

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

J U N E 2 0 2 5

JAN-FEB

AWAKE TO KNOW THE TIMES

MAR-APR

AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

MAY-JUN

AWAKE TO PRAYER

JUL-AUG

ARISE AND WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

SEP-OCT

ARISE AND REDEEM THE TIME

NOV-DEC

ARISE AND BE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST

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Foreword

Awakening: Church Arise!

As we enter this sacred time of Solemn Assembly, our hearts are stirred by a divine summons echoing from eternity into the urgency of now: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Ephesians 5:14 ESV). The Spirit of God is calling His Church—not merely to awaken, but to arise. Not merely to be aware but to act. Not merely to see the times but to seize them.

Earlier this year, our first Solemn Assembly led us into a season of spiritual awakening. We awakened to know the time—recognizing the lateness of the hour in God’s prophetic clock. We awakened to righteousness—realigning our lives with His holiness and His heart. And we awakened to prayer—responding to Christ’s call to watch and intercede, as He urged His disciples in Gethsemane: “Could you not watch with Me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40 NKJV).

Now, we move from awakening to arising. From revelation to response. From conviction to commission.

In this present season, our theme sharpens its focus: Arise and walk as children of light. Arise and redeem the time. Arise and be clothed with Christ. The call to arise is not a just a stirring of the soul; it is a command to action. The Church must arise—not just to show the way to Christ but to expose the works of darkness and confront the spiritual apathy that dulls discernment in this evil day.

Ephesians 5:1–16 NKJV charges us: “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children ... walk as children of light ... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord ... walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” This is our mandate—not to reflect the mood of the culture but the nature of Christ. Not to retreat from darkness but to shine in it. Not to count the days but to make the days count.

The Apostle Paul echoes the same urgency in Romans 13:11–12 NKJV: “It is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

This Solemn Assembly is not merely a gathering. It is a response to a holy alarm. It is a consecration of hearts to God’s will and a commissioning of lives to His work. It is a solemn “yes” to the Spirit’s stirring and a resolute “no” to the comforts and compromises of spiritual slumber.

Jesus is once again walking among His disciples, urging us to wake up and watch with Him. His visitation is near. His return is imminent. His heart

Called to Solemn Assembly: June 2025

Week 1 – Personal Preparation (May 25–May 31, 2025)

Week 2 – Corporate Prayer And Fasting (June 1–8, 2025)

Regional and Corporate Prayer Schedule (June 1–8, 2025)

Morning Prayer	Mon–Fri 6:00–7:00 am	In-Person:	Red Hill Central Oahu Metro East Honolulu
		Online Only:	Leeward Windward
Corporate Noon Prayer	Mon–Fri 12:00–1:00 pm		Red Hill
Corporate Evening Prayer	Mon–Fri 6:00–8:00 pm		Red Hill
Personal and Family Prayer	Saturday (any time)		—
Thanksgiving and Exhortation	Sunday, June 8 6:00–8:00 pm		Red Hill

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL CONCERNING PRAYER TIME

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

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

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1–8, 2025

Day 1 (Sunday)	Ministry of the Word (AM and PM services)
Day 2 (Monday)	Arise in Holiness
Day 3 (Tuesday)	Arise and Walk as Children of Light
Day 4 (Wednesday)	Arise and Redeem the Time
Day 5 (Thursday)	Arise and be Clothed with Christ
Day 6 (Friday)	Arise in the Power of the Spirit
Day 7 (Saturday)	Personal and Family Prayer
Day 8 (Sunday)	Thanksgiving and Exhortation

**SOLEMN ASSEMBLY PART I: WEEK OF PERSONAL PREPARATION
May 25–31, 2025 (Sunday to Saturday)**

Six Steps To Preparation For Solemn Assembly

Sunday, May 25 to Saturday, May 31, 2025, is a week of personal preparation before the Solemn Assembly. Like the Levitical priests who carefully prepared themselves before they entered the Tabernacle to minister to God, it is important that we take time to prayerfully prepare ourselves to enter Solemn Assembly in the spirit and posture of heart that is pleasing to God. Record all that God will be speaking to you throughout this season of prayer and fasting on the pages provided in this booklet.

STEP 1: Plan your week’s schedule to include times for corporate and personal prayer.

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

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

1. Prepare your heart to come before God in humility and contrition.
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to do a deep searching of your heart and life. Bring everything to light and let nothing be hidden.
3. Pray through Psalm 51. Repent and ask God to forgive you, cleanse your heart, and renew a right spirit within you.
4. Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding; remove all unbelief,

hardness, pride and resistance to His Holy Spirit. Ask God to put truth and wisdom in your inward parts.

5. Make relationships right with God and with others.

STEP 3: Prepare as a family (Joshua 24:14–15; Psalm 133 NKJV)

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

1. Heads of families: help prepare your family and share the personal application of Solemn Assembly to every person in your household.
2. Minister unity and oneness; bring healing and reconciliation to all relationships in your family, repent of sins committed against each other, and minister love and forgiveness toward one another.
3. Married couples: read 1 Peter 3:1–7 and Colossians 3:18–19.
4. Parents and children: read Colossians 3:20–21.
5. Have a family communion time to seal the oneness of spirit, love and peace; pray Psalm 133 and Colossians 3 into your family.

STEP 4: Spiritual house-cleansing (2 Chronicles 34:3–27 NKJV)

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

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

STEP 5: Prepare all ministries (Colossians 3:12–15 NKJV)

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

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

STEP 6: Ask God to infuse great faith in us (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

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

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

WHAT IS SOLEMN ASSEMBLY?

The Call To Humbly Seek God In Prayer And Fasting

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

Solemn Assembly is a corporate and personal call to humbly separate ourselves unto God for a time of Consecration, Prayer and Fasting to seek His face for a specific purpose. It is humbling ourselves before God in

repentance and consecration. It is a time to:

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

What Is Fasting And Prayer?

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

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

How Do We Fast?

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

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

Sunday, June 1: Ministry of the Word

1 PETER 2:9 NIV

YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

EPHESIANS 1:4 HCSB

For HE CHOSE US IN HIM, before the foundation of the world, TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT.

EPHESIANS 5:14–17 NKJV

Therefore He [God] says: **"AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT."** See then that you **WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY**, not as fools but as wise, **REDEEMING THE TIME**, because the days are evil. **THEREFORE DO NOT BE UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.**

ROMANS 13:11–14 NLT

THIS IS ALL THE MORE URGENT, FOR YOU KNOW HOW LATE IT IS; TIME IS RUNNING OUT. WAKE UP, FOR OUR SALVATION IS NEARER NOW THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **INSTEAD, CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

EPHESIANS 5:1–12 NLT

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **FOR THIS YOU KNOW, THAT NO FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON, NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD.** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. **FOR YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU ARE LIGHT IN THE LORD. WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness,

Monday, June 2: Arise in Holiness

..... HEBREWS 10:10–22 NLT

FOR GOD’S WILL WAS FOR US TO BE MADE HOLY BY THE SACRIFICE OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST, ONCE FOR ALL TIME ... *Our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time ...* **FOR BY THAT ONE OFFERING HE FOREVER MADE PERFECT THOSE WHO ARE BEING MADE HOLY ...** *When sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices.* **AND SO, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE CAN BOLDLY ENTER HEAVEN’S MOST HOLY PLACE BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS ...** *Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.*

..... 1 PETER 2:9 NIV

YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, *God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

..... EPHESIANS 1:4 HCSB

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

..... HEBREWS 12:14 ESV

STRIVE FOR PEACE WITH EVERYONE, AND FOR THE HOLINESS WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.

..... 1 PETER 1 :2–17 NLT

God the FATHER KNEW YOU and CHOSE YOU long ago, and HIS SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU HOLY. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST ... IT IS BY HIS GREAT MERCY THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad ... Prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. **SO YOU MUST LIVE AS GOD’S OBEDIENT CHILDREN. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires.**

You didn't know any better then. BUT NOW YOU MUST BE HOLY IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, JUST AS GOD WHO CHOSE YOU IS HOLY. For the Scriptures say, "YOU MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE I AM HOLY." And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. SO YOU MUST LIVE IN REVERENT FEAR OF HIM DURING YOUR TIME HERE AS "TEMPORARY RESIDENTS."

..... ROMANS 2:4 NKJV

*Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that **THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE?***

..... ROMANS 2:4 TPT

*Do the riches of His extraordinary kindness make you take Him for granted and despise Him? Haven't you experienced how kind and understanding He has been to you? Don't mistake His tolerance for acceptance. **Do you realize that all the wealth of HIS EXTRAVAGANT KINDNESS IS MEANT TO MELT YOUR HEART AND LEAD YOU INTO REPENTANCE?***

..... 2 PETER 3:8-9 NKJV

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.***

..... HEBREWS 3:7-14 NLT

*That is why the Holy Spirit says, "**TODAY WHEN YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEARTS** as Israel did when they rebelled when they tested Me in the wilderness. There your ancestors tested and tried My patience, even though they saw My miracles for forty years. **So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'** SO IN MY ANGER I TOOK AN OATH: '**THEY WILL NEVER ENTER MY PLACE OF REST.**'"*
*Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters, make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. **You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.***

..... HEBREWS 12:24-29 NLT

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying

out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. **BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE TO LISTEN TO THE ONE WHO IS SPEAKING.** For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! When God spoke from Mount Sinai His voice shook the earth, but now He makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.” This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping Him with holy fear and awe. For our God is a devouring fire.

