

The background of the entire poster is a stylized, low-poly geometric landscape in shades of purple, magenta, and blue. A person stands on a dark, rounded mountain peak in the center. The person is wearing a dark jacket, light blue jeans, and a backpack. They are holding a rifle with a red and white striped strap. The person's silhouette is dark against the lighter background. Above the person, the title 'Taking a STAND' is displayed. 'Taking a' is in a white, cursive script font, and 'STAND' is in a large, bold, dark purple sans-serif font. The title is partially enclosed by a white, semi-circular shape that resembles a rising sun or a lens flare. The overall mood is contemplative and powerful.

Taking a STAND

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

J U N E 2 0 2 1

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

J U N E 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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3400 Moanalua Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
www.firstaog.com

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Foreword—TAKING A STAND

Time Is Short—Choose How We Ought To Live And Stand

There are two factors that should cause us to choose wisely how we ought to live and how we ought to stand:

- **We have only one life to live.**

To each of us, God has given a limited time to live, and it is running out on everyone quicker than we realize. Let us choose wisely how we ought to live. Choose wisely what we ought to stand for with this one life. Stand for things that are of eternal value and that have eternal consequence. **Therefore, choose to live and stand for God's passion, priority and pursuit.**

- **The end of all things is near according to God's Word.**

All things have an end that cannot be negotiated, avoided, delayed, or postponed. Whatever time is left is very limited for all. Time is no respecter of person, gender, or race. Today, we are one day nearer to the end than yesterday, so live and stand for God and His kingdom.

1 John 2:17 NIV shows us for what we should live. It says, **“The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”** We must choose to do the will of God with whatever time we have left. When a resource is limited, choosing the priority for its usage is drastically narrowed to the minimum. **THE ONLY THINGS WE CAN LIVE FOR AND STAND FOR ARE GOD'S PASSION, PRIORITY, AND PURSUIT.**

Time is the most priceless resource God has given us, and it is limited in supply. When it is misspent, lost, or wasted, it cannot be replenished, retrieved, or restored. We do not get a second chance to re-do time already spent or lost. **OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO MAXIMIZE THE TIME LEFT TO BE PROFITABLE FOR GOD'S KINGDOM AND GAIN ETERNAL DIVIDENDS.**

1 Peter 4:7 TPT says, **“Since we are approaching the end of all things, BE INTENTIONAL, PURPOSEFUL, AND SELF-CONTROLLED** so that you can be given to prayer.” Maximizing time is not about doing many things, but **ABOUT DOING THINGS THAT HAVE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCE AND VALUE. IT MEANS DOING GOD'S PRIORITIES.** Harvey Mackay said, “Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back.”

Take A Stand For The Cause Of God

We need to invest our life and time to stand for the cause of God—stand for His passion, stand for His priority and stand for His pursuit. Stand for what has eternal consequence and value. We can sow our one life as a seed into God's passion, priority, and pursuit and gain eternal rewards, or we can consume that life for ourselves, accruing an eternal waste with no re-do. **Do not forfeit the eternal for the temporal.** Therefore, we must arise and do these things:

- **Take a stand for Jesus Christ and His Gospel**
—because the Gospel alone can save.
- **Take a stand for the lost and the unreached**
—so that none shall perish.
- **Take a stand for those persecuted for Christ's sake**
—that their faith is strengthened.

Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to His disciples and commanded them (Mark 16:15–16 ESV), “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” **This is God's passion, priority, and pursuit—THE SALVATION OF SOULS OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.** Of the 7.3 billion people in the world, thirty-one percent claim to know Jesus. Of these, we do not know how many are genuinely born-again. Sixty-nine percent have yet to confess the name of Jesus as their God and Savior.

God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be crucified as the Lamb to save all sinners. **He is the Living Gospel to every man, woman, and child from Adam to the very last baby to be born before He returns.** Anyone who calls on His name and believes receives the gift of eternal life. Should we not go as He did to save the lost? Should we not preach as He did with His life? Should we not lay down our lives as He did that others may have eternal life? **We must arise and take a stand for Jesus Christ, for the Gospel, for the lost, and for the persecuted believers. CHURCH, IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?**

Should we have a different passion, priority, and pursuit from those of the Holy Trinity? We claim to be God's sons and daughters, royal priesthood and servants. Are we taking a stand for His cause? **WILL WE PAY THE PRICE TO TAKE A STAND THAT COUNTS—WHICH IS OBEDIENCE IN ACTION?** If we love Him, we will love souls. If we prioritize Him, we will prioritize souls. If we live for Him, we will live to save souls. **We cannot be sons and daughters**

and yet not have His heart, love, and willingness to lay down all for what Jesus laid down His life for—souls. Freely we have received, freely we give. Be willing to give up all to follow Him.

Stand Our Ground Against Our Adversary To Prevail

Do not give the devil a chance to gain a foothold in our lives. Live and move as Jesus did. Jesus said that He saw the ruler of this dark world coming, but he had nothing to use against Him. Jesus spoke of this in John 14:30–31 TPT:

I won't speak with you much longer, **for the ruler of this dark world is coming. BUT HE HAS NO POWER OVER ME, FOR HE HAS NOTHING TO USE AGAINST ME. I am doing exactly what the Father destined for Me to accomplish, so that the world will discover how much I love my Father. Now come with Me.**

Live as Christ lived that the devil has no power over us and has nothing to use against us. Then do exactly what God has destined us to do that His Gospel is preached to the uttermost parts of the world. All who hear and call on His name shall be saved.

1 Peter 5:8 TPT warns us, **“Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour.”** We must know our adversary—his agenda, strategies, and attacks. As a foe, he is unequivocally ruthless, cruel, unrelenting, iniquitous, deceptive, and wicked. He is conscienceless, completely immoral, and full of unadulterated evil. **The devil is the author of everything wicked, foul, and sinful in this world.** His heart is intent on seeking to kill, steal and destroy, and there is no limit to which he will not go to achieve it. We must do as 1 Peter 5:9 TPT says, **“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.” **We must not just be blessed; we must war, resist every attack and overcome.** We must stand firm in faith for our family's salvation, peace in the land, and salvation for the nation. When we do, 1 Peter 5:10–11 TPT promises that “after your brief suffering, the God of all loving grace, who has called you to share in His eternal glory in **Christ, will personally and powerfully restore you and make you stronger than ever. YES, HE WILL SET YOU FIRMLY IN PLACE AND BUILD YOU UP.** And He has all the power needed to do this—forever! Amen.”

The Church, Undefeatable And Overcoming

The Church, redeemed by the Lamb's blood, is God's mighty weapon of war to advance, overcome and possess. We are not just sheep in God's kingdom; we are soldiers of Jesus Christ called to champion His cause on earth. Taking a stand is not just defensively trying to block the enemy from intruding. **IT IS BEING FORCEFULLY OFFENSIVE IN ADVANCING AGAINST THE ENEMY, TO CRUSH, ROUT OUT AND THEN TO TAKE POSSESSION OF ALL GOD SAYS TO POSSESS ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.** The Church must not only know how to be good sheep trusting the Shepherd, but we must also learn to be good soldiers of the Captain of Host and wage good spiritual warfare to win. Arthur L. Mackey, Jr. wrote in his book *Chosen To Be A Soldier*, **"A SOLDIER IS A CHAMPION OF THE CAUSE OF CHRIST."**

The devil and his forces of darkness march as an army against God and His people—relentlessly seeking to attack and destroy. The people of God must not be asleep or simply continue to just graze in the fields as His sheep. **We are sheep-soldiers of Jesus Christ. As sheep, He watches over us as our Chief Shepherd. AS HIS SOLDIERS, HE LEADS US INTO BATTLE AS THE CAPTAIN OF THE LORD'S ARMY TO WIN.**

May His Church, born-again to obey and anointed to prevail, stand and stand our ground to champion His cause. WE ARE HIS CHURCH TRIUMPHANT! No weapon formed against us shall prosper, and no assignment sent against us can succeed. No pandemic, adversity, hostility, or tribulation can hinder His Church from doing all that God calls us to do.

Jesus saw to it that there is no power on earth or in hell that can hinder His advancing Church or obtain a victory over it. The Church is redeemed, designed, and crafted for spiritual warfare and destined to win. **WE ARE FATALLY DANGEROUS TO SATAN AND HELL AS WE KNOW THE TRUTH AND WALK IN THE TRUTH.** We are Christ's blood-redeemed, Spirit-filled, Spirit-anointed, Gospel-preaching, miracle-working, praying, equipped, and mighty weapon to crush and triumph over any power or force that seeks to oppose God and His kingdom. **We must know what Christ has done, what Christ has given us, and what Christ has commanded us to do.**

Daniel 11:32 NKJV says, "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." In contrast, God spoke in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." We must not be ignorant of this truth that Jesus Christ has made His redeemed (the Church) absolutely unconquerable and indomitable. **SUCH IS CHRIST'S POWER IN HIS CHURCH THAT NO FORCE, RULE, OR AUTHORITY ON EARTH OR IN HELL IS ABLE TO STOP HIS CHURCH FROM ADVANCING, AND NONE CAN GAIN A VICTORY**

OVER IT. Jesus declares in Matthew 16: 18–19 ESV:

On this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The sum total of all hell's power, stratagem, and force are absolutely unable to gain any advantage or ground over the Church of Jesus Christ.

Where Are The Davids And Eleazars Of Today?

The Philistines, a ruthless and persistent enemy of Israel, had harassed and warred against Israel for a long time. In 1 Samuel 17, at Ephes-dammim, Goliath and the Philistine army had gathered to war against Israel. Goliath, their champion, mocked, denigrated, and intimidated Saul and Israel, intending to subjugate and destroy. David came and saw that all of Israel's army with Saul were afraid and hid. Nevertheless, David, a shepherd boy, took a stand and stood his ground for the Lord and His people. **In God, with God, and for God, he stood and withstood the enemy's champion, Goliath. He said, "Is there not a cause?"** Today, is there not a cause for the Church to stand in unity for God's passion, priority, and pursuit? Is there not a cause for the Church to take a stand for truth and righteousness? Is there not a cause for the Church to take a stand in the gap for the healing of this land? Is there not a cause for the Church to take a stand when justice has failed in this land? Is there not a cause for the Church to take a stand when the law has been misused to promote evil and cancel out the truth? Is there not a cause for the Church to take a stand for the sanctity of life?

David was not intimidated by Goliath's size and weapons or by the great number in the Philistine army. He knew God was with him and was therefore unafraid. **He had complete confidence that God with him was more than sufficient to face any foe or weapon.** David understood and was fully persuaded that God would give him victory if he would take a stand for Him. God surely did! With one stone, he took down Goliath. With Goliath's own sword, David took off his head, and the Philistine army fled before the face of Israel. **God brought a resounding victory because a shepherd boy, with faith in Him, saw a cause to stand his ground in God's name against Goliath and the Philistines.**

In 2 Samuel 23:8–12, the Philistines had gathered again at the same location to battle the people of God. Among Israel's warriors were David's

mighty men of valor. They were exceptional in faith, courage, passion, and tenacity to prevail over their enemies. On that day, as all the people fled before the Philistines, one warrior, Eleazar, stood his ground. With sword in hand, he took a stand in the middle of the field, faced the enemy, and fought, killing many. Like David, he was undaunted that all had fled and left him alone to face the enemy. **His heart was staunch to stand his ground, crush the enemy and preserve what duly belonged to Israel. HE PURPOSED THAT NO ENEMY WAS GOING TO STEAL, KILL OR DESTROY THAT WITH WHICH GOD HAD BLESSED THEM.** God was with him as he set his heart to prevail, not yielding one inch to the Philistines. He was abandoned by the fearful, and he was outnumbered by murderous warriors. **He had one sword, but he cleaved on to that sword and would not put it down or let it go. He kept on fighting. God was with him and gave him a mighty victory.** He held on to his sword so tightly that his fist cleaved to the handle. 2 Samuel 23:10 NKJV says, **“HE AROSE AND ATTACKED the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. THE LORD BROUGHT ABOUT A GREAT VICTORY THAT DAY,** and the people returned after him only to plunder.”

WHERE ARE THE DAVIDS AND ELEAZARS OF TODAY? GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE THE DAVIDS AND ELEAZARS! Let us put on our armor, pick up our sword, stand our ground, and war against satan and all his kingdom of darkness. **DO NOT RETREAT. DO NOT LAY DOWN OUR SWORDS. DO NOT FEAR WHEN OTHERS HAVE FLED. GOD IS WITH US, AND WE WILL DEFINITELY WIN. GOD WILL GIVE US THE VICTORY!**

Notes:

Called to Solemn Assembly: June 2021

Week 1—Personal Preparation (May 30–June 5)

Week 2—Corporate Prayer And Fasting (June 6–13)

Regional and Corporate Prayer Schedule (June 7–13)

Morning Prayer	6:00–7:00am	Mon–Fri	Red Hill Central Oahu Metro East Honolulu 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	No Corporate Assembly
Thanksgiving and Exhortation	6:00–8:00pm	Sun	Red Hill

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL CONCERNING PRAYER TIME

Please do not fellowship during times of prayer in the sanctuary. 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 JUNE 6–13, 2021

Day 1 (Sunday)	Ministry of the Word (AM and PM services)
Day 2 (Monday)	Stand In Holiness Before The Lord
Day 3 (Tuesday)	Stand Still And Trust The Lord To Fight For You
Day 4 (Wednesday)	Stand Guard And Fight For The Family
Day 5 (Thursday)	Stand Free In Christ: Serve One Another
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
May 30–June 5, 2021 (Sunday to Saturday)**

Six Steps To Preparation For Solemn Assembly

Sunday, May 30 to Saturday, June 5, 2021 is a week of personal preparation before 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.).

- Plan and set aside a specific time and place to wait on God each day of Solemn Assembly (remove all distractions).
- Waiting is an act of submission that crucifies the flesh and lets God be God.
- Allow Him to thoroughly search you, so that nothing is hidden.
- Consciously tune your heart and spirit to hear Him and be sensitive to His voice.
- God will draw near and reveal Himself to you.
- Praying brings revelation of things that we need to address, and allows the Holy Spirit to illuminate our hearts.
- Remember to take notes of all that God speaks to you.

