SPRING COMMUNIQUE' • 2024

JOETS ME if I Preach not The Gospel... 1 Corinthians 9:16

THE HOUSE OF GOD WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD THE PILLAR & GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC.

KEITH DOMINION



PREACHTHE 408/16/19





BISHOP CLARY K. BUTLER, SR., CHIEF OVERSEER & SENIOR BISHOP AND DEACONESS PATSY BUTLER, FIRST LADY



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On behalf of my wife (Deaconess Patsy Butler) and me, grace and peace to you all. We are incredibly grateful for all the support given by the Chief Helpers, staff of Bishops and State Elders, all Elders and Ministers of every rank and file, Deacons, Lay-members, Young Adults and Youth. We extend special thanks to the Branch Office and Headquarters Staff for we are laborers together with God.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, is the beginning of Lent. Our Annual Forty Days Fast in observance of Lent will officially begin at sundown on Tuesday February 13, 2024. The fast will commence daily from midnight to sundown and will

continue until sundown on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and rebirth. It is a period designed to lead us into a deeper and more personal relationship with Christ. I am asking every State Bishop to make sure the 40 Days Fast Lessons are taught in your diocese. Moreover, when you fast, do not look sad and worn out. But anoint your head and wash your face that you appear not unto men to fast, but unto your Father which is in secret: and your Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward you openly. Matthew 6:16-18.

We greatly appreciate all acts of kindness, your beautiful inspirational cards, and gifts. May God bless you for your faithfulness and service to this sixth administration. Let us, "Evangelize, Bring Back the Love and Fill God's House."

In Service for the Master,

Bishop C.K. Butler, Sr.

Chief Overseer and Senior Bishop

FORTY DAYS FAST

Let us join together wholeheartedly as we observe the FORTY DAYS FAST. Our fast begins sundown Tuesday, February 13th, 2024. On a daily basis the fast will be from midnight to sundown and will continue until sundown on Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2024.

This is a period of sanctification and consecration to help us abide in the True Vine. The fast will bless the Church to reunite into one body as we move forward with the Sixth Administration of this Church.

As we prepare for the Forty Days Fast, let us pray, cry, repent and allow God to fix our hearts and anoint and bless us as we go forth fishing for lost souls in the "Great Sea of Humanity." Pray for God's anointing as we sanctify the altar in God's House that the Church might be filled with the great harvest of lost souls.

As we participate in the Forty Days Fast, let us observe how Paul and Silas in Acts 17:11 searched the Scriptures daily to see whether the things taught were of God. The sacred fast that pleases God can also be the type observed by the Christian Church that was born on the Day of Pentecost, when individual believers for the first time were baptized with the Holy Ghost into a unified spiritual organism likened to a body of which Christ is the Head. For there is one Holy body, which is the body of baptized believers, and Jesus died for us all.

WOE IS ME IF I PREACH NOT THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?

The gospel of Jesus Christ can be defined in many ways.

- (a) The gospel is the good news of how Jesus died for our sins and rose again. On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.
- (b) The gospel tells the good news; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38
- (c) The Gospel tells all about Jesus. Who he is, and was, and is to come. What he has done, what he is doing right now, and what he is going to do in the future. How he was nailed to the cross: They drove nails in his hands, they drove nails in his feet. One of the soldiers took a spear and pierced him in his side, and there came out blood and there came out water. Now is the time to repent and turn to God. The day that you hear my voice harden not your heart.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:14-15a Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel!

The gospel of the kingdom

- (a) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming **the birth of Jesus Christ.** Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6
- (b) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming **the crucifix-ion of Jesus Christ.** It is written: And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him. Jesus cried out, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Luke 23:34
- (c) The gospel of the Kingdom is the message of salvation proclaiming **the resurrection of Jesus Christ.** Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25 Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. I will rise again. John 2:19

Repent, believe, and follow Jesus.

- (a) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19
- (b) Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38
- (c) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Luke 13:5

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

- (a) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and the sick shall recover. Mark 16:17-18
- (b) If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10
- (c) This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1 Timothy 1:15

Although I preach the gospel, yet God forbid that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified. Galatians 6:14 Every preacher must remain humble. I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ: Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, encourage, with great patience, careful instructions, and sound doctrine.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. What aspects of the gospel resonate with you the most, and how do they influence your daily life and interactions with others?
- 2. Discuss the sense of necessity and woe expressed in 1 Corinthians 9:16. How can believers navigate the responsibility of preaching the gospel with a sense of urgency and purpose?
- 3. Explore the call to repentance in Acts. How has this been transformative in your life or the lives of those around you?
- 4. Reflect on the humility required in preaching, as mentioned in Galatians 6:14. How can humility enhance the effectiveness of sharing the gospel, and what challenges might arise when humility is lacking?

A CALL FOR PRAYER

LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. **1 Timothy 2:8** I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Do not forget to pray. Do not be too proud nor afraid to pray. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

Substance abuse will make a school boy forget his books, a world famous beauty queen forget her looks. Drugs will make a good man forsake his wife, send a King Pin to prison for the rest of his life. But prayer, Prayer Changes Things. It is time to call for Prayer.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Ephesians 3:14-19

Pray like David prayed Psalm 51

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies,

Blot out my transgressions. Wash me from my iniquities,

And cleanse me from my sins.

I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, and you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.

Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceived me.

Make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

- 1. Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke 18:1
- 2. Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 3. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2
- 4. All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22
- 5. I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- 6. Whatsoever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: If you use prayer as your weapon of choice, no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper. **2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. In what ways can believers create a habit of consistent prayer, considering the exhortation to pray without ceasing? 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 2. Discuss the impact of intercessory prayer for all men and those in authority, as mentioned in 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
- 3. Share personal testimonies or examples where prayer has led to tangible changes or transformations in challenging situations.
- 4. Consider David's prayer in Psalm 51. What are ways believers can incorporate humility, repentance, and a desire for spiritual renewal in our prayers?
- 5. Reflect on the thought for today and the promises associated with prayer in 2 Chronicles 7:14. How can believers use prayer as a powerful weapon for the healing of the land?

FAST DAY THREE

THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO SALVATION

LESSON TEXT: Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. Isaiah 35:8 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. Psalm 37:39-40

Salvation is the deliverance from the dominion or, the deliverance from the rule of sin. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:3b Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. You will know that you are truly saved when you trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding, and in all your ways you acknowledge him, and allow Him to direct your paths. Jesus knows the road that you need to take. Proverbs 3:5-6

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1 It is because of God's grace and mercy that we are saved. The Holy Ghost brings joy and salvation. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15:13 The joy that the Holy Ghost brings is that unspeakable joy full of glory. Jesus said in John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:17-21

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: When traveling the road that leads to salvation, be sure to enter-in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many who go in: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and there are few who

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. Reflect on Romans 10:9-10 and the concept of confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart for salvation. How does this scripture emphasize the role of both faith and confession in the journey of salvation?
- 2. Explore the imagery of the "way of holiness" mentioned in Isaiah 35:8. What does it signify, and how does it relate to the believer's path to salvation?
- 3. Discuss the assurance of salvation mentioned in Psalm 37:39-40. How does trusting in the LORD and acknowledging him in all ways contribute to the believer's confidence in their salvation?
- 4. Examine John 3:17-21 and explain 3 ways believers can consistently choose the path of light in their lives.

JESUS IS THE UNSPEAKABLE JOY

LESSON TEXT: 1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

JESUS has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. He is worthy, to receive glory and honor and power: for he has created all things. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

Let us continue to offer to God the sacrifice of praise, giving thanks to his holy name. It is written, 1 Chronicles 29:11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Jesus went about healing all who were sick and oppressed of the devil for God was with him. He raised Lazarus from the grave, he gave sight to the blind and made the lame man walk. Jesus turned water into wine. There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. John 21:25

The Unspeakable Joy

- 1. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Acts 3:6-8
- 2. And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 2 Samuel 6:14-16
- 3. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Because Jesus is the unspeakable joy, our local church services should be full of Power, Love, and of the Word of God. Every person in your local congregation should be spiritually eager and excited to welcome guests, family and friends. Your local church should be styled as the "House that Love Built."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. How can a local church foster an environment filled with the unspeakable joy of Jesus? What are 3 things believers can do to contribute to a joyful atmosphere within the church? What are 3 things we should avoid doing if we are to have a joyful church?
- 2. Explore the significance of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. How did this day contribute to the unspeakable joy of the believers? In what ways does the Holy Ghost bring joy to the lives of believers?
- 3. Reflect on the accounts in Acts 3:6-8 and 2 Samuel 6:14-16. How do these stories illustrate the expression of unspeakable joy in response to God's miraculous works? How can believers display this type of joy in our daily lives?

LET THE WHEAT AND TARES GROW TOETHER

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The Wheat- are the good seed, they are children of the kingdom.

The Tares- are the children of the wicked one; Matthew 13:38

The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, an enemy has done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus explained the parable of the tares of the field this way: He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matthew 13:37-43

THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Jesus uses the parable to demonstrate that we must be careful when we become so eager to pull up tares (people we consider undesirable people in the congregation), that we don't root out the wheat (their good, saved family members). Let both grow together until the Lord's harvest.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Reflect on the parable of the wheat and tares. How does this story challenge our tendency to

- judge others prematurely? How can we practice patience and understanding in our interactions with people who might seem like "tares" in our lives?
- 2. Consider the idea of letting both wheat and tares grow together until the harvest. How does this principle apply to fostering unity within a local congregation? In what ways can a diverse church community work towards a common goal?
- 3. How can a church balance addressing issues within the congregation and maintaining a supportive environment for everyone's spiritual growth?

ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Abstinence is the abstaining from some or all meats, drink, food or other pleasures. For the purpose of today's lesson, abstinence can be defined as Christian tolerance. Temperance is the practice of controlling your actions, thoughts and feelings. Temperance also means that you must abstain from fleshly lust. It is written 1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22 Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? You are not your own.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:16-17 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 1:21

THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How does the concept of controlling our own actions, thoughts, and feelings contribute to a sanctified life?
- 2. Reflect on the Bible verses that emphasize abstaining from fleshly lusts and fornication.

- In what ways do these teachings guide Christians in maintaining purity and honor in their relationships and actions?
- 3. Discuss the list of works of the flesh mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21. How do these actions hinder spiritual growth and inheritance of the kingdom of God? Share insights on overcoming these temptations and cultivating the fruit of the Spirit.

O YE OF LITTLE FAITH

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Doubt simply means unbelief. When we doubt, we lack faith. Prayer still works but you must have faith. Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. Matthew 21:21

And Jesus spoke this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 18:9-14

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:9-13

- 1. James 1:6 Ask in faith, nothing wavering. He that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- 2. James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
- 3. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- 4. Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- 5. 1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- 6. Luke 8:25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Matthew 14:29-31

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Reflect on the relationship between doubt and faith as discussed in Matthew 14:29-31. What factors contribute to moments of doubt in our lives, and how can we strengthen our faith in challenging situations? Share personal experiences of overcoming doubt through prayer and trust in God.
- 2. Explore the parable of the Pharisee and the publican from Luke 18:9-14. How does this story illustrate the impact of pride and humility on our approach to God? Discuss the role of humility in building a strong foundation of faith.
- 3. Analyze the teaching in James 1:6 about asking in faith without wavering. What are the consequences of being double-minded, and how can believers maintain a steadfast faith in their prayers?
- 4. Luke 11:9-13 emphasizes the assurance of receiving from God when asking in faith. How does this encourage believers to approach God with confidence in their prayers? Share examples of answered prayers that strengthened your faith.
- 5. Discuss the significance of Jesus' question in Luke 8:25, "Where is your faith?" How can fear and doubt hinder our ability to witness the miraculous power of God in our lives?

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not know the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanse us from all sin. 1 John 1:3-7 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion *(fellowship)* of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

We fellowship with other believers in order that we may be strengthened in our own faith. Christians must encourage one another especially in time of need. Fellowship allows us to build one another up instead of tearing one another down. Remember we have more in common than the small differences that tears us apart. John said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followed not us: and we forbad him, because he followed not us. But Jesus said, forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. Mark 9:38-40

- 1. Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.
- 2. 2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- 3. 1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his Son.
- 4. Ephesians 5:11 Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.
- 5. Philippians 3:10 That I may know him and the fellowship of his sufferings.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Philippians 2:1-2 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How does walking in the light contribute to meaningful fellowship among believers?

- 2. Discuss 3 practical ways Christians can provide support and encouragement to fellow believers, especially in challenging times. Share personal experiences of receiving encouragement within the church.
- 3. Why is regular fellowship with other believers crucial for spiritual growth (Hebrews 10:25)?
- 4. Consider the warning in Ephesians 5:11 about avoiding fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness. How can Christians navigate the balance between engaging with others and maintaining spiritual discernment?

WE ARE COMMANDED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The Apostle Paul wrote: Grace is given to me, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:8-9

Jesus said, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19

Go ye therefore, and all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:19-20

We are commanded to preach the gospel everywhere. In 2 Timothy 4:1-2 It is written: I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: 2 Timothy 4:5 Watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus outlines His mission to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, and set captives free. How can we apply these principles in our efforts to share the gospel with those around us?
- 2. Matthew 28:19-20 is known as the Great Commission. How does sharing the gospel with others strengthen our walk of faith?
- 3. In 2 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul charges Timothy to preach the word in and out of season. How can this instruction guide our approach to sharing the gospel with consistency and resilience?

WE NEED A HOLY GHOST FILLED CHURCH LORD FILL THIS HOUSE

LESSON TEXT: Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Anoint us Lord with your Holy Ghost and let the Holy Ghost fill this House. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26

Peter challenged us to, Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is written: Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Acts 14:16-23

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: A Holy Ghost filled church is a God centered Church. A Holy Ghost filled church is built on God's Word.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How can a church experience the teaching and guiding presence of the Holy Ghost in its activities and decision-making?
- 2. Discuss the challenge Peter presents in Acts 2:38-39, urging repentance, baptism, and the acceptance of the Holy Ghost.

- 3. How can a church cultivate an atmosphere where members are filled with the Holy Ghost and speak the word of God with boldness?
- 4. What are 5 ways the church can respond to the call to fill God's house? What has worked in the past? What will you try new?

