

STANDING *taking a*



BE ON GUARD.

STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH.

BE COURAGEOUS. BE STRONG.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 1

JAN – FEB

STAND UNITED IN THE VISION
Philippians 1:27

MAR – APR

**STAND FIRM IN TRUTH AND
RIGHTEOUSNESS**
1 Corinthians 16:13

MAY – JUN

**STAND IN THE GAP FOR THE
HEALING OF THE LAND**
Ezekiel 22:30

JUL – AUG

**STAND STILL AND TRUST THE
LORD TO FIGHT FOR YOU**
Exodus 14:13–14

SEP – OCT

**STAND GUARD AND FIGHT
FOR THE FAMILY**
Nehemiah 4:9–14

NOV – DEC

**STAND FREE IN CHRIST
SERVE ONE ANOTHER**
Galatians 5:1

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Foreword — TAKING A STAND

EPHESIANS 6:10–20 NKJV

*“Finally, my brethren, **BE STRONG IN THE LORD and in the power of His might. Put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, that you may BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities . . . powers . . . the rulers of the darkness of this age . . . spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**”*

This Is War — Take A Stand

Taking a stand means we yield to God, resist the devil, and never concede until we prevail according to God's will. We are in a war to see God's kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus took a stand and eternally prevailed against the devil by crushing him and stripping him of all his authority and power (Colossians 2:14–15). He then made the devil His prisoner, giving His Church His authority and power to continue to take a stand and prevail over the devil and all his wiles, weapons, powers, and principalities. In so doing, we establish God's kingdom and execute His will here on earth as it is in heaven.

In Ephesians 6, Paul exhorted believers to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, put on the full armor of God, and stand and withstand against satan and all his wiles and demons. In God's strength, we stand firm, immovable and prevailing over the devil and his assaults.

From the time iniquity was found in him (Isaiah 14:12), the devil has been a thief, accuser and liar, seeking to steal, kill and destroy. He purposed to exalt himself above God, and sought to steal from Him — His throne, His glory, His creation, and His dominion over all. He continues to battle for control and dominion of people's hearts so that he would

be worshipped. Although cast out of heaven and cut to the ground, he continues to war against God. We are redeemed and called to take a stand with God and against the adversary. When we do, God works out His will and purpose. Examples are found in Scripture:

- David took a stand and defeated Goliath and the Philistines.
- Moses took a stand and delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt.
- Esther took a stand and saved the Jews in Persia from genocide.
- Elijah took a stand and brought reformation and revival to the children of Israel.

The Father, Son, And Holy Spirit Took A Stand For The Salvation Of All Nations

The Church must take a stand in God, for God, and with God for nations. As satan fights hard to take dominion over souls, WE MUST TAKE A STAND FOR GOD AND HIS KINGDOM, WILL AND GLORY. It is for the salvation of the world that God gave up His only begotten Son to be crucified, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. In 2020 the world's population is about 7.8 billion, of which 2.382 billion confess adherence to the Christian faith. If we believe that these 2.382 billion are genuinely saved, there are still 5.418 billion that are not. Jesus was the Lamb crucified to save all — to the very last soul.

We must take a stand to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth, where many are still in darkness. Satan is fighting to block access by using political regimes, persecutions, and ideologies. **With Jesus Christ there are no closed doors, for He is the door. In Him the Church is equipped, armed, and trained to enter any place to bring souls out of darkness and into the marvelous light of His salvation.** This battle is intense, and even more so in these last days. God has put into our hands all that we need to prevail that these will come into His kingdom.

Jesus Christ Took A Stand Defeating Satan And Destroying His Works

Jesus, having defeated satan and destroyed his works, has given His Church the assignment to continue until His return. Through the cross, He crushed satan, and all who believe in Him shall be saved. Colossians

2:14–15 (TPT) says, “He [Christ] canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—He deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto His cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation. **Then Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, STRIPPING AWAY FROM THEM EVERY WEAPON AND ALL THEIR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND POWER TO ACCUSE US.** And by the power of the cross, Jesus led them around as prisoners in a procession of triumph. **HE WAS NOT THEIR PRISONER; THEY WERE HIS!**”

The redeemed of the Lord are His mighty weapons to be sent where darkness is, to defeat satan and save the souls. In Matthew 16:15–19 (NKJV), after Peter confessed that Jesus was Christ and Son of the Living God, Jesus declared to His disciples, **“AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HADES SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”** The keys represent the authority and power Jesus Christ has given us to use. Therefore, nothing can prevail against the Church if we take a stand. The Church is not to exist as a cloistered community of believers whose only purpose is to take care of ourselves, our activities, and our ministries. We forget that the world is still in the grips of darkness and waiting for the light to come. When satan is busy establishing his domain globally, the Church is busy taking care of themselves, just like in Haggai’s times. The children of Israel were engrossed in building their own houses while God’s house laid in ruins. **We must be visional in purpose and mission in obedience to the call of God.**

Are We On The Lord’s Side?

We must decide whose side are we on: THE LORD’S OR THE DEVIL’S? In Matthew 12:22–30, a blind and mute demon-possessed man was healed and set free by Jesus as He cast out all the demons. The Pharisees, in envy, accused Jesus of casting out demons by satan’s power. Jesus confronted them, saying in verses 28–30 (NLT), “But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even

stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house. **ANYONE WHO ISN'T WITH ME OPPOSES ME, AND ANYONE WHO ISN'T WORKING WITH ME IS ACTUALLY WORKING AGAINST ME."**

The devil is waging all-out war against God and His kingdom in these last days. There is no neutral ground. Anyone who is not taking a stand with God opposes God. Jesus says in Matthew 12:30 (MSG), "This is war, and there is no neutral ground. **IF YOU'RE NOT ON MY SIDE, YOU'RE THE ENEMY; if you're not helping, you're making things worse."** Make a choice. Whose side are we on? We must suffer no compromise, no negotiation, and no appeasement with evil. We cannot worship God and appease the devil and the world. Indeed we are in the last days before the return of Jesus, and the battle is fierce. Isaiah 60 describes the warfare as gross darkness covering the earth and thick darkness the nations. We must choose to take a stand and shine our light, for His glory is upon us.

Christ's Redeemed Are Called To Take A Stand

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian, because of his faith in God, took a stand against Hitler and the Nazi Regime. Germany invaded Poland in 1939 and started World War II. The Nazis were responsible for the systematic and state-sponsored torture and killing of six million Jews. This was not done just because of ideology. There were satanic principalities and rulers of darkness, operating through Hitler and his evil regime, carrying out unimaginable violence against human lives and killing millions of people. Besides the Jews, millions of others were killed, such as the Romani people, the intellectually disabled, and dissidents.

The Holocaust was part of the war Satan has been waging against God for nations from the time of his fall. This war has involved the same kind of demonic strategy we see operating through the cancel culture of today. It is not new. Satan has been warring to try to cancel God and everything that is of God. He tried to cancel all humankind by tempting Adam and Eve to sin (Genesis 3). He tried to kill all Jewish male babies at birth (Exodus 1:8–16). He tried to kill Jesus Christ from birth (Matthew 2:16). He tried to cancel out the Church through persecution (Book of Acts). He is still doing the same through abortion, wars, violence, and every evil activity that exists now.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer took a stand to resist evil and the Nazi Regime. **He was not silent.** He also helped Jews to escape. As the death toll

increased, he was horrified that the German Church was silent and did nothing against this evil. As the Church chose silence and non-involvement to protect themselves, Bonhoeffer was vocal in confronting them, saying, **“SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS ITSELF EVIL: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”**¹

The German Church used theology to justify their silence. Bonhoeffer pleaded with them, saying, **“We must finally stop appealing to theology to justify our reserved silence about what the state is doing—FOR THAT IS NOTHING BUT FEAR. ‘OPEN YOUR MOUTH FOR THE ONE WHO IS VOICELESS’—**for who in the Church today still remembers that that is the least of the Bible’s demands in times such as these?” Bonhoeffer paid the price and was martyred by hanging for his resistance against evil for God’s sake.

We are not to be naïve. Spiritual warfare is violent in the spirit realm. **TAKING A STAND IS NOT WITHOUT A COST.** It may be intensely uncomfortable. It may cost us even our lives. Hebrews 11 gives us a record of those who took a stand for God; they paid a price, but they looked forward to the eternal hope set before them. Is it not better to lay down our lives to take a stand with God, for God, and in God, rather than to remain silent? Fear and self-preservation will silence the Church and paralyze it from following and obeying Christ. Let us take a stand and be about our Father’s business and His work in these last hours.

Is It Not The Time To Take A Stand?

Is this not the time to take a stand? Is there not a cause? Should we remain silent as the German Church did during the Holocaust? Or are we already silent and seeing no cause? Can the Church be sitting in complacency and indifference? Do millions of more babies have to be murdered in the womb? Do more cities have to be burned? Do anarchy and violence have to overtake more cities, states, and even nations? Do more lives have to perish by evil deeds? How long are we going to be intimidated into silence? Do we still not act?

During the prophet Haggai’s time (536 BC), the exiled Jews who returned to Jerusalem began to rebuild the temple under God’s instruction but did not complete it. They dropped God’s work and got caught up building their own lives, raising their families, and constructing their own houses. The house of God lay wasted, neglected, and in ruins because everybody was caring for themselves. They all said in Haggai 1:2 (NKJV), “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should

be built.” They had gotten used to life without worship and without the temple, just as the German Church got used to not taking a stand against the horrific and unrestrained killings of millions of people.

God’s heart was grieved, and He rebuked them in Haggai 1:4–8 (NKJV) saying, **“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘CONSIDER YOUR WAYS! . . . Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the LORD.”** Although they worked hard to prosper, they did not. In verse nine, God said the reason was, “My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.” It is time to take a stand for God, His kingdom, His purpose, and His glory. **Romans 13:11 (NKJV) says,** “And do this, **knowing the time**, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

The Demonic Spirit Behind Cancel Culture

Cancel culture is not new. It has been in operation since the time satan rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. This strategy has long been satan’s tactic — one we can see in Isaiah 14:12, where he expressed his desire to be exalted above God. Satan is still the same evil spirit at work today in various forms, acts, and voices, seeking to silence the righteous, demolish Christianity, put churches out of commission, eradicate the worship of Jesus Christ, make decrees against prayer, and outlaw the preaching of the Gospel. In the meantime, trying to force all to bow to their crafted “golden calves” of ideology, culture, and world-view; and declare them as gods.

Understand the demonic spirit at work behind the cancel culture. HE IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST AND IS AGAINST CHRIST AND EVERYTHING ABOUT CHRIST. It will never change. It finds Jesus Christ and everything about Him offensive. Our adversary seeks to influence and control people’s minds and use them as tools to cancel out anything offensive to him. He causes them to express his offense against God and all that is holy and righteous. They will propagate evil and denigrate all that is good. Therefore, they try to cancel anything offensive to them:

- Jesus Christ is offensive to them.
- Christianity is offensive to them.
- Truth is offensive to them.
- The Gospel is offensive to them.

- The Ten Commandments are offensive to them.
- Holiness is offensive to them.
- Morality is offensive to them.
- Law and order are offensive to them.
- Righteousness is offensive to them.
- The sanctity of life is offensive to them.
- Freedom of worship is offensive to them.

Satan is warring to force all to comply with his evil ways, schemes, and agendas. He threatens, intimidates, and causes pain to enforce conformity to his wickedness. The minds that satan has bewitched, he has trained to love evil and hate good and call good evil and evil good. Those controlled by this deceptive stronghold become the devil's instruments to wage warfare against all that is of God and His kingdom. Therefore, same-sex marriage is propagated as the freedom to love. Abortion is promoted as part of health care for women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some governors and mayors in the US have shut down churches and worship under the threat of costly fines and imprisonment for non-compliance with their unconstitutional dictates. Anarchy, rioting, looting, burning of cities, violence, and killings are accommodated by some government officials to placate lawbreakers. There is a systematic attack to dismantle law and order, ushering in anarchy as the rule of the day. Anarchy is when everyone is a law unto themselves and is free to do what is right in their own eyes. This same evil spirit cries out to defund the police. Remember the words of Pastor Bonhoeffer, **"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS ITSELF EVIL: GOD WILL NOT HOLD US GUILTYLESS. NOT TO SPEAK IS TO SPEAK. NOT TO ACT IS TO ACT."**²

If we do not take a stand, we are acquiescing. If we are not on the Lord's side, we are His enemies. Take a stand and take back our nation for Jesus Christ. Take a stand, resist the devil, and reclaim our freedom and right to:

- preach the Gospel and declare the name of Jesus.
- worship and pray in the name of Jesus.
- declare that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- call good as good and evil as evil.
- stand with the Bible in all things.
- protect the sanctity of life and the unborn.
- declare America as one nation under God.

This is not a battle between political parties and ideologies. **THIS IS A BATTLE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO RULE AND REIGN THAT NATIONS WILL HEAR THE TRUTH, BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH AND BE SAVED BY THE TRUTH.** Church, take a stand for the salvation of nations. Take a stand for righteousness and truth. Take a stand to save the unborn. Take a stand for justice and law. We are not just battling for a lifestyle, culture, or way of life. We are taking a stand to battle for what Jesus Christ took a stand for — nations.

While in Birmingham Jail for taking a stand for justice and equality for the black people, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, “There was a time when the Church was very powerful — in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. **In those days, the Church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society . . . but the judgment of God is upon the Church today as never before. IF TODAY’S CHURCH DOES NOT RECAPTURE THE SACRIFICIAL SPIRIT OF THE EARLY CHURCH, IT WILL LOSE ITS AUTHENTICITY, FORFEIT THE LOYALTY OF MILLIONS, AND BE DISMISSED AS AN IRRELEVANT SOCIAL CLUB WITH NO MEANING FOR THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.**”³

- 1. Bonhoeffer exhibit in Philadelphia’s Liberty Museum in 1998
(inspired by Robert K. Hudnut’s writing, A Sensitive Man and the Christ — see page 21)
- 2. Bonhoeffer exhibit in Philadelphia’s Liberty Museum in 1998
(inspired by Robert K. Hudnut’s writing, A Sensitive Man and the Christ — see page 21)
- 3. <https://www.joshuasway.org/writings/2018/1/15/excerpts-from-letter-from-a-birmingham-jail-written-april-16-1963-by-dr-martin-luther-king-jr>

Notes:

Called to Solemn Assembly: January 2021

Week 1 — Personal Preparation (December 27–January 2)

Week 2 — Corporate Prayer And Fasting (January 3–10)

REGIONAL AND CORPORATE PRAYER SCHEDULE (JANUARY 4–10)

Morning Prayer	6:00–7:00am	Mon–Fri	Red Hill Central Oahu East Honolulu Metro Windward
	6:00–7:00am	Mon, Wed, Fri	Leeward
Corporate Noon Prayer	12:00–1:00pm	Mon–Fri	Red Hill
Corporate Evening Prayer	6:00–8:00pm	Mon–Fri	Red Hill
Personal and Family Prayer	Anytime	Sat, Jan 9	No Corporate Assembly
Leaders' Prayer Retreat	9:00am–1:00pm	Sat, Jan 9	Prophet John Harke
Thanksgiving and Exhortation	6:00–8:00pm	Sun, Jan 10	Red Hill

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL CONCERNING PRAYER TIME

Please do not fellowship during times of prayer. Let us honor the presence of God and guard the spiritual sobriety and sanctity of the occasion. Be encouraged to wait on God and hear Him. Take notes of what you hear.

