here in a twin size hospital bed; I can take a plane any day of the week if I like but that can’t do anything for me... **So do not let anyone make you feel bad for the things you don’t have—but the things you have, be happy with those.** If you have a roof over your head who cares what kind of furniture is in it. . . **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS LOVE.**”* Let us not spend all our lives on what is worthless, but give it all up to love those whom Jesus loves. **AS GOD’S LIGHTS, WE ARE THE ONLY HOPE PEOPLE IN DARKNESS HAVE TO FIND SALVATION AND LIVE.** The Holy Spirit will go with us wherever He directs us to shine, even in the most challenging of places. Therefore, let us give our lives to shine for Jesus Christ so that others may see His Light.

PRAYER FOCUS

- A. Repent of all excuses for not letting our light shine**
- B. Repent and be delivered from a self-centered Christianity**
- C. Put Jesus Christ back in the center of our Christianity and faith**
- D. Lay down our life on the altar as a living sacrifice for Christ**
- E. Pray, hear and obey the Holy Spirit in arising to shine our light**
- F. FAOG Missions to the ends of the earth**
 - 1. Planting 20 churches by 2020**
 - 2. Multiplication in all our mission churches to possess nations**
 - a. Samoa**—Ps Mila, Sis Rosie, Bro James, Bro Sola, Sis Peta, leaders and congregation
 - b. Mexico**—Ps Miriam, Ps Quechol, Sis Mimi, Sis Myra, Bro Miguel, Bro Fabia and congregation
 - c. Brazil**—Ps Celena, leaders and congregation
 - d. East Timor**—Bro Adao, leaders and congregation
 - e. Japan**—Mission pastors, leaders and congregation
 - **Okinawa**—Sis Helen and Sis Miyuki
 - **Yokohama**—Ps Koyama and Sis Sayaka
 - **Osaka**—Ps Atsuya and Sis Takako
 - **Kamaishi**—Ps Keizo and Sis Mami
 - f. Marshall Islands**—Ps Aichy, Sis Stella and congregation

DAY 6 — FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

**PRAYER FOCUS — I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER**

Acts 2:1–41 (NLT)

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A SOUND FROM HEAVEN like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, AND IT FILLED THE HOUSE** where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **AND EVERYONE PRESENT WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE THEM THIS ABILITY.** At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages . . . about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed . . . Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you . . . These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming . . . **No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL PEOPLE. YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY. YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS. IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT EVEN ON MY SERVANTS—MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE—AND THEY WILL PROPHECY.** And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. **BUT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.** People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through Him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and His prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed Him to a cross and killed him. But God released Him from the horrors of death and raised Him back to life, for death could not keep Him in its grip. . . God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now He is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand . . . **THE FATHER, AS HE HAD PROMISED, GAVE HIM THE HOLY SPIRIT TO POUR OUT UPON US, JUST AS YOU SEE AND HEAR TODAY** . . . So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "**Each of you**

must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God. Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, ***“Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”*** **THOSE WHO BELIEVED WHAT PETER SAID WERE BAPTIZED AND ADDED TO THE CHURCH THAT DAY—ABOUT 3,000 IN ALL.**

Exhortation: I Am Not ashamed of the Holy Spirit and His Power

There is **ONLY ONE PERSON** who can revive the global Church; cause a nation to be born-again in one day; turn the heart of every tongue, tribe and nation back to Jesus; bring America to our knees in repentance of sins and salvation; and see to it that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven and His work completed. **HE IS THE ALMIGHTY HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. There is no other like Him. No person, power, system, dominion or organization can execute the will of God, but the Spirit of the Living God.** We are being awakened to the knowledge of man’s impotence to bring the needed global revival, transformation and salvation. Truly it is ***“NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER BUT BY MY SPIRIT, ‘SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS”*** Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV).