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING HOPE

LESSON TEXT: Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Despair means to lose, give up or be without hope. All our Hope is built up in Jesus, especially in the midst of despair. "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness." When it looks like there is no hope, there is Jesus, coming to rescue and deliver us. Therefore, I admonish you to rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; and be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

Many of us come to church very sad and burdened, but thank God even for the call to worship that reminds us: I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the House of the Lord, make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2

Clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. Rise up and live. Don't give up hope. There is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch will not cease. The roots may wax old in the earth, and the stump die in the ground; Yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. Job 14:7-9

THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

You may be down today, but you are not out. Trouble is momentary. The sun is going to shine, afterwhile. They crucified Jesus. But God raised him up. God is about to do a new thing. Are you ready?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How does the concept of hope through the power of the Holy Ghost impact your faith journey, and how can it inspire hope in challenging times?
- 2. Romans 12:12 teaches us to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer. How can these three elements work together in maintaining hope during trials, and what practical steps can we take to consistently have a hopeful mindset?
- 3. How does worship contribute to the experience of hope? Share specific ways in which participating in worship, including clapping hands and shouting, lifted your spirit and renewed your hope.

THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH GOD

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 130:1, 3-4 Out of the depths have I cried unto thee O LORD. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

God said I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:12 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:15

God has commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 There is forgiveness with God, therefore, if you have an ought against anyone, please find a way to forgive them. And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christs sake has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. Daniel 9:9 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

God does not have to wait for man to clean up his act. You do not have to be clean before you come to him. "I came to Jesus as I was, weary, wounded and sad, I found in him a resting place and he has made me glad." You just need to come, run for your life. It is written: Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. There is forgiveness with God.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How does God's forgiving nature increase your respect and love for Him?
- 2. What are 3 ways we can integrate a forgiving mindset into our daily spiritual journey?
- 3. How does God's forgiveness serve as a model for believers to extend mercy and forgiveness to others?

THE MOTE AND THE BEAM

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 7:3-4 Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Jesus speaks of the mote and the beam in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1-5. Be careful not to judge others. Do not look so deep at the fault of others that you cannot see yourself. Have you ever made a mistake or did something wrong and God forgave you? God wants you to forgive others also. Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 John 4:20-21

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. When thou do thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may have glory of men. Matthew 6:1-2

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: James 1:23-24 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. In light of Matthew 7:1-5, what is the importance of self-reflection before pointing out faults in others?
- 2. How does hypocrisy hinder our relationships with others and with God? Share personal experiences or observations of how hypocrisy can be detrimental.

- 3. How can a desire for public approval hinder the sincerity of one's actions? Discuss the importance of genuine motives in serving others.
- 4. Read James 1:23-24 and the analogy of looking into a mirror. How does self-awareness contribute to personal growth and humility?

UNITED IN LOVE:

BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES GOD'S WAY

LESSON TEXT: Colossians 3:12-15 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

This lesson teaches us that love is not an optional characteristic for Christians. Love is the fundamental virtue that sustains the entire Christian journey. Without love our churches and communities are in danger but with love the impossible can be accomplished.

Love has the power to unite our churches and communities God's way. The context of Colossians 3 is important to understand the urgency and importance of love in our Christian journey. In Colossae, the church was facing challenges and divisions, similar to what some of our churches experience today. The Apostle Paul, in this letter, exhorts the Colossian believers to put on the characteristics of God's chosen people, to mend their divisions, and to live united in love.

Point 1: Love is the only true Foundation for a Christian Life

Paul instructs us to "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12). Here, we find the first point of emphasis – love as the foundation of our Christian life. Love is the source of all the virtues we are to embody. Picture love as the fertile soil from which all other godly traits grow. Just as a tree draws nourishment from the soil to bear fruit, so do we draw upon love to display mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Point 2: Love is the Bond of Perfection

There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." The ultimate punishment or fear is separation from God. Thankfully, for those who believe in Jesus, that fear is no more!

Point 3: Love is the Rule of Peace

Paul concludes with a special call to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" Colossians 3:15. This final point of emphasis is that love paves the way for God's peace to rule in our hearts. As we embrace love, we find unity, peace, and gratitude. Love not only unites but also ensures we remain in perfect peace.

Finally, let us focus on the greatest example of love – Jesus Christ. God is love. He willingly gave his life for the church. Picture in your mind Jesus on the cross, arms outstretched, bearing the weight of our sins. That's love. His sacrifice is painted in shades of love. His blood flowed as a crimson river, washing away our lies, our deceit, murder, and adultery. The love of Christ is beyond words, beyond comprehension. It is a love that unites us as a church, as a community, and as children of God. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Let us pray that the love of Christ guides our every action and interaction, uniting us in love, building stronger churches and communities God's way. And in this, we will find the strength to accomplish the impossible, for with Christ, all things are possible.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Why is love the foundation for a Christian life?
- 2. How does perfect love cast out fear? Share examples.
- 3. How does consistently sharing love with one another contribute to a sense of unity and peace in the church?
- 4. How does gratitude contribute to building stronger churches and communities? Share examples of how expressing gratitude can foster a sense of unity and love within the church and community.

LORD MAKE US ONE

LESSON TEXT: John 17:21-22 That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me. And the glory which thou gave me, I have given them; that they may be one even as we are one.

Lord make us one. Make us one, united only in you. My prayer is that the MANY will become ONE: One in Spirit, one in Heart, and one in Hope. When all of God's children get to Heaven what a time, what a time! We will be walking by the same rule, and we will be minding the same thing. No longer will we walk after the flesh but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:5-6

We have a high and holy calling to be one as GOD the Father and GOD the Son are one. It is written: I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Lord make us one. 1 Corinthians 1:10

We must become so spiritually united as a church family and as a Diocese that nothing, **no not one**, nor will anything be able to separate us from the love of God. And that no weapon that is formed against us will prosper. We are laborers together, working with God and we must do it with excellence.

- **Heavenly Father,** make us one that the world may believe, that thou has sent me.
- **Holy Spirit** make us one that the glory which thou gave me, I will give unto them that they may also be one.
- **Jesus Christ,** make us one, that we may lift you up until you draw all men unto you that they may be one even as we are one. Lord Make Us One.

Finally, we must now surrender all to JESUS! God is love and we must invite him back into our lives, our churches, our homes, our schools and our communities. *Return O Holy Dove return, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.* Lord Make Us One.

TOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. According to John 17:21-22, how should unity among believers reflect the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?
- 2. In what ways can a sense of unity impact the effectiveness of a church or diocese?
- 3. How does having a spiritual mindset contribute to unity within a church?
- 4. What are 3 ways a church family can guard against division?

WE MADE IT

LESSON TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Jude 1:14-15

After these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Revelation 7:1-4

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 7:9-12

Finally, on that day we can say, thank you God, we made it. We came out of great tribulation, and have washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, we will stand before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and the Lord God Almighty will dwell among us. We shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed us and shall lead us unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15:13

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:21

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. Consider the diverse multitude from all nations in Revelation 7:9-12. How does this emphasize the universal nature of God's redemptive plan?
- 2. What are 3 ways the church can foster unity and a spirit of welcoming visitors?
- 3. Discuss how the hope of Revelation 7:14 provide encouragement?

WATCH YOUR COMPANY

LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 5: 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one know not to eat.

Watch the company you associate with, because all kinds of spirits have gone out in the world. Bad company has infiltrated the church almost everywhere. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Here is how we know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that do not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: this is that spirit of antichrist, and you have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:1-4

In our lesson text the Apostle Paul warns us not to keep company with fornicators, effeminate, thieves, drunkards and the like. Paul asked, did you not know the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? He said, do not let anyone deceive you: idolaters, nor adulterers, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor covetous, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. He reminded us that such were some of us: but we are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. As we review the traits (Paul warns against) mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:11, what are the dangers associated with these behaviors?
- 2. How might bad company impact your spiritual health?
- 3. How can believers navigate friendships and associations with neighbors, classmates, co-workers, family members, and others that are non-believers while staying true to their faith?

HOW CAN WE LIVE SAVED, SANCTIFIED AND HOLY?

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 19:23-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

- In this lesson we shall discuss the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of being saved, sanctified and Holy.
- 1. Who then can live saved, sanctified and Holy? Mark 16:15-16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Ephesians 4:22-25 He that put off the old man, which is corrupt according to lusts. He that is renewed in spirit and mind. He that puts on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. He that put away lying, back biting and speaks truth with his neighbours.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? Psalm 24:3-5 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of our salvation.

2. What then does it take to live saved, sanctified and Holy? You must be filled with the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:3 No man can say that Jesus is LORD but by the Holy Ghost. John 3:7 Marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again.

It takes being able to glorify God in your body and in your Spirit with a clean heart. **Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. It takes laying aside every weight and the sin which so easily beset us, running with patience the race that is set before us. **Hebrews 12:1**

- **3.** When should I begin to live saved, sanctified and Holy? Today. **Hebrews 3:15** Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. **2 Corinthians 6:2** Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
- **4.** Where can I live saved, sanctified and Holy? Down here in this present world. **Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but peace joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost. **Matthew 6:10** Let Thy kingdom come, let thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

5. Why should I live saved, sanctified and Holy? You should live saved, sanctified and Holy if you want to see Jesus. Being saved also means your sins have been forgiven. Being saved means you now have eternal life through Jesus Christ and you are assured of that special place called heaven.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: John 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Who can live saved, sanctified, and holy?
 - A. Those who believe, are baptized, and put off the old sinful nature.
 - B. Individuals who are renewed in spirit and mind, creating a new self in righteousness.
 - C. Those with clean hands, a pure heart, and who do not lift their souls to vanity.
 - D. All of the above.

The answer is D. Please explain why.

- 1. As we recognize the urgency of salvation and heeding the call for a transformed life, when should one begin to live saved, sanctified, and holy?
- 2. What are 3 reasons a person should live a saved, sanctified, and holy life?

THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE

LESSON TEXT: 1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Roman 1:21-32

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Matthew 5:28 Whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. How would you define the "lust of the flesh," the "lust of the eyes," and the "pride of life"

- based on the lesson, and what examples from daily life can you identify for each?
- 2. In what ways do you think the world's temptations, as mentioned in the lesson, can subtly influence people's beliefs and behaviors?
- 3. Compare the warning in 1 John 2:15-17 with the consequences described in Romans 1:21-32. What connections can you draw between turning away from God and engaging in worldly behaviors?
- 4. Considering the seriousness of sinful thoughts mentioned in Matthew 5:28, what are 3 ways believers can actively work on maintaining purity in both actions and thoughts in a world filled with various temptations?

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

One Nation Under God. Those sacred words are found in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Historians dealt with its natural meaning. For our purpose we shall consider and recognize the spiritual meaning and significance of this phrase. The Pledge of Allegiance demonstrates a united America with one people and one nation.

Spiritually God wants his people to have spiritual oneness and have the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5-6 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. God does not want his people to be divided but one people obeying God's command. 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

In recognizing the spiritual significance of "One Nation Under God," we should strive for unity among God's people. The Bible emphasizes the importance of spiritual oneness and having the mind of Christ, urging believers to emulate the humility and obedience demonstrated by Jesus. Philippians 2:5-6 encourages Christians to adopt the mindset of Christ, who, though equal with God, humbled Himself for the greater purpose. This aligns with the spiritual aspiration for a united people, not divided but perfectly joined together in mind and judgment, as stated in 1 Corinthians 1:10

THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Let us reflect on the profound spiritual meaning of being "One Nation Under God" and consider how, as believers, we can foster unity, shared purpose, and obedience to God's commands.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How can Christians embody the concept of "One Nation Under God" in their daily lives and interactions with others?
- 2. In what ways does spiritual unity contribute to the effectiveness of the Church in fulfilling its mission?
- 3. How can believers overcome divisions and differences to achieve the spiritual oneness encouraged in the Bible?
- 4. Reflecting on Philippians 2:5-6, what practical steps can individuals take to develop the mind of Christ in their lives?

ARE THERE ANY SICK AMONG YOU

LESSON TEXT: James 5:13-16 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

When it comes to sickness we must have faith, pray, and believe. Jeremiah cried out to the Lord, Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou *art* my praise. Jeremiah 17:14 God promised that he would heal the broken hearted, restore them with good health and heal not some, but all our wounds.

In Exodus 15:26 God said, If we will diligently listen to his voice, and will do that which is right in his sight, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, that He will not put any of the diseases upon them, which he has brought upon the Egyptians. God is our healer. The power to heal is in his hands.

Are There Any Sick Among You?

- Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- Psalm 107:20 He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.
- Matthew 4:23 He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
- Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them
- Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. He
 went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with
 him.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

- 1. The prayer of faith is mentioned in James 5:14-15. How does the prayer of faith contribute to the healing process mentioned in these verses?
- 2. In Psalm 147:3 and Psalm 107:20, God is portrayed as a healer of the brokenhearted. How might a healed spiritual body contribute to a healed physical body?
- 3. How does reading and listening to God's Word and following His commandments relate to our healing?
- 4. Explain a time you experienced the power of God healing you.

I ACKNOWLEDGE MY TRANSGRESSIONS

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 51:1-3 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

David's humble acknowledgment of his transgressions in Psalm 51 reflects a heart that seeks God's mercy and cleansing. In spiritual terms, transgressions represent the breach of divine laws, and David's plea resonates with the universal need for repentance and forgiveness. Ezekiel 18:30 emphasizes the importance of turning away from transgressions to avoid ruin, highlighting the transformative power of genuine repentance. As believers, we find assurance in Psalm 32:5, knowing that confessing our transgressions to the Lord leads to forgiveness and the covering of our sins. Ephesians 2:4-5 reminds us of God's abundant mercy, demonstrating his love by offering salvation even when we were dead in sins. Proverbs 28:13 underscores the principle that acknowledging and forsaking sins bring about divine mercy, contrasting it with the peril of concealing wrongdoing.

To acknowledge means to admit that something is real or true. Spiritually transgression means to violate one or more of God's laws or commands. In Psalm 51:4 David acknowledges that Against you God, and you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou might be justified when you speak, and be clear when thou judge. David did what all Holy Ghost filled saints must do: Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

- **Ezekiel 18:30b** Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
- **Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin unto you, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- **Psalm 32:1** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved.)
- **Proverbs 28:13** He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

- 1. Why is David acknowledging his sin specifically against God? What does this reveal about our responsibility to God when we acknowledge our transgressions?
- 2. In what ways can turning away from sin bring about positive change in our lives?
- 3. Why is the acknowledgment and confession of transgressions essential for receiving forgiveness? How does this contribute to the blessedness described in Psalm 32:1?
- 4. Reflect on the richness of God's mercy and the grace offered through Christ. How does this perspective influence our understanding of salvation and our relationship with God?