Evening Prayer Schedule:	6:00–6:30pm	Personal Prayer
	6:30–7:30pm	Corporate Prayer
	7:30 —8:00pm	Personal Prayer

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3–10, 2021

Day 1 (Sunday)	Ministry of the Word (AM and PM services)
Day 2 (Monday)	Stand In Holy Consecration
Day 3 (Tuesday)	Stand United In Vision
Day 4 (Wednesday)	Stand Firm In Truth And Righteousness
Day 5 (Thursday)	Stand In The Gap For The Healing Of The Land
Day 6 (Friday)	Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit
Day 7 (Saturday)	Personal and Family Prayer
Day 8 (Sunday)	Thanksgiving and Exhortation

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY PART I: WEEK OF PERSONAL PREPARATION
December 27, 2020 – January 2, 2021 (Sunday to Saturday)

Six Steps To Preparation For Solemn Assembly

Sunday, December 27, 2020 to Saturday, January 2, 2021 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 times for corporate and personal 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.”

1. Prepare your heart to come before God in humility and contrition.
2. 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, cleanse your 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 and share the personal application of Solemn Assembly to every person in your household.
2. Minister unity and oneness; bring healing and reconciliation to all relationships in your family, repent of sins committed against each other, and minister love and forgiveness towards one another.
3. **Married couples:** read 1 Peter 3:1–7 and Colossians 3:18–19.
4. **Parents and children:** read Colossians 3:20–21.
5. 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.”

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, and become gateways for the enemy to infiltrate.
3. Repair your personal and family altar (daily devotions, prayer and the 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 your care, and ensure that everyone is informed concerning the purpose and times of prayer.
2. Exhort all to participate in the blessing of Solemn Assembly.
3. Minister unity, reconciliation and oneness; if there is any rift in ministerial relationships, prayerfully bring reconciliation and oneness.
4. Renew commitments to God and each other; pray Psalm 133 and Colossians 3 into your ministry.

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 (NKJV)—“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 to:

- “Break up the fallow ground” of our hearts before God.
- Repent of all sins and return to God wholeheartedly.
- Totally consecrate ourselves to God as His redeemed people.
- Wait on God to hear from Him and take heed.
- Resolve to obey and please Him alone.

What Is Fasting And Prayer?

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

- **Food** (depending on God's direction)
- **Time** (setting aside time to pray and wait on God)
- **Priorities** (denying personal agendas to make seeking Him our first priority)
- **Pleasures** (abstaining from things we enjoy to devote that time and energy to God)

How Do We Fast?

We are to fast as the Holy Spirit leads us. Let God show you what He is dealing with in your life. All fasting must be accompanied with prayer. There are three different ways we can fast:

- **Partial fast** — abstain from certain meals or reduce normal portion sizes (no snacking to make up for meals).
- **Total fast** — abstain from solid foods and consume only liquids (if you have a health condition, consult with your doctor first).
- **Daniel fast** — abstain from specific types of foods, beverages and/or pleasures (e.g. internet, social media, television, entertainment, sports, recreation, shopping, etc.).

Sunday, January 3: Ministry of the Word

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13 (NLT)

*Be on guard. **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH.** Be courageous. Be strong.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 (CJB)

*So, my dear brothers, **STAND FIRM AND IMMOVABLE**, always doing the Lord's work as vigorously as you can, knowing that united with the Lord your efforts are not in vain.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NLT)

*Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, **I will know that YOU ARE STANDING TOGETHER WITH ONE SPIRIT AND ONE PURPOSE**, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20-22 (NIV)

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. **NOW IT IS GOD WHO MAKES BOTH US AND YOU STAND FIRM IN CHRIST.** He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

1 PETER 5:9 (TPT)

***TAKE A DECISIVE STAND AGAINST HIM** and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith. For you know that your believing brothers and sisters around the world are experiencing the same kinds of troubles you endure.*

EXODUS 14:13-14 (NET)

*Moses said to the people, "**DO NOT FEAR! STAND FIRM AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD** that He will provide for you today; for the Egyptians that you see today you will never, ever see again. **The LORD will fight for you, and you can be still.**"*

JAMES 4:7 (ERV)

***SO GIVE YOURSELVES TO GOD. STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL**, and he will run away from you.*

Monday, January 4: Stand In Holy Consecration Before God

1 SAMUEL 2:2 (NKJV)

NO ONE IS HOLY LIKE THE LORD! *There is no one besides You.*

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?

LEVITICUS 10:3 (NKJV)

This is what the LORD spoke, saying: "BY THOSE WHO COME NEAR ME I MUST BE REGARDED AS HOLY; And before all the people I must be glorified."

LEVITICUS 11: 44-45 (NLT)

FOR I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. YOU MUST CONSECRATE YOURSELVES AND BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY. *So do not defile yourselves . . . For I, the LORD, am the one who brought you up from the land of Egypt, that I might be your God. THEREFORE, YOU MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE I AM HOLY.*

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.*

EPHESIANS 1:4 (CBS)

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

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:17-20 (NLT)

But the person who is joined to the Lord is ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM . . . you do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1 (NLT)

*Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? **WHAT HARMONY CAN THERE BE BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE DEVIL?** How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? **AND WHAT UNION CAN THERE BE BETWEEN GOD'S TEMPLE AND IDOLS?** For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: 'I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people. **THEREFORE, COME OUT FROM AMONG UNBELIEVERS, AND SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THEM, SAYS THE LORD.** Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.' Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. **AND LET US WORK TOWARD COMPLETE HOLINESS BECAUSE WE FEAR GOD.***

Exhortation — Stand In Holy Consecration Before God

There Is None Like God; Holy, Incomparable And Transcendent

God in His holiness is set apart and transcendent above and beyond all that was, is, and will be. Exodus 15:11 (NKJV) echoes the same, saying, "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? **WHO IS LIKE YOU, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, FEARFUL IN PRAISES, DOING WONDERS.**" **The word holiness here — *qodesh* — means apartness, set-apartness, sacredness, or separateness.** There is no frame of reference to explain God, and there is no standard of comparison to measure Him because He, Himself, is the Eternal and Sovereign frame and standard for all things.

The incomparability and transcendence of God are also expressed in 1 Samuel 2:2, which declares, "No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God." This truth is repeated throughout the Bible, which is the inalienable, infallible, and incontrovertible Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. **There is none like Him — never was, never is, and never will be.** He alone is God. In 1 Timothy 6:15–16 (NLT), Paul describes Him as, "The Blessed and only Almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. **He alone can never die, and He lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach Him.** No human eye has ever seen Him, nor ever will. All honor and power to Him forever! Amen."

Holiness is not just an attribute of God; **HE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF HOLINESS.** God in His holiness lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach, and no human eye has ever seen Him, nor ever will. His holiness is totally transcendent, absolutely without limits, infinitely superior, and surpassingly excellent. There is nothing that existed, now exists, or will exist that can be compared or equal to Him.

God is the very essence of holiness; therefore, everything about Him is holy. Every attribute of His is holy. Every part of Him is holy. Every act of His is holy. His love is holy. His grace is holy. His judgment is holy. His correction is holy. His comfort is holy. His wrath is holy. His kindness is holy. His mercy is holy. His chastisement is holy. **Everything about God is holy; therefore, we who are His people MUST HAVE A HOLY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM TOO.** It is in holiness that we have intimacy with Him. It is in holiness that we serve, minister to, and worship Him. Whatever we bring to Him, however we serve Him, and whenever we represent Him, it must all be done in holiness.

The Church Is Called To Stand In Holy Consecration Before God

CONSECRATION means SEPARATENESS unto God alone. Therefore, to stand in holy consecration before God is to stand separated and set apart as holy and sacred unto Him. The word holy in Hebrew is *qadosh*, meaning “set apart, sacred, sanctified.” The same word “holy” in Greek is *hagios*, also meaning “set apart, sacred, sanctified” unto God.

As God is set apart and distinct from all other “gods,” His Church is also set apart and made distinct from the rest of the world. There is no other like us. We are no ordinary people. **In holiness, we are made distinct and extraordinary in Christ Jesus.** 1 Peter 2:5–9 (NLT) affirms our distinction from the world: “You are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. **WHAT’S MORE . . . 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.” It is this consecrated distinction that will show forth the goodness of God. This distinction has nothing to do with pride or being exclusive. It has everything to do with responding to God’s invitation to come to Him, be saved, and be set apart for Him as His special treasure to show others His goodness. This sanctification is made available for every person who would believe, no matter their tongue, tribe, or creed. No one is excluded, and all are welcome. Everyone is called before the foundation

of the world to be chosen as beloved by God and to be holy before Him (Ephesians 1). No one is meant to worship anything or anyone except God. No one is called to be a Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim, atheist, or to believe in any other god but Him. **GOD'S WILL IS THIS: HEAVEN IS INTENDED FOR EVERYONE, AND HELL, NO ONE. Everyone is called and chosen in Christ to be part of His family.**

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NKJV) says, "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." Although we are chosen to be His special people, without holy consecration, we are just like the world, losing our distinction from them. There is often no distinction between the Church and the world. We are in this world, but not of this world (John 17:14–16).

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NKJV), said about this set-apart distinction as God's special people, **"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." We have nothing spiritually in common with the world that is still in darkness. We are to love them with the love of Christ, reach out to them, and bring the Gospel to them that those who believe will also become a part of Christ's family.

It is in this holy distinction and separateness unto Jesus Christ that **WE REFLECT OUR LORD IN ESSENCE** (spirit), **NATURE** (character), **AND LIKENESS** (resemblance). This is how the Church can reflect Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Many will be drawn. Many will come to hear, believe, and receive. Without this holy consecration, the Church is of no use to the kingdom of God in bringing His light and life to those who desperately need them.

Holy Consecration Unto God Is For His Covenant People

Consecration is not for the world; it is for God's covenant people. For this reason, the Lord delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt to bring them

to His promised land. There they could worship Him and be blessed. In Exodus 19, when Israel was camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, God spoke to Moses to consecrate the people because He was going to come down and speak with them. Strict steps of consecration were taken so that His holy presence would not break out against them. In Exodus 19:21–22 (NLT), the Lord told Moses, “Go back down and warn the people not to break through the boundaries to see the Lord, or they will die. Even the priests who regularly come near to the Lord must purify themselves so that the Lord does not break out and destroy them.” Therefore, anyone coming before Him must discern that He is holy and regard Him as holy. This is not because He is wicked, vicious, or evil. It is because He is glorious in holiness and fearful in praises. God’s holy nature is absolutely exceptional and transcendent above the realm of His creation.

As God’s covenant people, is the Lord our God? We can confess God, preach God, and even pray to God, but is He our God? It is our consecration in holiness unto Him that gives evidence that we are the Lord’s. Have we lost the awe of the holiness of God? Have we lost the fear of God? As it was with Israel, so it is with us. We are God’s covenant and consecrated people. Without holy consecration, we have no testimony that we are His. We are not to live as the world lives. We cannot hope to draw the world to God by being like the world, speaking like the world, and doing as the world does. **LOOK AT JESUS — LIVE AS HE LIVED, WALK AS HE WALKED, AND LOVE AS HE LOVED. We must be careful that we do not lose our relevance to God by trying to be relevant to the world.** Be God’s people, live God’s way, do what God does. Church, it is time to awake, arise, and stand in holy consecration before Him, reflecting Him in truth and spirit.

Do We Know God, And Does He Know Us?

It matters how we know God in His holiness, lest in ignorance, we presume upon Him. How we live will show if we truly know Him or only have the misconception that we do.

In Isaiah 1:2–4, God grieved that Israel, His chosen people, whom He had tenderly nurtured and made great, rebelled against Him because they did not know Him in truth. In verse 3 (TPT), God lamented, “Even a dumb ox instinctively knows its owner and the stubborn mule knows the hand that feeds him, **BUT ISRAEL DOES NOT KNOW ME NOR DO MY PEOPLE UNDERSTAND.**” Because Israel did not seek to know God,

they became corrupt children who turned their backs on the Lord God and despised Him. They also cut themselves off from His help. In their ignorance of Him, they were presumptuous of Him. They were blinded and led astray by a spirit of error. This was the tragedy — they were His covenant people, and He was their God, yet they did not truly know Him.

As it was with Israel, so it will be with Christians today if we do not seek to know Him. We will confess and acknowledge Him yet be ignorant of Him. We need to know Him as King David did when he cried out to God in Psalm 86:11 (NKJV), **“TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O LORD, AND I WILL WALK IN YOUR TRUTH; GIVE ME AN UNDIVIDED HEART, THAT I MAY FEAR YOUR NAME.”** He earnestly prayed that God would teach him His way so that he would be able to walk in His truth. David understood that he could not know God any other way except by God teaching him. He realized that unless he knew the ways of God, he was not able to walk with God. He would walk amiss. He would walk astray. He would walk in blindness. He would walk contrary to God and His ways. In fact, he would walk in rebellion against God. He might very well be walking so contrary to God as to call good evil and evil good. He would definitely not know God and would fail to relate with Him in holiness. This is why it matters how we know God lest we presume upon Him.

For the Church to understand how to stand in holy consecration before God, we need the Holy Spirit to reveal God to us and teach us about Him. He cannot be known through human intellect, understanding, or deduction. There is no human framework or standard that we can use to understand God. God, Himself, is the divine and only frame and standard for all things. Yet, it is His passion and purpose that we know Him intimately.

How should we know God? We know Him through seeking Him. He says in James 4:8 that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. If we seek Him, He will be found of us (Jeremiah 29:13). It is His Holy Spirit who will reveal Him to us in our relationship and intimacy with Him — be it in prayer, reading the Bible, hearing a sermon, worshipping Him, or any other form of interacting with Him. His Spirit will witness who God is to our born-again spirit. Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:25–26 (NKJV), “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**” Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV), “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” When we are

born-again, He puts His Holy Spirit in us as a seal. His indwelling Holy Spirit will witness to our born-again spirit that we are His children and He is our Father, and out of this divine revelation, we cry out “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:14–17 (NKJV) says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” This is how we know God in His holiness. Then we know how to stand in holy consecration before Him.