Notes:

[illegible]

Sunday, June 6: Ministry of the Word

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13 NLT

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

ROMANS 8:31-33 TPT

*So, what does all this mean? **IF GOD HAS DETERMINED TO STAND WITH US, TELL ME, WHO THEN COULD EVER STAND AGAINST US?** For God has proved His love by giving us His greatest treasure, the gift of His Son. **And since GOD FREELY OFFERED HIM UP AS THE SACRIFICE FOR US ALL, He certainly WON'T WITHHOLD FROM US anything else He has to give.** Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be His?*

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.”***

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 CJB

***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.*

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.*

JAMES 4:7 ERV

***So give yourselves to God. STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL,** and he will run away from you.*

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.*

Notes:

Monday, June 7: Stand In Holiness Before The Lord

DEUTERONOMY 14:2 NJKV

For you are A HOLY PEOPLE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF, A SPECIAL TREASURE ABOVE ALL THE PEOPLES who are on the face of the earth.

1 PETER 2:9–10 NKJV

But you are a CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

TITUS 2:14 TPT

HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR US that He might purchase our freedom from every lawless deed and TO PURIFY FOR HIMSELF A PEOPLE WHO ARE HIS VERY OWN, passionate to do what is beautiful in His eyes.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–21 TPT

Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, he has BECOME AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSON. All that is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new. And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to Himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God ... FOR GOD MADE THE ONLY ONE WHO DID NOT KNOW SIN TO BECOME SIN FOR US, SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH OUR UNION WITH HIM.

GALATIANS 2:20 TPT

MY OLD IDENTITY HAS BEEN CO-CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND NO LONGER LIVES. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives His life through me—WE LIVE IN UNION AS ONE! My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that He gave Himself for me, dispensing His life into mine!

1 PETER 2:24 TPT

He Himself carried our sins in His body on the cross so that WE WOULD BE DEAD TO SIN AND LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

..... ISAIAH 53:5–12 NIV

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and **THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL. ... Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though THE LORD MAKES HIS LIFE AN OFFERING FOR SIN, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in His hand. After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied by His knowledge MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT WILL JUSTIFY MANY, AND HE WILL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES.** Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. **FOR HE BORE THE SIN OF MANY, AND MADE INTERCESSION FOR THE TRANSGRESSORS.**

..... 2 PETER 1:3 TPT

Everything we could ever need for life and godliness has already been DEPOSITED in us by His divine power. For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing Him who has called us by name and invited us to come to Him through a glorious manifestation of His goodness.

..... COLOSSIANS 2:11–15 TPT

Through our UNION WITH HIM we have experienced circumcision of heart. ALL OF THE GUILT AND POWER OF SIN HAS BEEN CUT AWAY AND IS NOW EXTINGUISHED BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE, HAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR US. For we've been buried with Him into His death. Our "baptism into death" also means we were raised with Him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised Him from death's realm. This "realm of death" describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. **But now, we've been resurrected out of that "realm of death" never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins! HE 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!

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–21 ESV

*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that **ONE HAS DIED FOR ALL, THEREFORE ALL HAVE DIED**; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. **THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME.** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE HIM TO BE SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.***

..... EPHESIANS 4:22–25 TPT

*And He has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self-life, which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires that spring from delusions. Now it's time **TO BE MADE NEW** by every revelation that's been given to you. And to **BE TRANSFORMED** as you embrace the glorious Christ-within as your new life and live in union with Him! **FOR GOD HAS RE-CREATED YOU ALL OVER AGAIN IN HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS, and you now BELONG TO HIM in the realm of TRUE HOLINESS.** So discard every form of dishonesty and lying so that you will be known as one who always speaks the truth, for we all belong to one another.*

..... EPHESIANS 2:19–22 TPT

*So, you are **NOT FOREIGNERS OR GUESTS**, but rather you are the **CHILDREN OF THE CITY OF THE HOLY ONES**, with all the rights as family members of the household of God. You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives have been built up together upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, **you are CONNECTED TO THE HEAD CORNERSTONE of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ Himself!** This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under His supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord Himself. **This means that GOD IS TRANSFORMING EACH ONE OF YOU INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES, HIS DWELLING PLACE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVING IN YOU!***

..... 1 PETER 2:5–12 TPT

Come and be HIS **“LIVING STONES”** who are continually being assembled into a sanctuary for God. For now **YOU SERVE AS HOLY PRIESTS**, offering up spiritual sacrifices that He readily accepts through Jesus Christ. ... As believers you know His great worth—indeed, **HIS PRECIOUSNESS IS IMPARTED TO YOU**. ... But you are God’s **CHOSEN TREASURE—PRIESTS who are kings, A SPIRITUAL “NATION” SET APART AS GOD’S DEVOTED ONES**. He called you out of darkness to experience His marvelous light, and now He claims you as His very own. He did this so that you would broadcast His glorious wonders throughout the world.

For at one time you were not God’s people, but now you are. At one time you knew nothing of God’s mercy, because you hadn’t received it yet, but now you are drenched with it! *My divinely loved friends, since you are resident aliens and foreigners in this world, I appeal to you to divorce yourselves from the evil desires that wage war within you. Live honorable lives as you mix with unbelievers, even though they accuse you of being evildoers. For they will see your beautiful works and have a reason to glorify God in the day He visits us.*

Exhortation: Stand In Holiness Before The Lord

Chosen For Salvation, And Chosen For Holiness In Him

As we are chosen for salvation in Christ, we are also chosen for holiness in Him. **THE GRACE THAT BRINGS US INTO SALVATION IS THE GRACE THAT GIVES US A NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST JESUS**. This makes us God’s children and also saints (sacred, holy ones and set apart) in Him. God’s people, both in the Old and New Testaments, have been referred to as saints:

- Deuteronomy 33:3 NKJV—“All His saints are in Your hand.” The word saints here is *qādōš* (Hebrew), meaning **sacred, holy, saint, or set apart**.
- 1 Corinthians 1:2 NKJV—“to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.” The word saints here is *hagios* (Greek), meaning **the most holy thing**.

Those saved in Christ are also **SANCTIFIED, SEPARATED, AND SET APART AS HOLY UNTO HIM**. Holiness has to do with who we are in Him. We are His living stones, a chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, and His own special people saved, sanctified, and called to proclaim the praises of Him (1 Peter 2:5–9). Therefore, to us who are His, God says, “Be holy for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16 NKJV). We have been saved to stand

holy and faultless before Him. Let us rejoice and be passionate to reflect and proclaim His praises and glory, for He is our eternal and holy Father. **IN HIM WE HAVE OUR BEING, IDENTITY AND DESTINY.** As His saints, let us live, walk, and stand in holiness before Him. Acts 17:28–29 TPT states:

IT IS THROUGH HIM THAT WE LIVE AND FUNCTION AND HAVE OUR IDENTITY; just as your own poets have said, ‘**Our lineage comes from Him.**’ Since our lineage can be traced back to God, how could we even think that the divine image could be compared to something made of gold, silver, or stone, sculpted by man’s artwork and clever imagination?

The Divine Exchange Of The Old For The New Through Christ's Redemptive Work

We, the Church, were once sinners and dead in our sins and trespasses. As sinners, we had a sin nature, DNA, and identity, inherited from the first Adam. We were separated from Christ and strangers to Him in this world, having no hope, and were godless (without God). We followed the devil and the world because we were under the devil’s control and order. By nature, we were children of disobedience to God and children of wrath—ungodly, unrighteous, unholy—and eternally condemned with the devil.

Hallelujah, but God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, made us alive together with Christ, saved us by grace, raised us up, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus! (Ephesians 2:6). As God’s people, we should love to live holy before Him as He is holy. We are thankful, and we celebrate that.

In His great love for us, God has made available the way to come to Jesus Christ and exchanged who we were (a sinner) for who we can be (a new creation and child of God) because of Christ’s redemptive work. Titus 2:14 TPT says of Jesus Christ, “**HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR US THAT HE MIGHT PURCHASE OUR FREEDOM from every lawless deed and to PURIFY FOR HIMSELF A PEOPLE WHO ARE HIS VERY OWN, passionate to do what is beautiful in His eyes.**” This is our salvation in Christ Jesus. The sinless Messiah was crucified and died in substitution for us. The Lamb of God, upon that cross, exchanged His righteousness for our guilt. He gave us His eternal life for our eternal condemnation and His freedom for our captivity. By His death, He gave the right to be sons and daughters of God to all who would believe in Him.

We are eternally saved through His blood. The sting of death and the power of sin are broken. Light has come in, and the darkness has fled. Every

sin staining the soul has been washed and cleansed by His blood. We are free from satan's grip and have been translated into the hands of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. We are God's special treasure, prized possession, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. As children of light, we no longer do works of darkness, but we proclaim His praises and glory, for His glory is upon us.

In that divine exchange on the cross, there was a death, and there was a new birth that took place. The old self (the sinner) was crucified and died with Christ. The old dead self was buried with Christ in the tomb—eternally eradicated, exterminated, eliminated, and done away with by the blood of Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit's resurrection power (that raised Christ from the dead), a new birth took place, bringing forth a new creation (child of God) in the place of the old self. **WHEN CHRIST AROSE FROM THE TOMB AS THE RESURRECTED SAVIOR AND KING, WE CAME FORTH WITH HIM AS A NEW CREATION BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We were born-again. The old self or first Adam was not resurrected to form another person. There was a new birth bringing forth a new person, as 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NLT declares:

This means that ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST HAS BECOME A NEW PERSON. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

The TPT renders this as follows:

NOW, IF ANYONE IS ENFOLDED INTO CHRIST, HE HAS BECOME AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSON. ALL THAT IS RELATED TO THE OLD ORDER HAS VANISHED. BEHOLD, EVERYTHING IS FRESH AND NEW. And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to Himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God.

Every believer who has come through new birth by the Holy Spirit is no longer a child of wrath but a child of God. **EMERGING FROM THE NEW BIRTH IS AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSON WITH A NEW NATURE, NEW IDENTITY, NEW SPIRITUAL DNA, NEW NAME, AND NEW DESTINY WHICH ARE OF CHRIST.** This new person is given the gift of being a partaker of God's **divine and holy nature.** The old is gone. The new is here. The sinful DNA of the first Adam is done away, and the new holy spiritual DNA of the second Adam (Jesus Christ) is in place. The new person lives in a new kingdom and under a new order, Jesus Christ's. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

The old is expunged, wiped out, and destroyed, and the new has taken over. Therefore, we are expected to live, walk and stand in holiness before God.

God's Exceptional People—Redeemed For His Glory, Honor, Kingdom, And Purpose

God loves each and every one—the young, old, female, male, and all people of every ethnicity and tongue. In God, there is no prejudice, partiality, or bias. He is not predisposed towards any one race, color, culture, male or female. John 3:16 NKJV clearly states, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

God will never discriminate or reject because of one's skin color, culture, language, or any other basis, but HE WILL REJECT SIN. For this reason, He gave His Son as the Lamb slain to take away the sins of the world, and whoever will come to Him, believe, and repent will be saved. When called to bring the Good News to Cornelius, a non-Jew, Peter was hesitant because it was against the Jewish law for Jews to associate with non-Jews. God spoke and showed Peter that He showed no partiality or favoritism to anyone. Peter understood, went to Cornelius, and shared the Good News. Cornelius and his household were saved. In Acts 10:35–43 TPT, Peter said this to Cornelius:

NOW I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT GOD DOESN'T SHOW FAVORITISM WITH PEOPLE (KJV says “no respecter of persons”) **BUT TREATS EVERYONE ON THE SAME BASIS.** It makes no difference what race of people one belongs to. **If they show deep reverence for God and are committed to doing what is right, they are acceptable before Him ...** Jesus ordered us to preach and warn the people that God had appointed Him to be the judge of the living and the dead. And not only us, but all of the prophets agree in their writings that **everyone who believes in Him receives complete forgiveness of sins through the power of His name.**

The truth is that God has called all to come to Him and be saved through Jesus Christ, His Son. The invitation to salvation is for everyone. Those who accept His invitation, believe in Him, and repent have their sins forgiven, are saved, sanctified, and made the children of God. These become His own special treasure, own possession, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to Him. By faith and through Christ's blood, they have become His distinctive, extraordinary, and exceptional people to show forth

His glory and praises that others may come and be saved too. Just as He sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, into the world to save, God is sending His Church into the world to bring the light, preach the Gospel, and heal the sick, that others may believe and be saved.

The Church's exceptionalism is the LIGHT who shines through us, the LOVE we share, and the Truth we bring to the world—JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIGHT, THE LOVE, AND THE TRUTH! How can the Church fulfill what we have been saved and called to do if we do not reflect His light, show His Love or reveal His Truth? Unless we live, walk, and stand as God's redeemed holy ones in a world of darkness, we cannot be His witnesses. **AS HOLINESS IS DISTINCT TO GOD, HOLINESS IS ALSO DISTINCT TO THOSE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB. The word holiness itself means set-apartness and separateness.** The Lord God is holy. He is intrinsically and essentially holy in all that He is and does. It is His holiness that is being called out in worship in heaven unceasingly from eternity past and this will continue on forever. It is His holiness in all its glory that fills heaven. The redeemed of the Lord are God's special treasure, own possession, and a people belonging to Him.

When the Church lives, walks, and stands in holiness before the Lord, we bring His presence and glory to the whole world that is bound in the grips of sin, pain, and darkness. God declares this to His people in Isaiah 60:1–4 TPT:

Rise up in splendor and be radiant, for your light has dawned, and Yahweh's glory now streams from you! Look carefully! Darkness blankets the earth, and thick gloom covers the nations, but Yahweh arises upon you and the brightness of His glory appears over you! **Nations will be attracted to your radiant light and kings to the sunrise-glory of your new day.** Lift up your eyes higher! Look all around you and believe, for your sons are returning from far away and your daughters are being tenderly carried home. Watch as they all gather together, eager to come back to you!