THERE IS NO FAILURE IN GOD

LESSON TEXT: Deuteronomy 31:6,8 Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Lord we are trusting in your Holy word because we know that the word of God will never fail. Not one of the good promises the Lord gave you has failed you. Do not fall off the path God has set for you. Pray, have faith, and believe because Jesus is real. For all the promises of God are yea, and Amen, unto the glory of God the Father by Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20 God has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that you may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5-6

God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said and shall he not do it? Or has he spoken and shall he not make it good? Numbers 23:19

Promises of God That Will Never End

- **Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.
- Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: all things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- Psalm 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
- Romans 5:8 God commanded his love toward us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

- 1. Read Deuteronomy 31:6,8. How do these verses emphasize God's promise to never fail or for-sake his people?
- 2. As you explore the promises listed in the lesson (Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 73:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 55:22, Romans 5:8), which promise resonates with you the most? Explain why.
- 3. How does the concept of a just person falling but rising again align with the theme of the lesson? In what ways can the assurance of God's promises encourage perseverance in the face of setbacks?

STAY IN THE RACE, KEEP THE FAITH LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

If I want to live so God can use me, I have got to stay in the race I've got to keep the faith I've got to lay hold on eternal life. They that stay in the race will learn how to wait on the Lord and renew their strength. They will learn how to mount up with wings as Eagles; they will learn how to run and not be weary, how to walk and not faint.

If you stay in the race, when you come to the end of life's journey, you will be able to say as Paul said, I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. *Stay in the race.*

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. How can staying in the race, keeping the faith, and laying hold on eternal life influence our daily decisions?
- 2. How does maintaining self-discipline contribute to running a successful race? Share 2 ways

believers can exercise temperance in various aspects of life.

- 3. Why is patience important in the Christian journey? How can we cultivate patience and endurance, especially when waiting on the Lord?
- 4. What is the significance of laying aside every weight and sin in the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1)?
- 5. What are some common "weights" or hindrances that believers might face? How can this group of believers support one another in letting go of the burdens that hinder our spiritual race?

LET NOTHING SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: ROMANS 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

I am happy with Jesus I am happy serving my Lord. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Therefore, I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. I will let nothing separate me from the love of God. Psalm 27:4-6

It is written: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Nothing can separate me from God. Psalm 84:10-12

- Isaiah 59:2 Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- Being a friend of the world will cause you to be the enemy of God. James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Your thoughts and your ways can also separate you from God. Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- 1. How does this promise in Romans 8:31 impact your life, decisions and relationship with God?
- 2. Have you ever faced challenges or situations that made you question God's love? How did you overcome such doubts or fears?
- 3. How can believers address and overcome spiritual hindrances?
- 4. How does seeking God's perspective and wisdom contribute to maintaining a strong relationship with Him?

IF YOU ARE WILLING AND OBEDIENT YOU SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND

LESSON TEXT: Isaiah 1:19-20 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*

Come now and let us reason together: God has already promised to bless those who follow him and keep his commandments. However, if we refuse to listen and obey his statues and we continue in total disobedience to him, God promise multiple curses.

There are Blessings for Obeying God Deuteronomy 28:1-13

- 1. And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 2. And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
- 3. Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.
- 4. Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.
- 5. Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store.
- 6. Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out.
- 7. The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.
- 8. The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 9. The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.
- 10. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.
- 11. And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

- 12. The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.
- 13. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*.

There are Curses for Disobeying God Deuteronomy 28:15-68

- 1. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:
- 2. Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.
- 3. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.
- 4. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.
- 5. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.
- 6. The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.
- 7. The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.
- 8. The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.
 - 1 Samuel 15:22c Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams
 - **John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.
 - Luke 11:28 Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.
 - Acts 5:29 We ought to obey God rather than men.
 - **Psalm 143:10** Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Deuteronomy 11:26-28 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

- 1. What does "willingness" and "obedience" look like in your daily walk with God?
- 2. Examine the blessings listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-13 (for those who diligently obey God's commandments). How have you experienced God's blessings in your life through obedience? Share examples.
- 3. The following scriptures (1 Samuel 15:22c, John 14:15, Luke 11:28, Acts 5:29, Psalm 143:10) emphasize the importance of obedience. In what ways do these verses shape your understanding of obedience, and how can they be practically applied in your life?

DON'T LET FORNICATION BE NAMED ONCE AMONG YOU AS BECOMETH SAINTS

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 5:3-4 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Don't let the Devil use you. You belong to God. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:10-20

- **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.
- **Ephesians 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. As we reflect on Ephesians 5:3-4, which instructs believers to avoid fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness, how can we apply these instructions in our daily lives?
- 2. In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul talks about putting on the whole armor of God to resist the devil's schemes. How does this armor protect us, and what role does prayer play in standing firm against the enemy's attacks?
- 3. How does abstaining from fornication help emphasize the importance of maintaining purity and holiness in our relationships?

A STREET CALLED STRAIGHT

LESSON TEXT: Acts 9:10-11 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.

Acts 9:1-20

Saul, yet breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. As he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias.

And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he is praying, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest all that call on your name. But the Lord said to Ananias, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

- Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.
- Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- **Jeremiah 6:16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 45:2-4 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Today's lessons tells the testimony of Saul's transformation on the road to Damascus. How does this story illustrate the power of God's grace and the possibility of redemption even for people deeply entrenched in wrongdoing?
- 2. Isaiah 35:8 describes a highway called the way of holiness. How does this Old Testament prophecy align with the message conveyed in Saul's conversion, and what relevance does it hold for us today?
- 3. Ananias initially expressed concern about Saul's past actions against the believers. Discuss how Ananias' obedience *(despite his reservations)* teaches us to trust God's plans and his ability to transform lives.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 6:17-18 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Our concentration for this lesson is on the Helmet of Salvation, however, we must put on the full armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand; Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. While every part of your spiritual armor is important, the helmet of salvation stands out as most critical.

The helmet of Salvation represents righteousness. Spiritually wearing it symbolizes that we are saved through the blood of Jesus Christ. Putting on the helmet is symbolic of putting on Christ.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Romans 13:14

- Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- **Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. Ephesians 6:17-18 discusses the Helmet of Salvation. How does it represent righteousness and the assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ?
- 2. Read the analogy of putting on Christ, as mentioned in Romans 13:14 and Galatians 3:27. How should those verses influence the way believers approach their daily lives and challenges?
- 3. Read Ephesians 4:24, which encourages putting on the new man created in righteousness and true holiness. How does this relate to the Helmet of Salvation?

GOD IS NOT A MAN, HE WILL NOT LIE

LESSON TEXT: Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, (unchanging or unable to be changed) it is impossible for God to lie. Every word of God is true. God always keeps his word and his promises. Psalm 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endures for ever. Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

If we keep his commandments his word declares that we know him. But if we say, I know him, and keep not his commandments, we lie and the truth is not in us. Our God is a mighty God. His kingdom is everlasting, and his rule endures throughout all generations. He is a strong tower. The LORD upholds all that fall, you can trust and depend on him. Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6

- A promise from God: Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13
- A promise from God: My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19
- A promise from God: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Read Numbers 23:19 and Hebrews 6:18, emphasizing that God is not a man that He should lie. How does this truth impact your trust and confidence in God's promises for your life?
- 2. As we explore the concept of the immutability of God's promises, as mentioned in Hebrews

- 6:18, how does understanding the unchanging nature of God's word affect your perspective on his faithfulness?
- 3. What are 3 ways believers can apply the reliability of God's word in their daily lives and decision-making?
- 4. How does obedience strengthen our relationship with God and build a foundation of trust?

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

LESSON TEXT: Genesis 1:26-27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God made man from the dust of the earth on the sixth day of the creation, and he called the man Adam. Unlike the rest of the animals, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

To be made in the image of God meant that Adam was made in the likeness of him. He reflected what God looked like, and he also mirrored God's nature and character: meek, lowly, humble, holy, and compassionate. God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Colossians 1:14-15

- Genesis 5:1-2 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.
- **Psalm 8:4-6** What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
- **Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Psalm 139:13-15 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

1. Discuss the characteristics mentioned in the lesson that reflect God's nature and character: meek, lowly, humble, holy, and compassionate. How can believers strive to mirror these attributes in

their lives?

- 2. What is the significance of being made in the image of God in terms of purpose and dominion over creation, as stated in Genesis 1:26-27?
- 3. Ephesians 4:24, emphasizes the need to "put on the new man" created in righteousness and true holiness. How should embracing this new identity impact the way believers live and interact with others?

IT IS TIME TO CALL FOR PRAYER

LESSON TEXT: 1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

It is written, Isaiah 65:24 It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. It is time to call for prayer. Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. James 5:13-15

I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 1Timothy 2:1-2 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. Isaiah 56:7

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

- Mark 11:17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.
- Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
- **Matthew 6:7-8** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- 1. How can prayer influence a spiritual atmosphere?
- 2. How does the assurance that God answers before we call impact your approach to prayer?
- 3. How does the prayer of faith contribute to healing, and what role does repentance play?
- 4. How can believers maintain and grow a lifestyle of unceasing prayer, and what does it mean to approach God's throne with boldness?

GOD SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 107:18-21 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

God's word has the power to heal you. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise. Jeremiah 17:14 There is healing in the air.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved, healed, and delivered. John 3:17 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan. Matthew 4:23-25

- **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- **Psalm 6:2** Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.
- **Psalm 27:14** Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Luke 17:14-17 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

- 1. How have you personally experienced the healing power of God's Word?
- 2. How does the act of crying out to the Lord play a role in receiving healing, and what does it signify about our reliance on God?
- 3. Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word of God as sharper than a two-edged sword. In what ways can the Word discern our thoughts and intents, leading to inner healing and transformation?

SATAN WAS CAST OUT INTO THE EARTH AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM

LESSON TEXT: Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceive the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. Revelation 12:7-8 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:4 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. Revelation 9:1

The Devil is full of tricks. He is very crafty. His ministers are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. Do not be stunned; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Satan was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. John 8:44 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

- Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven.
- **John 12:31** Now is the judgment of this world: the prince of this world shall be cast out.
- Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

- 1. How can believers guard against false teachings and deceitful influences in the world?
- 2. John 8:44 portrays Satan as a liar and a murderer from the beginning. In what ways does understanding Satan's nature help believers resist his schemes and stand firm in the truth?
- 3. If a fellow believer was being attacked, discouraged or deceived by Satan, what are 3 ways you could help that person?

ASK YOURSELF: AM I GOING TO HEAVEN?

LESSON TEXT: John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Jesus said, many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? Matthew7:22 But ask yourself, are you born again? Are you going to Heaven? In John 14:6 Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. And no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. John 3:13

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walks uprightly and works righteousness and speaks the truth in his heart. He that backbites not with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor. Psalm 15:1-3 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

Are you going to Heaven? Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 Jesus has already promised, in my Father's house are many mansions. I go, to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:2-3 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:8

- **John 3:3** Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- **John 3:5** Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- **Matthew 7:21** Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. What role does faith play in your journey to Heaven? Share examples.
- 2. What is necessary to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (answer individually)?
- 3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, describing the future return of Christ. How does this scripture inspire hope, and how does the anticipation of being with the Lord impact your perspective on life?

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS HOLINESS IS THE WAY

LESSON TEXT: Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. Will we reach the promise land? When "the road gets rough and the going gets tough and the hills are too hard to climb," Rejoice evermore! Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

There is a war going on between right and wrong; good and bad; evil and corrupt. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. It is a trying time, but we must pass through stages of frustration and confusion on our way to heaven. Romans 7:21-23

If we want to see Jesus, if we want to go with him when he returns, we must get back on track. We must be as the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. 1 Chronicles 12:32 So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by our spoken word, or our epistle. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

- **Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
- Romans 10:9-10 If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-17 Many professed Christians claim that Christ changed, abolished or took away the Law and replaced The Ten Commandments with the Gospel. Nevertheless, in this church, 'we believe and do firmly teach that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ abolished a long list of sacrificial and ritual laws, all which had their fulfillment or completion in Him, but all moral laws, as we know, are eternal.' It is written: 'Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven' Psalm 119:89.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: **Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

- 1. How can understanding the wisdom of previous generations and adhering to timeless truths bring rest to your soul in today's challenging times?
- 2. According to Isaiah 35:8, how does the way of holiness offer a refuge from the unclean, and how can one navigate this way in a world filled with moral challenges?
- 3. Consider the struggles described in Romans 7:21-23, where the law of sin conflicts with the desire to do good. How does this resonate with your own experiences (please explain)?

WHO IS JESUS

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 16:13-16 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

There is proof throughout the Holy Bible that Jesus is our Savior and our redeemer. Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 21:11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And yes, He is the Messiah. John 4:25-26 The Samaritan woman said unto Jesus, I know that the Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus said unto her, I that speak unto you am he.

Jesus Christ is the way to peace. Jesus said in, John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Yes, Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and he heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus, who is He? The "I Ams" of Christ:

- **I am the bread of life:** he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35
- I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12
- I am the door of the sheep: All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter-in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. John 10:7-9
- I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. John 10:11,14
- I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25
- I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

- I am the true vine: and my Father is the husbandman. John 15:1
- I am Alpha and Omega: the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8
- I am Alpha and Omega: the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. Revelation 22:13,16

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: John 1:1-5,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Consider the significance of Peter's confession in recognizing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Who do you recognize Jesus as (in other words, who is Jesus to you)?
- 2. One of the characteristics of Jesus' nature is that of "savior." How does this aspect of Jesus' nature resonate with your understanding of his other characteristics, such as healer, teacher, deliverer, etc?
- 3. Reflect on Jesus' role as the Prince of Peace, as mentioned in John 14:27. How does Jesus offer a peace that transcends the world's understanding, and how can believers experience this peace in their lives?

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK ABOUT FAITH

LESSON TEXT: Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God's Holy Bible is a book about faith. We receive that faith by trusting, asking, believing and depending on God. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. Therefore we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 You may try to tear the Bible down just as, we try to tear each other down but God uses the Bible to let us know that we must love and treat our neighbor like we love and treat ourselves.

The Bible says, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. How can they hear without a preacher and how can they preach except they be sent? For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

1. Faith in Redemption:

• The Bible tells the story of redemption, proclaiming the good news of how Jesus, through faith, offered himself for our sins and triumphed over death. On the firm foundation of faith, I stand, for all other ground is sinking sand.