1 PETER 1:1–19 TPT

From Peter, an apostle of Jesus the Anointed One, to the chosen ones who have been scattered like “seed” into the nations living as refugees in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, and throughout the Roman provinces of Asia and Bithynia. **You are not forgotten, for you have been CHOSEN and DESTINED by Father God. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS SET YOU APART TO BE GOD’S HOLY ONES, OBEDIENT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST WHO HAVE BEEN GLORIOUSLY SPRINKLED WITH HIS BLOOD.** May God’s delightful grace and peace cascade over you many times over! **Celebrate with praises the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has shown us His extravagant mercy. FOR HIS FOUNTAIN OF MERCY HAS GIVEN US A NEW LIFE— we are reborn to experience a living, energetic hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.** We are reborn into a perfect inheritance that can never perish, never be defiled, and never diminish. It is promised and preserved forever in the heavenly realm for you! ... As God’s obedient children, never again shape your lives by the desires that you followed when you didn’t know better. **INSTEAD, SHAPE YOUR LIVES TO BECOME LIKE THE HOLY ONE WHO CALLED YOU. FOR SCRIPTURE SAYS: “YOU ARE TO BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY.”**

Since you call on Him as your heavenly Father, the impartial Judge who judges according to each one’s works, LIVE EACH DAY WITH HOLY AWE AND REVERENCE THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME ON EARTH. For you know that your lives were ransomed once and for all from the empty and futile way of life handed down from generation to generation. It was not a ransom payment of silver and gold which, eventually perishes, but the precious blood of Christ—who like a spotless, unblemished lamb was sacrificed for us.

Exhortation: Arise in Holiness

The Call to Arise in Holiness

Hebrews 10:10 TPT declares, **“BY GOD’S WILL WE HAVE BEEN PURIFIED**

AND MADE HOLY ONCE AND FOR ALL THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF THE BODY OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH!” This is the Church—redeemed, royal, and made holy—through His sacrifice and His blood. **WE ARE TO BE HOLY AND LIVE HOLY.**

1 Peter 1:18–20 NLT says Jesus had made the priceless sacrifice of His own life to redeem us.

For you know that GOD PAID A RANSOM TO SAVE YOU FROM THE EMPTY LIFE you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **IT WAS THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, THE SINLESS, SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD.** God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake.

We have been saved and born again from our former worthless, sinful lives through Christ’s work on the cross. He who knew no sin took upon Himself our sinful nature, sinful life and sinful deeds completely to the cross to be crucified on our behalf. Jesus paid the price of death for all our sins so that we are declared righteous, holy, and without sin when we believe in Him. How, then, can we neglect to be holy, live, and walk holy before Him? **1 Peter 1:2–4 NLT attests to this truth by saying,**

God the FATHER KNEW YOU and CHOSE YOU long ago, and HIS SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU HOLY. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been **CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.** May God give you more and more grace and peace. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **IT IS BY HIS GREAT MERCY THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.** Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

How, then, can we neglect such a message concerning the salvation of God and not expect His judgment? We have been saved from sin and darkness and made a holy people, royal priesthood, and a people belonging to God through the precious blood of the Lamb. Hebrews 2:1–4 LEB severely warns us that we are not to neglect this salvation message.

Because of this, it is **ALL THE MORE NECESSARY THAT WE PAY ATTENTION TO THE THINGS WE HAVE HEARD, LEST WE DRIFT**

AWAY. For if the word spoken through angels was binding and every transgression and act of disobedience received a just penalty, **HOW WILL WE ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT SO GREAT A SALVATION WHICH HAD ITS BEGINNING WHEN IT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE LORD AND WAS CONFIRMED TO US BY THOSE WHO HEARD,** while God was testifying at the same time by signs and wonders and various miracles and distributions of the Holy Spirit according to His will.

As Christ's redeemed sons and daughters, children of His Light, washed by His blood to be holy, have we been negligent in living and walking in holiness before Him? Have we lived as His holy people in this world, or have we lived loving the world as those who are not yet born again? We are partakers of His redeeming blood and saving grace. We have been given eternal life by His death on the cross in our place. **Isaiah 53:5 LEB says, "He was PIERCED because of our transgressions, CRUSHED because of our iniquities; the CHASTISEMENT for our peace was upon Him, and by His WOUNDS we were healed."**

HOW CAN WE NEGLECT SUCH A MESSAGE OF SALVATION AND NOT LIVE HOLY? How can the Church forget His mercy, grace, and sacrifice on the cross for us? Do we live holy as He is holy, or do we compromise? Do we walk righteously and distinct from the unrighteousness of this world, or do we sometimes participate and dabble? Does the Church no longer have the fear of God? Are we no longer in awe of God because of constantly feasting our eyes on this world and the things of this world? Are we leaning our ears so close to the voices of this world that the voice of the Holy Spirit has been muffled and our hearing desensitized and deafened to His voice? Lukewarmness is a dangerous place to live in because the lukewarm are very comfortable with their backslidden state. Those whose love for God is growing cold these last days are very secure in their self-deception, believing that they are doing fine and well in God but are in reality far from Him. **THE CHURCH MUST AWAKE AND ARISE IN HOLINESS!**

The Call To Arise In Repentance

It is time to awaken to the warnings of the Holy Spirit and arise in repentance to be holy and live holy. Without repentance, our sins and transgressions cannot be forgiven. If not forgiven, we are not saved, and we are not holy. **ONE OF THE MOST NEGLECTED AND MARGINALIZED ISSUES OF TODAY IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IS THE NECESSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE FROM SINS TO LIVE HOLY.** Often,

messages of comfort for pain, blessings, promotion, success, and provisions are the main food that is fed to the people. These are not wrong; they are needed and good, but not at the neglect of teachings on holiness, righteousness, and the fear of the living God. Has repentance been reduced to a few words of shallow confession without a deep conviction of how we have treated God without honor? **Jesus Christ has provided salvation, but forgiveness of sins cannot be effected without repentance of sins.** What a sinner does not repent of, it cannot be forgiven. It is time to repent and arise in holiness.

- **Repentance is essential to salvation.** No one is born again without repentance, although Jesus Christ provides salvation. Truthfully, none can enter God's kingdom if one does not repent of sins.
- **Repentance is essential to holiness.** Without repentance, sins cannot be forgiven and one is not cleansed. Sins not acknowledged, owned and repented of are retained.
- **Repentance is essential to intimacy with God.** Christians still fail and fall, sometimes in weakness. Repentance must be part of our walk. It is not about being sin-obsessed; **it is about walking continuously in truth and the grace of God so that we can be holy as He is holy.**

Awaken by Mercy; Arise in Repentance

OUTSIDE OF GOD'S MERCY, WE CANNOT REPENT. God's mercy is His goodness, loving-kindness, selfless forbearance, and undeserved favor which He graciously extends to us even while we were yet sinners because He loves us. Romans 2:4 NKJV says, **"Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE?"** It is God's mercy that draws us towards repentance by quickening our hearts concerning sins that we will turn to Him, repent, be forgiven, and be restored into a holy relationship with Him. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV says that God is **"longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."**

God, in His mercy, sent Nathan to awaken the backslidden David to the evil he had done because He had no desire for David to be destroyed by sins. David's hardened heart was pierced and broken by conviction. In brokenness and contrition, he arose in repentance, crying out to God for mercy and forgiveness. God forgave, healed, and restored David to a right

relationship with Him. **God delights in mercy, not judgment. James 2:13 NKJV states, “Mercy triumphs over judgment.”**

In the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would sacrifice a bull to atone for his sins and a goat to atone for the sins of the people. Once a year, he would enter the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle on behalf of Israel and himself, carrying the blood of the sacrificed animals. In the Holy of Holies, he would encounter the Mercy Seat that covered the Ark of the Covenant and where God’s presence dwelled. Approaching the Mercy Seat with the shed blood, the High Priest had to sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat and confess all the sins of the people and his own. **WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, SPRINKLING OF BLOOD ON THE MERCY SEAT, AND THE CONFESSION OF SINS, THERE WAS NO ATONEMENT.** This means of atonement was the mercy of God extended to His people to forgive, restore, and keep them in the covenant relationship with Him as His holy people. **Without atonement, they could not be holy, and without holiness, they could not see God.** This is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, our Eternal High Priest, whose one sacrifice of His life on the cross and His shed blood are sufficient to atone us from our sins, redeem us, and make us holy. Hebrews 10:10–14 NLT states,

FOR GOD’S WILL WAS FOR US TO BE MADE HOLY BY THE SACRIFICE OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST, ONCE FOR ALL TIME ... Our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time ... FOR BY THAT ONE OFFERING HE FOREVER MADE PERFECT THOSE WHO ARE BEING MADE HOLY.