Let The Redeemed Arise And Shine In His Holiness And Glory

We are the holy ones or saints of God through our new birth. We are in this world, but not of this world as Jesus spoke of His disciples in John 17:16 NIV, **"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."** Our exceptionalism to God is because we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and He has chosen us to be a people for Himself. Since we have been

redeemed by the Lamb of God, we must live and walk as redeemed people. We cannot be made righteous in Him and live unrighteously. We cannot be saved as His children of light and live as children of darkness. We cannot be made clean through Christ's blood and trample on His blood by living in an unclean way. We cannot be called as children of the kingdom of God and live as children of the realm of the evil one. We cannot receive the Holy Spirit as the seal of our salvation and live defiling His temple—our body. Just as Jesus lived holy, we must live holy too. **STAND IN HOLINESS BEFORE THE LORD. STAND AS ONE WHO IS BORN-AGAIN. STAND IN THE POWER OF THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST RESIDING IN US.** Because we are partakers of Christ's divine and holy nature, we consecrate ourselves and live godly unto Him.

Consecration is expected in and natural to anyone who has been born-again through Jesus Christ. **CONSECRATION IS FOR THE SAVED AND SANCTIFIED BY GRACE.** Because we are already made holy through the new birth, we consecrate and set ourselves apart as sacred unto Him. We consecrate ourselves to not defile the holy nature our new birth has given us. The Bible teaches—what has light to do with darkness? What has God to do with the devil? Therefore, we do not sin. We stay in holy consecration before God. We do not touch the unclean. Consecration keeps us holy before Him. It ensures that we who are of the light have nothing to do with darkness. It keeps us from defiling ourselves with anything unclean. **CONSECRATION KEEPS US LIVING, WALKING, AND SERVING IN THE HOLINESS WHICH IS GOD'S NEW SPIRITUAL DNA IN US.**

One who is born again and tasted of God's goodness, is a partaker of His holy nature, spiritual DNA, and identity. If he keeps on sinning, he is transgressing against God and against the new holy nature in God. Sinning also tramples upon the blood of Jesus Christ that gives birth to the new nature. The new nature is bought by the Lamb's blood. To sin against blood-bought nature is to trample on the blood. If His spiritual DNA is living and operating in us, we will want to be holy as He is holy. Our sanctified and redeemed hearts will see Him in His holiness and glory. In holy fear, we honor Him. In holy reverence, we worship Him. We will arise and shine, for His glory has risen upon us. Through His holy Church, the world will see, taste, and experience Him; and all who call upon Him shall be saved!

Prayer Focus

- A. Hunger To Have A Passion For Jesus Christ, His Holiness, And Righteousness.**
- B. Understand That As God Is Exceptional In His Holiness, So Are You In Him.**
- C. Understand That You Are Saved And Sanctified In Christ Jesus As His Holy One.**
- D. Pray For The Holy Spirit To Search And Examine Your Heart.**
- E. Seek God In Humility, Contrition, And Repentance.**
 - 1. Humble yourself before God.
 - 2. Seek Him and let the Holy Spirit search and examine your heart.
 - 3. Let all sins, transgressions, and works of darkness be exposed.
- F. Be Wholly Consecrated And Dedicated Unto Jesus Christ.**

Notes:

Tuesday, June 8: Stand Still And Trust The Lord To Fight For You

DEUTERONOMY 20:4 NIV

For the LORD YOUR GOD is the one who GOES WITH YOU TO FIGHT FOR YOU against your enemies TO GIVE YOU VICTORY.

2 CHRONICLES 20:15–17 NKJV

And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘DO NOT BE AFRAID NOR DISMAYED because of this great multitude, FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD’S. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. YOU WILL NOT NEED TO FIGHT IN THIS BATTLE. POSITION YOURSELVES, STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; TOMORROW GO OUT AGAINST THEM, FOR THE LORD IS WITH YOU.”

ROMANS 8:31–33 TPT

So, what does all this mean? IF GOD HAS DETERMINED TO STAND WITH US, TELL ME, WHO THEN COULD EVER STAND AGAINST US? For God has proved His love by giving us His greatest treasure, the gift of His Son. And since GOD FREELY OFFERED HIM UP AS THE SACRIFICE FOR US ALL, He certainly WON’T WITHHOLD FROM US anything else He has to give. Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be His?

ISAIAH 59:19 NKJV

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; WHEN THE ENEMY COMES IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM.

ROMANS 16:20 NIV

THE GOD OF PEACE WILL SOON CRUSH SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. (TPT—And the God of peace will swiftly pound satan to a pulp under your feet! And the wonderful favor of our Lord Jesus will surround you.)

PSALM 44:5 NASB

Through You we will PUSH BACK our adversaries; Through Your name we will TRAMPLE DOWN those who rise up against us.

..... EXODUS 14:4 NLT

*And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have **PLANNED** this in order to **DISPLAY MY GLORY** through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this **THE EGYPTIANS WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD!***

..... EXODUS 14:9–14 NLT

*The Egyptians chased after them ... caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped ... near Pi-hahiroth ... the people of Israel ... panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the LORD, and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? ... It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!" But Moses told the people, "**DON'T BE AFRAID. JUST STAND STILL AND WATCH THE LORD RESCUE YOU TODAY. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. THE LORD HIMSELF WILL FIGHT FOR YOU. JUST STAY CALM.**"*

..... EXODUS 14:22–31 NLT

*So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground ... Then the Egyptians ... chased them into the middle of the sea. ... the LORD looked down on the Egyptian army ... and He threw their forces into total confusion. ... "**Let's get out of here—away from these Israelites!**" the Egyptians shouted. "**THE LORD IS FIGHTING FOR THEM AGAINST EGYPT!**" ... Then the waters returned and covered ... the entire army of Pharaoh. ... not a single one survived. ... When the people of Israel saw the **MIGHTY POWER** that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, **THEY WERE FILLED WITH AWE BEFORE HIM. THEY PUT THEIR FAITH IN THE LORD AND IN HIS SERVANT MOSES.***

..... ROMANS 8:35–37 TPT

Who could ever divorce us from the ENDLESS LOVE OF GOD'S ANOINTED ONE? ABSOLUTELY NO ONE!** For nothing in the universe has the power to diminish His love toward us. Troubles, pressures, and problems are unable to come between us and heaven's love. What about persecutions, deprivations, dangers, and death threats? **NO, FOR THEY ARE ALL IMPOTENT TO HINDER OMNIPOTENT LOVE.** Even though it is written: All day long we face death threats for Your sake, God. We are considered to be nothing more than sheep to be slaughtered! Yet even in the midst of all these things, we **TRIUMPH** over them all, for **GOD HAS MADE US TO BE MORE THAN CONQUERORS**, and His demonstrated love is our **GLORIOUS VICTORY OVER EVERYTHING!** So now I **LIVE** with the **CONFIDENCE** that **THERE IS NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE WITH THE POWER TO SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE.

..... ROMANS 8:38–39 NLT

And I am CONVINCED that NOTHING can ever SEPARATE US FROM GOD’S LOVE. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—NOT EVEN THE POWERS OF HELL CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD’S LOVE. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, NOTHING IN ALL CREATION will ever be able TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

..... EPHESIANS 6:10–18 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, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against 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.

..... HEBREWS 2:14–15 NASB 1995

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT RENDER POWERLESS HIM WHO HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

..... 1 JOHN 4:4 NASB

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because GREATER IS HE WHO IS IN YOU than he who is in the world.

..... COLOSSIANS 1:16–17 NASB 1995

FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED, both in the heavens and on earth, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES, OR DOMINIONS, OR RULERS, OR AUTHORITIES—all things have been created through Him and for Him. AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND BY HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.

Exhortation: Stand Still And Trust The Lord To Fight For You

Stand Still—A Place And Position Of Trust, Submission And Obedience To God

The meaning of *stand still*—*yāsab* (Hebrew)—in Exodus 14:13–14 is **to place, set, stand, station oneself, present oneself, or take one's stand**. To stand still is an act of obedience to God by faith. It is to stand and station oneself in God where He has positioned us. **It is to remain, withstand, stand fast, stand up, and stand forth by faith exactly where He has positioned us no matter what may surround us.** In standing still, we are convinced that **THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S AND HE WILL FIGHT FOR US**. This was precisely what God did when He opened the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over and then closed it up, drowning all of Pharaoh's army as they pursued the Israelites.

TO STAND STILL IS TO STAND SECURE AND FIXED IN THE PLACE OF TRUSTING IN GOD, SUBMITTING TO HIM AND OBEYING HIM. In trust, we wholly submit to His will, His ways, and His purpose no matter what we may be facing in that hour. We do not fret, worry, or get anxious. In that place of trust, we obey. **It is not passivity, apathy, or capitulation. IT IS A PLACE CLOSE TO GOD'S HEART WHERE WE HEAR, TRUST AND OBEY HIM.** We cease from taking the reins into our own hands. We cease depending on human efforts, trusting our own or other's strengths and resources, and leaning on our own understanding. We cannot open the Red Sea and overthrow Pharaoh's army. We cannot bring manna from heaven or water out of the rock. We cannot feed the 5000 with five loaves and two fishes. We cannot raise Lazarus from the dead, **but WE TRUST, AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAN. HE WILL FIGHT FOR US. EVERY CRISIS MOMENT IS THEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS GOD DO THE MIRACULOUS.**

God already has a plan for each crisis. It is an opportunity for us to stand still, trust, and see Him fight for us. **THOSE WHO KNOW GOD BEST TRUST HIM BEST, AND WILL SEE THE GREATEST VICTORIES IN IMPOSSIBLE BATTLES BECAUSE THESE ARE THE LORD'S BATTLES.** Therefore, in every circumstance, we know that our God is for us and not against us. It is when we stand still in God, we can stand still with God and for God.

In Exodus 14:11–14 NKJV, when Israel was caught between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea, they had no way to escape. It looked like an imminent massacre would take place. In terror, they cried out to Moses:

“Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die

in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, **"DO NOT BE AFRAID. STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL ACCOMPLISH FOR YOU TODAY.** For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, and you shall hold your peace."**

What seemed to be an untenable situation was actually God's set-up to destroy Israel's enemy. He entrapped Pharaoh into sending his military after Israel, only to kill them by drowning in the Red Sea.

Overarching everything about Moses and the children of Israel was God's sovereign will, plan, and purpose. WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE, HAPPENSTANCE OR COINCIDENCE. God is purposefully determining every detail. He moves deliberately and consistently according to His will. He is never at the mercy of any situation or happening. **God is in charge and in control even when bad things happen or when a crisis is imminent. God never loses control, is never anxious, and never moved by anything, anyone, or any situation.** God is always at rest, He is always at peace, and He always triumphs.

The Lord Is God, Stand Still And Trust Him

We can trust the Lord, for He is God Almighty. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords over everything. His name is higher than any other name, and His power is greater than any other. 1 Chronicles 29:11 NASB 1995 proclaims this:

Yours, O Lord, is the GREATNESS and the POWER and the GLORY and the VICTORY and the MAJESTY, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; YOURS IS THE DOMINION, O LORD, AND YOU EXALT YOURSELF AS HEAD OVER ALL.

By faith in God, we can stand still and trust Him to fight for us. According to 1 Timothy 6:15–16, He is the exalted God, the only powerful One. He is the King over every king and the Lord of power. Being the only immortal God, He lives in the unapproachable light of divine glory. No one has seen or can see His fullness. All the glory and endless authority of the universe

belong to Him eternally. The Bible is succinctly clear that God is sovereign and supreme over all. None can obstruct, resist or withstand Him.

- **“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and HIS KINGDOM RULES OVER ALL.”**—Psalm 103:19 ESV
- **“You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In Your hand are power and might, so that NONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND YOU.”**—2 Chronicles 20:6 ESV
- **“I am He; there is none who can deliver from My hand; I work, and who can turn it back?”**—Isaiah 43:13 ESV
- **“I perceived that WHATEVER GOD DOES ENDURES FOREVER; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before Him.”**—Ecclesiastes 3:14 ESV
- **“Our God is in the heavens; HE DOES ALL THAT HE PLEASES.”**—Psalm 115:3 ESV
- **“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and HE DOES ACCORDING TO HIS WILL among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and NONE CAN STAY HIS HAND or say to Him, ‘What have you done?’”**—Daniel 4:35 ESV
- **“Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, AND I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY PURPOSE.’”**—Isaiah 46:10 ESV
- **“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; HE TURNS IT WHEREVER HE WILL.”**—Proverbs 21:1 ESV
- **“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.”**—Proverbs 19:21 ESV

God is purposeful to see His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. He will not be delayed, hindered, or thwarted by the devil, the gates of hell, or any principality or power. Job 42:2 ESV says, “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.” Through the ages, when the world went through global turmoil, chaos, wars, pandemics, and crises, **GOD HAD NEVER LOST CONTROL, WAS NEVER SURPRISED, AND WAS NEVER FOILED IN HIS WILL.** There is no human or spiritual entity, strategy, or warfare that can ever outmaneuver Him and win. **Jesus Christ, He is eternally Lord God Almighty over all.** Psalm 2:1–9 NLT says this of the Lord:

Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot

together against the LORD and against His Anointed One. ... **BUT THE ONE WHO RULES IN HEAVEN LAUGHS. THE LORD SCOFFS AT THEM.** Then in anger He rebukes them, terrifying them with His fierce fury. For the Lord declares, "I have placed My chosen King on the throne in Jerusalem, on My holy mountain." The King proclaims the LORD's decree: "The LORD said to Me, 'You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father. **Only ask, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance, the whole earth as Your possession.** You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.'"