The Spirit Of Error That Leads Astray Those Who Do Not Know God

1 John 4:1–6 instructs us not to trust every spirit but to carefully examine what they say to see if they are from God. Verse 6 (NKJV) says, **“We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”** The word error — *plane* in Greek — means a wandering, a straying about. One led astray from the right way roams hither and thither; mentally straying with wrong opinions relative to morals or religion and that lead into error, deceit, or fraud. The root word for *plane* is *planos*, which means wandering, roving, misleading, leading into error, a vagabond, tramp, impostor, corrupter, or deceiver.

It is important to discern the source of thoughts, ideas, and speeches concerning God, whether they are from the spirit of truth or error. The spirit of error seeks to deceive and lead into error concerning our knowledge of God and His holiness. Our knowledge affects our consecration to Him. We cannot know God through our own understanding, but through the Holy Spirit illuminating God’s Word to us. It will be erroneous to use our human ways, thoughts, and nature as the frame of reference in trying to know Him. One of the necessary things for the Church to have is God’s perspective and understanding in all things relating to Him and His kingdom. It is dangerous and foolish to assume we can understand God according to our natural or secular mind alone. **Who God is has to be revealed to us as we experience Him through His Word, His Holy Spirit’s revelation, and through our relationship with Him.**

In Luke 13, when asked about who could be saved, Jesus taught a

sobering lesson concerning the danger of being self-deceived by a spirit of error that causes one to think they know God when they do not. He said that the gate of salvation was narrow, and all were to strive to enter. Many would seek to enter but would not be able to because of being self-deceived. They wrongfully believed they knew God and were known by God when in truth, this was not so, and they were locked out. Verses 25–27 (NKJV) say, “When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘**Lord, Lord, open for us,**’ and **He will answer and say to you, ‘I DO NOT KNOW YOU, WHERE YOU ARE FROM,’** then you will begin to say, ‘**We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.**’ But He will say, ‘**I TELL YOU I DO NOT KNOW YOU, WHERE YOU ARE FROM. DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU WORKERS OF INIQUITY.**’” They blindly assumed that everything was fine in their relationship with God and were completely oblivious to the fact that they were in danger of being totally denied by Jesus Christ and rejected by Him. They assumed that just because they ate in His presence and were there when He was teaching, they knew Him, but they never truly did. They had no relationship with Him, and they never heeded or obeyed His teachings. Only Jesus could teach them about Himself. They were blind, wise in their own eyes, and presumed upon Him. They were like Judas, who assumed that he could steal from the purse and suffer no consequences because he ate with Jesus and sat under His teachings every day. He found out too late that he was in error.

The Message renders this passage as follows: “You’re going to be banging on the door, wanting to get in, but you’ll find the door locked and the Master saying, ‘**Sorry, you’re not on My guest list.**’ You’ll protest, ‘But we’ve known You all our lives!’ only to be interrupted with His abrupt, ‘**YOUR KIND OF KNOWING CAN HARDLY BE CALLED KNOWING. YOU DON’T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT ME.**’ That’s when you’ll find yourselves out in the cold, strangers to grace. You’ll watch Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets march into God’s kingdom. You’ll watch outsiders stream in from east, west, north, and south and sit down at the table of God’s kingdom. **And all the time you’ll be outside looking in—and wondering what happened.**”

The way we know God and His holiness matters. What is our kind of knowing the holy God? If it is in the spirit of error, we will hear the same thing Jesus said in Luke 13:27 (MSG), “Your kind of knowing can hardly be called knowing. You don’t know the first thing about Me.” **This spirit of error will cause us to craft a Jesus out of our own imagination,**

wisdom, ways, and thoughts because we do not have the truth. We reduce Him in our minds by ascribing to Him attributes, perspectives, and thoughts that are more of who we are than who He truly is. **SIMPLY PUT, BECAUSE WE ARE, WE ASSUME HE IS.**

What is an idol? An idol is a false god made out of the human mind. In Christianity, we may not craft a physical idol, but are we guilty of crafting an idol out of Jesus Christ through our mind — that is, through our own evaluation, judgment, intellect, and understanding of Him? The “god” we have made Jesus to be is far from who He truly is. **Every time we mind man’s thoughts, ways, and perspectives first, we will miss God’s thoughts, ways, and perspectives.** We are to be first God-sensitive, not man-sensitive, God-centered and not man-centered, and God-focused, not man-focused. Putting God first in all things helps us escape the spirit of error. **PUT ON THE LENS OF GOD TO UNDERSTAND GOD AND HIS HOLINESS.** Isaiah, in the presence of God, saw God through God’s lens and was undone by his own wretchedness (Isaiah 6). **The Church must confront the spirit of error if we are to know God in truth. We must prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit to shine the light and reveal where we have missed His mark.** He will speak, and He will reveal the truth to us. He will counsel and help us.

The Church Is The Only Distinct Light That Can Show The Way In The Darkness

We are living in very different times today. These are perilous, dangerous, and evil times. All standards of morality, goodness, and righteousness have deteriorated. The Church must be the set apart holy bastion of morality, goodness, and righteousness for the world that does not know God or His Truth. Therefore, they do not fear God: that must not be said of the Church. When the Church lacks a true knowledge of God, we will lack the fear of God. Consequently, we will live like the world in disrespect, dishonor, and disregard of God. There will be a carelessness, callousness, and insensitivity toward God. **Where then is the set apart distinction of being the called-out ones by God in holiness to reveal Jesus to the world?** In today’s society and culture, godlessness has increased to such a sickening extent that it is fine to use the name of Jesus in a curse, but His name cannot be mentioned in prayer, sharing, or counseling in some places. In Leviticus 22:32–33 (NKJV), God says to us, **“YOU SHALL NOT PROFANE MY HOLY NAME, BUT I WILL BE HALLOWED AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.** I am

the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD.” This instruction still stands.

Being set apart in holiness means we do not partake of anything that is defiled, blasphemous, or profane. Has the Church carelessly participated, compromised, and drank of the filthiness in this world through media, entertainment, and other things because of being accustomed to them? Is our conscience so seared that we have no prick of conviction when we watch a movie or hear a song where the name of Jesus has been used in vain, or profanity is being used? Do we casually partake of movies that promote all that the Bible says is a sin and everything that God hates — like violence, murder, lust, adultery, fornication, stealing, hate, and vengeance? The reason we give for participating is that these are different days. **If we feel fine to be entertained by the portrayal of everything that God hates, our conscience is dead. We have no fear of God, and we do not know God in His holiness. Standing in holy consecration involves not touching the unclean.**

In 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NKJV), Paul very clearly rebuked the believers saying, “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.” **Do we want God to be our Father, and do we want to be His sons and daughters? If we do, let us be set apart unto Him, come out of evil, do not participate in it, and be consecrated to Him in holiness.**

We must pray to be made sensitive to God in all His holiness again. We must repent and cry out to God to restore the fear of Him in our hearts. As the world becomes more profane and disrespectful of God, the Church needs to arise to greater consecration before God. Unless we do, we are like them, and we have no distinct light that shines to help them find their way to life. **We are God’s covenant people. Let’s live as such.**

Prayer Focus

A. Repent Of Failure To Discern The Holiness Of God.

B. Pray For Fresh Revelation Of God In His Holiness.

1. Holy Spirit will remove scales from eyes and hardness from hearts to know Him in holiness.
2. A new heart, new mind, new soul and new spirit to know God.
3. Revelation, knowledge and understanding that you are called and chosen to be consecrated and holy unto Him.

C. Pray For A Contrite Heart And Broken Spirit In Repentance.

1. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.
2. Submit yourself completely to God's searching and dealing.
3. Be honest, yielded and obedient to God's correction.
4. Identify and put away all that is abominable to God.
5. Seek to stand in holy consecration before God.

D. Identify, Repent And Turn Away From All That God Hates.

1. **Hidden sins of the heart, mind and deed** — any form of uncleanness.
2. **Sins of dishonor, disrespect and disregard for God** — not treating Him right, grieving His Holy Spirit, not putting Him first.
3. **Sinful and ungodly attitudes** — pride, self, carnality.
4. **Sins of stubbornness, arrogance, rebellion and disobedience.**
5. **Sins of idolatry** — worship of false gods in whatever form; prioritizing others (things or people) over God.
6. **Presumptuous sins** — no fear or awe of God, taking Him for granted, being familiar with Him.
7. **Lack of holy consecration before God** — compromise, defilement and touching anything that is unclean in God's eyes.

E. Sanctify By His Holy Fire To Be Holy Before Him.

1. Submit to a thorough searching of the Holy Spirit — nothing hidden.

- a. Light to shine into the depth of your soul.
 - b. Holy Spirit to soften your heart and open your mind to His Word and work.
 - c. Word of God to come and confront all sins and unrighteousness.
 - d. Full exposure of all hidden things.
2. **Spirit of conviction and repentance to fill our hearts.**
- a. Spirit to be broken by conviction, hearts contrite in repentance.
 - b. Total and complete repentance before God.

F. Prioritize God's Heart And Passion Concerning You.

1. God's passion is that you **KNOW HIM** with all of your heart.
2. God's passion is that you **LOVE HIM** with all of your heart.
3. God's passion is that you are **LIKE HIM** with all of your heart.
4. God's passion is that you **BE HOLY** as He is holy with all of your heart.
5. God's passion is that you embraced **HIS WILL** with all of your heart.

G. Love All God Loves, And Hate All God Hates.

1. Humble and submit yourself completely to God in prayer.
2. Pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to search, confront and enlighten.
3. Pray for the eyes of your understanding to be opened and your heart:
 - a. to love all God loves: holiness, purity and righteousness.
 - b. to hate all God hates: sin, evil and all that is unrighteous.
4. **PRAY TO BE OF ONE HEART, MIND AND PASSION WITH GOD IN ALL THINGS.**

H. Hunger And Seek To Know God Anew And Afresh In Holiness.

1. Revelation of God in the beauty of His holiness.
2. Hunger for intimacy with God in holiness.
3. Hunger to be one with God in holiness.
4. Hunger to honor, worship and serve God in holiness.
5. Hunger to respect and fear God in holiness.

Tuesday, January 5: Stand United In Vision

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. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that **YOU ARE STANDING TOGETHER WITH ONE SPIRIT AND ONE PURPOSE, FIGHTING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH, WHICH IS THE GOOD NEWS . . . WE ARE IN THIS STRUGGLE TOGETHER.***

EPHESIANS 4:3–6 (NLT)

Make every effort to keep yourselves UNITED IN THE SPIRIT**, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you have been called to **one glorious hope** for the future. **There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

JOHN 17:20–24 (NLT)

*“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. **I PRAY THAT THEY WILL ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU AND I ARE ONE—as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You.** And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me. **I have given them the glory You gave Me, SO THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE.** I am in them and You are in Me. **May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me** and that You love them as much as You love Me. Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am.”*

ACTS 4:32–33 (TPT)

***ALL THE BELIEVERS WERE ONE IN MIND AND HEART.** Selfishness was not a part of their community, for they shared everything they had with one another . . . and great measures of grace rested upon them all.*

EPHESIANS 4:11–16 (NKJV)

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, . . . prophets, . . . evangelists, . . . pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come to the UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . . from whom **THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER BY WHAT EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

..... **1 CORINTHIANS 1:10–18 (NKJV)**

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that **THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU, BUT THAT YOU BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT.** For it has been declared to me. . . that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” **IS CHRIST DIVIDED? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? . . .** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

..... **PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11 (NKJV)**

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by **BEING LIKE-MINDED, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING OF ONE ACCORD, of ONE MIND.** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS,** who, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

..... **1 CORINTHIANS 12:4–27, 13: 13 (NKJV)**

There are diversities of gifts, but the SAME SPIRIT. There are differences of ministries, but the SAME LORD. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the SAME GOD who works all in all . . . For as the body is one and has many members, but **ALL THE MEMBERS** of that one body, being many, **ARE ONE BODY, SO ALSO IS CHRIST. FOR BY ONE SPIRIT WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—AND HAVE ALL BEEN MADE TO DRINK INTO ONE SPIRIT . . .** indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” . . . **THERE SHOULD BE NO SCHISM IN THE BODY,** but that the members should have the same care for one

another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 13:13) “AND NOW ABIDE FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, THESE THREE; BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”

..... PROVERBS 29:18 (TPT)
When there is no clear prophetic vision, people quickly wander astray. But when you follow the revelation of the Word, heaven’s bliss fills your soul.

..... ALSO READ ACTS 2:42–47

Exhortation — Stand United In Vision

Stand united in vision means to STAND UNITED AND IMMOVABLE in faith, conviction, resolution, and obedience for ONE COMMON GOD-GIVEN OBJECTIVE. Paul put it this way in Ephesians 4:1–6 (NKJV): “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **BESEECH YOU TO WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU WERE CALLED . . . endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

The Church has been called to stand together for the vision and purpose of God — to obey and to fulfill.

The Power Of Standing United In Vision

In Genesis 11, the people of the world spoke the same language, and one day they agreed to build a great city for themselves with a tower that would reach the sky. They wanted to make themselves famous and keep from being scattered all over the world. **The LORD came down to look at the city and the tower and concluded that BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE UNITED and speaking one language, ANYTHING THEY SET OUT TO DO WOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM.** Such is the power that comes from people standing united in vision. To prevent their ungodly vision, the Lord caused them to be confused by giving them different languages. He scattered them over the whole world.

Psalms 133 says that there is a blessedness, anointing and favor that flows from God to His people when we stand in unity. Such blessings will never come any other way except by our coming together as one in

Him. These are the blessings that we need that will equip the Church to do the supernatural, incredible, unusual, and impossible. We see this in the Book of Acts. The early Church in unity daily prayed and sought the Lord bringing forth mighty outpourings of the Holy Spirit. The apostles and disciples saturated their communities with the Gospel, multitudes were getting saved and miracles were the norm. The world needs the Church today to be filled with such anointing, power and favor. When the Church is united, God will pour out His Spirit upon us. We will be anointed, empowered and equipped in such an uncommon way that we cannot be stopped and will not be stopped in advancing the kingdom of God. We will be supernaturally enabled to speak a Holy Spirit message that the world will hear, and those who believe will be saved.

In unity the early Church prayed and sought the Lord daily, bringing forth mighty outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Trinity 's Unchanging Vision And Purpose For Their People

Vision is the revelation of God's will. Purpose is the revelation of how to fulfill His will. Vision is WHAT GOD WANTS DONE, and purpose is HOW GOD WANTS IT DONE. AS WHAT DIRECTS HOW, VISION DIRECTS PURPOSE. They both come by the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Vision must issue from the heart of God. Whatever vision we have, if it does not issue from God's heart, it is a type of "vision," but it is definitely not God's.