2. Faith in God's Anointing:

• The Bible illustrates how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and power, moving with unwavering faith, doing good, and healing the oppressed. Acts 10:38 reflects on this divine anointing.

3. Faith in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus:

• The Bible unveils the identity of Jesus—past, present, and future. It tells of His crucifixion, with nails in His hands and feet, a spear piercing His side. It's a call to repentance and a reminder not to harden our hearts.

4. Faith in Proclaiming the Gospel:

• Just as Romans 10:14-15 emphasizes the necessity of preaching, the Bible is a call to proclaim

the message of faith. Woe is upon us if we don't share the gospel.

5. Faith in the Kingdom:

• The gospel of the Kingdom, as explained in the Bible, celebrates the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It resonates with faith in the promise of a Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

6. Faith in Repentance and Salvation:

• Through verses like Acts 3:19 and Acts 2:38, the Bible guides us to repentance and baptism, promising the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost.

7. Faith in Salvation:

• Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, as urged in the Bible, leads to salvation. It's not just a confession but a deep, heartfelt belief in Jesus that transforms the sin-sick soul.

Is there anything too hard for the LORD? Genesis 18:14 Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. John 5:39-40 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) Hebrews 10:22-23

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. James 2:14-17

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:24-28

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. **Hebrews 11:3** Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **Hebrews 11:5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. How does the concept of faith, as described in Hebrews 11, resonate with your personal spiritual journey (answer individually)?
- 2. In what ways does the Bible guide us to express faith through actions and works, as discussed in James 2:14-17? Share examples from your own life.
- 3. Reflect on the various aspects of faith mentioned in the lesson, such as faith in redemption, God's anointing, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Which aspect speaks to you the most, and why?
- 4. Discuss the role of hope and patience in the context of faith, as mentioned in Romans 8:24-28. How do these concepts relate to your understanding of faith in challenging times?

LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS

LESSON TEXT: Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Romans 13:1-8

Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17 Jesus said, If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 1 John 5:3 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

- Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work. Titus 3:1
- We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29
- If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. Isaiah 1:19
- Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say? Luke 6:46
- If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. John 8:51

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Colossians 3:22-24 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And

whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

(Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. Reflect on Romans 13:1-8. How does the passage emphasize the concept of submission to higher powers?
- 2. In Hebrews 13:17, it mentions obeying those who have the rule over you. How can this apply in various aspects of our lives, such as work, community, or family? Share personal experiences or examples.
- 3. Why is obedience important to God (answer individually)?
- 4. Reflect on the thought expressed in Colossians 3:22-24 regarding obedience in service. How does the idea of serving as unto the Lord impact our perspective on submitting to secular authority?

FAST DAY FORTY

PALM SUNDAY THE CHIEF SHEPHERD

LESSON TEXT: 1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

There is a difference between the Chief Overseer and the Chief Shepherd. Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd mentioned in the lesson text. The Chief Overseer is the highest-ranking officer in The House of God Church. In 1 Peter 5:4, we encounter the title "Chief Shepherd," referring to none other than Jesus Christ.

As the Chief Shepherd, God promises a crown of glory. He also promises to be bishop of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. We should often reflect on the life, sacrifices and power of Jesus. He said, I am the way, the truth and the life. Scriptures promise a mansion and a crown of glory when the Chief Shepherd appears. We must follow the Chief Shepherd's guidance. We must actively follow that guidance in our daily lives. This will impact the choices we make each day. Most importantly it will impact our eternal outcome, Heaven.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: On this Palm Sunday, as we end this season of fasting, and as we navigate the journey of life, may we continually look to the Chief Shepherd for guidance and find assurance in the promise of a crown of glory. May we be like David when he said, "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." **Psalm 23:1**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: (Discussion/Small Group Questions)

- 1. How does the metaphor of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd, resonate with your understanding of his role in your life and the lives of fellow believers?
- 2. In what ways can we actively prepare ourselves to receive the promised crown of glory, and how does this promise impact our perseverance in times of difficulty?
- 3. What are 3 ways we can follow the guidance of the Chief Shepherd in our daily decisions and interactions? Share personal experiences of relying on his leadership.
- 4. How does the concept of an everlasting crown of glory influence your perspective on success, achievements, and recognition in this world?





Monday, June 17, 2024

PRELATES: Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr., Bishop E. James Lucas, Tr.
Bishop M.C. Brown II, State Elder Clary Butler, Jr.
DIOCESES: South Carolina, Indiana, Nevada, South Africa, and Montgomery, AL (Holt St)

Opening Session Founder's Day Necrology Worship Service

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Prelates: Bishop John Lott, Jr., Bishop Martha J. Thomas, Bishop Harry H. Haygood and Tr. Bishop Tommy Phillips

Dioceses: Alabama #1, NW Florida, Texas, New York (Upstate), Arizona, Kentucky, Georgia and West Africa

Vivid Vision Workshop
Morning Glory
International Missionary Outreach Society
HOGABC Classes
Worship Service

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

PRELATES: Bishop Kelly Allen, Bishop Timothy Mims, Bishop Phyllis Mims, Bishop Charlene M. Jamison, Bishop Minnie Crawford and Bishop C. Esther Bryant

DIOCESES: Massachusetts, Connecticut, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York (Downstate), Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio

Vivid Vision Workshop Morning Glory Complex HOGABC Classes Worship Service

Thursday, June 20, 2024

PRELATES: Bishop Gilbert Evans, Jr., Bishop Semmie Z. Taylor, Bishop Frank Matthews and Bishop Perry Stanton, Tr. Bishop Dannie Evans

DIOCESES: Illinois, Wisconsin, Mexico, Bahamas, West Coast of Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Florida #4, Jamaica and Haiti

Vivid Vision Workshop Morning Glory International Deacons Union HOGABC Classes Worship Service

Friday, June 21, 2024

PRELATES: Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr., Bishop Queenie Filey, Bishop William B. Carter, Jr., Bishop D.W. Randolph, Tr. Bishop M.C. Brown II, Tr. Bishop Tommy Phillips, State Elder Clary Butler, Jr.

DIOCESES: East Coast of Florida, California #1, California #2, Alabama #2, Tennessee, Central America and India

Healing Service HOGABC Commencement Exercise Worship Service

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Confirmation/Ordination Examination YFFU & YAA

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Sunday Bible School Sunday Morning Worship SOIRÉE featuring special guests Revival

Monday, June 24, 2024

Confirmation/Ordination Reading of Appointments Closing Session



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

CDL LICENSE PREFERRED (NOT REQUIRED)

If interested, please reply on or before April 15, 2024 via:



6 615.329.1625



novawc@outlook.com





TENNESEE STATE UNIVERSITY (TSU) HOUSING UPDATE

The application for lodging at TSU is the same as the HOGC campus which can be found in the Holiday Communique.

Lodging for the TSU campus will be available beginning June 13, 2024 through June 25, 2024. Check-out is Tuesday no later than 12:00 noon. This time will be strictly enforced.

The cost for your stay is \$40.00 per person per night including children. Total cost per apartment (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms) is \$160.00 per night, NO EXCEPTIONS!

All requests for lodging must be made via the Lodging Request Form. All questions regarding lodging are to be directed to Trial Elder Fran Jackson @ 772.559.8826. No reservations will be made via text message. We must have a form on file.



NATIONAL USHER BOARD

Each diocese bishop should provide at least 5 ushers to render service during the 2024 General Assembly. Please get commitments during your next Diocese meeting, but not later than your General Assembly planning meeting. Ushers are asked to use white gloves. We need at least 20 ushers for each session. General Assembly Qualification forms are required. Any interested persons may contact Elder Willa D. Elmer, President, or General Elder Katherine T. Smith, Vice President.

Elder Willa D. Elmer, President (216) 396-0404 wdehos@aol.com

General Elder Katherine T. Smith (908) 619-5986 Katherine_n_stanford@yahoo.com



FIRST RESPONDERS

First Responder services will be provided during the General Assembly. Looking for a few volunteers to join the team. Doctors, Nurses, CNAs, or other medical professionals are welcome. Anyone with a certificate in First-Aid and CPR training is also welcome.

Please contact General Elder Christanel Butler @ email- chrissydb03@gmail.com for more information.





House of God Academy and Bible College Online

2050 Hampton Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-8328
Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr., BA, MA, D. Min, ~ Board of Directors Chairman
Bishop Jacqueline Tuggle Taylor, Ph.D. ~ President
Sabrina Crenshaw, MBA ~ Executive Administrative Assistant

January 15, 2024

The House of God Academy and Bible College is now in its 2nd year. The Directors and faculty are now preparing for graduation. Yes, the first graduating class will be in 2024! We are very excited and looking forward to graduation day.

We would like to remind you of the following:

The Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr. Church Leadership Institute will be implemented early in 2025. Again, the purpose of this initiative is to further educate our leaders in various areas of the church ministry. Leaders will be required to complete the program to be promoted to the next level of ministry. At this time, we are soliciting qualified writers and instructors to help develop the coursework for the inaugural Church Leadership Institute. We are thankful to those who have already expressed an interest to work in this area, however, we will need additional people to help get the program up and running. Course topics will include effective leadership skills, evangelism, Salvation training, discipleship training, mission works, time management, homiletics, local ministry building, counseling, community outreach, health and well, church-building projects, and finance and budgeting. If you are interested, you may contact me, Dr. Jacqueline Taylor, or email the Executive Assistant at Sabrina. Crenshaw@hogabc.org for additional information. Please respond by February 29, 2024.

The Bible College is accepting transfer students. Individuals who have attended other colleges and did not receive a degree may inquire to transfer their credits. You can reach us at info@hogabc.org 843 867-2220 ext. 125.

The Bible College is looking for individuals with experience in Registration, Public Relations, Human Resources, and qualified instructors to assist with the influx of new students. If you are interested in working in any of these areas, please feel free to contact us at (843) 867-220 Ext. 125.

The Staff and I would like to attend some of the Diocese State Assemblies and Sunday Bible School Conventions to recruit new students. Bishops, please let me know the best date and time to visit your Diocese.

Please continue to pray for the success of the Bible College and thank you for your continued support.

In His Care,

Bushop Dr. Jacqueline J. Jaylor Dr. Jacqueline Tuggie Taylor, President

HOGABC Online Bible College

www.hogabc.org



THE HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC., KEITH DOMINION



The House of God Academy and Bible College

Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr., BA, MA, D. Min., Chief Overseer & Senior Bishop Bishop Jacqueline Tuggle Taylor, D. Min., PhD, President Deaconess Angie Anderson, AS, BS, Administrative Assistant

TO THE CHURCH - AT- LARGE From the Desk of Our Chief Overseer



October 13, 2023

Dear Saints:

Please note there will be some changes in the 2022 and 2023 academic school years of the General Assembly House of God Academy and Bible College programs.

Qualifications for Ordination of Church Officers

- 1. Spiritual Growth and Promotion are not based on any time frame, one's ability, education, favoritism, nor by self-choosing, but solely by good works produced by the indwelling power of the Holy Ghost. Psalm 75:6-7 states that promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.
- 2. To qualify as a candidate for ordination or to be reclassified in the 2K24 General Assembly one must have a certificate from 2K23.
- 3. Beginning in 2K24, the number of certificates to qualify as a candidate for Ordination in the 2K24 General Assembly is Two. It must be a 2K22 and 2K23 certificates.
- 4. Exhorters should obtain at least 1 certificate beginning in 2K22 as one of the requirements before reclassification as a local minister.
- 5. All candidates:
 - (a) Must be filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - (b) Must have at least a 96% report.
 - (c) Must be fasting?

- (d) Must not be a novice.
- (e) Must be a member of this church at least 3 years.
- (f) Must have been serving in your current possession at least 3 years.
- (g) Must have attended the General Assembly at least 3 years.
- (h) Must have 2 years of Complex paid since 2021.
- (i) As a minister: How many souls have you caused to come to Christ? Have you caused at least one soul to be saved (filled with the Holy Ghost)? Verification required.
- (j) Must be in good standing with your State Bishop and recommended by at least two of the following: Pastor, State Elder, General Elder, and Presiding Elder.
- (k) Must vow to obey the Constitution Government and General Decree of the House of God Church.
- 6. As we review the qualifications for ministers set forth in the Bible and our church decree, a clear record of distinguished works and accomplishments, continued obedience, and duty to those over you in the Lord must be plainly and firmly established.

THE ACADEMY

The House of God Academy and Bible College will be comprised of two divisions: (1) The Academy and (2) The Bible College Online.

The General Assembly Academy Classes are K - 12, 18 - 25, Laity, and the Two-Year Ordination Training Program. The aforementioned classes will offer non-degree certificates as in the past. The Laity class is a new offering for all persons who desire enrichment and are not taking Ordination Training classes. The following questions addresses these classes:

How Will I Register?

We will follow the same procedures as in the past for registration. **Persons** interested in General Assembly classes are to register into the General Assembly first, then register for the HOGABC classes. Please specify the classes you plan to attend (ordination or enrichment).

Go to our Church website: <u>WWW.HOGCONLINE.ORG</u> for further information.

2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLASSES

Dates	Deacons	Un-Ordained Ministers	All Elders & ordained Pastors
June 18, 2024	Personal Evangelism	Sermon Preparation and Pulpit Etiquette	Pastoral, Presiding, and General Elders Duties
June 19, 2024	Handling Grievances & Solving Problems	Setting Up Missions/Evangelism	Conflict Resolution
June 20, 2024	Review of Decree Ordination Questions	Review of Decree Ordination Questions	Review of Decree Ordination Questions

Three days of Classes will be held for K-12 and Young Adults and Laity. We encourage all our youth and Young Adults and adults to register for the General Assembly Classes.

When Will Classes Begin?

All Staff and Students are ask to register online at WWW.HOGCONLINE.ORG.

Classes will begin on Tuesday June 18, 2024 of the General Assembly and will continue through Thursday June 20, 2024 of the same week. Graduation day is on Friday June 21, 2024.

Graduation Guidelines:

Persons who successfully complete the Two-Year Training Program will be eligible to participate in the graduation exercise, which will be held on Friday of the first week of the General Assembly. Participation will be allowed in the same year the person completes the final three classes of the second year (For example, 3 classes completed in 2023 and 3 classes completed in 2024, graduation would be in 2024).