Stand Still In The Assurance Of God's Triumphant Love

God will fight for us because He loves us. HE DID NOT SPARE HIS SON TO SAVE US; HE WILL NOT SPARE ANYTHING TO FIGHT FOR US. IF ONLY WE COULD GRASP THE TRUTH OF GOD'S UNFAILING, OVERWHELMING, EXCESSIVE AND EXTRAVAGANT LOVE FOR US, WE WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH THAT HE WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR US. Without the Holy Spirit's revelation, the human mind cannot fully comprehend the depth, height, and width of the love of God. The Bible declares His love. He will never forget us as written in Isaiah 49:15-16 ESV:

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? **Even these may forget, yet I WILL NOT FORGET YOU. BEHOLD, I HAVE ENGRAVED YOU ON THE PALMS OF MY HANDS; your walls are continually before Me.**

1 Peter 1:18-19 NASB says that **HE SACRIFICED JESUS CHRIST**, His priceless and most precious only Son to redeem us to Himself:

Knowing that you were NOT REDEEMED WITH PERISHABLE THINGS like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **BUT WITH PRECIOUS BLOOD, AS OF A LAMB UNBLEMISHED AND SPOTLESS, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

Indeed, we can trust Him; we can stand still in Him because He will fight for us. Battles may be many, yet He will fight for us. Battles may be overwhelmingly brutal, yet He will fight for us. Battles may be humanly crushing, yet He will fight for us. Stand still and trust Him. He shall prevail for us, for the battle belongs to the Lord.

If anyone had gone through battles and warfare, it was the apostle Paul.

He found the secret of standing still in God and trusting Him to fight for him in every battle. PAUL FULLY TRUSTED IN GOD'S TRIUMPHANT, UNFAILING, UNDEFEATABLE, AND INSEPARABLE LOVE FOR HIM. He had confidence in God and His love and was able to stand still, rest, submit to God, and obey Him in every crisis, trial, persecution, and suffering. **PAUL KNEW IF GOD BE FOR HIM, NO ONE COULD SUCCESSFULLY BE AGAINST HIM.** He believed and knew that every battle was the Lord's, and He would never fail. **Paul rested in God, knowing that THE LORD WOULD FIGHT FOR HIM. He had nothing to lose but all to gain by trusting and standing still in Him.** Because the battle was the Lord's, Paul did not fear the devil, any evil, demon, people, threat, or persecution, neither things of the past, things to come, or things of the future. **HE SAW HIS WHOLE LIFE, CALLING, DESTINY, WORK AND MINISTRY HELD IN THE HANDS OF GOD, AND IF GOD BE FOR HIM, NOTHING COULD BE AGAINST HIM.** 2 Corinthians 11:23–33 lists Paul's battles, trials, and sufferings for Christ:

- In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in journeys often.
- In prisons more frequently, in deaths often.
- Flogged five times by Jews with 39 stripes.
- Three times beaten with rods; once stoned.
- Three times shipwrecked, a night and a day in the deep waters.
- In perils of waters, robbers, own countrymen, Gentiles, and false brethren.
- In perils in city, wilderness, and sea.
- In weariness, toil, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst and frequently fasting.
- In cold and nakedness, and daily in deep concern for all the churches.

The New Testament tells of other trials Paul endured:

- Given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan to buffet him—2 Corinthians 12:7.
- Abandoned by all his friends while imprisoned—2 Timothy 1:15.
- Despaired even for his life—2 Corinthians 1:8.
- Had no kindred spirit with the same concern for the welfare of the Philippian church—Philippians 2:20.

In all these trials, Paul TRIUMPHED over them by STANDING STILL in the ASSURANCE OF GOD'S TRIUMPHANT, INSEPARABLE AND UNCHANGING LOVE. Like Paul, there is nothing created, existing or happening that can

stand and prevail over us because of the great love of God. He is for us, not against us. He fights for us. No weapon formed against us can succeed. When we trust and stand still in God, whoever and whatever stands against us stands against Him.

If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?

Nothing, not even the gates of hell, can prevail against the Church, and no existing power in this universe can separate us from God's triumphant love. Paul stated assuredly in Romans 8:31 TPT, **"IF GOD HAS DETERMINED TO STAND WITH US, TELL ME, WHO THEN COULD EVER STAND AGAINST US?"** When the devil assails, assaults, or strikes the people of God, he is attacking those for whom God paid an untold price, the blood of His only begotten Son, to make them His beloved children. We are the apple of His eye, His own special treasure, a people belonging to Him, His holy nation and a royal priesthood. The devil is provoking and contending against the Almighty God by touching His most precious treasures. Our heavenly Father fights for us! He stomps for us. He cleans out the enemy for us. He makes a way where there is no way. He crushed Egypt, her economy, and all her demon gods to free His people Israel. He entraps the enemy and destroys him for us. **EVERY BATTLE IS THE LORD'S BECAUSE WE ARE HIS CHILDREN, SPECIAL TREASURE AND OWN POSSESSION.** He gave us Jesus Christ, His greatest treasure, and offered Him up as a sacrifice for us all. Indeed, there is nothing God will withhold from us. God is jealous for us. Therefore, if God is for us, who can be against us? The Holy Spirit, through Paul, says this in Romans 8:35 TPT:

FOR NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE HAS THE POWER TO DIMINISH HIS LOVE TOWARD US. Troubles, pressures, and problems are unable to come between us and heaven's love. What about persecutions, deprivations, dangers, and death threats? **NO, FOR THEY ARE ALL IMPOTENT TO HINDER OMNIPOTENT LOVE.**

In His triumphant love for us, God has determined to stand with us and fight for us. That being so, who then can ever stand against us?

Before The Battle Begins, God Already Has A Plan For Our Victory

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF PURPOSE AND PLAN. Nothing catches Him by surprise, and nothing escapes His attention and knowledge especially

concerning His people. **Before any battle begins, He already has a plan for our victory.** He charts our lives and directs our path. He leads and guides. He teaches and trains. He provides, protects and shields. He watches and cares. He alerts and warns. He hears and answers our prayers. **He is always with us, and we are never without Him. He is intimately and intricately involved in our lives. He is working out all things for His glory and for our good.**

Whatever path we are walking through, we do not walk alone. Jesus Christ is walking with us. He is beside us, and His presence surrounds us. Temptations, trials, testings, and tribulations will not be strangers to our lives. In our humanity, we are frail, limited, and weak. The human might, strength, and ingenuity are insufficient to give us endurance and victory in these situations. We need God. We need to lean on God, stand still and trust Him to fight for us.

Satan has already been overcome and defeated; still, God limits what satan can do. Remember, sometimes, in crises and trials, God is entrapping the enemy to crush him. When God sets a trap, such as for Pharaoh and his army, no one can escape. **The battle is the Lord's.** We have to stand still in prayer and worship. The enemy may provoke pharaohs and their armies to charge against us. Stand still in God and see His salvation. Such faith comes from an intimacy with God—seek Him, be with Him, know Him and hear Him. When we know the will of God, no matter what comes, stand still. Do not take things into your own hands, do not murmur or complain. No matter what the circumstance, stand still. No matter what the devil says, stand still. God will fight for us.

In any battle, there are things that only God can do. In those things, we must stand still, and He will fight for us. There are also things He requires us to do. Do them. Hear and obey! Finally, Church, let us arise for such a time as this to do these things:

- **STAND STILL on the PROMISE of God.**
The battle is not yours but God's—2 Chronicles 20:15.
- **STAND STILL in the POSITION to Receive.**
Position yourselves and see the salvation of the Lord—2 Chronicles 20:17.
- **STAND STILL in the POWER of His Might.**
Be strong in the power of His might—Ephesians 6:10.
- **STAND STILL in the PROTECTION of the Lord.**
Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day—Ephesians 6:13.
- **STAND STILL in PRAYER always.**
Pray always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit—Ephesians 6:18.

- **STAND STILL in PERSEVERANCE to prevail.**
Being watchful ... with all perseverance—Ephesians 6:18.
- **STAND STILL in The PEACE of God.**
The Lord will fight for you, and you will hold your peace [keep silent, stay calm]—Exodus 14:14.

Prayer Focus

A. Pray To Stand Still And Trust God To Fight For You.

1. Stand still in **complete TRUST IN GOD.**
2. Stand still in **complete SUBMISSION TO GOD.**
3. Stand still in **complete OBEDIENCE TO GOD.**
4. Stand still and **see GOD FIGHT FOR YOU.**

B. Pray For Revelation Of Your Heart's Condition.

1. **Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of:**
 - a. fear, distress, anxiety, or worry.
 - b. unbelief, doubt, or distrust.
 - c. skepticism, cynicism, or bitterness.
2. **Cry out, repent and ask for:**
 - a. **deliverance** from demonic influence or bondage.
 - b. **healing** of brokenness and woundedness.
 - c. **restoration** to wholeness of your heart, love, and relationship with God.

C. Earnestly Seek To Know Jesus Christ That Your Faith Increases.

D. Earnestly Seek To Know Christ's Eternal And Unfailing Love For You.

1. **God's OVERWHELMING LOVE for you**—Isaiah 49:15-16.
 - a. He will never forget you.
 - b. He has “engraved you on the palms” of His hands.
 - c. He remembers you and all about you always.
2. **God's TRIUMPHANT LOVE for you**—Romans 8:35-39.
 - a. God is for you, so none can come against you successfully.

- b. nothing can separate God's love from you, not even the powers of hell.
 - c. God has made you more than a conqueror, regardless of what you may face.
 - d. God's love triumphs over the devil and all his works, over trials, pain, persecution, threats, death, and all things present and future.
3. **God's PREVAILING LOVE for you:**
- a. you are the apple of His eye.
 - b. you are His child.
 - c. you are His precious treasure.
 - d. you have been redeemed by Christ's priceless blood.

E. In Faith Put On The Whole Armor Of God And Stand And Withstand.

- 1. Stand against and prevail over the devil and all his wiles, works, and weapons.
- 2. Stand and withstand the evil days and prevail.
- 3. Stand and be more than a conqueror in all that God has called you to do.

F. In Faith STAND STILL IN GOD As More Than A CONQUEROR.

- 1. Stand still on the **PROMISE of God.**
- 2. Stand still in the **POSITION to receive from God.**
- 3. Stand still in the **POWER of His might.**
- 4. Stand still in the **PROTECTION of the Lord.**
- 5. Stand still in **PRAYER always.**
- 6. Stand still in **PERSEVERANCE and prevail.**
- 7. Stand still in the **PEACE of God.**

Notes:

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Wednesday, June 9: Stand Guard And Fight For The Family

GENESIS 1:26–28 NIV

Then God said, “**LET US MAKE MANKIND IN OUR IMAGE, IN OUR LIKENESS**, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” **So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. GOD BLESSED THEM and said to them, “BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**”

EPHESIANS 1:3–6 NLT

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING** in the heavenly realms **BECAUSE WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST**. Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. **GOD DECIDED IN ADVANCE TO ADOPT US INTO HIS OWN FAMILY BY BRINGING US TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.** So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son.

NEHEMIAH 4:9–14 NLT

But we PRAYED to our God and GUARDED the city DAY AND NIGHT to PROTECT ourselves. Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.” **Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”** The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “**They will come from all directions and attack us!**” So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. **I stationed the people TO STAND GUARD BY FAMILIES, armed with swords, spears, and bows.** Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “**Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and FIGHT FOR YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SONS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES, AND YOUR HOMES!**”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3–6 NLT

*We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. **WE USE GOD'S MIGHTY WEAPONS, NOT WORLDLY WEAPONS,** to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient.*

2 TIMOTHY 2:1–7 NLT

*Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. **Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.** And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.*

Exhortation: Stand Guard And Fight For The Family

The Call To Stand Guard And Fight For The Family

In Nehemiah 4, Nehemiah and the Jews were engaged in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem while facing constant dangers and attacks from various enemies who hated their rebuilding project. The adversaries fought hard to prevent it. Nehemiah rallied the people, armed and stationed them on the vulnerable parts of the wall to watch, stand guard, and fight for their families. Nehemiah knew at all costs, the wall must be completed for the final restoration of Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 4:14 NLT he said to the people, **"Don't be afraid of the enemy! REMEMBER THE LORD, who is great and glorious, and FIGHT FOR YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SONS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES, AND YOUR HOMES!"**

Satan is intensifying and escalating his attacks on the family, knowing that it will affect the Church, society, and nation. He aims to steal from the family and then kill and destroy. **Today the Holy Spirit is rallying the Church to this same battle cry, "STAND GUARD AND FIGHT FOR THE FAMILY!" WE MUST NOT BE AFRAID, BUT REMEMBER THE LORD GREAT AND STRONG.** The Holy Spirit has also armed us with spiritual weapons of warfare that are mighty in God to take down all the schemes and attacks of the devil. **We**

are to stand guard and fight for our biological family, spiritual family (Church), society (all families), and the nation.

To stand guard means to **STAND IN A POSITION** to defend and protect from danger. It also means to station ourselves to watch and **HOLD OUR GROUND IN BATTLE**. It is to **persist in that position until WE PREVAIL**.

Not only should we stand guard, but we are also to be spiritually armed to fight for the family. The word *fight*—*lāham* (Hebrew)—means to **DO BATTLE, MAKE WAR, and OVERCOME (Nehemiah 4:14)**. With the spiritual weapons of warfare and the armor of God, we must wage war and prevail against all attacks on the family.

In his book *Understanding The Culture: A Survey Of Social Engagement*, Jeff Myers wrote, “**A society can survive the miseries of corruption, violence, and crime, but IF THE FAMILY FALLS APART, THE COLLAPSE OF SOCIETY IS INEVITABLE.**” Church, let us arise and fight for our brothers, daughters, spouses, families, Church, society and nation!

God's Preordained, Holy And Divine Institutions—Marriage And Family

Even before anything was created, **God had predetermined, foreordained, and predesigned marriage and family to be His first divine and holy institutions**. Because of this, the creation of a man and a woman was the central piece of God's whole creation plan and project. **Nothing in the universe was MADE IN HIS IMAGE except Adam and Eve**. Unlike everything else created by His spoken Word, Adam and Eve were formed by God's hands and they came alive by His breath. **THE EXCEPTIONALISM OF ADAM AND EVE AMONG ALL OF GOD'S CREATION WAS THAT THEY ALONE BORE THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD**. They walked in God's presence and glory and lived in an intimate relationship with Him. They were set apart from the rest of His created beings.