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF VISION. In Genesis 1:26 (NKJV), the Holy Trinity were united in vision and purpose when They declared, **"LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, according to Our likeness; LET THEM HAVE DOMINION over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."** The Holy Trinity was very clear about these two things:

- **Their VISION:** "Let Us make man in Our image"
- **Their PURPOSE:** "Let them have dominion . . . over all the earth"

The Holy Trinity accomplished and completed Their vision. Adam and Eve were created to take dominion over the whole earth. However, Adam and Eve failed to stand together with God in vision. When tempted by satan to independently strike out in their own vision of wanting to obtain the knowledge of good and evil so that they would be like the Most

High, they sinned. They were judged and could no longer participate in God's vision for all mankind.

John 3:16 clearly reveals that because of God's great love for the world, His vision is to see the whole world redeemed and restored in a right relationship with Him. His vision is that none should perish, but that all be saved as His sons and daughters — His Church. He wants to restore dominion into the hands of His redeemed people to see His kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. To fulfill this vision, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, for the purpose of being the Lamb of God, that by His one sacrifice, salvation for all is made possible and available. Jesus Christ was sent for the purpose of taking away the sins of the world by laying down His life once and for all. May all the redeemed of the Lord stand united with Him in His vision.

The Holy Trinity Stands United In Vision

Christ's one passion was to see His Father's will (vision) be done, and His work (purpose) completed here on earth as it is in heaven (John 3:34). Indeed, He declared that accomplishing them had been His food. He had no other focus but this, and lived for no other purpose but this. Everything that was in the Father's heart to do was also in Jesus' heart. His Father's will was His will. His Father's vision was His vision. His Father's purpose was His purpose.

The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit stood united as one in vision. **Their VISION was the salvation of the whole world (John 3:16). Their PURPOSE was to provide a way for the whole world to be saved (John 3:16).** Therefore, the Father prepared Jesus Christ to be the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world that whosoever believes in Him shall be saved. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the conception of Jesus in the flesh to be that Lamb whose death would take away the sins of this world (John 1:29). Being in unity with His Father and Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ obeyed and provided the way of salvation for the whole world. Anyone who believes in Him shall be saved. No one needs to perish.

Christ Has Bequeathed The Father's Vision To His Church

Christ has bequeathed to us His vision that none should perish, but all be saved through faith in Him. Just as Jesus' purpose in this world was to be the Lamb who takes away all sins, the Church's purpose is to bring

this Good News to the ends of the earth. In Matthew 28:18–20 (TPT), Jesus said, “All the authority of the universe has been given to Me. **NOW GO IN MY AUTHORITY AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age.” Our vision is to love the world as Jesus does. Our purpose is to bring them the Good News that they may be saved by believing.

Jesus has given us everything that we need to accomplish this. He also promises to be with us always. There is nothing that can stop the Church except our failure to be one with Him and with each other. **For this reason, the unity of His Church is a priority to God. We must stand together in vision and purpose. We must stand firm, immovable, and steadfast.**

Every personal vision from God must fit into the overarching vision for the whole body of Jesus Christ. Every part of the body has an individual function, but they all fit and work together to benefit the entire body.

Jesus Interceded For Unity Before His Betrayal And Crucifixion

In John 17, just before His betrayal and crucifixion, Jesus prayed for His disciples (and future ones) to be united as His Father and He were. This is sometimes known as the “Farewell Prayer.” He interceded in John 17:21–23 (NLT), **“I PRAY THAT THEY WILL ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU AND I ARE ONE—AS YOU ARE IN ME, FATHER, AND I AM IN YOU.** And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me. ‘I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as we are one. **I AM IN THEM AND YOU ARE IN ME.** May they experience such **PERFECT UNITY** that the world will know that You sent me and that You love them as much as You love Me.”

Our unity with each other is not achieved by human efforts. It must flow from our unity with God first. Jesus said that His Father was in Him and He in His Father. **Until we are in God and He in us, we are unable to be one with each other.** It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers enabling us to be one as Christ is with His Father. **It is in this holy union with Him that His Holy Spirit transforms us from within.** We decrease as He increases in us. Our minds are being regenerated, and our hearts renewed that we have the mind and heart of Christ. **WE ARE COMPLETELY SUBMERGED IN HIS PRESENCE AND ABSORBED INTO HIS BEING.** His heart becomes our heart, His will our

will, His passion our passion, His purpose our purpose, His love our love, His way our way, and His nature our nature. **In essence, we are wholly buried in and swallowed up by all He is that there is none of us but all of Him.** It is in this union with God that we are able to unite as one with others. It is in this manner we are able to stand together in vision and purpose. As unity with Christ is through His blood, unity with each other is also through His blood. It is a unity patterned after the divine unity in the Godhead — between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Stand together in unity in vision and purpose as the Holy Trinity stood.

Is Christ Divided? If No, Let Nothing Divide

In the body of Jesus Christ, differences and disagreements are unavoidable, but DIVISION OR DISUNITY IS AVOIDABLE. Division or disunity is a choice we make, as is oneness and unity. When we allow differences to cause divisiveness, the reason is always pride, selfishness, and carnality. There are many parts, and each having its own function, but there is only one body, one vision, and one purpose: God's.

We may differ in ideology, preference, method, interpretation of Scripture, or way of doing things, but we must not allow them to divide us. They must not be the cause of discord, envy, or offense that would tear the body of Jesus Christ. **Do not fragment the body of Christ whom Jesus shed His blood to birth into existence.** It is better that we die to self, pride, and rights that cause disunity. **Divisiveness among God's people will cause us to lose focus on God, as well as His vision and purpose.** The tendency would be to look inward and be self-centered in perspective. If not resolved, we will fail in obeying God-given vision and purpose.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 (NKJV), Paul pleaded with the Church. In verse 10, he urged, “that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” **He rebuked the Church for losing sight of Jesus Christ and being contentiously divisive because of personal agendas and self-interests.** In verses 12–13 (TPT), he sharply chastised them, saying, “Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ **IS CHRIST DIVIDED? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?**”

We must strive at all costs to keep the unity in the bond of peace. Remember Paul's words, “Is Christ divided?” Indeed, He is not divided,

and neither should His body be divided! Let us not hold our perspectives, preferences, rights, or ways above Christ's pre-eminence, lest they cause contention and divisiveness with others. Paul beseeched the Church in Ephesians 4:1–6 (NKJV), "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING** with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **ENDEAVORING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE**. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Let us, in the grace of God, bear each other in His love as we diligently exert ourselves to live in unity.

We must work towards the common good and the success of the whole body by esteeming others as better than ourselves. Treat them in a manner pleasing to Christ. We need to respect and honor each other because we first respect and honor God, knowing that we need each other. No member is called to stand alone. It takes every part fitly joined together to make the whole body, with each part supplying to the entire body. Above all, we stand together in vision and purpose. Jesus would not let anything become a wedge between His Father, the Holy Spirit, and Him, even at the cost of death. **WE MUST UNITE AND BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS TO SEE HIS KINGDOM COME AND HIS WILL BE DONE**. At the conclusion of all things, let every believer keep in mind that the end shall come when the Gospel is preached through the earth.

Satan Will Viciously Resist To Stop The Church From Standing United In Vision

We must not fight each other. **WE HAVE A COMMON ENEMY TO FIGHT AND OVERCOME: THE DEVIL**. He is our adversary that relentlessly seeks to kill, steal, and destroy to prevent believers from standing together in God's vision and purpose. **TAKE A STAND AGAINST HIM. TAKE A STAND TO PREVAIL OVER HIM**. He is deceptive and vicious, and he works on the flesh to incite pride, envy, selfishness, and offense to keep the body of Christ fragmented and unable to work together. His aim is to cause the Church to stop looking at Jesus Christ, but at each other to find fault and be divisive and contentious. **We must not fall into the trap of the enemy. We must fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author, and Finisher of our faith**. We must cast off every weight and sin that so easily beset us so that we can run this race effectively and

win. Jesus overcame every attack of the enemy to finish what God had called Him to do:

- He chose to humble Himself in obedience to His Father's will.
- He chose to give up His life for His Father's vision and purpose.
- He chose to crush satan in every temptation and attack by faith in God.
- He chose to fulfill the Father's will and finish His work.

As it was with Jesus, so it will be with the Church if we follow in His footsteps.

Whatever the devil's weapons are, do not let temptation, hardship, pain, suffering, disappointment, adversity, pressure, or anything beyond our control distract us from standing united in vision. Remember, Jesus says that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is our strength, courage, power, and ability to submit to Him and resist the devil. In that, we will overcome and prevail.

The Church Must Wholly Return To Stand United In Vision

The Church must live with one vision: the salvation of the whole world and to go and preach the Good News that people may be saved and made disciples of Jesus Christ. **To accomplish these, one thing is needed: unity — that is, being able to stand together.**

If we believe in Jesus, then we must stand united in vision and purpose. We are not our own, we are His. We serve no other God but Him. Let us give all and lay down all that we will live a life worthy of His calling. At the end of life or time, we can say as Paul did in his encouragement to Timothy before his imminent death in 2 Timothy 4:5–8 (NKJV), “But you be watchful in all things, **ENDURE AFFLICTIONS, DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST, FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY.** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

He challenged and encouraged Timothy to endure and finish what God had called him to do — “fulfill your ministry.” Paul, himself, had this comfort and confidence that he had faithfully, and immovably stood together with Jesus and His people to accomplish God's vision. He had

fought a good fight. He had finished the race. He had kept the faith. He walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who called him into ministry. Jesus accomplished the Father's vision, and on the cross, before He drew His last breath, He declared to all in heaven and earth and for all eternity, **"IT IS FINISHED!"**

Church, we must stand together with God and His people in vision and purpose. Stand strong, stand firm, stand unshakeable, and stand prevailing. Follow the examples of those who did. Stand as Paul did and be able to echo him in Acts 20:24 (KJV): **"BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME, NEITHER COUNT I MY LIFE DEAR UNTO MYSELF, SO THAT I MIGHT FINISH MY COURSE WITH JOY, AND THE MINISTRY, WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED OF THE LORD JESUS, TO TESTIFY THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD."**

Do not doubt or fear. Stand together and fight a good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith. One day we will receive the crown of righteousness laid out for those who obey and complete the call of God.

Prayer Focus

A. Humbly Ask The Holy Spirit To Search And Identify Sins Of Disunity.

B. Humbly Acknowledge And Repent Of All Sins Of Disunity:

1. Pride, ego, self-righteousness and a haughty spirit.
2. Stubbornness, rebellion and lack of fear of God.
3. Seared conscience because of compromise and callousness.
4. Self-centeredness, selfishness and self-pity.
5. Offense, bitterness, anger and unforgiveness.
6. Fault-finding, blaming others and dishonoring them.
7. Gossiping, back-biting and tale-bearing.
8. Failing to respect and esteem others better than ourselves.
9. Failing to seek out for the good of others.
10. Failing to love others as you love yourself.

C. Humbly Ask For A New Heart And New Spirit To Stand As One Body:

1. To love God with a new heart and spirit.
2. To love unity in the Body of Christ with a new heart and spirit.

3. To love others with a new heart and spirit.
4. To love God's vision and purpose with a new heart and spirit.

D. Humbly Pray And Commit To Stand United In God's Vision.

E. Pray To Know The Heart Of God Concerning His Vision:

1. To refresh and renew God's vision in your spirit.
2. To make clear God's vision for you personally and for the church corporately.
3. To have a passion to know and fulfill the vision of God.

F. Embrace, Commit And Stand United To Obey The Vision Of God.

1. Commit to stand united for the main thing — God's vision.
2. Commit to stand united in one spirit and one purpose.
3. Commit to stand united to fight for the faith and the Gospel.
4. Commit to stand united in serving God and others in humility.
5. Commit to stand united in every circumstance, battle and trial.
6. Commit to stand united as fellow soldiers in God's army:
 - a. to advance God's cause and complete His work.
 - b. to fulfill God's vision and purpose.
 - c. to see God's kingdom come and His will be done.
7. Commit to stand united in offering up an acceptable sacrifice of worship unto God.

G. Pray For God's Outpouring Of Blessing, Anointing And Favor Upon His People Who Stand United In Vision.

H. Stand United In Missions — Growth and Multiplication.

Praying for all mission pastors, leaders and their congregations.

1. **Samoa** — Ps Mila and Sis Rosie, Bro James, Bro Sola and Sis Peta
2. **Mexico** — Ps Miri, Ps Quechol, Sis Mimi, Sis Hudid, Bro Miguel, Bro Fabia
3. **Brazil** — Ps Celena
4. **East Timor** — Bro Adao
5. **Japan (Okinawa)** — Sis Miyuki
6. **Japan (Yokohama)** — Ps Koyama and Sis Sayaka
7. **Japan (Osaka)** — Ps Atsuya and Sis Takako

8. **Japan (Kamaishi)** – Ps Keizo and Sis Mami
9. **Philippines** – Ps Orlando, Sis Natalie and Sis Princess
10. **India** – Ps Mohmad Arshad and Sis Mariyam and Ps Prasantha
11. **Uganda** – Ps Elijah and Sis Ruth, Ps Moses, Ps Jonathan, and Ps Paul
12. **Ireland** – Ps Jamie and Sis Lud
13. **Hawaii (Hamakua)** – Ps Lynne and Ps Luke
14. **Korea** – wisdom for Ps Ko and Ps Ernie for new season
15. **United Kingdom** – Ps Mike McKeever
16. **Marshall Islands** – Bro Yaichy Hanchor

I. Raising And Sending Out Two New Gideonite (Mission) Teams.

1. Holy Spirit to anoint and direct Ps Ko and Ps Ernie:
 - a. to discern Holy Spirit's direction for church-planting locations; missions strategies and divine networking.
 - b. to hear God on raising up mission pastors and members.
2. Two Gideonite mission teams to be raised for Japan — Kyushu and Nagasaki.

Notes:

Wednesday, January 6: Stand Firm In Truth And Righteousness

..... **JOHN 14:6 (NKJV)**

Jesus said to him, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

..... **PSALM 119:160 (NKJV)**

THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR WORD IS TRUTH, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

..... **PSALM 96:13 (NKJV)**

He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.

..... **PSALM 33:4-5 (NKJV)**

For the Word of the LORD is right, and ALL HIS WORK IS DONE IN TRUTH. HE LOVES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

..... **ZECHARIAH 8:8 (NKJV)**

I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, IN TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

..... **PSALM 15:1-5 (NKJV)**

LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SPEAKS THE TRUTH IN HIS HEART . . . He who does these things shall never be moved.