For further inquiries regarding the Academy, you may contact:

Deaconess Letonia Moore, Registrar by (336) 710-9983, or email lvmoore27030@yahoo.com or Deaconess Angie Anderson by phone (843) 670-4890, or email anderson4569@bellsouth.net.

In His Care,

Bishop Dr. Jacqueline Taylor
Bishop Dr. Jacqueline Taylor, President
HOGABC



THE HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC., KEITH DOMINION



The House of God Academy and Bible College

Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr., BA, MA, D. Min., Chief Overseer & Senior Bishop Bishop Jacqueline Tuggle Taylor, D. Min., PhD, President Deaconess Angie Anderson, AS, BS, Administrative Assistant

TO THE CHURCH - AT- LARGE

January 15, 2024

Effective 2024 Child Safety Workshop will be held in the General Assembly only and no longer in the Diocese. All leaders who have not taken this course must do so in order to work with children. Also, there will be the **Deacons' Financial Roundtable Workshop** during the General Assembly. The **Workshops Times** are scheduled as follows:

Deacons' Financial Roundtable Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Child Safety Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Wednesday, June 19, 2024

All Workshop registration costs will be separate from the General Assembly Classes.

Registration cost per person for the following:

General Assembly \$10.00
Registration for Ordination classes \$25.00
Registration for Child Safety Workshop \$10.00.
Deacons Financial Roundtable Workshop \$10.00

Bishop Dr. Jacqueline T. Taylor would like to visit dioceses during the SBS Convention or State Assembly to recruit students for the HOGABC ONLINE Bible College.

Please contact Bishop Dr. Jacqueline Taylor to give a tentative date and time to present information for the House of God Academy and Bible College On-Line.

Effective 2024 General Assembly, in preparation for the General Assembly, new test questions for Presiding Bishops, State Officials and Pastors will be given a test preparation packet for Test Preparation for Confirmation and Ordination. Test Questions are prepared to review for the <u>Local and State</u> Levels of organized testing.

It is our prayer that we continue the success and progress of all classes and students for the upcoming 2024 General Assembly.

In His Care,

Bishop Dr. Jacqueline 7. Taylor Bishop Dr. Jacqueline T. Taylor, President HOGABC

THE PRESENT GOSPEL SPEAKER

The annual edition of our church news magazine, the PRESENT GOSPEL SPEAKER, will be printed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Please begin submitting articles electronically NOW - (novawc@outlook.com). Deadline is March 31, 2024.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING NEWS ARTICLES

ALL news articles MUST be:

- > Typed in 12-point Times New Romans font
- **SINGLE-SPACED**
- Written as a Microsoft WORD document
- ▶ **PROOF-READ** each article prior to submitting your work.

PICTURES

Please send:

- **▶** High-resolution pictures
- **Color pictures are acceptable**
- **Limit of one or two pictures for each article**
- > We cannot guarantee the quality of color photos
- Do NOT embed photos in the document/article.

Do note that articles submitted without confirmation of payment will not be included in the PGS Magazine. Send ALL FINANCE made payable to <u>The House of God</u> and mail to the Headquarters office: P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675

Please share interesting and noteworthy news with the church, such as:

- **Church Revivals**
- **Evangelistic In-Reach and Outreach Activities**
- > YFFU News
- **▶** High School and College Students/Graduates and their Activities
- **▷** Weddings, Births, etc.
- **▷** Church Dedications, Anniversaries, New Programs, Obituaries, etc.

CHARGES FOR NEWS RELEASES:

Articles \$10 per page Photos \$5 each

Adult registration packet will include a complimentary copy of the **Present Gospel Speaker**. Additional copies of The Present Gospel Speaker can be obtained at a nominal cost of \$5.00 each.

THE HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH INC.

AREYOU READY?



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES & DEACONS

SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER 2024 · ESSEX, MARYLAND

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY OUTREACH SOCIETY (IMOS)
THE INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION (IDU)

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024
ESSEX, MARYLAND

THEME

"A WAITING WORLD OF HURTING PEOPLE;

A WILLING AND CARING CHURCH OF MINISTERING MESSENGERS"

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.HOGCONLINE.ORG/2024IMDS

BISHOP DR. CLARY K. BUTLER, SR. CHIEF OVERSEER

GENERAL ELDER DR. GERALDINE GAFFNEY
INTERNATIONAL IMOS PRESIDENT

DEACONESS LILLY HAYGOOD
INTERNATIONAL IDU PRESIDENT

#IMDS2024

TRIP TO ETHIOPIA

The Foreign Missions Sub-committee of IMOS

Announces preparations for a trip to Ethiopia

(Located in the Horn of Africa region of East Africa).

All interested persons should complete a Travel information Form for Ethiopia during the General Assembly 2024.

You may contact
State Elder Lillie James
or
State Elder Chris Brown
for more information.





ANNOUNCING:

INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION DEACON'S ROUNDTABLE

The IDU is excited to launch a series of monthly virtual roundtable discussions to assist in developing and enhancing the skill sets of our Deacons as they face the challenges of fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as leaders in our church and community.

A number of talented and distinguished Deacons and Deaconess of all ages and positions from around the Keith Dominion have accepted our call to share their vast knowledge, experiences and expertise as panelists to accomplish this goal, along with us their fellow laborers in service.

The monthly topics are:

- "How to Manage Church Finances when Faced with 21st Century Challenges"
- "Building and Maintaining Strong Relationships with the Members"
- "Effective Pastor/Deacon Relationships"

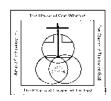
We are confident that all deacons who receive this updated information will be better equipped and prepared to perform their duties primarily in support of the Pastor, leaders and church at all levels.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn strategies that will address these most prevalent issues that impact the local churches; and pose challenges to deacons in the performance of their duties:

- (a) lingering existence and effects of COVID
- (b) rising rates of inflation; and
- (c) aging and declining church memberships

In addition to deacons, we invite everyone from all Rank and File of The House of God Church to join us virtually on Zoom: November 14, December 12, 2023 and January 16, 2024 for these informative and enlightening sessions.

More Information to follow on Church Webpage and Weekly Newsletters. IDU Deacon's Roundtable Contact: Deaconess Sabrina Crenshaw, **email srcren@cox.net** or phone: 1 (850) 380-4054



The House of God Church, Inc. Keith Dominion INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION

IDU ANNOUNCEMENT

The International Deacons Union is pleased to announce implementation of the Young Stewards Mentoring Program. The Program is designed to train young people over an extended period of time on how to serve as both deacons and trustees in The House of God Church on the local level. This training will eventually result in deacons and trustees who will be able to serve more effectively in many of the local churches where there is a need for them to serve on both boards based upon the size of the church membership. The Program will officially launch during the 2024 General Assembly through distribution of Program materials to the various dioceses by the International Deacons Union.

Following Program Summary:

IDU Young Stewards Mentoring Program

The Young Stewards Mentoring Program has been created to identify boys and girls who express and demonstrate an interest and desire to work in the church; and, to train them in character building as well as for future leadership in the church. The program is also designed to inspire, support and guide young people through fruitful and continual mentorships. The mentors will assist stewards in strengthening their walk, commitment and service to the Lord; and help to foster the spiritual growth of these youth and the local church.

We pray that this program will inject energy and excitement within and among the Youth in their respective Dioceses. which will lead to the future calling of dedicated ministers, deacons and youth leaders as pillars in our great church.

The International Deacons Union, will serve as a resource to the Dioceses for the Young Stewards Mentoring Program by providing guidance, when necessary, to ensure adherence to the program guidelines and intent.

Guidelines for Selecting Young Stewards

- A. Age Range 10 to 17 (There may be exceptions for extraordinary youth)
- B. Guidelines for the selecting Young Stewards. A candidate must:
 - 1. Be baptized with the Holy Ghost
 - 2. Be a bona fide member of The House of God Church, Keith Dominion and exhibit age-appropriate commitment to the doctrine and rules of the church
 - 3. Be a Member of the SBS and YFFU
 - 4. Be obedient to God and church.
 - 5. Be willing to respect and obey those who rule over them in the Lord

- 6. Be trustworthy and of a good character
- 7. Be a good role model for their peers
- 8. Be a regular attender of SBS, Church services, the YFFU meetings and other activities as far as within their power.
- 9. Demonstrate an interest in the Young Stewards Mentoring Program
- 10. Be willing to learn, work and follow instructions both in their spiritual development and in assigned duties.

The Chairman Deacon, after collaboration with the local deacon board, YFFU Coordinator and SBS Superintendent, will recommend candidates to the Pastor for participation in the Young Stewards Mentoring Program.

The Pastor will direct the Chairman Deacon to:

- seek parental approval of all Young Stewards prior to final selection
- Encourage parental (guardian) involvement and support of auxiliary program activities (where appropriate).

E. Length of service as a Young Stewards

The Young Stewards' participation in the Mentoring Program will end at the age of 18. Afterwards they may be recommended for other positions in the church for which they qualify according to the Bible and Church Decree.

F. Benefits of Implementing Young Stewards Program

- 1. Youth will gain knowledge about the work and ministry of the various offices in the church
- 2. Youth will experience the actual work of the ministry
- 3. Youth will develop a love and appreciation for the work of up building God's Kingdom
- 4. Youth will be inspired to be active in services of the church
- 5. Youth participation in this program will provide continuity in developing faithful and trained Christian workers in the local church
- 6. Youth will learn to seek God's help through fasting and praying in observance of specific church fast days under the guidance of the Pastor and other officers of the church with knowledge and approval of the parents.

G. Pastor appointment of Spiritual Mentors to train youth as Young Stewards

"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come."

The Mentor must:

- 1. Be baptized with the Holy Ghost
- 2. Be a bona fide member of The House of God Church, Keith Dominion

- 3. Be knowledgeable of their official duties as a deacon or higher rank, if previously served in the capacity of a deacon according to the Bible, Doctrine, Deacons Handbook and Operations of the Church as well all of the following criteria in #4-13 below
- 4. Be a faithful member and regular attender of SBS and Church services, local, state and general meetings and other activities of the church
- 5. Be obedient to God and church leadership
- 6. Be willing to respect and obey those who rule over them in the Lord
- 7. Willing payer of tithes and offerings and supporter of other financial obligations
- 8. Be trustworthy and of a good character
- 9. Be a good spiritual role model
- 10. Demonstrate a desire to work with youth in a caring and understanding manner
- 11. Be able to set clear, mutually agreed upon and achievable expectations
- 12. Be willing to teach youth how to learn, work and follow instructions both in their spiritual development and in assigned duties
- 13, Monitor and keep records of program participants and submit unbiased reports to proper authorities for evaluation purposes.

PLEASE NOTE:

The International Deacons Union Young Stewards Mentoring Program materials, including an instructional Manual containing all Program components, will be available during the 2024 General Assembly for the following:

- IDU Young Stewards Briefcase (color grey) Cost \$12.00
- IDU Young Stewards Mentoring Program Manual (cost tbd)
- Deacons Handbook Cost \$15.00

Please contact Deacon John Fonville @jfonville1@suddenlink.net if more information is needed prior to the 2024 General Assembly.

THE HOUSE OF GOD Which Is the Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc. Keith Dominion

NATIONAL ANNUAL AUXILIARY/COMMITTEE 2024 - 25 PROPOSED BUDGET DUE BY MARCH 15, 2024

The National Budget Committee is requesting all National Auxiliary/Committee Chairpersons to submit their Annual Auxiliary/Committee Budgets for Fiscal Year 2024 - 25 (June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025) to Elder Chris Coffee at ccoffee19@verizon.net by March 15, 2024.

The National 2024 - 25 Budget should include any projected income and expenditures that will be incurred during FY 2024 – 25 (June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025). This includes any projected income and expenditures (e.g., honorariums, supplies, gifts, awards, etc.) for the upcoming General Assembly incurred on or after June 1, 2024.

The National Budget Committee will review all budgets and Auxiliary/Committee Chairpersons will receive approval status by April 30, 2024.

Please find attached an Annual Budget Template you can reference when preparing your annual budget.

Please contact Elder Chris Coffee at ccoffee19@verizon.net or Deacon Jeffrey McAbee at jwmc8@outlook.com with any questions.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE NAME 2024 - 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET		
DMMITTEE NAME recommend the following budget for June 1, 2024 to May 31,	2025	based on

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THE HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH Keith Dominion



LOCAL FINANCE APPLICATION (LFA)



Elder Harvey Shaw 401 Vista Drive - Columbus, OH 43230-5903 Email: shaw15222@outlook.com Telephone: (614) 270-33557

March 1, 2024

Holy Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This updated support is an effort to help those churches who are in need of one-on-one assistance with the LFA program.

We are assisting all Churches with issue/problems when using the Local Finance Application (LFA)

As of February 1, 2024 we have the Most current version Microsoft Office Professional 2021:

- 1. Your device MUST HAVE 32 GBS OF Random-Access Memory (RAM) to install and run the New version of Microsoft Office Professional
- 2. Purchases maybe made:
 - a. Be sure device requirements are in place prior to Software purchase
 - b. From the General Headquarters Office (615) 329-1625
 - c. Cost of \$160.00

We are offering Support Service to **maintain the LFA** for churches that are:

- 1. Not utilizing the church financial application,
- 2. Having difficulties using the application, or
- 3. Don't have anyone or staff to run the application.

We believe this will be a positive contribution to the financial areas of local churches and alleviate stress for a few churches concerned and/or having no one to use the application.

The House of God Local Finance Application

The application was and is utilized in most of our churches. It holds and maintains offerings and contributions mostly paid by:

- 1. Members
- 2. Donations from other individuals
- 3. Businesses and other legitimate entities outside the organization.

With the LFA, the church is able to not only capture offerings, but print out over 50 various reports that are a great help to the local church:

- Reporting contributions for all Members:
 - ✓ General Assembly,
 - ✓ State Assembly,
 - ✓ Sunday Bible School,
 - ✓ Presiding Elder's semi-annual,
 - ✓ Yearly tax return contribution statement,
 - ✓ And many other local, state and general reports.

We are naming a few advantages of the application and how much of a time saver it is!

THE HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH Keith Dominion LOCAL FINANCE APPLICATION (LFA)

LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT:

We are offering the services of obtaining and/or creating the LFA for any local band that:

- ➤ Can't get started,
- > Can't use the LFA too few members,
- > Lack of a technical person, or
- > Just don't have the time neither a computer.