How great, immeasurable and unfathomable is the richness of God’s mercy that draws us to repentance and provides the grace for atonement of our sins that we should be redeemed and called sons and daughters of God. **Mercy draws us to repentance; grace makes available to us forgiveness and salvation.**

How, then, should the Church respond to God’s mercy that draws us to repentance? The Holy Spirit very clearly says in Hebrews 12:24–25 NLT.

You have come to Jesus, the One who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. **BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE TO LISTEN TO THE ONE WHO IS SPEAKING. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, WE WILL**

CERTAINLY NOT ESCAPE IF WE REJECT THE ONE WHO SPEAKS TO US FROM HEAVEN!

God's Warning to Awaken at His Voice and Not Harden Our Hearts

In the end, the Church must not ignore God, but awaken and arise to repentance when God's mercy calls us to repent. **If we harden our hearts and refuse His mercy by rebelling against the sacrifice and the blood of Jesus Christ, we are testing God like the children of Israel. GOD, IN HIS ANGER, SWORE WITH AN OATH THAT ISRAEL WOULD NEVER ENTER GOD'S REST BUT FACE HIS JUDGMENT.** The Holy Spirit severely warns in Hebrews 3:7–14 NLT,

“TODAY WHEN YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEARTS as Israel did when they rebelled when they tested Me in the wilderness. There your ancestors tested and tried My patience, even though they saw My miracles for forty years. **SO I WAS ANGRY WITH THEM, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'** **SO IN MY ANGER I TOOK AN OATH: 'THEY WILL NEVER ENTER MY PLACE OF REST.'”** Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters, make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. **You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.** For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

When God's mercy is calling us to come, do not harden our hearts and ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit call to us in mercy? He speaks, reveals, convicts, chastens, and disciplines. We are not to be like the children of Israel who hardened their hearts, ignored, and rebelled against God's voice. **THEY TREATED THE MERCY OF GOD LIGHTLY AND AS COMMON, AND GOD, IN HIS ANGER, SWORE THAT THEY WOULD NEVER ENTER HIS PLACE OF REST.** Do not ignore or treat lightly the mercy of God. Come to the Mercy Seat, where the blood of the Lamb has been sprinkled. Come with a rending of our hearts in contrition and with brokenness, acknowledging all that His Spirit is revealing and about which He is confronting us. In humility, confess and repent.

The Church must begin to tremble at the voice of the Holy Spirit and approach the Mercy Seat with fear and trembling. We must treat the

sacrifice of the Lamb of God and His shed blood with the utmost honor and respect. **APART FROM THIS, THERE IS NO PLACE OF REPENTANCE AND NO GRACE FOR SALVATION. SINNERS WILL REMAIN SINNERS AND WILL BE CONDEMNED ETERNALLY.** It is time for the Church to awaken to the incomparable sacrifice the Holy Trinity made in offering up Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of the Living God, to die upon the cross in our place to provide mercy and grace to atone us from sins and make us holy sons and daughters of the Living God. **TO IGNORE AND REBEL BY HARDENING OUR HEARTS IS TO OUR PERIL. GOD IS TERRIFYING IN HIS HOLINESS, SO IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A LIVING GOD.**

How Should We Repent?

There must be a deep, profound desperation to repent, be made holy, and sin no more. It causes anguish of the heart because of being cut to the quick by the conviction of the Holy Spirit that exposes to us the sickness of sins hidden in the heart. It is the Holy Spirit's examination that tears open the inward man and lays bare all that is within. Nothing is hidden, and nothing is unturned, unexposed, or untouched. Everything is uncovered, made visible, laid bare, revealed, and displayed in the light. All barriers, facades, and cover-ups are exposed, torn, and stripped away like Adam and Eve after they rebelled against God—they were naked. Psalm 51, David, in his repentance, cried out to God, **“You desire truth in my inward parts.”**

Submit ourselves fully to the Holy Spirit's searching, examination, and judgment and fully acknowledge all the Holy Spirit exposes and pronounces concerning us. There is no room for excuses or justification. We must repent in total humility, abasing ourselves fully before God. **There must be a willingness to absolutely abandon ourselves to the mercy of God and hold nothing back.** In brokenness and contrition, we empty ourselves entirely before God until He washes us clean, fully setting our spirit, soul, and mind free from all that stains the soul, be it sins, ungodly motives, attitudes, thought patterns, worldviews, value systems, and memories. In repentance, we must not leave anything unturned or unexposed but rather make all things visible and bare before the Holy God. In brokenness, we must rend our hearts, ripping off all facades and pretensions and tearing down the walls that cover up sins. God will forgive, heal, and restore. He will not remove His Holy Spirit from us but give us the right spirit and a clean heart.

Arise in Holiness

To live and walk holy as God's redeemed and holy children requires us to purpose in our hearts to live holy and daily fight to keep our consecration. We are not to give any room to the tempter of our souls, satan. The Church must stand, withstand, and overcome all temptations, deceptions, and sins to guard who we are in Jesus Christ, His holy priesthood. **DAILY THE CHURCH MUST PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD AND WAR TO WIN THE BATTLE FOR HOLINESS.** A life of holiness cannot be obtained by the lukewarm, apathetic, and slothful Christians. We are in the battle of the end times, so awake and arise in holiness, without which no one can see God. The Holy Spirit is calling on us to arise as His royal priesthood and holy nation. Therefore, we must heed the words of God in Hebrews 10:10–31 NLT.

FOR GOD'S WILL WAS FOR US TO BE MADE HOLY BY THE SACRIFICE OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST, ONCE FOR ALL TIME ... Our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time ... **FOR BY THAT ONE OFFERING HE FOREVER MADE PERFECT THOSE WHO ARE BEING MADE HOLY.** And the Holy Spirit also testifies ... "This is the new covenant I will make with My people on that day, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." ... **And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. AND SO, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE CAN BOLDLY ENTER HEAVEN'S MOST HOLY PLACE BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS.** By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place ... let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him. **For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water ... DEAR FRIENDS, IF WE DELIBERATELY CONTINUE SINNING AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SACRIFICE THAT WILL COVER THESE SINS.** There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume His enemies. **For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and**

disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. For we know the one who said, "I will take revenge. I will pay them back." He also said, "The LORD will judge His own people." **IT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.**

THE CHURCH MUST ARISE IN HOLINESS!

Prayer Focus

Take time to pray and wait on God in humble repentance according to **Psalm 139:23–24 NKJV: "Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."**

Wait on the Holy Spirit and allow Him to:

- Search, reveal, deal, and convict.
- Speak, minister, cleanse and sanctify.
- Restore you as a consecrated and holy vessel in God's hands.

A. Turn Your Heart Towards God and Seek Him in Humility

1. Humbly seek the Lord that He will search your heart completely.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the condition of your heart.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit for a contrite heart and a broken spirit to repent.

B. Seek to Live In Holy Consecration Unto God

1. Live as God's holy children, royal priesthood, and holy nation.
2. Live set apart as holy unto Him for His purpose—without compromise and not touching the unclean (Isaiah 52:11).
3. Live in total abandonment and devotion to God.

C. Arise to Hunger for Jesus Christ Above All

1. Arise to make Jesus Christ your first love and passion.
2. Arise to honor and worship only Him.
3. Arise to live in awe and fear of Him.
4. Arise to obey and serve Him wholeheartedly.

5. Arise and make Jesus Christ the center of your life.

D. Pray for Understanding That Repentance is Essential

1. Repentance is essential to salvation.
2. Repentance is essential to holiness.
3. Repentance is essential to intimacy with God.

E. Surrender to God in Perfect Submission and Repentance

1. Surrender your whole heart to the Holy Spirit's searching. Allow Him to reveal and expose all that is hidden within your heart.
2. Submit, acknowledge, and repent of all sins.
3. Cry out to God for His mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing.
4. Be forgiven, cleansed, and purged.

F. Arise to God's Call and Command to Be Holy as He is Holy

Ephesians 1:4 HCSB—"For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight."

G. Arise to Know God and Be Holy as He is Holy

1. God is holy in His nature, all His ways and dealings.
 - a. Without holiness, no one can see Him.
 - b. He commands His people to be holy as He is holy.
2. Know that God hates sin and will judge all sins.
3. Know that God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the Lamb slain to deal with the sin of humanity. It was the ultimate price paid by the Holy Trinity.
4. Arise in awe of the holy God—be, live, and walk holy before Him.

H. Awaken to the Holy and Fearsome God—Then Arise in Awe of Him

1. Pray and wait on God until He reveals Himself to you, and you behold Him in His holiness and glory.
2. Pray until your heart is overwhelmed by the revelation of Christ.
3. Pray until your heart is humbled and filled with awe and holy fear of the Living God.