..... **PSALM 51:6 (NKJV)**

BEHOLD, YOU DESIRE TRUTH IN THE INWARD PARTS, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. (TPT – I know that You delight to set Your truth deep in my spirit. So come into the hidden places of my heart and teach me wisdom.)

..... **JOHN 8:31-32 (NKJV)**

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

..... **PSALM 86:11 (TPT)**

*Teach me more about You, how You work and how You move, so that I can walk onward **SO THAT I CAN WALK ONWARD IN YOUR TRUTH UNTIL EVERYTHING WITHIN ME BRINGS HONOR TO YOUR NAME.***

..... **PROVERBS 29:2 (NKJV)**

***WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE;** but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

..... **PROVERBS 11:18–21 (NKJV)**

*The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward. **AS RIGHTEOUSNESS LEADS TO LIFE, SO HE WHO PURSUES EVIL PURSUES IT TO HIS OWN DEATH.** Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the Lord, but the blameless in their ways are His delight. Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; but the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.*

..... **EPHESIANS 6:13–14 (NLT)**

*Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **STAND YOUR GROUND, putting on the BELT OF TRUTH and the BODY ARMOR OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.***

..... **COLOSSIANS 1:23 (NLT)**

*But you must continue **TO BELIEVE THIS TRUTH and STAND FIRMLY IN IT.** **DON'T DRIFT AWAY** from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.*

..... **JOHN 8:44 (NKJV)**

***You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

..... **1 PETER 5:8–9 (NIV)**

***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. RESIST HIM, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH,** because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5 (TPT)

Timothy . . . I solemnly instruct you to **PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD AND STAND UPON IT NO MATTER WHAT!** Rise to the occasion and preach when it is convenient and when it is not. Preach in the full expression of the Holy Spirit —with wisdom and patience as you instruct and teach the people. **For the time is coming when they will no longer listen and respond to the HEALING WORDS OF TRUTH because they will become selfish and proud.** They will seek out teachers with soothing words that line up with their desires, saying just what they want to hear. **They will close their ears to the truth and believe nothing but fables and myths. So be alert to all these things and overcome every form of evil.**

ROMANS 1:21-25 (ESV)

For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened . . . **God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

ROMANS 1:18 (ESV)

For the WRATH OF GOD is revealed from heaven against ALL UNGODLINESS and UNRIGHTEOUSNESS of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

READ ALSO — PSALM 119:42, EPHESIANS 4:20-24,

PSALM 111:7-8, 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13, TITUS 1:1-2,

PROVERBS 14:34, PROVERBS 11:23-30, PSALM 89:14-17

Exhortation — Stand Firm In Truth And Righteousness

Truth and righteousness cannot be separated. When we walk in the truth, we will produce righteousness. The only way to make a real impact in the world is for the Church to stand firm in Truth and righteousness. Then we will become a light and witness for Jesus Christ. Proverbs 21:3 (NKJV) says, “To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”

Lay Hold Of Truth, Embrace It And Do Not Sell For Any Price

There is an urgent essentiality for the Church to lay hold of Truth. Embrace Truth, and do not compromise at any price. Proverbs 23:23 (TPT) says, **“EMBRACE THE TRUTH AND HOLD IT CLOSE.** Don’t let go of wisdom, instruction, and life-giving understanding.” The Message translation says, **“BUY TRUTH—DON’T SELL IT FOR LOVE OR MONEY;** buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight.”

May the Church lay hold of this counsel by faith, wholeheartedly stick with it, and relentlessly live by it. Do not yield and do not concede to any devilish resistance to Truth and righteousness. **An absence of Truth and righteousness is the freeway for the devil to usher in evil, wickedness, and sins to destroy people, cities, and nations.** Whereas having Truth and righteousness will save, set free, give life, prosper, make strong, and enable to do great exploits.

- John 8:31–32 (NKJV), Jesus declares, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. **AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.**”
- Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) says, **“WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE;** But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”
- Daniel 11:32 (NKJV) says — **“THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS.”** (CJB — “the people who know their God will stand firm and prevail”) God is Truth, and to know Him is to know Truth.

Truth Is A Person: Jesus Christ

Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” The more appropriate question would be, “Who is the Truth?” Jesus in John 14:6 (NKJV) says, **“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Truth is not just an attribute, a standard, quality, virtue, value, or merit. Truth is also not just a fact, reality, honesty, or authenticity. **TRUTH IS A PERSON: JESUS CHRIST. Therefore, Truth exists only in Him, for HE IS THE ETERNAL, ABSOLUTE, UNCHANGING, INFALLIBLE AND INFINITE TRUTH.** He defines and determines Truth. He is the author, determiner, definer, authenticator, judge, fulfiller, and finisher of Truth. He is both the complete and perfect summation and embodiment of Truth. He stands supreme, perfect, unassailable, and

incontrovertible, without equal, substitute, or comparison. There is no real definition or standard of Truth outside of Jesus Christ.

- **GOD IS THE GOD OF TRUTH.** Deuteronomy 32:3–4 (NKJV): “For I proclaim the name of the LORD: ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, **A GOD OF TRUTH** and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.”
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH.** 1 John 5:6 (NKJV): “This is He who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because **THE SPIRIT IS TRUTH.**”
- **JESUS IS THE TRUTH.** John 14:5–6 (NKJV): “Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, **‘I am the Way, THE TRUTH, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**”

AS GOD IS ABSOLUTE, SO TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE. One of the lies of the enemy is that truth is relative. Relativism promotes the idea that there is no absolute truth because the only truth is what a culture or a person chooses to believe. This is a satanic doctrine that ascribes to fallen humankind the power to determine and define truth according to what one chooses to believe — even concerning God, morality, good, and evil. This relativism opens the door to spiritual lawlessness, rebellion against God and Truth, and all manner of unrighteousness.

God’s Written Truth And Incarnate Truth

God is Truth. There is only one God, and there is only one Truth: Jesus. The Bible speaks of two manifestations of God’s Truth — written and incarnate. The Bible is God’s written Truth (1 Timothy 3:16–17), and Jesus Christ in the flesh is God’s incarnate Truth (1 John 1:1 and 14). The written Truth reveals, testifies, and points to the incarnate Truth, Jesus Christ. As the incarnate Truth, Jesus, in turn, is the fulfillment of the written Truth. There is no variance between the two.

- **God’s Written Truth (Holy Scripture).** 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (YLT): “Every writing is God-breathed, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for setting aright, for instruction that is in righteousness, that the man of God may be fitted — for every good work having been completed.”

- **God's Incarnate Truth (Jesus Christ).** John 1:1 and 14 (NLT): "In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

God's written and incarnate Truth are both absolute and infallible. Therefore, as believers, we must believe and stand firm, fast, and fixed in Them. When we stand firm in God's Truth by believing, trusting, and obeying, righteousness will be the consequential fruit.

As we have established, Truth is more than an attribute, a characteristic, virtue, or value. **TRUTH IS A PERSON: JESUS CHRIST. Truth is a self-revelation of Jesus Christ, whether in the written or incarnate form.** As He is eternal, absolute, immutable, irrefutable, and indisputable, so is Truth. Jesus Christ and His Holy Scripture are the absolute author, originator, standard, determiner, definer, and judge of Truth. Any supposed truth put forward whether in teaching, preaching, or writing, must line up with both the written and incarnate Truth. Any deviation means that it is in error and should not be accepted. Christians who do not have the Holy Scripture in their hearts are easily deceived and erroneously led to believe in the devil's persuasive lies that appeal to the mind, intellect, and pride.

Take A Stand In The End-Times Battle For Truth And Righteousness

There is never a time more crucial than now for the Church to arise and take a stand in these final days to battle for Truth and righteousness. **The devil has waged an all-out, relentless war against Truth and righteousness.** He knows that if Truth and righteousness were to fail, he would have free reign over people's hearts to steal, kill, and destroy them. Unbridled chaos, evil, and wickedness would govern the darkened hearts and minds of those who had rejected Truth. These would become the devil's instruments in resisting and opposing God, His Truth, and will.

In 2 Timothy 3:1–7 (TPT), Paul warned Timothy to be aware of the battle for Truth in the final days in which **"the culture of society will become extremely fierce and difficult for the people of God** because people will be self-centered lovers of themselves . . . They will boast . . . strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right . . . They will be ungrateful (rejecters of grace) and ungodly . . . Slaves

to their desires, **THEY WILL BE FEROCIOUS, BELLIGERENT HATERS OF WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT . . .** They may pretend to have a respect for God, but in reality, they want nothing to do with God's power. Stay away from people like these . . . **THEY ARE ALWAYS LEARNING BUT NEVER DISCOVER THE REVELATION-KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH."** If Paul's days were the last according to him, we must be in the ending of the last days now. If the battle for Truth was ferocious, then it is intensified even more now. Paul exhorted Timothy not only to know the times they were living in but to also take a stand and fight for Truth. He was to contend against those who were resisters of Truth.

As it was those days, it is even more so now that people under the influence of demonic spirits, with corrupted minds and arrogant hearts, will stand against the Truth of God and resist Truth fiercely. Their aim is to lead more and more people astray. Where there is no Truth, evil is unbridled, and unrighteousness unhinged. Paul exhorted Timothy that he must continue to advance in strength with the Truth wrapped around his heart, and being assured that he was taught the Truth since childhood from the Holy Scripture. Paul attested in 2 Timothy 3:16 (TPT), "Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you." Just as Timothy did, the end-time Church must contend for Truth and righteousness.

The Church must stand firm, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and armed with Christ's authority as God's weapon to restrain evil and destroy all devilish resistance against Him and His kingdom. **THIS IS THE BATTLE FOR LIVES AND HEARTS OF ALL PEOPLES THAT THEY WILL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL SET THEM FREE.**

What Is To Stand Firm In Truth And Righteousness?

Corinth was a prosperous city, but it was also licentious, depraved, idolatrous, morally corrupted, and spiritually bankrupt. The church in Corinth had many spiritual problems and moral sins reflecting those of the city. Obviously, the church was not vigilant in taking a firm stand for Truth and righteousness in the midst of an immoral, corrupt, and sinful community. They failed to resist the pervasive unholy influence of that city. They were to win the city for Jesus Christ but were instead infiltrated and corrupted by its evil.

In 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT), Paul strongly and earnestly exhorted the church, “Be on guard. **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH.** Be courageous. Be strong.”

- The meaning of stand firm — *stēkō* in Greek — is to **stand fast, persevere, TO PERSIST, AND TO KEEP ONE’S STANDING.**
- *Stēkō* comes from the root word *sta’-ko* — which means **TO CAUSE TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS; to make firm, fix establish; TO CAUSE A PERSON OR A THING TO KEEP HIS OR ITS PLACE; be kept intact** (of family, a kingdom), to uphold or sustain the authority or force of anything; to stop, stand still, **to stand immovable**, to stand ready or prepared and of quality, one who does not hesitate, does not waiver.

Paul exhorted the Corinthian church to stand firm, fast, fixed, established, unwavering, and unrelenting in their faith. They were to stand, persevering, persisting, unyielding, and immovable in Truth and righteousness no matter what pressures, assaults, aggressions, and temptations they faced. They were to firmly and victoriously resist the pressure to give in, conform, or yield to the societal, worldly, and sinful customs, activities, practices, and beliefs. They were to stay resolute, fixed and established in Christ Jesus and win the city for Him.

All the more, as followers of Jesus Christ, we must take Paul’s exhortation to heart in standing fast, persevering, and persisting in Truth and righteousness. We must stand firm in faith to overcome all the devil’s resistance to God, His Church, and Truth. Stand single-hearted, single-minded, and laser-focused on one Person, Jesus Christ, and His Truth and righteousness. **When Truth is compromised, the Church is hollowed out from within.** We have a form of godliness but totally deny the power thereof.

We must put on the full armor of God, the spiritual weaponry that gives us the wherewithal to stand firm and have victory. Then we can say, as Jesus said, “The ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.” (John 14:30 NKJV)

Truth Must Be Implanted In Our Spirit For Us To Stand Firm

We must know and internalize Truth; then Truth will begin to work in us — cleansing, sanctifying, purifying, transforming, making wise, giving life, enabling, and strengthening. James 1:21 says that it is the implanted Word (Truth) that is able to save us. Truth must be internalized and

engrafted in our spirit. We must not know the Truth just by hearsay. **We must seek, study, and pray to engrave Truth in our hearts. It is the true Word and not the supposed word, adjusted word, amended word, or modified word that will save us.**

Is the Truth we know the real Truth, or is it a modified, contemporized, or compromised truth? Jesus, as the Truth needs no modifying, contemporizing, or compromising to make it relevant to all. Many have believed in the Truth and yet later lose their way because of straying from the Truth. It is the pure, absolute, infallible, immutable written, and incarnate Truth that will save and free us.

We must stand firm in Truth and righteousness because He has called His Church to be all these functions:

- **We are standard-bearers of Truth and righteousness.**
- **We are witnesses to Truth and righteousness.**
- **We are bringers of Truth and righteousness.**
- **We are spreaders of Truth and righteousness.**

We do so until the whole earth is full of the knowledge of God, Truth, and righteousness.

Escape The Traps Of Ignorance, Deception, And Lies

How does satan cause a believer to waver and stray from Truth and righteousness? He capitalizes on their ignorance of the Written and Incarnate Truth, causing them to resist Truth and accept lies. Why are people scammed by counterfeit money? It is because the counterfeit looks, feels, and smells like the real, though it is not true money. Although the counterfeit and the real may look alike, they are not the same. There are variations between them. It takes the real to detect the variations in the fake. So it is for us who want to live and stand in the Truth and righteousness of God. **We must be willing to hold on to the Holy Scripture and Jesus Christ as our absolute, irrefutable, and indisputable Truth. WHEN WE KNOW THE TRUTH, THE TRUTH SHALL SET US FREE (FROM THE FAKE).** When we know the Truth, we will know what is fake to reject it. We must seek Him and study His Word to know Him. The Church must stand firm in the pure and perfect Truth of God.