The required form to be submitted after completion of same, is attached. We will start all updates the first of the Year (March 1 2024) after most State Assembly or before the April 2024 State Assemblies.

THE HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH Keith Dominion LOCAL FINANCE APPLICATION (LFA)

Band (City) Name:
Pastor's Name:
Chairman Deacon's Name:
Date:
Reasons (s) for Technical Support
Two (2) Local Contact Persons
Contact Person #1:
Phone (cell or home):
Circle One Email Address:
Mailing Address:
Contact Person #2:
Phone (cell or home):
Circle One Email Address:
Mailing Address:
Forward by US Mail or Email:
Elder Harvey Shaw (email address: shaw15222@outlook.com)
401 Vista Drive Columbus, OH 43230-5903
Phone: 614.270.3557
Thank You,
Pastor's Signature:
Chairman Deacon's Signature:
Secretary's Signature:

The GENERAL PASTORAL DAYS for the 2024 calendar year are: March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 29. Please strive to have a complete report.

Contributions for each General Pastoral Day (5th Sunday)

Chief Helpers	15.00
Bishops	12.00
All Elders	10.00
All Ordained Ministers	8.00
Local Ministers and Exhorters	7.00
All Deacons	5.00
Laymen	4.00
Children (not working)	2.00

Make all Fifth Sunday reports payable to Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr. and mail to: **Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr.**

PO Box 30787

Charleston, SC 29417-0787

REMINDERS:

- Fifth Sundays are General Pastoral Days and are set aside as an opportunity to honor the Chief Overseer.
- It is not necessary, after a person has already honored the Chief Overseer, to continue "honoring the Chief Overseer" each time you speak or sing in the same service.

CHIEF OVERSEER FELLOW:

If you or someone you know desires an application (or more information) on becoming a Chief Overseer Fellow (Intern/Apprentice), email: Info@HOGCONLINE.org

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Please endorse our church property/casualty insurance policy (policy number) to reflect the House of God, Keith Dominion, as an "additional insured and loss payee":

The House of God Which Is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Without Controversy, Incorporated, Keith Dominion.

PO Box 22675

Nashville, TN 37202-2675

During medical emergencies in any of our services, only church approved medical responders, certified medical practitioners or emergency medical responders are allowed to render assistance. Please do not crowd or surround anyone in need of medical attention.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA MINISTRY

For live-stream, Zoom or other media, social media, marketing and/or communication inquires, contact Dr. Clary Butler, Jr. at Info@HOGCOnline.org or 317-657-8118.

To view the recorded sessions of the 2022 General Assembly, login to: www.youtube.com/BishopCKButler

Social Media

Email: <u>ChiefOverseer@HOGCONLINE.org</u>

Web: <u>HOGCONLINE.org</u>
Twitter: @BishopCKButler
Instagram: @ChiefOverseer

Givelify: HOGCONLINE.org (donate)

CashApp: \$ChiefOverseer

Facebook: The House of God Church - Keith Dominion

Facebook.com/BishopCKButler Youtube.com/BishopCKButler

PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER are not just one day services in which we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. These services/gathering opportunities are an ongoing occasion for us to remember, reflect and invite others as we thank God for satisfying the consequences of sin so that believers might have eternal life.

PALM SUNDAY is Sunday, March 24, 2024. Let us rejoice as we commemorate the triumphant entry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY is March 29, 2024. I recommend that you work with your church leaders (diocese prelate, presiding elder, pastor and deacons) to determine the best way to gather in observance of Good Friday. Let us render due praises to God for the sacrifice of his Son on Calvary's cross.

EASTER is Sunday, March 31, 2024. As we faithfully assemble, let us gratefully praise and thank God for conquering death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

ORDER OF SERVICES (SUGGESTED)

PROCESSIONAL OF YOUTH
CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONGS OF PRAISE

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

OCCASION/PURPOSE

OFFERING

RECITATIONS / CREATIVITY

SONG

SERMON

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING REMARKS/BENEDICTION

He Lives Again

Jesus rose on Easter day,
The stone by his tomb was rolled away.
He conquered death upon that day,
And He lives again to show us the way.

Celebrate Our Savior

On Easter morn, we celebrate our Savior; Whatever people seek in Him, they find. In history, there has never been another So holy, sacrificial, good and kind.

Remember God's Gift

May your Easter be happy,
May your day be bright,
May you enjoy the treats,
And sweet delights.
But remember the meaning,
Remember God's gift,
Remember the resurrection,
May your soul uplift.

E. A. S. T. E. R

E is for Easter, coming again soon.

A is for angels near the tomb,

S is for stone which was rolled away

T is for tomb found empty that day.

E is for early morning, the women are glad

R is for the risen Lord, no need to be sad.

The Joy It Brings

Now when I think of Easter, I don't think of material things. I use it as a reminder Of the joy it brings.

He Lives

Happy Easter! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ, He lives! Serve Him to receive salvation; Eternal life he gives!

Angels Rolled the Stone Away

Christ the Lord is risen to-day!
Angels rolled the stone away
From the tomb wherein He lay!
Little children, come and sing,
'Glory, glory to the King,
Christ the Lord of everything!

If Not For Easter

If not for Easter,
the chaos of this world
would be all there is
and all there ever would be.
If not for Easter,
the unfairness of life
would drive us to despair.
But God sent His Son
to give eternal life
filled with peace, happiness
and unimaginable blessings
to those who choose Him.
All we have to do is choose Him.
Happy, Happy Easter!

This Life on Earth

Easter means that this life on earth is not all there is. Jesus went "to prepare a place for us" in His Father's heavenly mansions for all eternity. Jesus died for our sins, paying our penalty, so that we could be forgiven. He was resurrected, to prove that death has no hold on those who repent and accept Him as Savior. This life on earth is a prelude to eternal joy with our Lord. Easter is a celebration of our eternal destiny.

To All Who Love Him

O God of the Universe, you shed your glory, your majesty, your omnipotence to become human, as Jesus Christ-to get close to us, to connect with us, to be our role model and guide for living. O God of the Universe, you became the human Jesus Christ, to know us, to feel all we feel, to show us how much you love us by taking within yourself all our sins. O God of the Universe, you felt not just one person's pain but the pain of all of us, to wash us clean and bond with us, your creation, your children. O God of the Universe, you proved your transcendent holy power by rising from the dead, a sign that all of us who believe in You will also rise to be with You eternally. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the "Happy" in "Happy Easter." Happy Easter to all those who love Him.

What Easter Means to Me

Easter morning, God be praised,
Jesus Christ from death was raised.
On Good Friday, Jesus died;
All for us, He was crucified.
Jesus bore the pain for me,
From my sin, to set me free.
Death could not confine our Lord,
And to life He was restored.
Easter morn we consecrate,
His resurrection to celebrate.
Jesus' love means when we die,
We'll live in heaven with Him on high.
Our Savior loves us awesomely;
That's what Easter means to me.

Easter Means Eternal Life

A perfect God demands a perfect justice; He cannot let us get away with sin. We used God's gift of our free will to trespass,

So heaven's gates were closed; we couldn't get in.

Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice, To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.

"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with sorrow;

"I'll send my only Son to be the one."
Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus,
The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.
He took our guilt and blame upon Himself,
So we could be with Him in paradise.
On Easter morning, he came back from
death;

He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.

His resurrection means eternal life
For us, the ones he came to earth to save.
This summarizes all the Easter story
And because of it, we'll be with Him in
glory.

JESUS IS ALIVE

CAST: 5 friends of Jesus; 4 women; 2 soldiers (non-speaking parts); adult narrator

AT RISE: Jesus' friends are sitting in a room together, talking.

Friend # 1: I can't believe Jesus is dead.

Friend # 2: I saw His enemies drag Him through the streets of Jerusalem, to the hill outside the city. . .

Friend # 1: . . . where they nailed Him to a cross by His hands and feet.

Friend # 3: And they put that cross in a great big hole dug in the ground, so it would stand up straight and left Him to die.

Friend # 4: I helped take Him down from the cross and wrap Him in clean clothes. We carried Him to a garden tomb outside the city.

Friend # 5: I was there, too. I saw the soldiers roll an enormous stone over the entrance. And the soldiers stayed there to guard the tomb.

Friend # 2: This is the end of the second day and I'm still really frightened.

Friend # 3: Me, too. Are you sure the door is locked tight?

(During the following narration, the SOLDIERS act out what they hear being said.)

Adult Narrator: At the tomb garden, it was quiet. One of the guards was standing; the other sitting on the ground. Suddenly, the earth began to tremble! The soldiers were scared! An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. Before the horrified eyes of the soldiers, he went to the great stone that closed the tomb and rolled it aside! The tomb was open! The soldiers were shaking with fear. The angel looked at them and they fell down like dead men. Then it was all quiet again.

(The women are carrying spices and perfumes; walking toward the tomb.)

Woman # 1: I don't know what we're going to do. The stone they rolled across the entrance of the tomb was huge.

Woman # 2: I know. I don't think all four of us pushing together could budge it.

Woman # 3: Maybe there will be someone around that can help us.

Woman # 4 (Who had been walking ahead a little): You're not going to believe this!

Woman # 1: What?

(Woman # 1, 2, 3 catch up to Woman # 4)

Woman # 4: The tomb is OPEN!

Woman # 2: OPEN?

Woman # 3: What do you mean OPEN?

Woman # 4: The stone has been rolled aside.

(They all go a little father).

The Women in Unison: Jesus is GONE! Jesus is GONE!

Adult Narrator: Suddenly two angels appeared to the women. They said, 'Don't be afraid. Jesus is alive. He is RISEN! He is risen - just as He told you He would be.'

(Women # 1 runs to where the friends are)

Woman #1: He's risen! He's risen! He's risen!

Friend # 1: It's not possible.

Friend # 2: Let's go see for ourselves.

(Friend # 1 and 2 go to open tomb. They peek inside.)

Friend # 1: Jesus IS gone!

Friend # 2: The cloth He had been wrapped in is here. But Jesus is gone!

(The friends and women all go back to where the other friends are still sitting in the room.)

Friend # 1: Jesus is gone.

Friend # 4: What do you mean GONE?

Friend # 1: The stone from the tomb had been moved and the tomb was empty!

Friend # 3: How could this have happened?

Friend # 4: I'm really scared now.

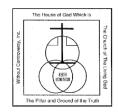
Friend # 5: Me, too. Are you sure the door is locked tight?

Adult Narrator: Later that evening, right before their eyes - Jesus appeared! He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? I am really Jesus. Look at my hands. You'll see the marks from the nails. Look at my feet. There are more nail marks.'

All friends and women together: Jesus, You're alive! You're ALIVE! You're ALIVE!

INFORMATION ~ AWARDS ~ FORMS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREPARATION AUXILIARIES



INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION AWARDS

ASSEMBLY REPORTING FORM

FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM

YFFU

BISHOP REBECCA W. FLETCHER ACADEMIC INCENTIVE AWARD

ELDER CLARA B. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

BISHOP JAMES C. ELLIOTT NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENT GOSPEL SPEAKER AND NEWS ARTICLE FINANCIAL REPORTING

COURTESY WELFARE REQUEST APPLICATION

LICENSE REQUEST

STUDENT VERIFICATION

COMMITTEE QUALIFICATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER FORM

^{* (}Refer to the 2023 Holiday Communiqué for additional forms that you may need.)



THE HOUSE OF GOD WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC. KEITH DOMINION INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION

Bishop Clary K. Butler, Sr. Chief Overseer

Deaconess Lilly W. Haygood, President 999 Harvard Street, Rochester, NY 14610 -1713

Email: <u>lillyhaygood@yahoo.com</u> Tel: (585) 461-0359 Cell: (585) 749-5643

Deacon John 'Jay' Fonville, Vice President
4301 Haywood Farms Road, New Bern, NC 28562-8361
Email: jfonville1@suddenlink.net Tel: (252) 638-8373

2024 INTERNATIONAL DEACONS UNION AWARDS

The International Deacons Union is now accepting nominations for Deacons who may qualify for the following awards to be presented during the General Assembly Deacon's Program, in June, 2024:

- > Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Distinguished Leadership Award
- > Deacon Johnnie L. King Legacy Award
- Deacon Frank Blue Distinguished Service Award

Please complete and submit all nominations for these awards no later than the 1st of March for the 2023-24 fiscal year as outlined for each Category listed on the Award Nomination Form. It is imperative that you use the updated Award Nomination Form that has the notation: *Revised: 2023-2024* at the bottom of the form because the criteria may have changed. Also, all required signatures must be on each form in order for the nominee to be eligible for review of and consideration for an award.

A Deacon can be nominated for each of the Award(s) if he/she meets all of the eligibility qualifications outlined. All nominations must be resubmitted for several reasons:

- a) The standing or qualifications of the Nominee may have changed from the previous year;
- b) The Nominator may desire to include more information about that the Nominee that was excluded the previous year which may enhance the Nominee's qualification and more closely meet the award criteria.
- c) The number of Nominations received each year exceeded the three award categories. Therefore, please resubmit your Award Nominations on the new forms for consideration each year.

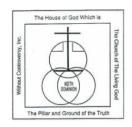
The Biographical Sketch for each Nominee is the only document provided to the Awards Screening/Selection Committee prior to and after review and selection of the Awardees. All identifiable personal information is never disclosed to ensure

confidentiality. The only names revealed are those of the three Awardees. <u>No</u> Nomination Forms are resubmitted by the Committee from previous years.

For additional information, please contact Deacon Artis Shaw, IDU Awards Committee Chairperson, at: artis.shaw@gmail.com or phone – (954) 496-6191.

Please timely submit the completed form for your Nominee prior to the 1st of March, 2024. The International Deacons Union Auxiliary Program is scheduled for Thursday during the General Assembly in June

Deaconess Lilly W. Haygood



Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Distinguished Leadership Award Nomination Form

Description

The Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Distinguished Leadership award was created to honor and recognize our fifth administrator's promotion, advocacy, and development of leaders at all levels, rank, and file of our church. This award highlights the personal contributions and service of deacons and deaconesses of the House of God Church-Keith Dominion who have served in a leadership position. This award is given to individuals who serve or have served on the National level as an Advisor, President, Coordinator, Director, Committee or Subcommittee Chairperson, or as an assistant to these roles, or on the National Staff in an appointed or volunteer position responsible for directing others. This award honors deacons and deaconesses who we believe epitomize the office of deacon as servants of our Lord Jesus Christ and our church. It is the highest and most prestigious award given to honor such individuals.