God was not just the Creator to Adam and Eve; He was their Father—the only One they ever had and knew. He brought them into existence and showed them the Father's love and care. He taught them the Father's ways and will. He also gave them a call and destiny to procreate and bring forth sons and daughters, forming the family and filling the whole earth. **God brought them into existence by creation; they were to bring the family into existence by conception**. His command to Adam and Eve was to be fruitful, multiply and fill the whole earth with sons and daughters who, like them, would be bearers of His likeness and carriers of His presence and glory.

The first marriage took place in the Garden of Eden when God brought together Adam (male) and Eve (female) to unite them as husband and

wife. They were to live and thrive in the Garden of Eden and rule over all other created beings. The Garden of Eden was their home where they were to be fruitful, multiply, and bring forth children—forming the family. As parents, Adam and Eve were to love, nurture, teach and train their family concerning God that they too would have the most intimate and loving relationship with Him. Like them, their children were to carry God's image, presence, and glory, and procreate. God's will was for them to saturate the whole earth with sons and daughters and for them to live, thrive, and rule the entire world.

Why Satan Seeks To Destroy God's Institutions Of Marriage And Family

God's intent is for a godly man and woman to unite as one in holy matrimony, bringing forth a family who bears the likeness of God. Godly families are the building blocks, who in unity form the Church—the family of God. When the Church is strong, healthy, and godly, we are able to powerfully turn our society to God and, ultimately, turn the nation. Therefore, from the beginning, satan has sought to attack God's divine institutions of marriage and family. **An attack on marriage is an attack on the family. An attack on the family is an attack on the Church. WHEN THE CHURCH GETS ASSAULTED AND BROKEN BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO STAND GUARD AND FIGHT, THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY BEGINS TO FALL APART.** When society is broken, a nation will eventually be broken. Augustine, one of the early fathers of the Church, said, "Peace in society depends upon peace in the family."

From the onset, satan was furious and livid with jealousy, hatred, and murder in his heart. He could not come against God and destroy His plan, so he attacked Adam and Eve, God's created children. Because he wants glory and worship for himself, he has unleashed hellish attacks on mankind to resist God's plan from the beginning. He has always sought to saturate the whole world with sin, evil, and wickedness. **He wants to see the world filled with children of rebellion and wickedness, not God's children of light who bear His image, presence, and glory.** Therefore, like a prowling lion, satan sought to devour Adam and Eve—to destroy them and thwart God's will and plan in the process. Through lies and deception, he tempted Adam and Eve to rebel against God. He sought to replace their perception of God with his lying accusation. He relentlessly worked to get them to trade in God's truth for a lie. He purposed to coerce them to exchange their God-created likeness and to take on his. He lied to get them to abandon their God-given values and worldview for his demonic ones to destroy them and all the future

generations of mankind. In doing so, he hoped to obstruct and overturn God's will and plan for all mankind by destroying marriage and the family. He is still attacking mankind with the same weapons and for the same reasons. Adam and Eve yielded to his temptation; they sinned and rebelled against God. They lost the presence and glory of God and tarnished their likeness to God. They were put out of the Garden of Eden, but God did not abandon them or His will and plan. No matter what satan did, is doing, or will be doing, he cannot prevail against God, His will and His people.

God took a stand to guard and fight for mankind to redeem, rescue, and restore them into a relationship with Him as His sons and daughters. He gave Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, as the Lamb crucified to crush satan and all his forces of darkness and works. With this, He made the provision to reconcile mankind to Himself. All those who believe in Jesus Christ shall be saved to bear His likeness, presence, and glory.

As satan had first attacked marriage and the family in the Garden of Eden, he is still ruthlessly doing the same to steal, kill and destroy. The Church must arise, take a stand to guard, and fight for the family. **We must fight for our own biological family, all other families, the family of God (Church), and the nation.** God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to guard and fight for us. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life and blood to guard and fight for us. The Trinity has sent and given us the Holy Spirit to guard and fight for us. **WHAT WILL WE GIVE TO GUARD AND FIGHT FOR THE FAMILY? WHAT WILL WE DO? WILL WE LAY DOWN OUR LIVES AS CHRIST DID TO GUARD AND FIGHT FOR THEM?**

The spiritual warfare against the family in these end-times has escalated, accelerated, and intensified. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must not slumber, cruise, or be apathetic in fighting for the family. **Every believer must awake, arise, put on the whole armor of God, stand guard, fight and wage a prevailing war to protect, rescue, and redeem our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.** This war is not just for husbands, wives, or parents. **IT IS FOR EVERYONE—MARRIED, SINGLE, OR WIDOWED.** It is for the young and the old. **IF WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, STAND FOR WHAT GOD STANDS FOR AND FIGHT FOR WHAT GOD FIGHTS FOR.** Fight for the family in the manner, spirit and power of Jesus Christ. We are saved not just to be protected, blessed, and provided for, we are to carry out the will of God and to do His work.

Nehemiah Charged The People To Stand Guard And Fight For The Family

In 586 BC, the Babylonians attacked, conquered, and destroyed Jerusalem

together with the temple and burning down the walls and gates. Nehemiah was in exile in Susa when he heard that the walls around Jerusalem and the gates were destroyed by fire. His fellow Jews in Jerusalem were in great trouble, distress, and disgrace. Nehemiah's heart was deeply cut by love and grief for Jerusalem and her inhabitants. He wept, mourned, and fasted before God, then God led him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. It was a very challenging and impossible task. Because he trusted the Lord and was led by Him, God enabled Nehemiah and the people joining him to successfully rebuild the wall in 52 days.

The process was difficult, and it was constantly challenged by vicious, intense, and relentless attacks from enemies within and without. Nehemiah was determined to finish rebuilding the wall that protected Jerusalem, the temple, and the people. **He then placed guards on the most vulnerable parts of the wall in the exposed areas. He posted people armed with swords, spears and bows to stand guard by their families.** They were to be alert and watchful. They were to guard and be ready to fight for their families. They were not to allow their families to be exposed to any attacks from the enemy. Nehemiah then called all the people together with the nobles and charged them to fight for their families. He rallied them in Nehemiah 4:14 NLT saying, **"DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE ENEMY! REMEMBER THE LORD, WHO IS GREAT AND GLORIOUS, AND FIGHT FOR YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SONS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES, AND YOUR HOMES!"**

God is calling all believers to arise, stand guard, and fight for the family, Church, society, and nation. We do not just stand guard and fight for our own family; we fight for all families, especially the spiritual family—God's family.

Fight And Rebuild The Walls That Protect The Family

Satan relentlessly seeks to attack and destroy God's holy and divine institutions of marriage and the family. He uses many strategies. One of his strategies is to deceive people into accepting his evil, lying falsehoods concerning gender, marriage, and family. **He relentlessly attacks Truth and righteousness by distorting and falsely redefining God's holy institutions and divine order of things as created by God.** The same weapons he had used against Adam and Eve are still being using by him today. Satan still seeks to change mankind's perception of God, to abandon Him, and to reject His Truth, values, and ways in exchange for satan's accusation, lies, and evil—all to destroy the family.

He attacks God's created and divine order of gender—male and female. He is also deceptively peddling his lies to attack God's definitions of His divine

institutions of marriage and family. Satan has deceived many to believe that one's gender is not according to birth. It is subjective according to what one thinks, feels, or determines about oneself, causing some people to reject their birth gender as created by God. He has infiltrated the human mind with gender confusion and same-sex union, aiming to destroy marriage and family from the inside out. **THERE ARE ONLY TWO GENDERS—MALE AND FEMALE—AND MARRIAGE IS ONLY BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.**

The Church must take a stand, guard, and fight for the family in accordance with God's definition. Confusion and destruction of the God-ordained family structure is one of Satan's key attacks against God, His kingdom and His will. He tries to pervert God's Truth concerning the family in order to resist His will.

God's intent has always been to make all biological families His spiritual family. Satan does not want God to have multitudes of sons and daughters belonging to His spiritual family. For this reason, he lies that there are no absolutes concerning gender, marriage, and family. His deception is that it is all relative to man's own choice, thinking, and preference. Taking a stand on the Truth concerning gender, marriage, and family is being attacked and branded as intolerance, bigotry, and hatefulness. The enemy uses threats, intimidation, and the cancel culture against the Church, hoping to cause the Church to shrink in fear from standing guard to protect and fight for the family. **IF WE DO NOT STAND ON GOD'S TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS CONCERNING GENDER, MARRIAGE, AND FAMILY, WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO STAND ON TO GUARD AND FIGHT FOR THEM.**

Stand Guard And Fight For What God Fights For

What is most important concerning the family that we must stand guard and fight for? IT IS THE SOUL THAT NEVER DIES. No one born should perish but be saved and be bearers of God's image and glory. No one is meant to be a child of darkness, but all are intended to be children of light. THE PRICELESSNESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL IS THAT THE SOUL WILL NEVER DIE.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE MUST FIGHT FOR THE FAMILY TO BE SAVED AND NOT PERISH. We must fight for their salvation and secure their eternal destiny. As their spirits and souls are eternal, fight first for what is of eternal value, not temporal.

Parents who do not yet know Christ are inclined to fight for the temporal for their children—what is now and what is seen. They are unaware of the eternal. The Church must guard and fight for our children as Jesus teaches

us in His Word. We have brought children into this world and our first passion and priority must be to usher them into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Although more evident, felt, and seen, the temporal falls far short in priority and importance to the eternal. Whatever resources we have invested into securing temporal benefits and future for our family, **LET US MAKE SURE WE GIVE MORE, IN FACT, UNPARALLELED EFFORTS, RESOURCES, AND TIME TO SECURE THEIR ETERNAL DESTINY.** Our children could eventually, through us investing our lives in them, become a world-renown artist, a most brilliant scientist, or the wealthiest entrepreneur, **BUT ARE THEY SAVED YET? WHERE WILL THEY GO IF TONIGHT THEIR TIME IS UP?**

In Luke 12:15 NIV, when a man came to Jesus asking Him to help him fight his brother for a portion of the inheritance, Jesus said to the people, **“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST IN AN ABUNDANCE OF POSSESSIONS.”** He then proceeded to teach them a parable about a wealthy farmer who only cared for the temporal and not the eternal. Jesus said in Luke 12:16–21 NIV concerning this farmer:

The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.” **Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.** And I’ll say to myself, you have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” But God said to him, **“YOU FOOL! THIS VERY NIGHT YOUR LIFE WILL BE DEMANDED FROM YOU.** Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? **THIS IS HOW IT WILL BE WITH WHOEVER STORES UP THINGS FOR THEMSELVES BUT IS NOT RICH TOWARD GOD.”**

IT IS URGENT THAT WE STAND GUARD AND FIGHT FOR THE FAMILY, be it our biological family, Church, society, or nation. Anytime is the right and opportune time to stand guard and fight for the family. There is never a time that is not right in God’s economy. An inconvenient time is still the right time. A tiring time is still the right time. A hard time is still the right time. A frustrating time is still the right time. A crisis time is still the right time. A discouraging time is still the right time. Whatever the time might be, it will always be the right time.

IN THIS WARFARE, WE MUST BE WILLING TO LIVE AN UNCOMMON LIFE OF A WARRIOR. We must be spiritually armed, standing guard, watchful, and ready to battle. We do not have the luxury to live the lifestyle of one not in combat. Jesus lived an uncommon lifestyle totally devoted to God

and His mission. In Luke 9:58 NLT, Jesus, in response to someone saying he would follow Him wherever He went, said, **“Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay His head.”**

IN WARFARE FOR THE FAMILY, THERE IS NO NORM BECAUSE WE ARE ON CALL ALL THE TIME. There are times we may not be able to lay down our heads to sleep because we are fasting and praying for our sons, daughters, spouses, brothers, and sisters. There are times we may not be able to sit down and rest because we are spending time with the family loving them into God's kingdom. There are times we forgo our food because we are fasting and standing in the gap for the Church, society, and nation. We stand, we guard, and we fight for them as Jesus has fought for us.

How Do We Stand Guard And Fight For The Family

The following are the essentials of how to stand guard and fight for the family:

1. **WE MUST FIRST GUARD OUR HEART AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

We need to ensure that both our heart and relationship with God are right with Him so that we can take a firm stand, guard, and fight for the family. When we, especially heads of families, have hidden sins in our heart and fail in our relationship with God, we are not able to stand guard, fight and overcome the enemies of the family. This failure is what we see in the lives of King Saul and Eli. When the heads of the home are walking right with God they become a strong tower of defense and a mighty weapon of offense against satan's assaults on the family. Such were the examples of Job, Noah, Abraham, and Joseph.

2. **WE MUST LOVE THE FAMILY WITH THE LOVE OF GOD.**

It is the power of God's love that will open hardened hearts and remove scales from blind eyes to know God. **When we love the family with God's love, we are revealing Jesus Christ to them. They encounter God through us.** Love is the most powerful weapon to win their hearts for the Lord. Love needs to be demonstrated, lived out, shown, and revealed to be experienced by those we are guarding and fighting to protect. We do not love in the selfish and limited ways the world loves. We love as Jesus loves by giving up His life for us.

3. **WE MUST PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD TO STAND.**

God's armor enables us to stand and withstand against the enemy and all his wiles. Nothing can prevail against God's armor, consisting of the helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of Truth, shoes of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, which is prayer. Be spiritually armed as Nehemiah instructed the people to be armed with swords and spears to guard the families.

4. **WE MUST ENGAGE IN PRAYER AND FASTING FOR THE FAMILY.**

They are the MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS of both defense and offense against the enemy. The following people were some of those who fasted and prayed, and God gave them mighty victories:

- Esther and the Jews fasted and prayed, and God delivered them from death.
- The people of Nineveh fasted and prayed, and God delivered them from judgment.
- Nehemiah fasted and prayed, and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt.
- Jesus fasted and prayed, and God gave Him victory over satan.