Be watchful that we do not justify, excuse, or permit anything that is a deviation from the Truth — an alternate truth or another truth. Judas' alternate truth caused him to believe that although thievery was wrong,

it was permissible. Lot convinced himself that making a choice that brought him and his family into the most corrupt city for material gain was fitting. The spirit of error that caused them to compromise on Truth and righteousness began to gain ground and soon took over their whole thinking and perspective. They traded in Truth for lies and deception. Lot lost his wife, and his daughters made him drunk and committed incest with him. Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and consequently took his own life. **Compromise on Truth is always a slippery slope that one cannot recover from without repentance, change of mind, and change of path.**

Christians do not immediately abandon Truth and righteousness to embrace falsehood and evil. They lose Truth and righteousness progressively by not being watchful and making choices of compromise. They ignore the voices of conscience and the Holy Spirit while listening to the flesh, self, and the devil. **If we mortify our flesh, the devil has no ground to stand against us and no ammunition with which to work.**

We cannot mix Truth and righteousness with anything else or contaminate them with even a little leaven. The little leaven will spread and leaven the whole batch of dough. God desires Truth in our inward parts. His Truth must become our compass, anchor, and fulcrum. Take a firm stand:

- **Stand firm and immovable in the Truth (John 8:32, Ephesians 4:20).**
- **Stand firm against the devil, overcome our enemy, the father of all lies (John 8:44).**
- **Stand firm girded and strengthened with the belt of Truth to triumph (Ephesians 6:14 TPT).**
- **Stand firm with the breastplate of righteousness over your heart (Ephesians 6:14 TPT).**
- **Stand firm in being real. Do not cover up the Truth. Be honest about yourselves.**
- **Stand firm and do not drift from Truth and righteousness.**

Prayer Focus

A. Pray For A Hunger For Truth And Righteousness.

1. Remove all that diminishes hunger for Truth and righteousness.
2. Seek God deeply that He would stir up holy hunger and desperation for Truth and righteousness.
3. Commit to seek to know and live in Truth and righteousness.

B. Areas You Lack Truth And Righteousness; Take Steps To Be Restored.

1. Cry out for a humble mind, contrite heart and a broken spirit of repentance.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas you need to repent of:
 - a. Sin, defilement, presumptuousness, indifference and pride.
 - b. Lack of fear of God and failure to honor Him.
 - c. Deception, lies, blindness to truth and ignorance.
3. Humbly acknowledge, repent and seek His forgiveness and cleansing.
4. Be restored in a right relationship with Him in spirit and in Truth.

C. Seek Earnestly To Know Jesus Christ In Truth And Righteousness.

1. Pray for a passion to know Jesus Christ more and more.
2. Pray for a hunger for Truth and righteousness.
3. Pray for a hunger for His Word and internalize His Word.

D. Take A Stand In The End-Times Battle For Truth And Righteousness.

1. Stand firm and immovable in the Truth.
2. Stand firm against the devil (father of lies) and overcome him.
3. Stand firm girded and strengthened with the belt of Truth to triumph.
4. Stand firm with the breastplate of righteousness over your heart.
5. Stand firm in being real and honest about ourselves.
6. Stand firm and do not drift from the Truth and righteousness.

E. Church To Stand Firm As God's Vessel Of Truth And Righteousness.

1. Stand firm as standard-bearers of Truth and righteousness.
2. Stand firm as witnesses of Truth and righteousness.
3. Stand firm as bringers of Truth and righteousness.
4. Stand firm as spreaders of Truth and righteousness.
5. Stand firm in faithfulness, commitment and faith in Him.

F. All In Authority To Live, Stand Firm And Serve In Truth And Righteousness:

1. Federal government (Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches).
2. State government (governors, mayors and elected officials).
3. Those in authority in areas of influence (Church, family, education, government, media, arts and commerce).

Thursday, January 7: Stand In The Gap For The Healing Of The Land

..... **LAMENTATIONS 2:18–19 (NLT)**

*Cry aloud before the Lord, O walls of beautiful Jerusalem! Let your tears flow like a river day and night. **GIVE YOURSELVES NO REST; give your eyes no relief.** Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. **LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO HIM IN PRAYER, PLEADING FOR YOUR CHILDREN, for in every street they are faint with hunger.***

..... **EZEKIEL 22:29–31 (NKJV)**

*“The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. **So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and STAND IN THE GAP BEFORE ME ON BEHALF OF THE LAND, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.** Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,”* says the Lord GOD.

..... **ISAIAH 62:1–7 (TPT)**

*For Zion’s sake, how can I keep silent? For Jerusalem’s sake, how can I remain quiet? **I WILL KEEP INTERCEDING UNTIL HER RIGHTEOUSNESS BREAKS FORTH like the blazing light of dawn and her salvation like a burning torch!** Nations will see your victory—vindication, and every king will witness your blinding radiance! You will be called by a brand-new name, given to you from the mouth of Yahweh Himself . . . **Jerusalem, I have stationed intercessors on your walls who will never be silent, day or night. You ‘reminders’ of Yahweh, take no rest, and tirelessly give God no rest, until He firmly establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of all the earth!***

..... **HEBREWS 7:24–25 (NLT)**

*But because Jesus lives forever, His priesthood lasts forever. **Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. HE LIVES FOREVER TO INTERCEDE WITH GOD ON THEIR BEHALF.***

..... **LUKE 18:1 (NKJV)**

*Then He spoke a parable to them that **MEN ALWAYS OUGHT TO PRAY AND NOT LOSE HEART.***

..... ROMANS 8:26–28 (NLT)

*And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. **But the HOLY SPIRIT PRAYS FOR US WITH GROANINGS THAT CANNOT BE EXPRESSED IN WORDS.** And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. **And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.***

Exhortation — Stand In The Gap For The Healing Of The Land

The Call To Prayer For The Healing Of The Land

The Holy Spirit is calling all believers to stand in the gap in prayer for the healing of the land because the spiritual walls of God's protection, favor and truth around this nation are broken down by unrighteous decisions and the acts of her people. The Church must arise and pray on behalf of this land in contrition and repentance for our sins against God. As we return to Him, He will forgive and give us His grace, mercy and loving-kindness. He will rebuild all the broken walls and grant us His presence, protection, prosperity and peace to the glory of His name.

In Lamentations 2, Jeremiah was calling for the people to arise and pray. If ever there was a time that the southern kingdom of Judah needed a God-change and God-transformation, it was then. The people desperately needed a God-change that would come only by prayer, fasting, and intercession. Judah was in dark and desperate times. Their political, social, and spiritual depravity was unimaginable. Mothers were killing their own children for food because of famine. Jeremiah was gripped with intense sorrow and pain over these conditions. Under the Holy Spirit's inspiration, he called for desperate, ceaseless, and sacrificial intercession to be lifted up to God on behalf of the nation. In Lamentations 2:18–19 (NLT), Jeremiah cried out to the people, "Cry aloud before the Lord, O walls of beautiful Jerusalem! Let your tears flow like a river day and night. Give yourselves no rest; give your eyes no relief. **RISE DURING THE NIGHT AND CRY OUT. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. LIFT UP YOUR HANDS TO HIM IN PRAYER, PLEADING FOR YOUR CHILDREN, for in every street they are faint with hunger.**"

Church, we so need a God-change and a God-transformation for this

nation. We will not yield this nation to evil and darkness. We will not concede to lawlessness, anarchy, and corruption. We are in desperate times, but these are also times to prevail. It is time to heed Jeremiah's voice and arise in ceaseless tears and deep groaning of intercession until God moves and changes all things to His glory. It is time to see this nation turn back to God.

Stand In The Gap For God's Will And Purpose To Be Done

Standing in the gap is about seeing to it that God's will and purpose be accomplished through prayer and intercession. It is the most powerful and profound way to stand with God and speak with Him on behalf of His will that He will perform it. It pleases God. Intercessors and prayer warriors are those who are so gripped by a passion for God, His kingdom, His will, and His work that they wholeheartedly lay down their lives in prayer to see them fulfilled. **They believe in the cause of God, and they do not concede to anything except to His will.**

Intercession is about standing between God and a need and not letting go of both until God's will is done in that need. It is praying for others and standing in advocacy for them. It is being willing to travail in prayer until the victory is won. **Such travailing prayers turn impossibilities into miraculous breakthroughs by bringing God's intervention into situations beyond human help.** It is to agonize in prayer until God's will prevails. Unless we learn to travail until we win, we live in defeat. We forfeit God's blessings, and are resigned to a life that is less than abundant.

The Power Of Prayer And Intercession

Why is prayer the most powerful thing we can do? Simply because God says He will answer prayers. **IT IS MOST POWERFUL BECAUSE HE WHO ANSWERS IS ALL-POWERFUL.** Jesus says that if we ask believing, nothing shall be impossible. In Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV), He assures us, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Ordinary men and women have been made mighty and powerful through prayer and intercession. They have accomplished mighty deeds because God moves through their prayers. These were powerful intercessors whose prayers turned impossibilities into miracles:

- Moses delivered the children of Israel out of 400 years of slavery.
- Esther saved the Jews in Persia from being killed.
- Joshua stopped the sun for a day to win the battle over the Amorites.
- The apostles and the early Church reached multitudes amid persecution.
- Daniel received mighty revelations from Gabriel.

What Is To Stand In The Gap?

In the Old Testament times, walls were built around cities to protect the people from their enemies, enabling them to live in peace and prosper. When walls broke down and sustained gaps and breaches, the city was exposed and made vulnerable. These breaches, if not repaired and filled, would render the walls utterly useless to protect. The only way to secure these walls in times of an attack was for people to risk their lives by literally standing in these gaps to fight the enemies.

In Ezekiel 22:30 (CEB), God was saying, “I looked for anyone to repair the wall and stand in the gap for Me on behalf of the land, so I wouldn’t have to destroy it. But I couldn’t find anyone.” In those days, the spiritual wall of God’s protection around Judah was broken down by their sins. The nation had fallen into spiritual ruin. The government was corrupted. The priesthood had failed. Many prophets were liars, and the people unrighteous. It was a time of great crisis and danger as God was about to execute His severe judgment upon them for their sins. Because He loved His people, He was seeking for intercessors to stand in the gaps of Israel’s broken spiritual walls with prayer so that He would not execute His judgment on them. He lamented that He found none.

Today, the Holy Spirit is searching for intercessors who will stand in the gap for communities, cities, and nations so that salvation will come to all. How many intercessors will He find among His people? It is time for all churches to grab hold of what Jesus says about prayer and pray as He instructs in Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV), “My house shall be called a house of prayer for nations.” He also says not to pray like heathens, selfishly only for their own needs, but to pray for His kingdom and His righteousness to come. It is time for the believers to change their minds, attitudes, and focus from being self-centered in prayer to God-centered. Let every assembly of God’s people and every Christian home cry out in repentance on behalf of the nation and plead for His intervention that our nation turns back to God. In the book of Ezekiel, God was saying that judgment was not His plan for his people — blessing was. Because they

sinned, they would have to face the consequences of their sins. Yet God was seeking for someone to travail on their behalf to avert His judgment on them. He found none. **Our children, family, community, and city need not continue down the path of darkness.** The power that helps them to change direction is in the hands of the Church. That power is the power of prayer and intercession.

Prayer and intercession can rewrite a people's or nation's course by turning them from darkness to light, from condemnation to salvation, from curses to blessings, from pain to comfort, from trouble to joy, and from alienation with God to peace with God. The power is in our willingness to stand in the gap and fill it with cries of prayer to God.

Jesus Christ, Our Eternal Intercessor, Stood In The Gap To Save The World

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, His wall of protection around humankind was broken. From that time onward, everyone born is already condemned, for none is righteous because all have fallen short of God's glory. There awaits for each person the fearful judgment of God. For God so loved the world that He sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to fill in the gap of the broken spiritual wall around the whole world. Jesus came as the Lamb prepared to be slain that if any believe in Him, they shall not perish but have everlasting life. **The Lamb crucified on the cross stood in the gap interceding for the whole world, saving those who would believe.** Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, His blood and His life have breached the gap to save us. Nothing can overcome the blood of Jesus. It stands in the gap to forgive, save, heal, deliver, and make whole all who will come to Him — be it a person, a people, or a nation.

Hebrews 7:24–25 (NKJV) says, “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. **Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since HE ALWAYS LIVES TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM.**” His sacrificed life and shed blood still stand in the gap to intercede for us. Yet, He has called His Church a house of prayer to stand in the gap and intercede for all nations. He says in John 12:26 (NKJV), **“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.** If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” Let not the Holy Spirit seek for one to stand in the gap and find none.

It is time for us to pivot from praying only for personal blessings

and needs to be met to interceding for the healing and salvation of families, communities, cities, and nations. Let us arise in prayer and intercession to fill the gaps in all broken walls around them that none be lost. Stand in the gap for those bound in sin and darkness. Stand in the gap for those suffering violence, injustice, and abuse. Stand in the gap for victims of human trafficking. Stand in the gap to protect the lives of the unborn. Stand in the gap for the fatherless and the widows. Stand in the gap for the downcast and rejected by society. Stand in the gap for nations that they may be saved. God moves when we pray and intercede. Indeed, if the Church would pray, God will do the impossible.

Do not despair when we see desperate needs around us. Stand in the gap and call on Jesus. Light will begin to shine. Despair will turn into faith. We will begin to see by faith, “Mountains are still being moved, strongholds are still being loosed . . . God, we believe, wonders are still what You do. Bodies are still being raised, giants are still being slain. God, we believe, yes we can see wonders are still what You do . . . We are here for You; come and do what You do . . . We need a move. Miracles happen when You move. Heaven is coming. This is a move” (lyrics from the song “This Is A Move” by Brandon Lake and Tasha Cobbs).

How Shall We Stand In The Gap?

We are watchmen, prayer warriors, and intercessors, whom God has placed on the walls to breach all gaps. **We shall stand and fill those gaps with prayer and not be silent. WE WILL NOT REST, AND WE WILL GIVE GOD NO REST UNTIL HE RAINS RIGHTEOUSNESS UPON THE LAND.** Our hearts are deeply provoked to travail unceasingly until He purges the land of all that offends Him. We will stand and fill up the gaps in the walls with weeping and fasting until His Spirit is poured out, flooding every dry place. Then we will see streams of living waters, rivers of life abundant, and fountains of joy flooding once parched lands. **There will be REFRESHING. There will be REVIVAL. There will be TRANSFORMATION upon the land, and He will be glorified.**

Isaiah 62:1–7 (TPT) says, “For Zion’s sake, how can I keep silent? For Jerusalem’s sake, how can I remain quiet? **I WILL KEEP INTERCEDING** until her **righteousness breaks forth** like the blazing light of dawn and **her salvation** like a burning torch! . . . Jerusalem, **I have stationed INTERCESSORS ON YOUR WALLS who will never be silent, day or night.** You ‘reminders’ of Yahweh, take no rest, and tirelessly give God no rest, until He firmly establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of all the earth.”