Criteria

- Ordained Deacon
- Served as a Deacon for at least **20** or more years
- Demonstrates Responsibility, Accountability, Respectability, and Availability
- Has shown commitment throughout their service in the House of God-Keith Dominion
- Submit the **COMPLETED** form to the Committee on or before **March 1**.

Nominee:		
Local Band:	Diocese:	
Current Rating:	Year Ordained:	
Nominator's Address:		
Phone Number:		
Required Signatures		
Nominator:	(Print)	(Signature)
Chairman Deacon:	(Print)	(Signature)
Pastor:	(Print)	(Signature)
State Bishop:	(Print)	(Signature)

Please use the space provided to give a brief biographical sketch. Include a list of all positions held on the state, local, and national level. Also, include all contributions made as a Deacon/Deaconess, including any outside organizations.
To ensure the committee remains as fair as possible, please write the bio sketch in third person, i.e., "The nominee has been a deacon for 20 years."
To be considered for this award, your form must be completely filled out (including all signatures), and electronically submitted to Deaconess Nicole Gilliam (nikkig1933@gmail.com) on or before March 1.
Revised: 2023-2024



Deacon Frank Blue Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

Description

The Deacon Frank Blue Distinguished Service Award recognizes the dedication and contributions of deacons and deaconesses who have a distinguished record of service in our church and have freely given of their time and substance to advance and support the ministries of the House of God Church-Keith Dominion. We believe the recipient of this award has exemplified the inherent, selfless, servanthood of the deacon office in our church.

Criteria

- Ordained Deacon
- Served as a Deacon for at least 15 or more years
- Demonstrates Responsibility, Accountability, Respectability, and Availability
- Has shown commitment throughout their service in the House of God-Keith Dominion
- May be awarded to a Deacon/Deaconess Posthumously
- Submit the **COMPLETED** form to the Committee on or before **March 1**.

Nominee		
Local Band:		
Current Rating:	Year Ordained:	
Nominator's Address:		
Phone Number:		
Required Signatures		
Nominator:	(Print)	(Signature)
Chairman Deacon:	(Print)	(Signature)
Pastor:	(Print)	(Signature)
State Bishop:	(Print)	(Signature)

Please use the space provided to give a brief biographical sketch. Include a list of all positions held on the state, local, and national level. Also, include all contributions made as a Deacon/Deaconess, including any outside organizations.
To ensure the committee remains as fair as possible, please write the bio sketch in third person, i.e., "The nominee has been a deacon for 15 years."
To be considered for this award, your form must be completely filled out (including a signatures), and electronically submitted to Deaconess Nicole Gilliam (nikkig1933@gmail.com) on or before March 1.
Revised: 2023-2024



Deacon Johnnie L. King Legacy Award Nomination Form

Description

The Deacon Johnnie L. King Legacy Award recognizes the dedication and contributions of deacons and deaconesses who have served the House of God, Keith Dominion for 50 or more years. The recipients of this award have long and distinct records of service and support for all ministries of our Church. The calling and election of these deacons and deaconesses is manifested through their enduring and indelible pattern of good works, character and leadership, which others who hold this office should emulate.

Criteria

- Ordained Deacon
- Served as a Deacon for at least **50** or more years
- Demonstrates Responsibility, Accountability, Respectability, and Availability
- Has shown commitment throughout their service in the House of God-Keith Dominion
- May be awarded to a Deacon/Deaconess Posthumously
- Submit the **COMPLETED** form to the Committee on or before **March 1**.

Nominee		
Local Band:		
Current Rating:	Year Ordained: _	
Nominator's Address:		
Phone Number:	Email Address:	
Required Signatures		
Nominator:	(Print)	(Signature)
Chairman Deacon:	(Print)	(Signature)
Pastor:	(Print)	(Signature)
State Bishop:	(Print)	(Signature)

Please use the space provided to give a brief biographical sketch. Include a list of all positions held on the state, local, and national level. Also, include all contributions made as a Deacon/Deaconess, including any outside organizations.
To ensure the committee remains as fair as possible, please write the bio sketch in third person, i.e., "The nominee has been a deacon for 50 years."
To be considered for this award, your form must be completely filled out (including all signatures), and electronically submitted to Deaconess Nicole Gilliam (nikkig1933@gmail.com) on or before March 1.

Which Is the Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc. Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675. Nashville. TN 37202-2675





ASSEMBLY FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM

GEN	ERAL STATE from		, 20	to			, 20
I, 🗆	Bishop ☐State/General Elder ☐Elde	r Reverend	□Exhorter	Deacon	Deaconess	Brother	Sister
	.,			Ordained _	Local 🗌 Trial	☐Male ☐	Female
	Name • City of hit the following report into this Assembly	, County of_	f .		State of_ _County	do	hereby of
Jubii	int the fellowing report into this / telefinity	Tota in the Oity o	State of		on the	day of	
l hav	re contributed the following for the p	urpose of Gos	pel:				
			Contribu	tions	Minimums	Off	Rating
1	General Assembly						
2	State Assembly						
3	Chief Overseer [General Pastoral Days]						
4	Chief Overseer's General Assembly And	niversary					
5	Chief Overseer's State Assembly Rally						
6	State Bishop						
7	Sunday School Convention Supervisor's	s Rally					
8	Educational Days						
9	Tithes Full Tithe? Yes No						
10	Sunday Bible School		_				
11	Sunday School Convention						
12	National Missionary Outreach Society		_				
13	Courtesy Welfare Fund						
14	National Youth [Scholarship]						
15	New Headquarters Complex						
16	Christmas Offering [Evangelism]						
17	Thanksgiving Offering [Evangelism]						
18	State Rally		_				
19	Ministers Council/Deacons Union						
20	Elders [Semi-Annual Call]						
21	Pastor						
22	Church Day						
23	Church Expense [Friday Nights]						
	Pastor's Support [Wednesday Nights]						
	Pastor's Rally		_				
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							

I have contributed a total of \$	_for Gospel Work from the last Assembly to this Assembly.	
I am contributing into this Assembly [Report]	\$ ally \$	
I am contributing for Chief Overseer's Anniversary/Re	ally \$	
I desire the prayers of the Chief Overseer and this Assembly that I may also	ways be a true and faithful worker for the Lord.	
Signed by Workers for Jesus:		
Person Reporting:		
Address:	Telephone: ()	
Pastor:	Deacon(ess)	
Secretary:	Deacon(ess)	
RESERVED FOR A	ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE	
This Financial Written Report was examined by		Date
Committee Chairperson	Percentage Rating	
Reason for percentage deduction		

THE HOUSE OF GOD WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC.

KEITH DOMINION



P. O. Box 22675 Nashville, TN 37202-2675 Phone Numbers: (615) 329-1625 and 329-0846 Fax Number: (615) 329-0354



FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM

THE HOUSE OF GOD_	_	DATE	
Ē	Band # Band Name Dioces	e #	
REPORTER	TE	ELEPHONE NO. (.)
MAILING ADDRESS:			
	Street or P.O. Box Apt. No.	City	State & Zip Code
() CHECK IF CHANG		K IF CHANGE OF REP	
TYPE OF REPORT:		() DIOCESE	
PASTOR	TE	LEPHONE NO. ()
PRESIDING ELDER	TE	ELEPHONE NO. ()
<u>ACCOUNT</u>	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTIO	<u>N</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
4004	Tithe – Personal () or Band ()	\$	
4005	Complex – Personal () or Band ()	
4006	Educational Day		
4007	Deacons Union		
4008	Courtesy Welfare		
4009	Missionary/Evangelism		
4010	Sunday Bible School		
4011	Sunday School Convention		
4012	State Assembly Ten Percent		
4013	Thanksgiving/Christmas		
4014	Lodging		
4015	Literature (Books, Newsletter, etc.)		
4019	Loan Repayments		
4023	Scholarship (National Youth Project)		
4028	Church Paper		
4029	Academic Course		
4101	Youth/Contest		
Others			
ΤΟΤΔΙ		\$	

TITHE/COMPLEX BAND REPORT

CIRCLE ONE: Tithe or Complex	TITLE FULL NAME AMOUNT																						Totals \$
plex	AMOUNT	<u>-</u>	2.	, s	4.	5.	.9	7.	89	6	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17	18.	19.	20.	21.	
CIRCLE ONE: Tithe or Complex	TITLE FULL NAME							7.															Totals \$

From the desk of the Awards Chairperson

TO: PRESIDING STATE BISHOP/STATE ELDER & DIOCESE COORDINATORS

FROM: ELDER YOLANDA DAVIS, CHAIRPERSON AWARDS COMMITTEE

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024 NATIONAL YOUTH DAY AWARDS

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that your family and you are well, and ask that you remember me in prayer.

The National YFFU Awards Committee is preparing for the Youth Day Celebration in the General Assembly. Your help is needed to recommend members in your diocese as recipients of the awards presented by the youth. Descriptions of the awards and forms to use when making recommendations have been enclosed for your convenience.

If you are recommending someone for the Dr. J.W. Jenkins Youth Award, both a recommendation form and an award check list form should be completed.

If you are recommending someone for the Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Academic Award, both a recommendation form and a brief summary form should be completed.

Please send all communications to: Elder Yolanda Davis

P.O. Box 12391 Florence, SC 29504 843-229-6889 – cell ymholman@gmail.com

Deadline for consideration of recommendations of Youth Day Awards is **April 30**, **2024**.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in this matter.

YFFU AWARDS CRITERIA

Keith Dominion Award

The **Keith Dominion Award** is the most prestigious award presented in our church. The recipient of this award served the church faithfully during the Administration of Bishop M.F.L. Keith, our Second Chief Overseer, continued working faithfully and diligently during the Administration of Bishop J.W. Jenkins, our Third Chief Overseer, Bishop J.C. Elliott, our fourth Chief Overseer, and has continued to serve during the Fifth Administration under the leadership of Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher, Chief Overseer.

Continued Service Award

The **Continued Service Award** recognizes individuals who have given continued service to the church for fifty years or more. During this time, the recipient made outstanding contributions on the local, state and national levels.

Merit Special Service Award

The **Merit Special Service Award** recognizes individuals who have worked on the National YFFU Committee for at least 15 years or more. The National Youth Committee selects recipients.

Dr. J.W. Jenkins Youth Award

The **Dr. J.W. Jenkins Youth Award** recognizes individuals up to age 35, who are full of the Holy Ghost, a faithful member of the youth department and is active on local, state and national levels. (i.e. Singing in General Assembly or Universal Choir, volunteer with YFFU or other auxiliary during the General Assembly, YFFU Program participation).

Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Academic Incentive Award

The Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Academic Incentive Award is a financial reward given to two students per grade level from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade who displays faithfulness in church as well as in school. To qualify, students must maintain a C average or higher with no documented reprimands in the current school year. A copy of the report cards for the school year and (for high school students) a recommendation from the guidance counselor regarding conduct should be included with the nomination. They also must have outstanding achievement/performance in school, church (SBS, YFFU, church services) and /or the community. They should be approved by the Local Pastor, State Coordinator and State Bishop.

AWARDS RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Proposed R	Recipient		
Address			
Age Grad	le Nu	mber of Years	s in the Church
Diocese			
Indicate the	e Award for whi	ch the Individu	ual is being recommended
O Keith Dominion Awa	ard		
O Continued Service	Award		
O Dr. J. W. Jenkins Yo	uth Award		
	ırch historical sketch		Award on a separate piece of paper please attach ng recommended. Indicate reasons why individual
O Bishop Rebecca W.	Fletcher Acad	emic Incentive	e Award
See attachment to write compared to the YFFU Coordinator. Please be			ecipient from their Local Pastor and from the Local
Please circle one answe	r below.		
Church Behavior	Good	Fair	Poor
School Conduct	Good	Fair	Poor
Service to Church	Active	Inactive	
Service to Community	Active	Inactive	
O ELDER CLARA B. WIL Complete the application page		AL SCHOLARSH	HIP
Signature of Local YFFU	Coordinator		
Signature of State YFFU C	Coordinator		
Signature of Presiding St	ate Rishon		

AWARDS RECOMMENDATION FORM

Use for the Keith Dominion, Continued Service and Dr. J. W. Jenkins Youth Award. Include a descriptive biographical (church historical) sketch of individual(s) being recommended. Indicate reasons why individual should be considered for the award(s).

iocese:			
			-

Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Academic Incentive Award <u>Award Recommendation Form</u>

Suggested Recipient	
Address	
City/State/Zip	Telephone #
Age Grade	Local Church
Comments from (Local Pastor)	
Comments from (Local YFFU Coordinator	·)
Signature of State Bishop	Signature of State Coordinator

Guidelines For The Bishop Rebecca W. Fletcher Academic Incentive Award

(This form is to be completed by the Local YFFU Coordinator)

Objective: To recognize students in grades K-12 for noteworthy accomplishments in school, church, and/or the community.

Circle all that apply

the nomination.

1.	Grade									
K	1	2	3	4	5					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
2.	Church Be	ehavior		Good			Fair		Poo	r
3.	School Co	nduct*		Good			Fair		Poo	r
4.	Service to	Church	1			Active		Inactive		
5.	Service to	Commi	unity (i	f applic	able)	Active		Inactive		
6	Academic	Perform	nance*							
	ade K-1				<u>S</u> atisfa	ctory	<u>N</u> eed	ls Improvemer	ıt	<u>U</u> nsatisfactory
						•		-		
_	1 0 40		5 0 5 0	0.4		00.000	2.4	00.40	007	
Gr	ade 2-12		70-79	%		80-89	%	90-10	0%	
Sig	gnature of	Local Y	FFU Co	ordinat	tor					
				6 .3	,		1.66		,	
^ A	a copy of th	ne repoi	rt cards	tor the	e schoo	ı year ai	nd (tor	high school st	uden	ts) a

recommendation from the guidance counselor regarding conduct should be included with

GUIDELINES FOR THE DR. J.W. JENKINS YOUTH AWARD

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To identify and honor those individuals up to age 35 for continuous, dedicated, and faithful services to the House of God Church throughout the Dr. J.W. Jenkins Administration.
- ✓ To recognize their works for the up building of God's House within the framework of this church's doctrine and tradition in Christ Jesus and as Pillars of this Church.
- ✓ To show a special tribute for the services rendered to the youth program as a youth or youth worker in the House of God Church Keith Dominion.
- ✓ To stimulate youth, youth workers, and members to continue to work and serve for the progress of God's will on earth, particularly among the youth.