In John 17:9-12 NLT, Jesus prayed to His Father to guard and keep His disciples safe that none would be lost except Judas who would betray Him:

MY PRAYER is not for the world, but for THOSE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, because they belong to You. All who are Mine belong to You, and You have given them to Me, so they bring Me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, You have given Me Your name; **NOW PROTECT THEM BY THE POWER OF YOUR NAME** so that they will be united just as We are. During My time here, **I PROTECTED THEM by the power of the name You gave Me. I GUARDED THEM** so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

5. **WE MUST KNOW THE ENEMY AND HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE.**

We cannot discern this in the natural. **WE NEED TO BE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD—WALKING WITH HIM, HEARING AND OBEYING HIM.** He will reveal the enemy's secrets and show us what we must do to guard our family.

6. WE MUST SECURE THE FAMILY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

We help bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and also secure that relationship by sharing, showing, and demonstrating to them the Truth about Jesus Christ. **We need to know the Truth (Jesus Christ), live the Truth, speak the Truth and obey the Truth in our relationship or encounter with them. In so doing, we let them experience Jesus through us**—the Savior, Protector, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Almighty God, Miracle Worker, Healer, Deliverer, and Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6).

The Holy Spirit will touch their hearts, open their eyes and help them to believe.

7. WE MUST STAND ON THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD CONCERNING THE FAMILY.

God's promises and prophecies are our compass, anchor, and security. We will stand on the power of His Word and not waver.

We will guard and not withdraw. We will fight and not concede until we prevail. We trust, we pray, we believe, we decree, and we overcome by the power of His Word.

8. FINALLY, WE MUST STAND GUARD OVER THE FAMILY IN THIS MANNER:

- Guard our marriage.
- Guard our family day and night.
- Guard against complaining.
- Guard against discouragement.
- Guard our affections.
- Guard each other.
- Guard our commitment.

Prayer Focus

A. Pray Against All Satanic Wiles, Deception, And Assaults Against The Family.

B. Pray For Truth And Righteousness To Prevail In The Family, Church, Society, And Nation.

C. Pray And Stand Guard Always Over Your Immediate Family.

- 1. Pray for their salvation, healing, and deliverance.**
 - a. they will know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.
 - b. they will have a deep personal relationship and intimacy with God and they will:
 - love God first.
 - seek to know God first.
 - honor God first.
 - trust God first.
 - serve God first.
- 2. Pray to protect them from all satanic attacks and temptations.**
 - a. spiritual protection—relationship with God and faith in God.
 - b. emotional and mental protection—emotional and mental well-being.
 - c. physical protection—physical wholeness and well-being, protection from danger.
- 3. Pray for them to have the:**
 - a. hunger for God and His Word.
 - b. wisdom and knowledge of God.
 - c. understanding of God and His ways.
 - d. God's grace that builds up the inner man in strength, power, and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

D. Pray And Stand Guard Over Your Marriage Always.

1. Commit to put Christ at the center of your marriage.
2. Commit to trust, honor, and obey Christ in your marriage.
3. Commit to love your spouse with the love of Jesus Christ.
4. Commit to honor, serve and pray for your spouse.
5. Commit to being faithful to God and one another.
6. Commit to being united as one with your spouse in the bond of peace.
7. Commit to being humble, forgiving, and gracious to your spouse.
8. Commit to pray together and stand guard over your marriage and children.
9. Commit to obey God together and fulfill His call for your family.

E. Pray And Stand Guard Always Over Families Against All Demonic Schemes And Attacks.

1. Discern the works and attacks of the devil and crush them.
2. Give no room to the devil to intrude into relationships with each other.
3. Give no room to the devil to create misunderstanding, strife, and offense.
4. Give no room to the devil to tempt anyone into sin.
5. Give no room to the devil to cause disappointment or discouragement.
6. Give no room to the devil to cause complaining, murmuring, or bitterness.
7. Seek healing in areas of past hurts and misunderstanding.

F. Pray And Stand Guard Over The Church Family.

1. Church to arise to love, honor, and fear God—the Heavenly Father.
2. Church to arise to be the true sons and daughters of God:
 - a. to wholly know and serve the heavenly Father.
 - b. to show forth the Father's Truth, righteousness and glory.
 - c. to seek and fulfill the Father's will and finish His work.
3. Church to arise and stand in the gap for the healing of the land:
 - a. to have the heart and love of the Father for this land.
 - b. to be broken for what breaks the Father's heart for this land.
 - c. to pray without ceasing for this land to return to the Father's heart.
4. Church to lay down our lives on behalf of the Father for salvation, healing, and deliverance for this land.

G. Pray And Stand Guard Over The Nation.

1. Church to arise in faith, courage, and power to fight for this nation to return to the worship of God.
2. Pray and fight for Truth and righteousness to be restored and to reign in this nation.
3. Pray to destroy all satanic lies and deception concerning gender, marriage, and family.
4. Pray and fight that all satanic strongholds over this nation be broken.
 - a. idolatry in any form.
 - b. violence and bloodshed in any form.

- c. perversion of Truth, justice, and righteousness.
- d. rebellion against God and His Truth.
5. Righteous leadership and administration to be put in place over every branch of government.
6. This nation to acknowledge God as the Everlasting Father; to love, honor, and serve God and His purpose.

H. Pray And Stand Guard Over America.

Notes:

[illegible]

Thursday, June 10: Stand Free In Christ: Serve One Another

GALATIANS 5:13–14 NKJV

For you, brethren, have been **CALLED TO LIBERTY**; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER**. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

HEBREWS 2:14–15 NIV

Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that **by His death HE MIGHT BREAK THE POWER OF HIM WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF DEATH—that is, the devil—AND FREE THOSE WHO ALL THEIR LIVES WERE HELD IN SLAVERY by their fear of death.**

COLOSSIANS 1:11–14 NLT

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. **He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to His people, who live in the light. FOR HE HAS RESCUED US FROM THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS AND TRANSFERRED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON, WHO PURCHASED OUR FREEDOM AND FORGAVE OUR SINS.**

JOHN 8:31–36 NLT

Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, “**You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.**” “But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?” Jesus replied, “**I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU ARE TRULY FREE.**”

ROMANS 6:14 ESV

FOR SIN WILL HAVE NO DOMINION OVER YOU, since you are not under law but under grace.

ACTS 13:38–39 NIV

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. **Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.**

(TPT—So listen, friends! Through this Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is offered to you. **EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS SET FREE FROM SIN AND GUILT—SOMETHING THE LAW OF MOSES HAD NO POWER TO DO.**)

GALATIANS 5:1 NKJV

STAND FAST *therefore in the LIBERTY by which CHRIST HAS MADE US FREE, and DO NOT BE ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH A YOKE OF BONDAGE.*

(NIV—It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.)

ROMANS 8:12–17 NKJV

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 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.

ROMANS 8:1–4 NIV

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

ROMANS 8:13–17 NIV

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. FOR THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, THE SPIRIT YOU RECEIVED BROUGHT ABOUT YOUR ADOPTION TO SONSHIP. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. NOW IF WE ARE CHILDREN, THEN WE ARE HEIRS—HEIRS OF GOD AND CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 NIV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM.

Exhortation: Stand Free In Christ: Serve One Another

Freedom Is Priceless Because It Has Been Paid For By Christ's Blood

Jesus Christ freely gave to us what He dearly paid for with His life—our freedom. As the Lamb of God, He was crucified to take away the sins of the world, giving us salvation, life, peace, and liberty from sin and death. **This freedom cost God His most priceless treasure, His Son, who purchased our freedom with His own precious, holy, sacred, unconquerable, and eternal blood. Nothing can prevail against His blood. THEREFORE, IT IS A FREEDOM NO POWER CAN STEAL, NO DEMON CAN DESTROY, AND NO AUTHORITY CAN NULLIFY.** Yet, it is a freedom we can lose if we do not take a stand and stand firm in Christ. We can also lose it by making choices of the flesh instead of the Spirit of God.

Paul understood the value, power, and blessing of being free in Christ Jesus. When the Galatian Christians wavered in their faith and seemed to be straying back to the bondage of the flesh by returning to traditions instead of living in faith, Paul wrote a very strong word of encouragement and rebuke to them. In Galatians 5:1 NIV, he earnestly exhorted them, **“It is for freedom that CHRIST HAS SET US FREE. STAND FIRM, THEN, and do not let yourselves be burdened again BY A YOKE OF SLAVERY.”**

Paul rebuked them as foolish Galatians who had been set free to live in liberty but were straying back to living in the flesh and resorting to efforts of the flesh. He called upon them to take a stand and never to be entangled again with the yoke of bondage. **THEY WERE TO STAND FREE AND STAY FREE. THEY WERE NOT TO LOSE THEIR BLOOD-BOUGHT LIBERTY! This liberty is for them to serve God and others.**

Jesus Christ Has Set Us Free, So Stand Free

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God as holy and free. They were pure, sinless, faultless, and knew no evil, only good. **Being spiritually and morally unblemished, and with their conscience spotless, they stood before God holy, free, and acceptable in His sight.** Their nature was in the image of God. In that holiness, purity, and freedom, they were in a close, intimate relationship with God. He would come to them in the cool of

the evening to walk and talk with them. They were free, but they lost their freedom the day they rebelled and sinned against Him.

Because of their sin, they were stripped of God's presence, His glory, and their freedom and life in Him. They experienced shame and fear and were subject to the curse, bondage, and consequences of sin. In fact, the whole earth came under the curse because of their rebellion. **THEY TRADED IN LIFE FOR DEATH, FREEDOM FOR BONDAGE, AND GLORY FOR SHAME. THEY DID NOT STAND FREE NOR STAY FREE.** Every person born after them has been born into sin and bondage. No one is born free. Everyone is condemned, spiritually dead, and bound. The only One who can set us free is Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **THERE IS NO REMEDY FOR SIN, NO CURE FOR DEATH, AND NO ESCAPE FROM HELL OUTSIDE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

For God so loved the world that He would not have anyone perish because of sin. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to come into the world in the flesh, as a man, to show us the way of salvation, reveal the Truth to us in the flesh, and die for us to set us free from sin, death, and hell. In John 8:31–32 NLT, Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, “You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. **AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.**” It is the Truth that has the power to set people free. **Jesus Christ is the incarnate Truth and the Word of God is the written Truth revealing Him. IT IS KNOWING JESUS AND HIS WORD AND TRUSTING IN THEM THAT WILL SET LIVES FREE.**

The Jews listening to Jesus were puzzled because they were Abraham's descendants, and according to them, they had never been slaves to anyone. They were thinking in the natural, but Jesus was speaking of the spiritual. **SPIRITUAL FREEDOM IS OF THE UTMOST AND ETERNAL IMPORTANCE. It comes from being born-again in Christ.** To their question, Jesus replied in John 8:34–36 NLT, “**I tell you the truth, EVERYONE WHO SINS IS A SLAVE OF SIN.** A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. **SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU ARE TRULY FREE.**” **It is Christ who can set us free. It is a freedom that He paid a costly price to give to us.** Through Him, we are forgiven and free from sin. We are free from the power and authority of death and hell. We are no longer bound by a sinful nature, oppressed by the devil, or condemned to hell. **Jesus Christ has made us children of the living God, having a new nature through Him. This is the freedom that we have in Him. WE NO LONGER WALK IN SIN BUT IN FREEDOM, CONSECRATION, AND SANCTIFICATION.** For this reason, Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1 NLT, “**SO CHRIST HAS TRULY SET US FREE. NOW MAKE SURE THAT YOU STAY FREE, AND DON'T GET TIED UP**

AGAIN IN SLAVERY TO THE LAW.”

The Spirit of God is indwelling us. Therefore, we stand free by living and walking in Him and having our minds set on Him. We do not live according to the flesh, and neither are our minds set on the flesh. **Whatever is governed by the flesh is hostile to God and dead. THE MIND THAT IS GOVERNED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS LIFE, PEACE, AND FREEDOM.**

Romans 8:14–15 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.’” Once we are free in Jesus Christ, stand firm in that freedom to serve others. **Let us guard that blood-bought liberty so that we live, walk and serve in freedom.** We must not go back to the world. We must not flirt with sin or dabble with evil. **THERE IS POWER IN THAT FREEDOM. A SLAVE TO SIN HAS NO FREEDOM AND NO POWER —A CHILD OF CHRIST’S FAMILY HAS BOTH.**

God’s Mighty And Overcoming Church Must Stand Free And Stand Firm

The Church must stand free and stand firm in Jesus Christ. **If the Church does not take a stand, the Church cannot prevail, conquer and possess the gates of hell.** When Jesus declared that He shall build His Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, He did not mean for the Church to be passive, subservient, and docile before the devil and the powers of darkness. The Church is to arise, stand, advance, and crush the enemy in every spiritual warfare. We are to take control over the gates of hell through the blood of Jesus and His authority. **JESUS WILL BUILD AND EMPOWER HIS CHURCH TO BE MILITANTLY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE DEVIL, VIOLENTLY CASTING HIM DOWN, AND FORCEFULLY ADVANCING AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS.** We are His strong and mighty army of warriors, anointed by His Holy Spirit to stand free and serve others. Isaiah 61:1–4 NLT prophesies this:

THE SPIRIT OF THE SOVEREIGN LORD IS UPON ME, for the LORD HAS ANOINTED ME to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that CAPTIVES WILL BE RELEASED and PRISONERS WILL BE FREED. He has sent Me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel, He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for His own

glory. They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.

We are God's mighty, offensive army against the kingdom of darkness, SO WE STAND FREE, WE STAND FIRM, AND WE STAND STRONG. Let us not sit back and wait for the enemy to attack. God's people must go down to the enemy's camp to set the captives free. In His power, anointing, and authority, we comfort the brokenhearted, heal the sick, break bondages to free those bound, take in the fatherless, gladden those in despair, and lead many into faith in Christ Jesus. We rebuild ancient ruins, repair broken cities, and revive those in desolation.

What Have We Been Set Free From By Jesus Christ?