Three Essentials — Consecration, Unity, And Submission To The Holy Spirit

James 5:16 says that the prayer of a righteous man avails much. If our prayers are to be effective, we must consecrate ourselves to God in holiness and purity. **Let the house of God be clean, sanctified, and holy unto God.** Prayer is powerful as the Holy Spirit moves through clean vessels as they pray. **THERE SHOULD BE NO MIXTURE OF THE PROFANE WITH THE HOLY.** Let us separate ourselves from all that defiles and do not touch anything unclean. Let our hearts be purified from all agendas, worldliness, and things of the flesh that our prayers be pure and acceptable to God. Be consecrated to God as His holy and pure prayer warriors and intercessors, for we do not want to pray amiss. **Then, nothing will be impossible with God as holy and consecrated prayer warriors stand in the gap for others, communities, cities, and nations.**

We must also come together in unity to pray. There must be spiritual oneness. It is time for churches to be healed of division and disunity. **It is time for churches to humble ourselves, submit to God, love each other, and come together as one. IT IS TIME TO MAKE GOD AND HIS WILL MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR INDIVIDUAL AGENDA, IDEOLOGY, AND PRACTICE.** Unity pleases God. It is time we unite together with one focus — to pray for the healing and salvation of people, cities, and nations. **Acts 1 speaks of how the disciples, as instructed by Jesus, went to Jerusalem and were united in prayer and passion that ushered in the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.** Acts 1:12–14 (TPT) says, “The disciples left the Mount of Olives and returned to Jerusalem . . . Arriving there, they went into a large second-floor room to pray. Those present were Peter, John, Jacob, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, Jacob. . . Simon. . . Judas. . . and a number of women, including Mary, Jesus’ mother. His brothers were there as well. **All of them were UNITED IN PRAYER, GRIPPED with one passion, interceding night and day.**” In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind settling as tongues of fire on each of them. They were endued with such power that they brought transformation and reformation to communities, cities, and other nations.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Grace, who teaches and helps us to pray according to the Father’s will. He shows us the heart, passion, and will of God so that we intercede accordingly. He always moves powerfully through our prayers to bring forth the kingdom of God, and

execute His will on earth as it is in heaven. **The Holy Spirit is the one who endues us with His power to pray.** He is the one who helps and leads us to pray according to God's will. As we pray, He is the one who brings all that we pray to pass for the purpose and glory of God.

The Holy Spirit will take us into different levels of prayer and intercession. Deep intercession takes waiting on God, getting the heartbeat of God, and being willing to travail like a woman in child labor. As a mother labors in childbirth until her child is born, intercessors labor in prayer until the Word of God is fulfilled. Those who travail in prayer carry a deep, intense burden for God's passion, expressed in groanings coming from the Holy Spirit. These are tears, groanings, and intensity so profound that words cannot describe them. **Do not mistake travailing in prayer as striving in the flesh and a lack of faith. That is the perception of the flesh.** Sometimes the natural person is uncomfortable with travailing in prayer and intercession. Sometimes we have this misconception that since God already knows what is needed, we just have to offhandedly mouth a prayer or not pray at all. **NOT SO. There is a level of prayer that our spirit and soul enter into as led by the Holy Spirit that the natural mind will not understand.** Our soul and spirit become totally yielded to His Holy Spirit as we call upon Him according to His will. This was what we saw in Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 1). Eli thought that she was drunk. So it was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Sometimes people fear this level of prayer because of the fear of being in the flesh and being uncomfortable with spiritual intensity, tears, and groaning. **We must not be afraid of mistakes. If we surrender to the Holy Spirit and step out in obedience, He will always lead and help us.**

God Moves When We Pray And Intercede

Prayer and intercession are God's instruments for transformation. He moves when His people pray and intercede. In fact, **HE HAS CHOSEN TO ACT UPON THE INTERCESSION OF HIS PEOPLE to see His kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** In Matthew 6:9–10 (NKJV), when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He said, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**" God already has His plan. He knows what He will be doing, but often He is waiting for His people to pray. Where there is sin, injustices, sickness, darkness, and works of the devil, He has called us to intercede so that

He will move in to perform His wonders and turn things around for His glory. Although almighty and needing no help from anyone to do His will, **GOD HAS SET HIMSELF UP TO WORK THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHURCH.** Therefore, in Isaiah, He says that His house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. Is it possible if the Church is prayer-less, we hinder the will and the work of God? That is why Jesus says that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. In fact, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of prayer and intercession who helps us pray according to the Father's will. This is what prayer and intercession will do:

- They bring God's will and purpose to pass (Matt 6:10; Joel 2:13–17).
- They bring God into the situation where His power will be at work.
- They are our spiritual weapons to obtain spiritual dominion (Mark 16:17–20).
- They overcome evil and bring an outpouring of righteousness (Hosea 10:12; Mark 16:17–18). Social reforms cannot change the spiritual bankruptcy and moral decay of a human heart. It has to be the power of the Holy Spirit being poured out through the prayers, fasting, and travailing of saints who are seeking God on their knees.
- They release the Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:26–29), who convicts and works godly sorrow in hearts, who breaks the power of sin over lives.
- They usher in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, bringing revival (Joel 2:12–17, 28–32).

When churches in all nations arise to pray and intercede, there will be a global impact. Every country will be impacted because the Holy Spirit will move in all. Powers of darkness over nations will fall as we pray in His authority. The Gospel will be preached more powerfully even in the most difficult situations.

Time is short. There are many more nations that need salvation. It means that the fields are ripe for harvest, laborers are few, and the night is coming when no man can work. Prayer and intercession can avert these crises. God can awaken His Church, call forth the field laborers, and thrust them out into the nations. He can endue all with the power of His Holy Spirit, and we can bring in the harvest.

We must arise and pray. We must disturb God and give Him no rest until He pours out His Spirit bringing revival to all nations.

Prayer Focus

A. Repent For Not Standing In The Gap For The Healing Of The Land.

1. Cry out and repent for not having God's heart, passion and love of God for nations and their people.
2. Cry out and repent for the:
 - a. hardness of heart.
 - b. dullness or hearing.
 - c. lack of vision for the lost, hurting and broken.
3. Cry out for a heart transplant — to have His heart in place of yours.

B. Repent For The Sin Of Prayerlessness.

1. Turn away from selfish, carnal and self-centered prayers.
2. Turn away from slothfulness, apathy and indifference to the plight of others and the land.
3. Turn away from walking in the flesh to walking in the Spirit of God.
4. Turn away from self-serving purposes to God-serving ones.
5. Cry out to be baptized in a fresh passion and fire for prayer and intercession for the healing of the land.

C. Stand In The Gap For The Church To Arise In Pray.

1. Church to repent of prayerlessness and losing focus on God's priority.
2. The Holy Spirit to come upon all churches, setting them ablaze for God, His will, purpose and kingdom.
3. Pastors, leaders and spiritual shepherds to lead believers —
 - a. in repentance and turning back towards God and His priorities.
 - b. in prayer and intercession for their churches, communities and cities.
 - c. in prayer and intercession for the land.
4. Fire of revival to fall upon all churches in the land.
5. Churches to arise in the power of God to do His will.

D. Stand In The Gap Against The Adversary, His Schemes And Works.

1. All powers of darkness, schemes and works to be shattered:
 - a. power of sin to be broken.
 - b. power of sicknesses and diseases to be broken.

- c. power of demonic torment and harassment to be broken.
- d. power of addiction, bondages and strongholds to be broken.
- 2. Holy Spirit power, light and anointing to invade and fill all.
- 3. Victory and breakthrough in personal life and faith in God.
- 4. Victory and breakthrough in church — all believers.
- 5. Victory and breakthrough in communities, cities and nation.

E. Pray To Rebuild Broken Spiritual Walls Around Church And Community.

- 1. Rebuild the wall of humility as you demolish pride and arrogance.
- 2. Rebuild the wall of honesty as you destroy lying spirit and tongue.
- 3. Rebuild the wall of honoring the sanctity of life as you destroy the spirit that sheds innocent blood.
- 4. Rebuild the wall of kindness as you destroy all wicked imaginations.
- 5. Rebuild the wall of righteousness as you demolish the spirit behind all evil acts.
- 6. Rebuild the wall of truthfulness as you demolish the spirit behind every false witness.
- 7. Rebuild the wall of unity in the Church as you demolish all divisiveness.

F. Stand In The Gap For The Healing Of Our Nation.

- 1. The power of sin and darkness to be broken over the nation.
- 2. Spirit of repentance to sweep over the nation.
- 3. Hearts of people to turn away from sin and turn towards God.
- 4. The land be cleansed from all that defiles and displeases God.
- 5. Spirit of salvation to sweep over the nation — multitudes to be saved in communities, cities and the whole nation.
- 6. Spirit of healing, restoration and revival to flow throughout the land.

G. Stand In The Gap For Missions And World Evangelization.

- 1. The global Church to awake, arise and pray for salvation of every nation.
- 2. Believers to be on fire for God and answer the call to go preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.
- 3. Believers to stand in the gap for persecuted Christians that they be protected, strong, bold and advancing the kingdom of God.

H. Stand In The Gap For God's Kingdom To Come And His Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven.

Friday, January 8: Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (GNV)

And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, **ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME, IN HEAVEN, AND IN EARTH.** Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, until the end of the world, Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20 (NKJV)

For the kingdom of God IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21 (NASB)

Now to Him who is **ABLE TO DO far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS WITHIN US,** to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11 (NLT)

So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. **MAY HE GIVE YOU THE POWER TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THE GOOD THINGS** your faith prompts you to do.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:4 (NKJV)

For though He was crucified in weakness, **YET HE LIVES BY THE POWER OF GOD.** For we also are weak in Him, **BUT WE SHALL LIVE WITH HIM BY THE POWER OF GOD** toward you.

LUKE 4:14-21 (ESV)

And Jesus returned in the **POWER OF THE SPIRIT** to Galilee, . . . He went to the synagogue . . . and He stood up to read. . . the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, because HE HAS ANOINTED ME to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the LORD’S favor.”** . . . and He began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**

LUKE 6:19 (NKJV) [SEE ALSO LUKE 8:46]

And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for **POWER WENT OUT FROM HIM AND HEALED THEM ALL. (Luke 8:46)** But Jesus said, **“Somebody touched Me, for I PERCEIVED POWER GOING OUT FROM ME.”**

LUKE 9:1–6 (NKJV)

Then He called His twelve disciples together and GAVE THEM POWER AND AUTHORITY over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick . . . So they departed and went through the towns, PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND HEALING EVERYWHERE.

ACTS 1:4, 5, 8 (NKJV)

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now . . . But YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; and YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS 4:31–33 (KJV)

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed . . . AND WITH GREAT POWER GAVE THE APOSTLES WITNESS of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

ALSO READ — 1 CORINTHIANS 2:4, ACTS 10:38

Exhortation — Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

Church Arise In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

Church, arise and stand in the power of the Holy Spirit! **Live in His power, walk in His power, move in His power and speak in His power. GOD IS GOING TO FULFILL EVERY WORD HE HAS SPOKEN BY HIS POWER MOVING THROUGH HIS CHURCH.** By His power, we shall see the fulfillment of these following words:

- **Matthew 28:18–20** (NKJV): “Jesus . . . spoke . . . ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

- **Matthew 16:18–19** (NKJV): Jesus says, “on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **Matthew 24:14** (NKJV): “And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”
- **Acts 2:17** (NKJV): “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.”
- **Isaiah 60:1–2** (NKJV): “Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.”
- **Romans 8:31–32** (NKJV): “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”
- **Romans 8:37–39** (NKJV): “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Every promised Word of God shall come to pass. So arise in the strength and power of God and LET GOD FULFILL HIS WORD THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE.

The powers of darkness, like roaring lions, are seeking to devour many. They lie, accuse, deceive, intimidate, curse and attack. **DO NOT YIELD, DO NOT GIVE IN AND DO NOT GIVE UP. Take a stand and resist the devil. Arise in the power of the Holy Spirit. In taking a stand, we overcome. OUR GOD IS A “MAN OF WAR” AND HE IS ARISING TO OVERTHROW HIS ADVERSARY (EXODUS 15:2–6). So Church, arise and take a stand with Him.** Stand in His power to defy the works, words and schemes of the devil that are warring over lives, communities and nations. All the earth is the Lord’s and He has commissioned us to go, preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. Arise and invade

every place of darkness with prayer, power and the Gospel. Bring light, salvation and deliverance. Do not fear for the Lord is with us. Therefore, no person nor anything shall be able to stand against us. **When we submit to God, whatever stands against us, stands against God. WHATEVER STANDS AGAINST GOD SHALL FALL IN JESUS NAME.** Arise in the Name of Jesus to our destiny. Arise to our call in Christ Jesus. Arise to obey His command to go into the whole world and preach the Gospel so that those who believe shall be saved.

Lord, We Believe All Things Are Possible With You!

In Mark 9:23 (NKJV), Jesus spoke, **"IF YOU CAN BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM WHO BELIEVES."** Also in Matthew 19:26 (NKJV), He spoke to the disciples saying, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Church, this is our cry. This is our prayer to Him: **LORD WE BELIEVE! We believe that every Word You have spoken shall come to pass. Therefore, we declare in faith:**

- **We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**
- **We shall prevail in seeing God's kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
- **We have been given the keys of heaven to bind and to loose according to His will.**
- **We overcome the devil and all his demons by the word of our testimony and the blood of Jesus, as we love not our lives unto death.**
- **We are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.**
- **We shall see valleys of dry bones come alive as God's mighty armies by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We shall witness the knowledge of Jesus Christ filling the whole earth as waters cover the seas.**
- **We shall go, preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.**
- **We proclaim, "Lord, we believe and we stand in the power of Your Holy Spirit!"**

Standing in the Power of His Holy Spirit

To stand in the power of the Holy Spirit is to be totally dependant on the Holy Spirit. It is being filled with the Holy Spirit first, and then leaning on Him, casting ourselves totally upon Him in everything and

obeying Him. **IT IS BEING FILLED AND STAYING FILLED WITH HIM ALL THE TIME**, then flowing in His power to do God's will and accomplish His work. There is no other power that can do all that God has entrusted us to do. When we depend on the Holy Spirit, He works in us "both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13 NKJV). It is His power working in us that:

- converts and transforms.
- strengthens, edifies and empowers.
- enables to endure and persevere.
- causes effectiveness and fruitfulness.
- makes bold, courageous and immovable.
- equips to work miracles and wonders.
- anoints to preach the Gospel with power.

The main purpose of standing in the power of the Holy Spirit is the preaching of the Gospel, making disciples of all nations and teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded.

The Kingdom of God Is Not In Word But In Power

We know that our God lives and moves in power in everything He does. 1 Corinthians 4:20 (NKJV) says, **"For the kingdom of God IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER."** He also intends for His Church to live and move in His power just as Jesus did while He was here on earth. 2 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV) clearly states, "For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. **For we also are weak in Him, but WE SHALL LIVE WITH HIM BY THE POWER OF GOD toward you.**"

In Luke 10, Jesus chose seventy-two disciples and sent them out in pairs to preach the Gospel and heal the sick. He also said to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers into the fields for the harvest was plentiful, but laborers were few. The seventy-two disciples returned rejoicing because they experienced the power of God working mightily through them that in Jesus' name demons were subject to them. In response, Jesus said in verses 18–20 (NASB), "I watched satan fall from heaven like lightning. **Behold, I have given you authority [power] to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.** Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

In Luke 10, before the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they were already operating in the power that Jesus had given them to preach, teach, heal and cast out demons. Yet in Acts 1, Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem until they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit as promised by the Father. Jesus gave them the reason for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 (NKJV), saying, **“But YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** Obviously there are different levels of power in which a believer can live and function. It was the baptism of the Holy Spirit that filled the apostles and disciples with such power that they rocked not only Jerusalem but other places with the Gospel; working of miracles, seeing multitudes saved and being added to the Church.