The sins of the Church against the Holy Spirit are being ignorant of Him, lacking in relationship and intimacy with Him and consequently erring in disregard and dishonor of Him because we barely give Him room in our lives. We have prioritized many other things above Him. **The Holy Spirit wants to come and indwell us, His holy temples. Therefore we must carefully prepare ourselves as CONSECRATED AND HOLY TEMPLES FIT FOR HIM.**

We must also discern what God is doing for such a time as this. **The Lord is revealing His arm of power, strength and might in the earth** (Isaiah 52:10, 53:1). **There is a global shaking going on whereby everything that can be shaken is being shaken**—systems, institutions, bodies, governments and dominions—in the heavenlies and on earth. The world is trying to understand this shaking, frantically trying to prop things up and attempting to find remedies, only to realize how impotent they are and how futile their attempts. In Luke 21, Jesus warned His disciples that, *“The time has drawn near . . . When you hear of wars and commotion . . . Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.”* In this shaking, God is doing a two-fold work:

- **IN THE WORLD — everything that must be shaken is being shaken.** This shaking not only loosens and unravels all systems, powers, dominions, and principalities, but also shatters and brings

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

them down. Then the wind of the Holy Spirit is going to come, blow and carry away all the chaff as God prepares for His new move and work.

- **IN THE CHURCH** — this shaking that loosens, tears and shatters the things of the world **is the same shaking the Holy Spirit is using TO UNRAVEL AND CLEANSE His Church. The Church will be ESTABLISHED, STRENGTHENED AND FORTIFIED in Christ Jesus—immovable, unshakable, strong and able to do His work by His Holy Spirit.**

The hour of the outpouring of both the former and latter rain of anointing is here. **As God shakes everything, He is going to pour out His Spirit in double portion upon His sons and daughters.** Joel 2:23 (NKJV) says, “. . . For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” **Jesus will not RETURN UNTIL THE FATHER’S WILL IS DONE, and He will complete it through His Holy Spirit-filled and anointed Church.** As it says in Zechariah 4:6, “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of Hosts.” **God has purposed to settle on His Church the unusual measures of His double anointing. THIS IS THE ANOINTING THAT CAUSES THE CHURCH TO PREVAIL AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL AND SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME BY FORCE.**

There are three things the Church must do:

- **Make seeking and pursuing the Holy Spirit our number one priority.** We must realize our need for Him goes beyond words and human understanding.
- **As His holy temples, in our intimacy with Him, we must love, honor, hear and obey Him always.**
- **We must deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Him wholeheartedly;** letting nothing stand in our way.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS our GOD, our FATHER, our SUSTAINER, our COMFORTER AND our GREATEST FRIEND. OUR GREATEST NEED IS NOT FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, FAMILY, OR EVEN FOR AIR, BUT FOR HIS HOLY SPIRIT. WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

Prayer Focus

- Repent of all our transgressions against the Holy Spirit**
- Return to seeking Him with all of our heart**
- Return to loving Him with all of our heart**
- Relentlessly pray for the outpouring of the former and latter rain**
- Live, walk and serve Jesus in the double portion of anointing**

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

DAY 7 — SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

PERSONAL AND FAMILY PRAYER—NO CORPORATE ASSEMBLY

Notes:

DAY 8 — SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

PRAYER FOCUS — THANKSGIVING AND EXHORTATION

Notes:

Pray for our pastors and church plants

SENIOR PASTOR & FAMILY

Klayton and Sharon Ko

CHILDREN & SPOUSES: Jason, Ps. Joshua (Kimberly), Christalyn (Emmanuel)

STAFF PASTORS & SPOUSES

Bill **Bannister**

Horace and Talei **Chee-Manuia**

Ernie and Siew Peng **Chow**

Sam and Lorna **Cockett**

Mel and Jennifer **Corpuz**

Absen and Sherlina **Ebot**

Jacob and Hoku **Fesagaiga**

Frederick and Sandra **Harris**

Daniel and Francine **Kaneshiro**

DIRECTOR OF THE SHELTER

CHURCH PLANTS & MISSIONARIES

Aloha Assembly Kirigaoka

Christ Church, Japan

Ps. Kyoko Koyama,
Sis. Sayaka Sumitomo

First Assembly of God Brazil

Ps. Celina Takahashi, Bro. Carlos

East Timor Assembly

Bro. Adao, Bro. Ajitu

First Assembly of God

Bohol, Philippines

Bro. Orlando & Natalie Bernales,
Princess Bernales

First Assembly of God

Kamaishi

Ps. Keizo & Mami Yoshioka

First Assembly of God

Hamakua, Hawaii

Ps. Lynne Higa

First Gomti Nagar Fellowship

Assembly of God, India

Ps. Prasantha & Sis. Roshika,
Ps. Mohammed & Mariem Arsad,
Bro. Akash

First Assembly of God

Huamantla / Xetenco, Mexico

Ps. Miriam Farias, Bro. Miguel,
Sis. Fabida

First Assembly of God

Marshall Islands

Bro. Yaichy Hanchor



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