Tuesday, June 3: Arise and Walk as Children of Light

JOHN 8:12 NLT

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS TO LIFE."

JOHN 1:4-5 NLT

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and HIS LIFE BROUGHT LIGHT TO EVERYONE. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

JOHN 1:4-5 ESV

IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

ISAIAH 60:1-3 NLT

Arise, Jerusalem! LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR ALL TO SEE. FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES TO SHINE ON YOU. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT; MIGHTY KINGS WILL COME TO SEE YOUR RADIANCE.

ROMANS 13:11-14 ESV

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. THE NIGHT IS FAR GONE; THE DAY IS AT HAND. SO THEN LET US CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS AND PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO GRATIFY ITS DESIRES.

EPHESIANS 5:1-21 NKJV

Therefore BE IMITATORS OF GOD as dear children. And WALK IN LOVE, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. FOR THIS YOU KNOW, THAT NO FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON, NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of

these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. **FOR YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU ARE LIGHT IN THE LORD. WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: **“AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT.”** See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **THEREFORE DO NOT BE UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

..... **COLOSSIANS 3:2-17 ESV**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **FOR YOU HAVE DIED, AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD ...** put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity ... evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have **PUT ON THE NEW SELF, which is being RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR ...** Put on ... as God's chosen ... kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. And above all these put on love ... and ... **DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.**

Exhortation: Arise and Walk as Children of Light Jesus Christ, the Eternal Light of the World

The Bible proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Light of this world. In John 1:4-5 ESV, the Holy Spirit decrees, **“IN HIM [Jesus] WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” In knowing who Christ is, we know who we are. **We have been born-again by Jesus Christ, the Light of this**

world, so we are His lights in this world. Therefore, live as He lived, walk as He walked, and be all that He was here on earth. In this, we are letting our lights shine before all people so that they may see our good works and glorify God in heaven (Matthew 5:16). We are not just putting on light or reflecting it; the Eternal Light lives within us—we are His children of light. He has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness through His blood and translated us into His kingdom. Therefore, we live, walk, and shine in this world manifesting Him—His person, presence, power, and glory.

Church, Wake Up, Open Our Eyes, and Arise as Lights of This World

The Bible warns us in Romans 13:11–12 ESV saying,

KNOW THE TIME, THAT THE HOUR HAS COME FOR YOU TO WAKE FROM SLEEP. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. **THE NIGHT IS FAR GONE; THE DAY IS AT HAND. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

Can the Church hear the cry of the Holy Spirit calling His people in Isaiah 52:1–2 TPT?

WAKE UP! OPEN YOUR EYES! Beautiful Zion, put on your majestic strength! Jerusalem, the sacred city, **PUT ON YOUR GLORY GARMENTS!** Never again will the unclean enter your gates! **ARISE AND SHAKE OFF YOUR DUST!** Sit enthroned Jerusalem! Break off your shackles of bondage from your neck!

IT IS WAKE-UP TIME! It is time to arise and shake off the dust of slumber. It is time to break every chain that binds. It is time to rend the clothes of shame, neglect, and uncleanness. **It is time to put on the holy garments of praise, glory, and strength of the Lord to walk as children of light.**

As evil seems to intensify and gross darkness covers the earth, we do not retreat nor recoil in fear. We arise with faith in our hearts and fire in our souls, being fully persuaded that God's glory has arisen upon us to drive back the darkness with His light. The time is short. We must quickly seize and make the most of every opportunity to manifest that Jesus is the Light of the world, and in His light, there is life everlasting. **The world cannot know Jesus if we do not shine. We cannot shine if we do not awake and arise.**

When we arise, Jesus Christ, the Eternal Light of the world will give us

light (Ephesians 5). We will be clothed in God's presence, power, and glory, manifesting Him, bringing light, transforming lives, and ushering many into God's kingdom as His sons and daughters from different nations.

As Children of Light Walk in Holiness and the Fear of God

As children of light, we are to PUT ON CHRIST AND PUT AWAY ALL WORKS OF DARKNESS. We are to arise and walk in holiness and the fear of the Lord. We are saved and called to keep our hearts consecrated, pure, and holy as Christ's lights because **HE, THE ETERNAL LIGHT, LIVING WITHIN US, IS HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, AND GLORIOUS.** To be a light to the world, we must walk bearing the name of Jesus in righteousness and glory. We love the people of the world, but we do not walk as they walk; neither do we love what they love nor indulge in any form of uncleanness and sin. Does the world see Christ in the Church? Do they see the light emanating from the Church? Are God's people shining His glory?

Colossians 3 says that we have died with Christ and have been raised with Him. Because our lives are hidden with Jesus in God, we put to death what is earthly, carnal, and unclean. Ephesians 5:5 NKJV clearly says, "No fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God." When the world looks at the Church, do they see a reflection of themselves in us—who they are, how they live, and what they do? **WHERE THEN IS THE LIGHT?** Has the Church's light been dimmed by compromise, sin, and callousness? **IT IS TIME TO ARISE AND WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT, NOT AS CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD.**

David's prayer of repentance in Psalm 51:6 NKJV confesses in acknowledgment to God, "**BEHOLD, YOU DESIRE TRUTH IN THE INWARD PARTS, AND IN THE HIDDEN PART YOU WILL MAKE ME TO KNOW WISDOM.**" We must hide the word of God in our hearts and set our minds to heed and obey in entirety; then, we will have a pure heart governed by truth and integrity and filled with light. It is not a divided and unstable heart but one of purity, and our ways will please Him. His word is light, and when we obey His word, we walk as children of light. Jesus looks into the heart, not the outward appearance. When our hearts are submitted to the Eternal Light, being in union with Him without any variance, our steps will be in the light, for He is the way, truth, and life. **THE PLACE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD AND HIS WORD IS THE PLACE WHERE THE LIGHT IS.** We are to walk worthy of Him by taking heed to all His statutes and obeying them. God commands His people to obey Him in all His decrees in Exodus

20:1–17 ESV, declaring,

- **I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD ... YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**
- **You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything ... You shall not bow down to them or serve them, FOR I THE LORD YOUR GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD.** (v 4–5)
- **You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,** for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. (v 7)
- **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days you shall labor ... but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God ... the LORD blessed ... and made it holy. (v 9–11)
- **Honor your father and your mother,** that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (v 12)
- **You shall not murder.** (v 13)
- **You shall not commit adultery.** (v 14)
- **You shall not steal.** (v 15)
- **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.** (v 16)
- **You shall not covet your neighbor's house;** his wife, servants, animals, or anything that is your neighbor's. (v 17)

The world has broken all these commandments of God because it is in their unredeemed nature, but has the Church, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, honored and obeyed all His commandments from the pulpit to the pew? The world does not know how to walk in holiness and the fear of God; neither do they care to or have the power to. What about Christ's Church, His children of light? What is Christ seeing in His Church? Are we living and walking like the unredeemed, we who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb to be without spot, blemish, or wrinkle? Our garments are to be white, and our heads lack no anointing (Ecclesiastes 9:8). Where is the love and honor for the Eternal Light who gives life? Where is the fear of the Lord that we walk holy before Him? **Where is the light in His blood-washed and blood-redeemed royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a special people belonging to Him?**

God's statutes reflect Him, and therefore, we are to carefully observe them. **The power of our lives to impact the world is in living and walking completely in obedience to the Eternal Light, Jesus Christ, for He is the power, the glory, and honor forever and ever.** He has overcome all darkness, crushed all evil, broken every chain, and overthrown and demolished all principalities, rulers, and powers of satan. Christ, the Light

of this world, had already cast satan out of heaven and saw him fall like lightning. Jesus had already disarmed the devil and rendered him powerless. Colossians 2:15 ESV testifies to what Christ did to the devil, saying, **“HE DISARMED THE RULERS AND AUTHORITIES AND PUT THEM TO OPEN SHAME, BY TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN HIM.”** The Church’s power, victory, and glory are manifest when it walks clothed with Jesus Christ. Through the grace and power of His Holy Spirit, we can be witnesses of His Light to the ends of the world. **Everywhere the Light is manifested, darkness is overcome, and hearts hearing the gospel will believe and be saved.** It is to our shame if we confess Jesus Christ and fail to walk as children of light. If the Church continues to stay in slumber and walk in darkness, the hearts of the people of this world will be hardened towards the gospel by the darkness they see in the Church. What a shame on, and indictment of, the Church. Surely we will not escape the judgment of God. The truth is that none will escape God’s judgment. We cannot be like the Scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus rebuked in Matthew 23:27–28 NKJV, declaring,

WOE TO YOU, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which indeed **APPEAR BEAUTIFUL OUTWARDLY, BUT INSIDE ARE FULL OF DEAD MEN’S BONES AND ALL UNCLEANNES.** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Arise and Walk as Children of Light and Shine