It was this power that totally transformed them from the inside out. They changed from being fearful to being fearless. The power of the Holy Spirit working through them was so evident and earth-shaking that wherever they went, they shook up that place with the presence of God. Many got saved and miracles flowed. The blind saw, the lame walked, the dead were raised, demon-possessed got delivered, prison doors were supernaturally opened, angels appeared, and many had visions. The Church grew exponentially and many were also baptized in the Holy Spirit. There was unity, selflessness and sacrificial giving. Saul, one of the most terrifying persecutors of the Church, had a life-changing encounter with Jesus and became one of the greatest missionaries. It was all by the power of the Holy Spirit. **No resistance, persecution or tribulation could stop the mighty power of the Holy Spirit moving through the early Church.**

Faith was so strong in them that the supernatural was the daily norm in their lives. **Their presence brought spiritual transformation to lives and reformation to communities, cities, and eventually other nations.** They were daily standing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **THIS IS THE POWER WE NEED, THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The Early Church Was Unstoppable

The early church was unstoppable in their obedience to Jesus in going, preaching the Gospel and making disciples of all nations. As the power of the Holy Spirit was moving so mightily through the Church, it stirred up vicious opposition and persecution from religious people. **Under such**

intense pressures, the Church exploded in growth because the believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit. Much rage, wrath and assault were levied against the believers because they were unstoppable in advancing the kingdom of God wherever they went. Extreme persecution arose against them. Some were imprisoned. Some were stoned and beaten, while others were killed. They were falsely accused, dragged before courts and many suffered other losses. **As the persecutors breathed fiery threats upon them, the Church grew even more through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.** Imprisonment could not stop them from preaching the Gospel, beatings could not intimidate them and threats could not muzzle them. They were unstoppable in the power of the Holy Spirit. This was the strength, courage, fortitude and faith that the Holy Spirit had worked in them. Since these believers were totally dependent on Him, the Holy Spirit gave them power to be and to do of His good will.

Daily the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, prayer and ministries. Standing in the power of the Holy Spirit, they never gave up, but persevered and prevailed. They stood and withstood against all powers of darkness. They overcame and triumphed in the worst of tribulations. They rejoiced in suffering. They grew bolder in preaching the Gospel under the worst pressures.

It is Time to Live in the Fullness of the Power of the Holy Spirit

It is time today's Church lives in the same fullness of the Holy Spirit and power. The quicker we awaken to this truth, the sooner we can see the Gospel being preached to all nations, and then the end will come.

Living and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit should be our norm, not the exception in our lives. The Holy Spirit has to switch our fleshly thinking to the mind of Christ. It is time believers today, live and move in the same manner, spirit and power of the apostles and early Church.

If we were to evaluate ourselves, where is the Church today? Are we ministering more in power and not just word? Is there more teaching and preaching than the working of the supernatural in God's power? Perhaps somewhere we have become comfortable and gotten used to not moving in the Holy Spirit's power. There is an urgency for the Church to awake and pivot towards living and ministering in the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Have we become accustomed to believing an error that only some evangelists and big-name miracle-workers are called to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit in meetings in big auditoriums and stadiums?

It is grievous, if the world has become so used to the Church being anemic in power. Have we habituated ourselves to ministry without power? It is time to pivot and change.

Renewing Of Our Mind Concerning His Power

Jesus said in Acts 1:8 (NKJV), “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Do we believe? **YES, WE MAY AGREE, BUT DO WE BELIEVE?** Are we so bound to the earthly mindset that we have an intellectual agreement with the Scriptures, but no spiritual faith to believe and receive? Are we more accustomed to operating in the natural or in the Holy Spirit?

Our minds must be renewed and regenerated by the washing of the Word of God so we believe as Jesus says in His Word. **Are we even aware of the unbelief in our hearts concerning the power of God working through us? Unbelief will lead to calloused indifference that we are not troubled by the lack of His power working in our lives.** Just living a clean Christian life is one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is to do the works of God in His power. **THE SUPERNATURAL MUST BE A PART OF OUR DAILY LIFE.** He did not save us so that we can be so blessed as we wait to be taken to heaven. **There is work to do while we are still breathing. This work can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit.** It is our responsibility to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, deliver the bound, raise the dead, comfort the mourning and cast out demons. It is God’s will for us to move in His mighty power.

Jump Into The Holy Spirit’s Movement

In Acts 5, the apostles were moving mightily in the power of the Holy Spirit and doing many wonders and miracles. In fact, Peter’s shadow falling on the sick and demonized laid on mats in streets would heal them all. Many believed and were added to the Church. This enraged the religious leaders who had the apostles arrested, chained and imprisoned. God sent an angel to open the prison doors and released them. As instructed by the angel, they entered the temple courts and continued to preach with boldness. When brought before the council, the High Priest rebuked them saying, “Didn’t we strictly warn you that you were to never again teach in this name? **But instead you have now filled all**

of Jerusalem with this doctrine . . . !" (Acts 5:28 TPT) Peter and the apostles replied that they must listen to and obey God more than them. Peter also declared that Jesus, whom they crucified, was their Savior and Champion. Being so enraged, they wanted to kill them all. However, a highly respected Pharisee, Gamaliel, stopped them saying, "Men of Israel, you need to be very careful about how you deal with these men . . . in this situation, you should just leave these men to themselves. **For if this . . . undertaking originates with men, it will fade away and come to nothing. BUT IF THIS MOVEMENT IS OF GOD, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP IT. And you might discover that you were fighting God all along!**" (Acts 5:38–40 TPT) This was the Holy Spirit power movement that nothing could stop or resist.

We are on the cusp of the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit. It is the power movement that will bring these things:

- Greatest global spiritual awakening.
- Greatest global outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Greatest global move of the Holy Spirit.
- Greatest global ingathering of souls.

The whole world is waiting for this mighty move. The Holy Spirit is stirring the spirit realm in preparation for what He is about to do next. **DO NOT MISS THE NEXT GREATEST MOVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT WILL USHER IN THE END TIME HARVEST.** Zechariah 4:6–7 (NKJV) says, **"Not by might . . . but by My Spirit,"** says the LORD of hosts. "Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

Prayer Focus

A. Thirst And Seek For The Ever Increasing In-filling Of The Holy Spirit.

B. Thirst And Seek To Know The Holy Spirit In Holy Intimacy.

C. Thirst And Seek To Honor And Respect The Holy Spirit.

D. Thirst And Seek To Behold The Holy Spirit In Godly Fear.

E. Thirst And Seek To Obey His Holy Spirit At All Costs.

[illegible]

Saturday, January 9: Personal and Family Prayer

Saturday, January 9: Leaders' Prayer Retreat (9:00am–1:00pm)

Sunday, January 10: Thanksgiving and Exhortation

PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS & CHURCH PLANTS

SENIOR PASTOR & FAMILY

Klayton + Sharon Ko

Christalyn + Emmanuel Orupabo, **Joshua** + Kimberly Ko, **Jason Ko**

STAFF PASTORS & SPOUSES

Bill **Bannister**

Horace + Talei **Chee-Manuia**

Ernie + Siew Peng **Chow**

Sam + Lorna **Cockett**

Mel + Jennifer **Corpuz**

Absen + Sherlina **Ebot**

Jacob + Hoku **Fesagaiga**

Frederick + Sandra **Harris**

Lynne **Higa**

Victor **Groves** (Pastor's Assistant)

Daniel + Francine **Kaneshiro**

Joshua + Kimberly **Ko**

Janet + Stan **Kusuhara**

Trenton + Courtney **Oshiro**

Chizuko + Tyrone **Peeples**

Raymond + Eva **So**

Scott + Debbie **Sonoda**

Frank + Tomiyo **Toole**

Atama + Melanie **Vakalalabure**

Andrew + Karen **Yasuhara**

CHURCH PLANTS & MISSIONARIES

BRAZIL

First Assembly of God Brazil

Ps. Celina Takahashi, Bro. Alex

EAST TIMOR

East Timor Assembly

Bro. Adao

INDIA

**First Gomti Nagar Fellowship
Assembly of God**

Bro. Sanjeev Rawatt

Bijnor Assembly of God

Bro. Suraj

IRELAND

Lighthouse Community Church Navan

Ps. Jamie + Sis. Lud Corcoran

JAPAN

First Assembly of God Kamaishi

Ps. Keizo + Sis. Mami Yoshioka

Okinawa City Church

Sis. Helen Edwards, Sis. Miyuki Kinjo

Osaka Bible Church

Ps. Atsuya + Sis. Takako Miyashita

Aloha Assembly Kirigaoka Christ Church

Ps. Kyoko Koyama, Sis. Sayaka Sumitomo

MARSHALL ISLANDS

First Assembly of God Marshall Islands

Bro. Aichy Hanchor, Bro. Mike Larron

MEXICO

First Assembly of God Huamantla

First Assembly of God Ixtenco

Ps. Miriam, Ps. Quechol, Sis. Hudid,

Sis. Mimi, Bro. Miguel, Sis. Fabida

PHILIPPINES

First Assembly of God Bohol

Ps. Orlando + Sis. Natalie Bernales,

Princess Bernales

SAMOA

First Assembly of God Faleula

Ps. Mila + Sis. Rosie, Bro. James, Bro. Sola,

Sis. Peta

UGANDA

Mbale City Church

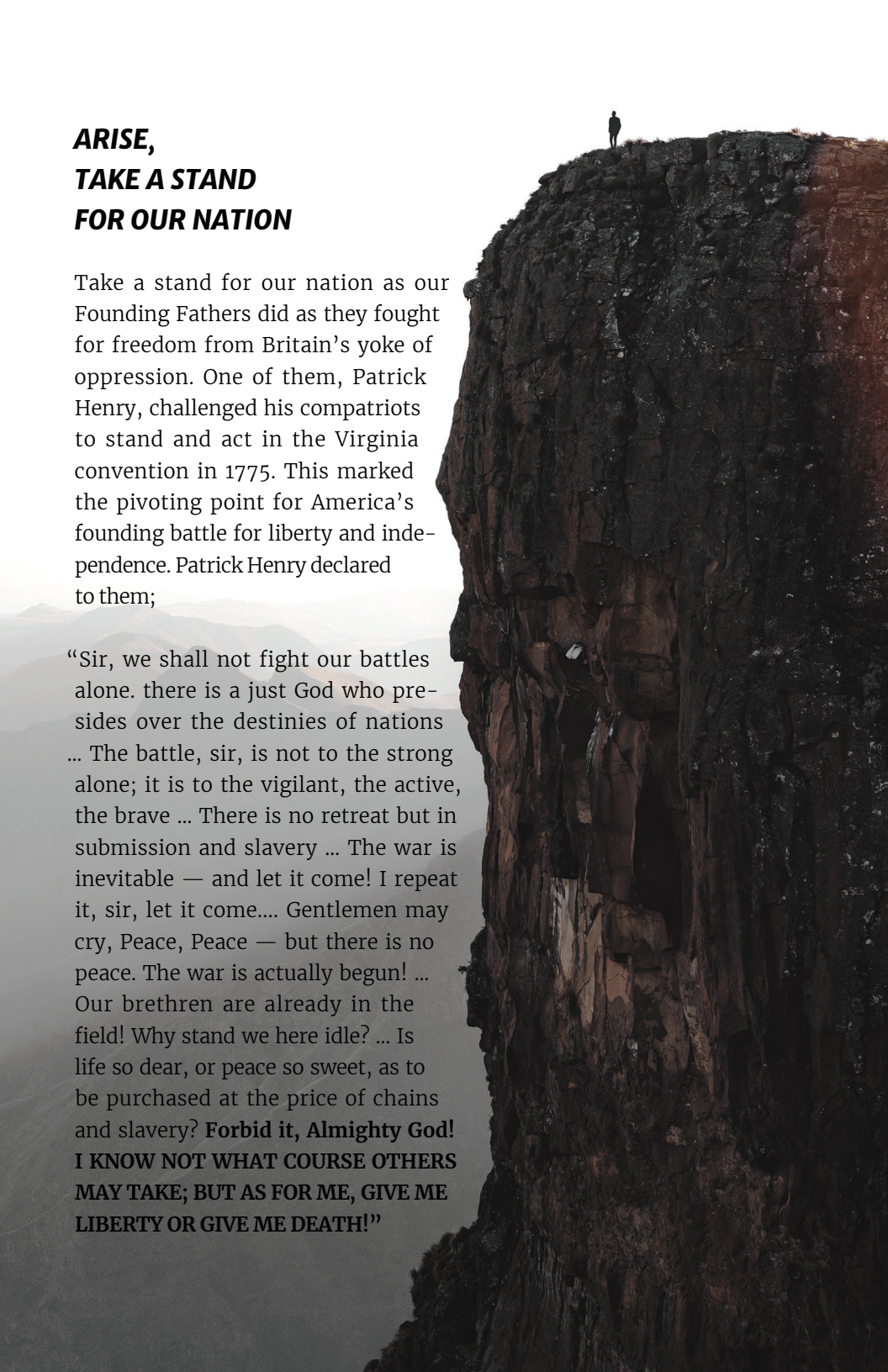
Ps. Elijah + Sis. Ruth Mabala, Ps. Moses,

Ps. Paul, Ps. Jonathan

UNITED KINGDOM

London Family Center

Ps. Mike McKeever

A person stands on the very edge of a dark, jagged, and imposing cliff. The cliff face is composed of dark, layered rock, with some lighter patches visible. The person is a small silhouette against the bright, overexposed sky. The overall mood is one of solitude and contemplation, fitting the theme of standing for a nation.

ARISE, TAKE A STAND FOR OUR NATION

Take a stand for our nation as our Founding Fathers did as they fought for freedom from Britain's yoke of oppression. One of them, Patrick Henry, challenged his compatriots to stand and act in the Virginia convention in 1775. This marked the pivoting point for America's founding battle for liberty and independence. Patrick Henry declared to them;

"Sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. there is a just God who pre-sides over the destinies of nations ... The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave ... There is no retreat but in submission and slavery ... The war is inevitable — and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.... Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace — but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! ... Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? ... Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? **Forbid it, Almighty God! I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE; BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!**"