We have been ETERNALLY LIBERATED from the KINGDOM OF DARKNESS where SATAN RULES TO STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY. We have been set free from slavery to sin and the wages of sin, which is death. Colossians 1:13–14 NLT declares, **“For He has RESCUED US from the kingdom of darkness and TRANSFERRED US into the kingdom of His dear Son, WHO PURCHASED OUR FREEDOM AND FORGAVE OUR SINS.”** Because we now live in the light of Christ's kingdom, He has enabled us to share in the glorious inheritance that belongs only to His people who live in His light. **In the Kingdom of light, God is our eternal Father; Jesus Christ, our Savior and brother; and the Holy Spirit our Comforter and the seal of our salvation.** For those who stand free, our eternal destiny of living forever in the presence and glory of God is secured. Our reward for commitment and faithfulness in Christ is assured.

As a citizen of Christ's kingdom, salvation, freedom, peace, joy, healing, provision, protection, and all that heaven affords are legally ours. We live in His light, favor, and goodwill. **WHEN WE STAND FREE IN CHRIST, SATAN AND ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS FEAR US BECAUSE THEY FEAR HIM WHO LIVES IN US. We are the head and not the tail because of what Jesus has done.** Colossians 2:14–15 NLT proclaims that:

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, **HE DISARMED THE SPIRITUAL RULERS AND AUTHORITIES.** He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.

Because Christ has canceled the record of charges against us by taking it away and nailing it to the cross, we are free—no longer slaves. We are free from the righteous judgment of God against sin. Jesus Christ has made us alive in Him as His children. We are free from the debt of sin, its penalty of which we could never ever be able to pay or make good. Jesus Christ wiped them all out. Christ's blood thoroughly dealt with every sin of humankind. He totally and eternally wrecked, ruined, despoiled, and disarmed all evil rulers and authorities. Having crushed the devil, the kingdom of darkness, and the gates of hell, Jesus handed the keys of heaven over to the Church to rule and reign over them (Matthew 16:19). His public display of their defeat is a testimony to His power, glory, and honor over all. Therefore, we stand free and stand firm. In Christ Jesus, we are:

- Free from the power, authority, and jurisdiction of sin, death, and the gates of hell.
- Free from the control, curse, and consequence of sin.
- Free from the kingdom of darkness in all its realm, dominion, and jurisdiction.
- Free from spiritual death and eternal condemnation (hell).
- Free from the power of satan to steal, kill and destroy.
- Free from guilt, shame, and rejection.
- Free from the sinful nature and all its lusts and passions.
- Free to overcome satan and take possession of the gates of hell in all warfare.
- Free from carnality, self, and flesh.
- Free from sorrow, pain, bitterness, offense, unforgiveness.
- Free from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life.

The Power And Blessing Of Standing Free In Christ

Through our union with Jesus Christ, we have gained:

- Freedom to love, know and serve God in holy intimacy.
- Freedom to be a child of God and a citizen of heaven.
- Freedom to say Christ's name and call God "Abba, Father."
- Freedom to be an heir and co-heir with Christ Jesus.
- Freedom to live holy, righteous, joyful, and blessed.
- Freedom to love others, do good and bless them.
- Freedom to obey God, do His will, and finish His work.

- Freedom to know the truth and be blessed and prosper.
- Freedom to believe, have faith, and prevail.
- Freedom to be more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus.
- Freedom to access every promise of God in His Holy Scriptures.
- Freedom to receive and operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Freedom to have the grace to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Freedom to praise and glorify Jesus Christ wherever we go.
- Freedom to be Holy Spirit baptized and filled with His power to be His witnesses.
- Freedom to worship, pray, and preach the Gospel to the ends of the world.
- Freedom to teach and make disciples wherever we go.
- Freedom to access all of heaven's provision as God's children.
- Freedom to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons in Christ's name.

Therefore, the free and liberated Church must live as Christ has set us free to live. We are to stand free and stand firm. Do not waver, do not doubt, and do not be double-minded. **We are not to use our freedom bought by the Lamb's blood to live in the selfishness of the flesh. OUR LIBERTY IS FOR US TO SERVE OTHERS.**

Stand Free And Serve One Another

Just as Jesus Christ lived free and served others, so we must follow in His footsteps. The freedom we have received is not for us to keep selfishly to ourselves. It is so that we can serve God. How do we serve God whom we cannot see? It is by loving, blessing, and serving others. In Matthew 10:7–8 NKJV, Jesus commanded His disciples to go to the house of Israel, “And as you go, preach, saying, **‘THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE.**” Church, let us serve one another by:

- Standing free in Christ.
- Standing free in the Truth.
- Standing free in worship.
- Standing free in serving.
- Standing free in giving.
- Standing free in preaching the Gospel.

Prayer Focus

A. Thanksgiving And Praise For All Christ Has Done For You.

1. He has redeemed and saved you.
2. He has set you free and healed you.
3. He has blessed and prospered you.

B. Examine Your Heart And Life If You Are Standing Free.

C. Repent And Return To Jesus Christ And Stand Free.

1. Stand free in Christ Jesus.
2. Stand free in the Truth.
3. Stand free in worship.
4. Stand free in prayer.
5. Stand free in serving.
6. Stand free in giving.
7. Stand free in preaching the Gospel.

D. Go And Preach The Gospel To The Ends Of The World.

E. Pray For FAOG Mission Pastors, Leaders, And Churches.

1. Protection for mission pastors, leaders, and congregations from Coronavirus.
2. Mission pastors and leaders:
 - a. to have grace, wisdom, and anointing to do excellently.
 - b. protection over them and their families; provision for all needs.

F. Growth And Multiplication In All Our Mission Churches.

1. **Brazil**—Ps. Celina Takahashi, Bro. Alex
2. **East Timor**—Bro. Adao
3. **Hawaii (Hamakua)**—Ps. Lynne Higa, Ps. Luke
4. **India (National Overseer)**—Ps. Prasantha, Sis. Roshika and Ethan
5. **India (Gomti Nagar)**—Bro. Sanjeev Rawatt
6. **Ireland**—Ps. Jamie and Sis. Lud Corcoran

7. **Japan (Kamaishi)**—Ps. Keizo and Sis. Mami Yoshioka
8. **Japan (Okinawa)**—Sis. Miyuki, Sis. Fuji-san, Bro. Nakamura
9. **Japan (Osaka)**—Ps. Atsuya and Sis. Takako Miyashita
10. **Japan (Yokohama)**—Ps. Kyoko Koyama, Sis. Sayaka Sumitomo
11. **Korea**—Wisdom for Ps. Ko and Ps. Ernie to raise teams and plant churches in North and South Korea.
12. **Marshalllese (Continental U.S.)**—Ps. Absen and Sis. Sherlina Ebot
13. **Marshalllese (Marshall Islands)**—Bro. Yaichy Hanchor
14. **Mexico (Huamantla)**—Ps. Miriam, Ps. Quechol, Sis. Hudid, Sis. Mimi
15. **Mexico (Ixtenco)**—Bro. Miguel, Sis. Fabia
16. **Samoa**—Ps. Mila and Sis. Rosie Tongamoa, Bro. Sola, Sis. Peta, Bro. James
17. **Philippines**—Ps. Orlando and Sis. Natalie Bernales, Sis. Princess Bernales
18. **Uganda**—Ps. Elijah and Sis. Ruth Mabala, Ps. Moses, Ps. Jonathan, Ps. Paul
19. **United Kingdom**—Ps. Mike McKeever

G. Pray To Raise, Train And Send Out Two Mission Teams To Japan.

H. Pray For Persecuted Christians In Different Parts Of The World.

1. God's grace upon every persecuted Christian, pastor, and church.
2. Holy Spirit to deliver those undergoing persecution now.
3. Church to arise even stronger and to multiply even more.

Notes:

Friday, June 11: Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

JOHN 7:37-39 TPT

Then on the most important day of the feast, the last day, Jesus stood and shouted out to the crowds—**“All you thirsty ones, come to Me! Come to Me and drink! Believe in Me so that RIVERS OF LIVING WATER WILL BURST OUT FROM WITHIN YOU, FLOWING FROM YOUR INNERMOST BEING, just like the Scripture says!”**

Jesus was prophesying about the Holy Spirit that believers were being prepared to receive. But the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon them, because Jesus had not yet been unveiled in His full splendor.

ACTS 2:16-21 TPT

This is the fulfillment of what was prophesied through the prophet Joel, for God says: **“This is what I will do in the last days—I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON EVERYBODY AND CAUSE YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL EXPERIENCE DREAMS FROM GOD. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON ALL MY SERVANTS, MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE, AND THEY WILL PROPHECY.** I will reveal startling signs and wonders in the sky above and mighty miracles on the earth below. Blood and fire and pillars of clouds will appear. For the sun will be turned dark and the moon blood-red before that great and awesome appearance of the day of the Lord. **BUT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”**

Zechariah 4:6-9 NIV

So he said to me, **“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT,’ SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY. What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’”** Then the word of the LORD came to me: **“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. THEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAS SENT ME TO YOU.”**

HAGGAI 2:4-7 ESV

Yet now BE STRONG, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. BE STRONG, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. BE STRONG, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. MY SPIRIT REMAINS IN YOUR MIDST. FEAR NOT. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little

while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.

Exhortation: Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit Makes All Things Possible

For the days we are now in, **WE MUST LIVE BY FAITH AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER.** Then we are not moved by what we see, feel, or experience. We are moved only by the presence and power of God. Hebrews 11:33–40 TPT elaborates that through faith's power they conquered kingdoms and established true justice. The Church must know the Holy Spirit and no longer be ignorant of Him. We must not just know His name, but know Him in person—His heart, His love, His purpose, His nature, His ways, His works and His movement. **THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE.**

We need an uncommon faith in God and the infilling of the Holy Spirit to give us power for these uncommon times. Satanic attacks to discourage, block and hinder the Church from obeying God are intensifying. We do not fear, but face them by faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Without faith, it is impossible to please God, and without faith, we are trusting in our own strength. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot do what God calls us to do.**

These Are Unusual, But Great Days

There are two things taking place in juxtaposition in these end-times. These are the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit versus the outpouring of persecution upon Christ's followers. In Acts 2:16–21, Peter spoke of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all flesh. Jesus, in Luke 21:12, spoke of the severe persecution that will come upon Christ's followers. The Church is to be prepared for both.

Jesus knew He was going to go back to His Father after His resurrection. He told His disciples He would not leave them as orphans. He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with them always. In the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were to carry on and complete His work even under severe persecution and adversities. They needed greater faith and the baptism of the Holy Spirit to endue them with a new level of power to accomplish God's will.

In these end-times, faith will be vigorously tested and tried by fire. Satan knows that his time is extremely brief. There is nothing he will not do to try to stop or destroy the Church. 2 Timothy 3:12 TPT says, **“For all who choose to live godly as worshipers of Jesus, the Anointed One, will also experience persecution.”** Do not expect obedience to be without sufferings or ministry without untold pressures. Doing God’s work is accompanied by hardships. This will be the norm for those who love God, who have chosen to obey Him, and purposed to live godly lives in these unusual but extraordinary days. **In the midst of these, as we obey God, we will see Him work the impossible through us that ALL WILL KNOW IT IS GOD WHO HAS ACCOMPLISHED IT.** Are we standing in the power of the Holy Spirit so that nothing fazes, shakes, or stops us?

In The Sifting And Shaking, Stand In The Holy Spirit's Power

These are days of sifting and shaking. These are difficult, dangerous, challenging, and demanding times. As God is shaking heaven and earth (Haggai 2:6-7), satan is relentlessly sifting the saints (Luke 22:31-32). **GOD SHAKES TO SAVE, TRANSFORM, AND BLESS. SATAN SIFTS TO KILL, STEAL AND DESTROY.**

In Luke 22:31-32 TPT, Jesus warned Peter that satan had asked for permission to sift him:

Peter, my dear friend, listen to what I’m about to tell you. **Satan has obtained permission to come and SIFT YOU ALL LIKE WHEAT and test your faith. But I have prayed for you, Peter, that YOU WOULD STAY FAITHFUL TO ME NO MATTER WHAT COMES.** Remember this: after you have turned back to Me and have been restored, make it your life mission to strengthen the faith of your brothers.

SATAN IS SEEKING TO SIFT NOT ONLY INDIVIDUALS BUT CHURCHES, COMMUNITIES, AND NATIONS TO STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY THEM. He had sifted Job, Peter, Paul, and even Jesus, but they crushed and overcame him by faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us be encouraged, and take heed to God’s warning to be watchful, put on the full armor, stand and prevail.

This sifting against the saints of God is brutal, violent, vicious, and unrelenting. Satan sets out to cause all hell to break out against the people of God as he did with Job. He will storm, rush, charge, assault, set on, and lay into God’s people to try to wipe them out however he can. The warfare is fiery,

and it stings. Satan aims to hurt, wound, strip, devastate and annihilate. His attacks are mercilessly cruel, seeking to weaken and destroy people from within. **He will totally fail when we stand in God, with God, and for God. We are not only protected, but we also are strong, we are bold, and we are dangerous to him. STAND AND STAND OUR GROUND IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** His sifting will not destroy us but embolden us. It will only fortify our faith and hope in Christ. We are made stronger, more courageous and resolute.

The Lord of Hosts speaks of His shaking in Haggai 2:6–7 ESV:

Yet once more, in a little while, **I WILL SHAKE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND THE DRY LAND. And I WILL SHAKE ALL NATIONS,** so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.

THIS IS GOD'S WAKE-UP CALL TO BOTH HIS CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

He is shaking the universe—heavens, earth, sea, dry land, and nations. He shakes dominions, orders, systems, powers, and principalities. Nothing will be left untouched—that which must fall will fall, and that which must be established will be established. He shakes to awake and also to strip away the status quo, bringing transformation. He is shattering all that is hindering His Church from arising to do His will. He is also wrecking all that is blocking the world from receiving salvation in Christ Jesus. Ultimately, His glory will be revealed as the knowledge of Him fills the whole earth.