It is time for the Church to arise in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Like Jerusalem, in Isaiah 60, who was attacked and taken into exile because of their backslidden state, the Church generally has been in a lull and has not been arising nor shining the glory of God like the Early Church. Evil has intensified and powers of darkness keeps pushing back the Church; still, we are not fully awakened nor arisen to stand, resist, and advance God’s kingdom in faith, zeal, and valor to defeat the power of darkness, dispossess them from our God-promised land and rightfully take ownership. There have been areas and pockets of revival and gathering of saints who have been faithful, committed and not loving their lives unto death because they are totally sold out to God. However, the greater part of the body of Christ has been asleep, lukewarm, and compromised. **More are those who have been spiritually cruising than powerfully resisting the devil unto death.** Jerusalem was in the aftermath of exile in Isaiah 60. They had been

in captivity, oppressed and without hope, but God came and spoke to them according to Isaiah 60 1–3 NLT awakening them,

Arise, Jerusalem! **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE FOR ALL TO SEE. FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES TO SHINE ON YOU.** Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. **ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT; MIGHTY KINGS WILL COME TO SEE YOUR RADIANCE.**

The time for Jerusalem to be in darkness was over as God spoke to awaken and arouse her from their depressed state so that she could stand up, walk in His glory, and shine. God is giving the same message to the Church today. The time of slumber, oppressiveness, captivity, victimhood, and being the tail is over. **The Holy Spirit has come stirring, awakening, lifting off the darkness, and being poured out on God's people. The time is here. WE MUST AWAKE, SHAKE OFF THE DUST, BREAK THE CHAINS OF BONDAGE, PUT ON STRENGTH AND POWER, AND ARISE TO RADIATE THE GLORY OF GOD IN THIS DARK WORLD.** God is with us! We will overcome! We will walk as children of light, war as God's mighty army, carrying His power to heal and deliver and bring the message of His grace to forgive and save to every place of darkness. We will let His light destroy darkness and see the sick healed, the bound set free, the gospel being preached, and those who believe saved in Christ's mighty name. The awakened and revived Church, walking as children of light, shall see the fulfillment of Isaiah 60:3 NLT, which declares, "All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance." As we arise and walk as children of light as Isaiah 9:2 says, **"THE PEOPLE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS WILL SEE A GREAT LIGHT. FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, A LIGHT WILL SHINE,"** so it shall be before Christ's return.

Where Are the Children of Light?

The promise and the call to arise and shine have been given, but where are the children of light? The coming of the Bridegroom is at hand, but the Church does not know the hour. Like the parable of the ten virgins, have we fallen asleep, yet we do not know? **A sleeping Church does not know it is asleep, and it is as good as dead with an inability to see, discern, know, and obey. We must stir ourselves to fast and pray so that the Holy Spirit will set us on fire for God.** Pray that He will baptize us again and again with His anointing and power to shake off the dust, put

on strength, push back the powers of darkness, and be lit up as flames of revival to scorch the earth by burning away dross, breaking harden hearts, opening deaf ears, setting captives free, preaching the gospel and ushering many into the kingdom of God, because they have seen the blazing and glorious light upon the Church. Where are the children of light?

Our fire must grow brighter and stronger, not weaker and dimmer, because of the darkness of these evil days. If the Church were to fail to walk as children of light and shine, the world would be without hope of salvation because there would be no other lights. We have been born-again by Jesus Christ, the Light of this world, and we are His lights in this world. We live, walk, and shine as Jesus did so that we manifest Him—His love, presence, glory, and power to save to the world. Being born-again and walking as children of light is not an option but a commandment of Jesus Christ, which we cannot ignore, be exempted from, or disobey. **AT CHRIST'S COMING, WE CAN EITHER BE REWARDED OR JUDGED DEPENDING ON WHETHER WE HAVE WALKED AS HIS LIGHTS IN THIS WORLD.** Are we the good and faithful servants or the wicked and lazy ones? **The hour is late, and the Bridegroom is coming; where are the children of light?**

Seize the Urgency of the Hour, and Arise and Shine as Christ's Glorious Light

In Matthew 25, Jesus spoke a parable about the ten virgins waiting with their lamps for the coming of the Bridegroom. He was teaching His disciples the necessity of not being spiritually asleep, lazy or presumptuous but having an urgency and diligent preparedness for His return. Because the Bridegroom delayed in coming all the ten virgins fell asleep until they were awakened by the midnight cry, **"BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING; GO OUT TO MEET HIM!"** All the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. Five wise virgins were prepared with oil for their lamps in expectation of the Bridegroom's coming. The other five were foolish and brought no oil for their lamps because they were foolish, lazy, and presumptuous. They had nothing to light their lamps and shine. They had no urgency of heart to prepare even though they knew the Bridegroom would come unexpectedly. They also knew that without oil in their lamps and having no light, they would not be allowed to go into the wedding with the Bridegroom. They were indifferent and apathetic, and their hearts were dulled and lacking urgency. When they heard that the Bridegroom was coming, they panicked and asked the virgins with oil to give some to them, but were told to go buy some for themselves.

They did and while they were gone, the Bridegroom arrived, and those who were ready with oil in their lamps and the lamps lit went into the wedding with the Bridegroom and the door was shut. The foolish and unprepared virgins returned but to their dismay the wedding had started, and the door was shut. They urgently shouted and implored, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” **IT WAS TOO LATE. In their lack of watchful preparation and urgency, THEY MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER THE WEDDING.** The Bridegroom answered, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.” Jesus concluded by warning the disciples, **“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”** Now is the time to arise and walk as children of light. **WE MUST BE PREPARED WITH OIL THAT OUR LAMPS ARE ALWAYS LIT.** Therefore, live as Jesus lived, walk as He walked, and be all that He was here on earth. In so doing, we are letting our light shine. His glory will be manifested, overcoming all darkness wherever we go. People will see our good works and glorify God in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

The Church must ensure that we do not fall into spiritual slumber, which will prevent us from walking as Christ’s lights. The Holy Spirit commands the Church in Ephesians 5:14 NKJV, saying, **“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”** The sleeping Church is more dead than alive. As we awaken and arise, Jesus will give us His light.

How Do We Arise and Walk as Children of Light?

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV) — For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

- **Be Imitators of God**

Ephesians 5:1–2 NASB — **Therefore be imitators of God**, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

- **Walk In The Light As He Is In The Light**

1 John 1:5–7 ESV — This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that **God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all.** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus

His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- **Walk Also in the Attributes of Christ, the Eternal Light—His Goodness, Truth and Righteousness**

Colossians 2:6–7 ESV — Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1 John 2:5–6 ESV — But whoever keeps His word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

- **Put On the Armor of Light**

Romans 13:11–14 NASB — Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. **Therefore let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.** Let's behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

- **Let Your Light Shine Before Others**

Matthew 5:14–16 NASB — You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The Benefits of Walking In the Light — Just as there are benefits to walking in the morning, there are benefits to walking in the light.

1 John 1:5–7 ESV — This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in

the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

When we walk in the light, we have fellowship with God and with each other. When we walk in the darkness, both relationships are affected: we no longer have a healthy relationship with God or with those around us. Our relationship with God is broken as Adam and Eve's fellowship with God became ruined when they sinned. The consequences of that fall are still present today. Our relationship with others is broken in a way that is similar to how Adam and Eve's fellowship broke down. The consequences of that damage remain in our relationships with family, friends, and neighbors. A broken relationship with God affects all our other relationships.

"LET US ARISE AND WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT!"

Prayer Focus

A. Arise to Know Jesus Christ, the Eternal Light of the World

1. He is the true and living God; there is none besides Him.
2. He is the Light of this world, and His light gives life.
3. He has overcome the kingdom of darkness and triumphed over all.

B. Arise to Know Your Identity as Light of the World in Jesus Christ

1. Know that Jesus Christ is the Light of this world.
2. Know your born-again identity in Christ as a light in this world.
3. Know that no darkness can defeat the lights of this world.

C. Arise as Children of Light, Shake Off the Dust, and Be Clothed with Christ

1. Arise and take a stand against all darkness.
2. Arise and shake off the dust of slumber.
3. Arise and break every chain that binds.
4. Arise and rend the clothes of shame, neglect, and uncleanness.
5. Arise and put on the holy garments of praise, glory, and strength of the Lord to walk as children of light.

D. Arise as Children of Light, Walk in Holiness and the Fear of the Lord

1. Arise and put on Christ and put away all works of darkness.
2. Arise and walk in holiness and the fear of the Lord.
3. Arise and live consecrated and holy as Christ's lights because He is holy, righteous, and glorious.
4. Arise and walk in obedience to the Lord and His word, and your light will shine.