1. Length of continuous service (select one only):					
☐ Below 5 years (3)	☐ 5 to 14 years (5)		☐ 15 or more ye	ars (10)	
2. Qualifications rating as a standing n	nember for the pa	st 3 years (se	elect one only)		
☐ At least 88% (3)	□ 92% (5)		☐ 96% or greate	er (10)	
3. The candidate must have worked at	two or more level	s (all three m	nay be selected	l):	
□ Local (3)	☐ State (3)		☐ General (4)		
4. Office(s) held, (i.e. Usher, Youth Worker, SBS Superintendent or Teacher, Deacon/Minister or State Coordinator, etc.); more than one may be selected:					
□ Local (3)	☐ State (3)		☐ General (4)		
5. Candidate initiated or sponsored youth activities on the following levels (all three may be selected):					
Local (2)	☐ State (3)		☐ General (5)		
6. Services rendered for the spiritual/moral improvement and growth of youth within the church organization (more than one may be selected):					
□ Local (2)	☐ State (3)		☐ General (5)		
7. Personal time (other than the norm		r tasks) devo	oted to church	work on a	
monthly or quarterly basis (select one ☐ 10% (2) ☐ 25% (□ 50% (7)	□ 75%	% or more (10)	
8. Personal involvement to maintain sta			ırch for the you	ıth (spiritual	
and moral) development (more than or ☐ Local (2)	ne may be selected ☐ State (3)	d):	☐ General (5)		
9. Overall work within the Administration (committee member, secretary, deacons/ministers, usher, YFFU program, etc.), service areas (cooks, maintenance workers, musicians, choir members) and the faith, doctrine and laws of the House of God Church (State Youth Committee Recommendation – select one only):					
☐ Good as Most (3)	☐ Better than Most	(5)	☐ One of the Be	st (10)	
10. Overall work within the youth	department of	the church	(State Youth	Committee	
Recommendation – select only one): ☐ Good as Most (3)	☐ Better than Most	: (5)	☐ One of the Be	st (10)	
Note : 1) These guidelines reflect a guide for an objective selection of the award recipient. A total of 100 points (maximum) for the possible candidate(s) may be obtained. If there is more than one recipient with the same high score, then it is recommended that the examining committee take a second comparative evaluation of the highest scoring candidates. This should generate only one winner. The remaining candidate(s) remain for the next year. 2) In the event of a tie, an interview of the candidates will be held by the first day of the General Assembly. The examining					

committee will conduct the interview.

ELDER CLARA B. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Elder Clara B. Williams Memorial Scholarship is a NEW scholarship presented to honor the first YFFU Coordinator who also served as Advisor/Consultant prior to her death in August 2020. This award would commemorate the work and sacrifices she made to the YFFU and education. \$5,000 will be awarded annually to a high school graduate. The monetary award would be given in two parts: \$2,500 awarded for the Fall Semester and \$2,500 awarded for the Spring Semester. YFFU Awards Chairperson (Elder Yolanda Davis of South Carolina) and YFFU Coordinators can provide the application packet to those interested. Applicant must be a current bonafide member of the House of God Church, Keith Dominion and meet the following criteria as outlined below.

- Be a high school senior at the time of application submission.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 transcript must have a seal and be mailed from the high school.
- Exhibit strong motivation for education and have commitment and the potential for success.
- Demonstrate leadership as evidence by regular attendance and active participation in your local church.
- Submit three signed letters of reference: one from teachers/counselors – sealed and on school letterhead, one from an adult member who is a regular attendee and active participant of the local church. Church reference must be signed by the Pastor of the church and one from someone who has knowledge of your community involvement. Letters of reference should be returned in a sealed envelope addressed to Elder Yolanda Davis.
- Submit a letter of acceptance from an accredited college or university you plan to attend.
- Submit completed application packet by April 30th.

BISHOP JAMES C. ELLIOTT

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

I. PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize and encourage on a National Level the scholastic pursuit and academic achievement of students with a monetary award. Additionally, the intent of the scholarship award is to demonstrate an investment in the church in the educational pursuits of our members who will return and benefit the church with their learned skills and expertise.

II. CRITERIA

- **1.** Those seeking consideration must show proof of attendance (matriculation) at an accredited vocational, business, two-year or four-year college or post-graduate school.
- **2.** Must demonstrate a letter grade of "C plus" or better or a numerical grade of 2.5 or better.
- **3.** Standard of conduct and character must be consistent with National YFFU guidelines.
- **4.** Those seeking consideration must be actively involved in their local church, services and activities, local Sunday Bible School, the YFFU department and the diocese Sunday Bible School Convention
- **5.** Must be recommended and endorsed by the State Bishop or State Elder.

III. THE PROCESS

- **1.** The applicant must submit a Scholarship Application which is endorsed by the Diocese YFFU Coordinator, Pastor, Presiding Elder, State Bishop or State Elder. Previous applicants who have received monetary awards cannot reapply.
- **2.** The State YFFU Committee will review, evaluate those submissions and select their qualified candidate(s) and forward these names along with all required paperwork to the National Scholarship Chairperson. These submissions must be endorsed with the State Bishop's signature.
- **3.** The National Scholarship Committee must receive the scholarship application(s) ON OR BEFORE MAY 30th annually. This is the **DEFINITE CUT-OFF DATE.**

Please send completed applications to:

The House of God Church Attention: NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 22675

Nashville, TN 37202-2675

The application must be documented with the following:

- Letter of acceptance into an accredited institution for entering college students or
- ◆ A current copy of an official transcript or official grade report documenting matriculation and Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)
- ♦ All required signatures affixed
- **4.** The responsibility and accountability for scholarship recommendations will be at the State level, reviewed and verified by the National Scholarship Committee.

IV. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

- ◆ To take place on Thursday of the General Assembly during the Graduation Exercise of The House of God Academy and Bible College.
- ♦ Recipients "should" be present.

V. MONETARY AWARDS

Awards are disbursed according to GPA:

•	4.0 and above	-	\$900.00
•	3.6 to 4.0	-	\$750.00
•	3.1 to 3.5	-	\$500.00
•	2.5 to 3.0	-	\$250.00

(The Scholarship Application Form is included in this Communiqué)

Which Is the Church of the Living God
The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc.
Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675



Bishop Dr. Clary K. Butler, Sr., Chief Overseer

Scholarship Application Form

BISHOPJAMES C. ELLIOTT, NATIONALSCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Instructions: Read the application. Type or print all information requested. Please print the following information and attach your transcript to this application.

Write a one (1) page essay on the following topic:

"How I Plan to Achieve my Vision for The House of God Church, Keith Dominion."

(Please have your essay typewritten and double-spaced. Begin your essay one (1) inch from the top of the page. Use a cover sheet for your name and other information. Also, type your name on the back of the typewritten paper in the lower right corner.)

PERSONAL CHURCH SERVICE INFORMATION

Date	e:
	Age
Address	
City	State Zip Code
Telephone ()	Local Church
Pastor	Presiding Elder
Sunday School Superinte	ndent
State YFFU Coordinator	
Number of years in the C	hurch Have you received the Holy Ghost?
List the auxiliaries you ar	re a member of in your local church:
List the positions held in	the above auxiliaries:
List any of your special ta	alents or abilities:
Have you offered any spe	ecial services to the church? If yes, list them.
What do you plan as you	r professional vocation?

ACADEMIC STANDING

Name o	f Institution	
Major		Classification
G.P.A.	(<i>Must be documen</i>	ted by an official transcript or grade report attached to application)
What ar	e your academic	goals?
		SIGNATURES
	<u> </u>	y the above-named student is currently enrolled in the specified institution and y involved in the local and state Sunday Bible School and YFFU Departments.
Applicar	nt's Signature	
State YF	FU Coordinator	
Pastor _		
Presidin	g Elder	
State Bi	shop or State Eld	der
SP	ACE RESERV	ED FOR THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
	Approved	Amount of Scholarship \$
	Disapproved	Reason for Disapproval
		National Scholarship Committee Chairperson COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGNATURES



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Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675

Bishop Dr. Clary K. Butler, Sr., Chief Overseer-Senior Bishop PRESENT GOSPEL SPEAKER

NEWS ARTICLE FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM

THE HOUSE OF GOD _____

	Ва	nd #	Band Name	Diocese #	¥	Date
REPORTER _				TELEPHONE NO	O. (_)
REPORTER'S	EMAIL ADI	DRESS: _				
MAILING ADDRESS:						
Si	treet or P.O.	. Box	Apt. No.	City	St	ate & Zip Code
TYPE OF ART	TICLE DIOC	ESE- <i>Check</i>	One: () PERSON	AL () BAN	D (() DIOCESE
PASTOR				PHONE NO. ()_	
	DDF	SENT CO	SPEL SPEAKER	NEWS APTI	CIF/S	
(List ea			ted and enter th			
			last shaded b	ox)		
No. of	No. of	IDE	NTIFIABLE TITL	E OF ARTICL	E	AMOUNT
PAGES	Рнотоѕ					
						\$
Total By	Check: \$		By Money Ord	er\$	GT	\$



Which Is the Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc. Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675

Bishop Dr. C. K. Butler, Chief Overseer-Senior Bishop COURTESY WELFARE REQUEST REVISED APPLICATION

Date: _				
Name:		Phone	Number:	
Address:				
(Street)	(Apt)	(City)	(State/ Zip Code)	
			Number:	
Local Pastor:		——— Phone	Number:	
Band Name:		——— Phone	Number:	
Specify need (e.g. Major Su	rgery, Fire, Flood, or [Disaster)		
If hospitalized, how long in	hospital?			
1. If illness, was it: Long	Term or Short Term? (Circle One)		
2. Are you presently under	doctor's care? Yes or	No (<i>Circle One</i>) _		
3. Did your insurance cove	r all of your expenses?	Yes or No (Circle	? One)	
4. If no, please explain nee	ed:			
If so, give each date of	the contributions as v	well as the incider	ourtesy Welfare? nt/s. (Use the reverse side or	
Applicant's Signature:			– Date:	
Pastor's Signature:			- Date:	
State Bishop's Signature:			Date:	
(Signature must be that of the p	residing bishop. If unavaila	ble to sign, info must	have supportive documentation.)	
	FOR OFFICIA	AL USE ONLY		
ate Received	Date Processe	d:	Amount:	

WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, INC.



KEITH DOMINION

P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675



Bishop Dr. C. K. Butler, Sr. Chief Overseer-Senior Bishop

LICENSE REQUEST

No licenses will be issued after the General Assembly. Pastors and Presiding Elders should submit their license lists in the diocese according to the dates specified by the Presiding Bishop. The combined lists submitted by the Presiding Elders to the Bishop are to be sent to the Headquarters Office by May 25th. Each bishop's compiled list should be completed for all ministers and deacons on this form. Leave no column blank. Current license fees are – **Elder \$3.00**, **Ordained Minister \$2.75**, **Local Minister \$2.50** and **Ordained Deacon \$2.25**.

RANK	FULL NAME	ORDAINED LOCAL TRIAL	MALE OR FEMALE	PRESIDING ELDER
Name of I	Diocese:		Date_	

Signature of State Bishop	

Which Is the Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth Without Controversy, Inc. Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202-2675



Bishop Dr. C. K, Butler, Sr., Chief Overseer-Senior Bishop

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM

(For Individual Financial Reports)

Adult students (18 years and above) in the House of God Church, Inc. Keith Dominion paying one-half contributions for church assessments are to STAPLE THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OR TRANSCRIPT into an accredited vocational, business, two-year or four-year college or post-graduate school to the back of your personal financial report.

l,					_, am cur	rently enr	olled as a
Title	First Name	M. I.	Last Name				
Full-T	ime student at				for _	Part	All of
the fiscal c	hurch year,		, 20	thru _			, 20
I hav	ve a Passing Grade	Point Averag	e of C or bet	ter.			
I desire to Keith Dom	do all that I am ex ninion.	pected to do	as a membe	r of the	House o	f God Chเ	urch, Inc.
	Student's Signatu	ıre		Past	or's Signa	ature	
	Secretary's Signat	ure			Date		

Which Is the Church of the Living God
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Keith Dominion



P.O. Box 22675, Nashville, TN 37202



Bishop Dr. Clary K, Butler, Sr., Chief Overseer-Senior Bishop

GENERAL ASSEMBLY Committee Qualification Revised Form

	Date:	June 1, thru May 31,	
Name of Ind	ividual	Title	
Address			
Telephone N	Number ()	Diocese	
List Names	of National Committee	es/Auxiliaries: (1)	
		(3)	
		s church organization	
Number of y	ears in attendance at	the General Assembly	
Percentage	rating as of your last \$	State Assembly Held	
Verified by s	signature of local chur	ch secretary/treasurer:	
		Date	
Pastor The Pastor The Pastor	e applicant is in good se applicant is active in e applicant is loyal, ob e applicant has comple	The Pastor must initial where indicated) standing with the church spiritually and finathe above-named committee on the local/sedient, and upholds the rules of the church eted the "Child Safety Training", documents	ncially. state level, if applicable ed in State/General file.
	State E	Bishop	Pastor
Accepted	Not Accepted	National Committee Official	Date
Accepted	Not Accepted	National Committee Official	Date
Accepted	Not Accepted	National Committee Official	Date

(Accountability/Authenticity of percentage must be confirmed by responsible local signees of this document.)

WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD THE PILLAR
AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH WITHOUT
CONTROVERSY, INC.
KEITH DOMINION

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER FORM

Address:			
Date:			
<u>REQUEST</u>			
,, am a mem	nber of the House of God church, Inc.		
Keith Dominion in M	y membership card number is		
My State Bishop is	My Presiding Elder is		
and my Pastor is			
have been living in	for months/years, and		
now I desire to transfer my membership to			
My pledges are <i>(paid up/not paid up)</i> . If the secretary of what I pledged I will pay same at once.	will send me an itemized statement		
This certifies that	is a bona fide member of our		
church in To the best of our know			
he/she is a loyal and obedient member. He/She is up at least a 96% report.	in his/her financial obligations with		
Witnessed by our signatures thisday of	, 20		
	Chief Overseer State Bishop		
	Presiding Elder		
	Pastor		



THE HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH

KEITH DOMINION 2714 Scovel Street | Nashville, TN | 615.329.1625 www.HOGCONLINE.org