BE IT THROUGH SIFTING OR SHAKING, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR ANOINTER, PRODUCER OF FAITH, AND GIVER OF POWER AND STRENGTH. Therefore, the Church is not afraid nor discouraged. He gives us strength to endure, courage to stand, and faith to continue and finish His work. As we stand in His power, we set our faces like flint towards the cross and obey Him at all costs. Like Paul, we can declare at the end of it all that we have fought a good fight, kept the faith, and finished the course.

Jesus Christ Fully Lived In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

Everything Jesus did, He did in the power of the Holy Spirit. His dependency and relationship with the Holy Spirit are what the Church should have and emulate. He was Spirit-conceived, Spirit-led, Spirit-baptized, and Spirit-empowered, and He obeyed God in all things (Isaiah 61). Like us, in the natural flesh, as a man, Jesus was unable to accomplish the will of His Father. As He needed the Holy Spirit, all the more desperately we need the

Holy Spirit. He kept Himself filled with the Holy Spirit all the time through His unceasing prayer life.

As He lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, He ensured that His disciples too would live in the same power after His ascension. He commanded them to wait for the Holy Spirit until He would be poured out on them and fill them with His power to be His witnesses everywhere. The disciples obeyed, and the Holy Spirit came and baptized them in fire, power, and anointing. They were set ablaze with an unquenchable passion for God and an overcoming faith to obey. They became fearless, relentless, and courageous in serving God. They lived and walked with an uncommon level of power and faith. Their transformation was phenomenal. They were unrecognizable in anointing and boldness. They preached and the lost were saved. They healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, and broke the powers of darkness everywhere they went. **They changed atmospheres, and shifted paradigms. They shook and crushed satan's strongholds wherever the Holy Spirit sent them. They ignited revival fires that could not be stopped or quenched by violent hostility and persecution. THIS IS THE TIME. THIS IS THE HOUR THE CHURCH MUST AGAIN BE FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE AND DO AS JESUS AND THE EARLY CHURCH WERE AND DID.** We cannot live, move and serve in a lesser level of power and anointing than those in the Book of Acts. We need the same unfailing boldness, faith, and anointing to preach the Gospel, stand our ground, obey God, and not back down in the face of threats, intimidation, and danger. In fact, for all the battles, attacks, and hostility against Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and His Church, we need a double portion of the Holy Spirit's infilling and power. It was the Holy Spirit's power that made Stephen's heart so strong that he would not deny Jesus, and he did not flinch when stoned to death. Church, we must awake, arise, and seek God until He pours out His Holy Spirit upon us again and again.

OUR WORSHIP CANNOT BE OUTLAWED, THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL CANNOT BE MADE ILLEGAL, AND OUR TESTIMONY THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD CANNOT BE SILENCED. When times get darker, our flames must blaze stronger and brighter, lighting up the whole world.

Be Ready For The *Suddenly* Moves Of God In Fulfillment of Prophecy

Every prophecy of God in His Word shall be fulfilled. The fulfillment can happen suddenly because of God's own appointed moment. This is seen in the apostles' waiting for the promised Holy Spirit's fulfillment to come upon them that they would receive power (Acts 2:1-4). They believed and obeyed,

waiting in prayer and anticipation. They knew the Holy Spirit would be poured out on them, but the exact day, hour, or moment they did not know. They had to be ready. When the Holy Spirit came, He came suddenly like a mighty rushing wind filling them and setting them ablaze with His fire and power.

God says in Isaiah 48:3 ESV, “The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and **I announced them; THEN SUDDENLY I DID THEM, and they came to pass.**” The NLT says, “**Long ago, I told you what was going to happen. THEN SUDDENLY I TOOK ACTION, and all My predictions came true.**” Be prepared and wait with eyes focused on Him that we would be ready for the suddenly of God moving to fulfill His Word. Every word, promise, or prophecy in the Bible, God shall bring them to pass. Like the apostles, we are prepared and ready whenever God moves and takes action.

God has His appointed *kairos* moments to fulfill all His prophecies. We must be prepared and ready to receive His suddenly and not be caught sleeping, distracted, or unprepared. **Who are those who will see the suddenly of the Holy Spirit movements in these last days?** Those not intoxicated with their own lives, but the affairs of God. Those not wrapped and lost in the cares of this world, but the purpose of God. Those not entangled with many of their own desires, needs, and pains, but wrapped up in a passion for God. Those whose eyes are fixed on Jesus Christ. Do not doubt, for every prophecy of God concerning all the things He will do will be fulfilled before the end comes.

God is already moving. The day is coming when nations hostile to the Gospel will supernaturally open up. Revival will break out in the most unlikely places. Many will get saved in countries where faith in Christ is illegal, with believers threatened with imprisonment and even death. As Isaiah under the Holy Spirit’s inspiration prophesied in Isaiah 66:7–9 TPT,

“ZION GAVE BIRTH SUDDENLY, EVEN BEFORE GOING INTO LABOR.

She delivered a son without any painful contractions. **Who has ever seen or heard of such a wonder? Could a country be born in a day? Can a nation be birthed so suddenly?** Yet no sooner does Zion go into labor than she gives birth to sons! Yahweh, your God, says, ‘Do I allow you to conceive and not to give birth? Do I shut the womb when I’m the one who delivers?’”

- **2 Kings 2:11 NKJV**—“It happened, as they ... talked, that **SUDDENLY a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire**, and separated ... them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

- **Ezekiel 37:7, 10 NKJV**—“as I prophesied, there was a noise, and **SUDDENLY a rattling; and the bones came together ...** flesh came upon them ... So I prophesied ... and breath came into them ... they lived ... stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.”
- **Daniel 10:16 NKJV**—“**SUDDENLY**, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke.”
- **Mark 13:35–37 TPT**—“Keep awake and alert—for you have no idea when the Master of the house will return ... **for He’s coming SUDDENLY and may find you sleeping!**”
- **Matthew 3:17 NKJV**—“**SUDDENLY a voice came from heaven**, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”
- **Luke 2:13 NKJV**—“**SUDDENLY there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.**”
- **Act 16:26 NKJV**—“**SUDDENLY there was a great earthquake**, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”

Holy Spirit Movements Of Power And Revival

Our God is a God of movements. His movements always bring transformation, revival, and reformation. These are the works of His Holy Spirit acting to bring about the fulfillment of God’s will and purpose in a specific place and time. Both the Bible and history have recorded many movements of God that had either regional or global impact.

- Creation of the whole universe
- Deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt
- Rebuilding of the temple by Zerubbabel
- National revival and reformation under King Josiah
- Birth of Jesus Christ
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts
- Martin Luther’s reformation
- Welsh Revival in 1904
- Azusa Street Revival birthing the Pentecostal movement

There will be Holy Spirit movements of power birthing revival, reformation, and transformation worldwide. These will usher in the last hour’s harvest of souls into His Kingdom, and then Jesus will return. According to James Alexander Stewart-Mackenzie, “**There can be no revival apart from the Holy Ghost; He is the author of every Heaven-sent movement.**” These

movements are entirely the sovereign work of God. G. Campbell Morgan, a British evangelist, Bible teacher, and author said, “We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.” (cited in *Why Schedule Revival?* by Paul Chappell). The Holy Spirit’s movements are like mighty rushing winds. We do not know where they begin or the exact moment they will blow. We can be prepared, catch and be carried by the winds, hear them and feel the impact, but we cannot own them, name them after ourselves, claim credit or take the glory. Such was the Holy Spirit movement in the Book of Acts.

God is releasing the Holy Spirit fires worldwide upon believers, churches, and communities. There will be more Holy Spirit movements of revival, reformation, and transformation reverberating through nations and ultimately shaking the whole world. They are not the work or achievement of any person, church, or group of believers. It is the Holy Spirit. Therefore, no one can claim credit or receive glory. **HOWEVER, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SEEKING FOR THAT ONE PERSON, ONE CHURCH, OR ONE COMMUNITY THAT HE CAN WORK THROUGH TO BRING HIS MOVEMENTS**—just as He sought Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, and Paul to be that person. He also sought out Israel to be that nation. Many will be found in different parts of the world upon whom these fires of revival will be ignited, then grow, increase and spread. Soon there will be many fires ignited simultaneously carrying many movements of God all over the world. In a Holy Spirit-orchestrated consonance, these will become the mighty, global Holy Spirit movements shaking the world for the glory of God. There will be movements of revival to bring alive that which is now dead; movements of salvation bringing in multitudes of the lost; movements of reformation of lukewarm churches and movements of transformation of communities, cities, and nations. Hence, the knowledge and the glory of God will fill the whole earth.

In these movements, the Gospel will be preached to the ends of the world by Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered, and dead to all, called out ones of God. These are dead to self and the world, living only for God and His purpose. Their eyes are fixed on Jesus, hearts passionate for His cause and their spirits consumed by a holy zeal to do His will. They are fully persuaded that every Word of God will be fulfilled. Therefore, they are of a different spirit, like Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14:7, 9).

Stand In The Power Of The Holy Spirit To Prevail And Thrive

The anti-Christ weapons used by satan differ all over the world. In the West, we face post-Christian sentiments, ideologies, intolerance, and antagonism.

Christians are attacked for their faith. Believers have been hated, castigated, canceled in business, and faced fines and lawsuits for practicing their faith in Christ. Others have lost jobs, been ostracized, and killed. In other countries like North Korea, Yemen, India, and many others, Christians face greater violence, torture, imprisonment, and even death for their faith. It is good for us to look at suffering for Christ through the eyes of persecuted Christians to give us perspective. **Yet, in countries where it is most dangerous to be Christians, the flames of revival have already been ignited in individuals, underground churches, and groups of believers.**

According to the 2021 World Watch List (by Open Doors USA), 309 million Christians live in places with very high or extreme persecution levels. (*Prayers and Praises from the World's Hardest places to be Christians*). This is an increase from 260 million in last year's list. It either means that more are becoming Christians amid severe persecution or more are exposed to persecution. The top ten worst persecutors are: North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, Nigeria, and India.

Of confirmed reports, nine in ten Christians killed for their faith were in Africa, and the rest in Asia. Nigeria led the world with 3,530 martyrs, as verified by Open Doors for its 2021 list. David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA stated the following:

You might think the [Watch List] is all about oppression. ... But the [list] is really all about resilience ... The numbers of God's people who are suffering should mean the Church is dying—that Christians are keeping quiet, losing their faith, and turning away from one another, but that's not what's happening. **Instead, in living color, we see the words of God recorded in the prophet Isaiah: "I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isa. 43:19 ESV).**

These are Holy Spirit movements of revival in the most difficult of places where Christianity thrives. These Christians stand in the power of the Holy Spirit. They do not bow to threats, they do not deny their faith at the risk of their lives, but they are more and more on fire for God. Nothing can do this but the power of the Holy Spirit. **Indeed, just as Jesus says, He shall build His Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

The Holy Spirit movements do not wait for the right moment in the natural, the conducive environment, or the appropriate circumstance to be poured out. **God will move according to His divine *kairos* moments, and suddenly He will pour out His Spirit upon those who are ready, hearing, seeking,**

waiting, and faithful. These are the Joshuas, Calebs, Pauls, and Peters of this age who are not swayed by post-modern anti-Christian philosophies. They are not intimidated by anti-Christian outcries and outrages of the woke community. They are not hindered by any threat that seeks to silence and stop them. They are unwavering and steadfast in their hunger for God, thirst for His mighty move, and passion for revival. They are not jaded by the many teachings and preachings of revival because they believe. They have not become skeptical. They are not content with what is now. They want more of God. They set their minds to seek God and lay hold of Him. Revival and Holy Spirit outpourings to them are not an option but the very will of God. They cry out for revival. They look to God for revival. They anticipate revival, and they are prepared for revival. They are unlike those of whom Leonard Ravenhill spoke, who say, **“As long as we are content to live without revival, we will.”** **FINALLY, AWAKE, ARISE AND STAND IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND STAND OUR GROUND.**

Prayer Focus

- A. Seek To Know, Love, And Trust The Holy Spirit.**
- B. Seek To Be Filled By His Presence, Anointing, And Power.**
- C. Seek To Submit To And Obey The Holy Spirit.**
- D. Be A Vessel Prepared For His Outpouring And Movements.**
- E. Be A Vessel Of Revival, Transformation And Reformation.**
- F. Pray For All Christians Persecuted For Their Faith In Jesus Christ.**

Notes:

Saturday, June 12: Personal and Family Prayer

Sunday, June 13: 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**

Chad + Angela **Germany**

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

HAWAII

First Assembly of God Hamakua

Ps. Lynne Higa, Ps. Luke

INDIA

National Overseer

Ps. Prasantha, Sis. Roshika + Ethan

First Gomti Nagar Fellowship AOG

Bro. Sanjeev Rawatt

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. Miyuki, Sis. Fuji-san, Bro. Nakamura

Osaka Bible Church

Ps. Atsuya + Sis. Takako Miyashita

Aloha Assembly Kirigaoka Christ Church

Ps. Kyoko Koyama, Sis. Sayaka Sumitomo

MARSHALLESE

Continental U.S. Churches

Ps. Absen + Sis. Sherlina Ebot

First Assembly of God Marshall Islands

Bro. Yaichy Hanchor

MEXICO

First Assembly of God Huamantla

Ps. Miriam, Ps. Quechol,

Sis. Hudid, Sis. Mimi

First Assembly of God Ixtenco

Bro. Miguel, Sis. Fabia

SAMOA

First Assembly of God Faleula

Ps. Mila + Sis. Rosie Tongamoa,

Bro. Sola, Sis. Peta, Bro. James

PHILIPPINES

First Assembly of God Bohol

Ps. Orlando + Sis. Natalie Bernales,

Princess Bernales

UGANDA

Mbale City Church

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

Ps. Paul, Ps. Jonathan

UNITED KINGDOM

London Family Center

Ps. Mike McKeever

***“BE ON GUARD.
STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH.
BE COURAGEOUS.
BE STRONG.”***

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13



First Assembly of God
www.firstaog.com