E. Arise and Obey God, and Honor All His Commandments

F. How Do We Arise and Walk as Children of Light?

1. Be imitators of God, not of this world. (Ephesians 5:1–2)
2. Walk in the Light as He is in the light. (1 John 1:5–7)
3. Walk also in the attributes of the Light—Christ's goodness, truth, and righteousness. (Colossians 2:6–7)
4. Put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:11–14)
5. Let your light shine before others. (Matthew 5:14–16)
6. Know the benefits of walking in the Light. (1 John 1:5–7)

Notes:

Wednesday, June 4: Arise and Redeem the Time

EPHESIANS 5:1–17 NKJV

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us ... Let no one deceive you with empty words ... For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord ... Therefore He says: “AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT.” SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

COLOSSIANS 4:2–5 NKJV

CONTINUE EARNESTLY IN PRAYER, BEING VIGILANT IN IT WITH THANKSGIVING: *meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. WALK IN WISDOM TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE, REDEEMING THE TIME.*

JOB 14:1–5 ESV

Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not ... his days are determined, and the number of his months is with You, and YOU HAVE APPOINTED HIS LIMITS THAT HE CANNOT PASS.

PSALM 90:12 NKJV

SO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS, THAT WE MAY GAIN A HEART OF WISDOM.

PSALM 39:4–5 NLT

LORD, REMIND ME HOW BRIEF MY TIME ON EARTH WILL BE. REMIND ME THAT MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED—*how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. MY ENTIRE LIFETIME IS JUST A MOMENT TO YOU; AT BEST, EACH OF US IS BUT A BREATH.*

DEUTERONOMY 20:1–4 NKJV

WHEN YOU GO OUT TO BATTLE AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES, AND SEE HORSES AND CHARIOTS AND PEOPLE MORE NUMEROUS THAN YOU, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEM; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, *who brought you up from the land of Egypt. So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. And he shall say to them, “HEAR, O ISRAEL:*

TODAY YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF BATTLE WITH YOUR ENEMIES. DO NOT LET YOUR HEART FAINT, DO NOT BE AFRAID, AND DO NOT TREMBLE OR BE TERRIFIED BECAUSE OF THEM; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS HE WHO GOES WITH YOU, TO FIGHT FOR YOU AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES, TO SAVE YOU.”

..... 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–8 TPT

Now, beloved brothers and sisters, concerning the question of God’s precise times and specific seasons, you don’t need me to write anything to you. For you already know quite well that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly and as a complete surprise. For while some are saying, “Finally we have peace and security,” sudden destruction will arrive at their doorstep, like labor pains seizing a pregnant woman—and with no chance of escape! But you, beloved brothers and sisters, are not living in the dark, allowing that day to creep up on you like a thief coming to steal. For you are all children of the light and children of the day. We don’t belong to the night nor to darkness. THIS IS WHY WE MUST NOT FALL ASLEEP, AS THE REST DO, BUT KEEP WIDE AWAKE AND CLEARHEADED. For those who are asleep sleep the night away, and drunkards get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, WE MUST STAY ALERT AND CLEARHEADED BY PLACING THE BREASTPLATE OF FAITH AND LOVE OVER OUR HEARTS, AND A HELMET OF THE HOPE OF SALVATION OVER OUR THOUGHTS.

Exhortation: Arise and Redeem the Time

The Urgency to Redeem the Time, Our Days are Numbered

The Church must arise and redeem the time because time is running out and the days are evil. **As followers of Jesus Christ, to redeem the time, WE MUST SEIZE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY GOD PRESENTS TO US THAT WE LIVE TO FULFILL HIS WILL—PURPOSEFULLY AND FRUITFULLY.** We must treasure time by using it wisely and investing it wholly in doing the will of God and finishing His work here on earth. The Church must live with great urgency because the end is near, and the days are evil. Every second counts and we have none to waste. Ephesians 5:14–17 NKJV commands us, saying,

“Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” **SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.** Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Time is a priceless gift of life from God, yet He has set it within limits. The measure of time He gives us is the measure of the length of our life—our days are numbered.

- **Job 14:1–5 ESV**—“Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not ... **his days are determined, and the number of his months is with You, and YOU HAVE APPOINTED HIS LIMITS THAT HE CANNOT PASS.**”
- **Psalms 39:4–5 NLT**—“**LORD, REMIND ME HOW BRIEF MY TIME ON EARTH WILL BE. REMIND ME THAT MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED**—how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. **MY ENTIRE LIFETIME IS JUST A MOMENT TO YOU; AT BEST, EACH OF US IS BUT A BREATH.**”

Knowing the brevity of our time on earth, we need to pray as the psalmist did in Psalm 90:12, “**So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**” **A HEART OF WISDOM IS AWAKENED AND ARISING TO REDEEM TIME.**

No matter the measure of our days, it is all fleeting like a breath. What we do within this one breath has eternal consequences. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to awaken us and give us the power and strength to arise to redeem the time. God in His love for His Church, is awakening His Church to the urgency of time, but it is up to the Church to heed His awakening and obey in arising.

How Do We Redeem the Time?

To redeem the time, we must be intentional, purposeful, and committed to making every second count by knowing God’s will, prioritizing its fulfillment, and pleasing Him through our obedience. It means to seize every opportunity He gives us to obey and glorify Him. Being fully aware that the days are evil, we must seek to understand God’s times and seasons and maximize them by His grace. These are steps to arise and redeem the time.

- **Seize every opportunity, make the most of it, and use it for God’s glory** (Ephesians 5:16)—If we believe time is a priceless gift, are we stewarding it wisely and fruitfully? Are you using it to gain for God’s kingdom? Time is not our own. No one can guarantee that tomorrow is ours; we only have today, which is given by God.

Do not use it for evil or frivolously, but use it to glorify God.

- **Be careful how we live. Do not act thoughtlessly, but live wisely**—We must live with a God-given purpose. Depend and trust in the wisdom of God, not man's, that we are discerning and selective about how we use time. We are not to live mindlessly as if time is ours to dispense as we like. Time is God's; we only have the time given, and it is limited. Invest time in the eternal and do not waste it.
- **Overcome evil with good** (Romans 12:21)—Knowing that the days are evil, we do not succumb to evil but we overcome evil with good.
- **Work while it is day** (John 9:4)—The time we have left to serve God and do His will is fleeting. It is just a breath. Within this breath, intentionally live for the eternal and be God-centered in the temporal. We must prayerfully number our days and earnestly live as impelled by eternity and driven by the purpose of God. With this in mind, serve God relentlessly and work while there is still time.
- **Remove all distractions that waste time**—We must know God's priorities and live by pursuing and fulfilling them. Do not be like Martha who became distracted by many things. Remove from our lives worthless things that are a waste of time because they do not align with God and His will. Pursue God's kingdom and not the world. We must arise and purpose that the day must be first used to accomplish the eternal and essential to the kingdom of God.
- **Live like we are dying**—Live with the urgency of one who knows that their days are numbered and extremely short-lived. Live knowing that we are just one breath away from eternity. Whatever we do, do it as unto the Lord wholeheartedly. Do not procrastinate, and do not be in fear.
- **Life is like a vapor** (James 4:14)—We should always be mindful that our life is as brief as a vapor, but it holds the potential of immense, eternal consequences according to how we live. We must arise and redeem the time with eternity in view always. Understand the urgency by walking wisely and maximizing every God-given opportunity.
- **Everything we do will be tested by fire** (1 Corinthians 3:12–15)—Choose wisely what we do and how we do it because everything will be tested by fire. Do according to the will of God and do everything to please Him. Serve Him faithfully in complete obedience.

Fight to Arise; Now is the Time!

We must know what is putting the Church to sleep and then defeat it. The Church must no longer be ignorant and blind but understand that demonic spirits are working hard at lulling the Church to sleep. A sleeping Church lacks the conviction and strength to redeem the time. **Spiritual slumber is not just slothfulness and apathy; it is a demonic spirit that must be crushed, and its oppression and stranglehold over the Church broken. It must be defeated and overcome.** The Church must choose to arise at God's awakening and be willing to relentlessly war against the spirit of slumber until we are set free. We must no longer tolerate spiritual slumber but loathe it. It is time to put on the armor of God and, with total dependency on the Holy Spirit's strength, anointing, and power, arise and overcome.

It is not sufficient to be awakened. We must fight to arise, without which we cannot redeem the time. God, in His love, will shake His Church to awaken it to the urgency of time, but the Church must choose to arise in the power of the Holy Spirit. As we awaken, we must cry out to God for the strength of the Holy Spirit to arise so that we can stand and withstand the spirit of slumber and ultimately redeem the time.

Spiritual slumber is to succumb to the control of a demonic spirit of sleepfulness. This stronghold of slumber over the Church must be broken if the Church is to arise. What has mesmerized the Church, causing it to fall into slumber? What has lulled the Church to sleep? The Bible gave examples of servants of God who were chosen for great things but failed because they fell into slumber.

- Eli, the High Priest, had spiritually fallen asleep because he was backslidden. In his days the word of the Lord was rare in the land as Eli was not hearing from God because of his spiritual slumber.
- Samson, called to be a judge and deliverer of Israel, was lulled to sleep by Delilah and could not arise to deliver Israel. In his spiritual slumber, he was taken captive, had his eyes put out, and became a prisoner and slave to the Philistines, grinding at their mill.
- Jonah fell asleep at the bottom of the ship while running away from God in disobedience. God sent a big storm to shake not only the ship but also Jonah. He allowed the crew to throw Jonah overboard and had a big fish swallow him up. For three days in the belly of the fish, God shook Jonah to awaken him to arise to obey Him in going to Nineveh to warn them of God's judgment.

IT IS TIME TO FIGHT TO ARISE! THIS IS WAR. THE SPIRIT OF SLUMBER MUST BE BROKEN OVER THE CHURCH. We must know what is putting the Church to sleep and defeat it. It takes a willingness to obey the word of God to arise to war until we are set free from sleep and apathy. We must war against demonic spirits that are working hard at oppressing the Church by lulling it into sleep and apathy, lacking in conviction and strength to arise. Now is the time to prepare our hearts and minds for action! Put on the whole armor of God with total dependency on the Holy Spirit's strength, anointing and power arise and redeem time. It is time to arise, take a stand, and withstand against all the wiles and devices of the enemy. 1 Peter 1:13–16 TPT strongly exhorts all believers and followers of Jesus Christ:

SO THEN, PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR ACTION! STAY ALERT AND FIX YOUR HOPE FIRMLY ON THE MARVELOUS GRACE THAT IS COMING TO YOU. For when Jesus Christ is unveiled, a greater measure of grace will be released to you. As God's obedient children, never again shape your lives by the desires that you followed when you didn't know better. Instead, shape your lives to become like the Holy One who called you. For Scripture says: "You are to be holy, because I am holy."

Recognize that This is War

There is a war going on for the heart and soul of the Church to distract, dishearten, disable, and paralyze the Church from arising to obey God. We must war against demonic spirits that are working hard at putting the Church to sleep. We are not warring in the natural against flesh and blood. **This is a violent spiritual war "against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"** according to Ephesians 6:11–13 NIV. The Holy Spirit also warns us in 1 Peter 5:8 ESV, "**BE SOBER-MINDED; BE WATCHFUL. YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.**" The Holy Spirit also warns us concerning the type of warfare we are in and how to use God's mighty weapons of war to defeat the enemy in 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 ESV:

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT OF THE FLESH BUT HAVE DIVINE POWER TO DESTROY STRONGHOLDS.** We destroy

arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS WAR! WE ARE TO DESTROY ALL THE DEVIL'S WEAPONS OF WAR WITH THE WEAPONS OF GOD. Spiritual warfare is indiscriminately and violently disruptive, invasive, forceful, and vicious. These are not days when all things remain the same. This is a time of spiritual warfare in the last days! We must awake and war to arise and redeem the time. The deceiving phenomenon is that life seems to go on as usual, dulling the spiritual senses to the gravity of the time. Although we acknowledge that there are challenges, are we lacking the urgency, conviction, and strength to arise?

Matthew 11:12 ESV declares, **“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.”** The Church must understand that the kingdom of darkness fights with violent force against the Church to attack, oppress, and destroy. Satan uses force, violence, and aggression to damage, hold in captivity, and ultimately eliminate. **He seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. What is the Church employing in this spiritual warfare to defeat the adversary and to arise to redeem the time? Are we spiritually violent in the power of the Holy Spirit in overcoming this warfare by force?** It is a vicious warfare in the unseen realm of the spirit. Although unseen, it is true and ferocious. The Church has been lulled into being inactive, unengaged, and lacking wisdom and knowledge concerning this warfare, allowing ourselves to be easy prey for the enemy and offering no resistance and fight in this war. We must awaken to this warfare and fight to arise to redeem the time and restore the Church to its rightful position of authority in Christ. The people of God must engage in fierce warfare and by the Holy Spirit's power to break and destroy the spirit of slumber that has oppressed the Church and held it in shackles to apathy, thereby incapacitating God's people from arising and redeeming the time. What has brought the Church into this state? How do we fight? We must deny ourselves, pick up the cross, and follow hard after Jesus, giving no room to the flesh, temptation, and satan.

In Luke 10, Jesus sent out His seventy disciples to preach the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, and bring a harvest of souls into the kingdom of God. The seventy came back rejoicing and telling Jesus in Luke 10:17 NKJV, **“LORD, EVEN THE DEMONS ARE SUBJECT TO US IN YOUR NAME.”** Immediately, Jesus said to the disciples in verses 18–20,

I SAW SATAN FALL LIKE LIGHTNING FROM HEAVEN. BEHOLD, I GIVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO TRAMPLE ON SERPENTS AND SCORPIONS, AND OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, AND NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Jesus saw in the Spirit satan being defeated and cast down like lightning by His seventy disciples according to His authority in them. It is time the Church must arise in the power, anointing, and strength of the Holy Spirit to war violently against the enemy and cast him down like lightning. In this end-time warfare, just like the seventy disciples of Jesus, the Church must arise and war in the authority of Jesus Christ to see “satan fall like lightning.” We must arise to redeem the time by preaching the gospel in power and seeing a mighty harvest coming in, and in the authority He has given us, we must heal the sick, cast out demons, and set captives free.

The Church Shall Overcome, Arise, and Redeem the Time

As we fight at God's command, God fights for us and gives us victory. We are never called to be dormant, apathetic, passive, half-hearted, and laid back. We are born again, redeemed, empowered, anointed, and called to be spiritually violent, and invasive against the powers and kingdom of darkness. We are called, trained, and armed to be effective, and lethal soldiers of God violently taking down the forces of darkness in the spiritual realm and forcefully taking back spiritual territories where satan and his forces have invaded and occupied—be it personal lives, families, in different generations, societies, communities, and nations. We not only take back stolen territories, but we also advance and occupy all territories God has given to us as our spiritual inheritance—generations and nations. In Deuteronomy 20:1–4 NKJV, God commanded Israel concerning going up to war against their enemies:

WHEN YOU GO OUT TO BATTLE AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES, AND SEE HORSES AND CHARIOTS AND PEOPLE MORE NUMEROUS THAN YOU, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEM; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. And he shall say to them, **'HEAR, O ISRAEL: TODAY YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF BATTLE WITH YOUR ENEMIES. DO NOT LET**

YOUR HEART FAINT, DO NOT BE AFRAID, AND DO NOT TREMBLE OR BE TERRIFIED BECAUSE OF THEM; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS HE WHO GOES WITH YOU, TO FIGHT FOR YOU AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES, TO SAVE YOU.

Has the Church fallen asleep as forces of darkness keep advancing? It is not too late. God's kingdom, will, and purpose will never be defeated. According to God's times and seasons, the Holy Spirit is very intentionally shaking His Church to awaken and empower us to arise to redeem time. We must hear Him, heed His shaking, and choose to obey and arise. Set our hearts and minds to war to overcome the spirit of slumber; God will give us victory!

Prayer Focus

A. Arise to War and Crush the Spirit of Slumber

1. Commit to seek Christ in prayer and fasting.
2. Put off the flesh, deny self, pick up the cross, and follow Jesus.
3. Pray against all demonic obstructions to revival.
4. Put on God's whole armor to stand against and withstand satan's wiles.
5. Put on faith, strength, and anointing to arise.

B. Arise to the Knowledge of the Coming Return of Jesus Christ

C. Arise to Know the Value and Urgency of Time—Redeem It

1. Know that time is running out for all, and life is just a breath.
2. Arise and live with an urgency in your spirit to redeem time.
3. Arise and be good and faithful stewards of time.
 - a. Recognize that time is a priceless gift and that God has set limits for all.
 - b. Commit to use time wisely.
 - c. Seize every God-given opportunity and make the most of it to love, obey, and serve God whole-heartedly.
 - * Extend God's kingdom, be spiritually fruitful, and multiply.
 - * Glorify God in being, living, and walking as Jesus did.
 - * Shine as Christ's lights in this dark world.

D. Identify Obstructions to Arise; Acknowledge and Repent

1. Spirit of slumber and slothfulness
2. Spirit indifference and callousness
3. Hardness of heart and spiritual blindness
4. Backslidden heart and lukewarmness
5. Self-centeredness

E. Recognize that This is War; Arise, Fight, and Overcome

F. Awaken to the Urgency of Time and Arise to Redeem Time by Committing to Doing These Things:

1. Seize every opportunity, make the most of it, and use it for God's glory.
 - a. To love and obey God.
 - b. To serve God by doing His will and finishing His work.
 - c. To preach the gospel and bring many into God's kingdom.
 - d. To fast and pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.
2. Be careful how we live. Do not act thoughtlessly, but live wisely.
 - a. Live with a God-given purpose.
 - b. Depend and trust in God's wisdom, not man's.
 - c. Be discerning and selective about how we use time.
 - d. Invest time in the eternal and do not waste it.
3. Overcome evil with good. Knowing that the days are evil, do not succumb to evil but overcome evil with good.
4. Work while it is day.
 - a. Live for the eternal and be God-centered in the temporal.
 - b. Number our days and earnestly live driven by the purpose of God.
 - c. Serve God relentlessly and work while there is still time.
5. Remove all distractions that waste time.
 - a. Know God's priorities and live to pursue and fulfill them
 - b. Remove from our lives worthless things that do not align with God's will, for they are a waste of time
 - c. Pursue God's kingdom and not the world.
 - d. Daily arise and purpose that the day must be first used to accomplish the eternal and essential to the kingdom of God.

Thursday, June 5: Arise and be Clothed with Christ

COLOSSIANS 3:1–17 NLT

Since **YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST**, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. **FOR YOU DIED TO THIS LIFE, AND YOUR REAL LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you ... **PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE, AND BE RENEWED AS YOU LEARN TO KNOW YOUR CREATOR AND BECOME LIKE HIM. IN THIS NEW LIFE ... CHRIST IS ALL THAT MATTERS, AND HE LIVES IN ALL OF US.** Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience ... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts ... Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives ... **AND WHATEVER YOU DO OR SAY, DO IT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS THROUGH HIM TO GOD THE FATHER.**

COLOSSIANS 2:6–20 NLT

And now, just as **YOU ACCEPTED CHRIST JESUS AS YOUR LORD, YOU MUST CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIM.** Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness ... **FOR IN CHRIST LIVES ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN A HUMAN BODY. SO YOU ALSO ARE COMPLETE THROUGH YOUR UNION WITH CHRIST,** who is the head over every ruler and authority. When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. **FOR YOU WERE BURIED WITH CHRIST WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED. AND WITH HIM YOU WERE RAISED TO NEW LIFE** because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead ... Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross ... **YOU HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST, AND HE HAS SET YOU FREE FROM THE SPIRITUAL POWERS OF THIS WORLD.**

ROMANS 13:11–14 NLT

THIS IS ALL THE MORE URGENT, FOR YOU KNOW HOW LATE IT IS; TIME IS RUNNING OUT. WAKE UP, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first

believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. SO REMOVE YOUR DARK DEEDS LIKE DIRTY CLOTHES, AND PUT ON THE SHINING ARMOR OF RIGHT LIVING. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. INSTEAD, CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

Exhortation: Arise and be Clothed with Christ

Arise and Be Clothed with Christ—The Time is Now

“THE SPIRITUAL GARMENT NO CHRISTIAN SHOULD EVER BE WITHOUT IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Putting on Christ means letting the Lord be our armor, embracing Him over and over, and daily trusting Him in faith, thankfulness, and obedience.”
—John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (c. AD 347—407)

It is time for the Church to arise and be clothed with Christ. If not now, then when? In Revelation 16:15 NLT, Jesus warns His Church, **“Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! BLESSED ARE ALL WHO ARE WATCHING FOR ME, WHO KEEP THEIR CLOTHING READY SO THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO WALK AROUND NAKED AND ASHAMED.”** We are on the cusp of Christ's second coming, which will happen at an hour that no one expects. We will all be surprised at the hour of His coming, but we must not be unprepared. It is time that all sons and daughters of God awake and arise to live in watchfulness for the day of Christ's return. In preparation, we arise to be always clothed with Jesus Christ. It is not the time to grow weary, discouraged, careless, or fall into slumber. By God's grace, we must arise to encourage ourselves in the Lord, exercise walking in the Spirit, be armed with the armor of God, and daily purpose in our heart to put off the old self and be clothed with Christ—His person, presence, power, and glory. Even as we are filled with His Holy Spirit, let us be clothed by His Spirit. Romans 13: 11–14 NKJV admonishes the Church, saying,

DO THIS, KNOWING THE TIME, THAT NOW IT IS HIGH TIME TO AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP; FOR NOW OUR SALVATION IS NEARER THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and

drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But **PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO FULFILL ITS LUSTS.**

When we are born-again, Christ's holy and divine kingdom has come within us as Luke 17:12 NKJV declares, "Nor will they say, 'See here!' **FOR INDEED THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.**" We are no longer of the kingdom of darkness but of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. As the Eternal Light dwells within us by His Holy Spirit, we have become His lights in this world. The Light who lives within us also shines through us and clothes us. Therefore, we can let our light shine. If the Church is to successfully declare that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and all who believe in Him shall be saved, the Church must live perpetually and fully clothed with Christ.

Be Clothed With Christ as He was Clothed With His Father

As Christ was fully clothed with His Father being One with Him, we are to be clothed with Christ by being one with Him. **JESUS WAS ALWAYS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CLOTHED IN HIS FATHER'S PRESENCE, LOVE AND GRACE.** Jesus was always thirsting, seeking, loving, and abiding in oneness of love and intimacy with His Father. There was no moment He was not with His Father—abiding, loving, hearing, and obeying. The Son did nothing except what the Father told and showed Him (John 5:20).

In like manner, as we are consumed with Christ, He will overflow and clothe us with His presence, power, and glory. **When Christ is the center of all things, being clothed with Him is the outflow. We cannot wear (manifest) Christ outwardly if we are not filled with Him inwardly.**

Being clothed with Christ is to be clothed with who He is: the character, virtues, power, and glory of the Almighty God. It is to be attired in the Redeemer, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Living Water, Bread of Life, Holy and Anointed One, Wonderful, Counselor, and the One who sits on the throne forever and ever. When we are fully surrendered to Christ on the inside, we will be fully clothed with Him on the outside. **CHRIST MUST BE OUR ALL-IN-ALL. He is the center of our life, the cornerstone of our being, the everlasting well from which we drink, and the Rock upon which we stand.** He is also our life's priority, passion, and pursuit: the Lord we trust, the God we worship, and the Master we obey and serve. Jesus Christ must be the food we eat, the water we drink, and the One we long and pant for.

The Church must remember that Christ has redeemed us. We are born again and made new in His blood. Therefore, we must abide in Christ and live for Christ—Christ our all. **As we live in this truth, we are clothed with this truth.** Whoever we abide in, we will drink from; whoever we drink from will fill us up from inside out. Whoever fills us from the inside out will inundate us to overflowing, then cover and clothe us all over in His presence, fragrance, and glory. We also live and walk in His grace, power, strength, and anointing. In intimacy with God, we are wrapped in His love and swathed in His presence, fragrance, and oil. **We always carry the aroma of the One we have been intimate with, manifesting His character, love, righteousness, virtues, and grace.** This is being clothed with Christ. A daily surrender of all within us to all that He is will always keep us overflowing with Him. Moses abided in God constantly. He thirsted for God unceasingly and sought Him relentlessly. All Moses wanted was God's presence and to see His face. Therefore, he was a man of prayer and fasting who consistently spent days and nights seeking, praying and fasting in the presence of God. In Exodus 34, God called him to come up to Mount Sinai alone. Moses was with God forty days and nights as he prayed and fasted. God appeared in person to Moses and spoke to him face to face. Moses was then clothed in the presence of God so that his face shone and radiated the brilliance of God. Exodus 34:28–30 NLT speaks of this:

Moses remained there on the mountain with the LORD forty days and forty nights. In all that time he ate no bread and drank no water. And the LORD wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets. When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, **HE WASN'T AWARE THAT HIS FACE HAD BECOME RADIANT BECAUSE HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE LORD.** So when Aaron and the people of Israel saw the radiance of Moses' face, they were afraid to come near him.

THE CHURCH MUST ARISE AND BE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST!

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and Make No Provision for the Flesh

Paul urged the church in Rome to awake to the urgency of time concerning Christ's return and to arise to put on Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. Paul starkly warns in Romans 13:11–14 NLT,

THIS IS ALL THE MORE URGENT, FOR YOU KNOW HOW LATE IT IS; TIME IS RUNNING OUT. WAKE UP, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. **SO REMOVE YOUR DARK DEEDS LIKE DIRTY CLOTHES, AND PUT ON THE SHINING ARMOR OF RIGHT LIVING.** Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **INSTEAD, CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

The Church is to walk in the newness of life we have received from Christ, and our sights are set on the realities of heaven where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Colossians 3 says as believers, we have died to the old life because we have been raised to a new life with Jesus. We belong to the day. **AS OUR NEW LIFE IS HIDDEN IN HIM, WE ARE TO PUT ON THE NEW NATURE AND LEARN TO KNOW HIM. WE HAVE DIED TO THE OLD LIFE. WE DO NOT CLOTHE OURSELVES IN ANYTHING THAT IS OF THE PAST, DEAD AND HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS.** We put off the old life, with its sinful nature and putrefying flesh from which issue all manner of sin, filth, and darkness. They have been crucified with Christ on the cross once and for all time. Colossians 2:12–20 NLT speaks to us testifying to our new life.

FOR YOU WERE BURIED WITH CHRIST WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED. AND WITH HIM YOU WERE RAISED TO NEW LIFE because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead ... **Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins.** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross ... **YOU HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST, AND HE HAS SET YOU FREE FROM THE SPIRITUAL POWERS OF THIS WORLD.**

Therefore, whatever we do or say, we do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. **As Christ's followers, we live, walk, and act according to the new life within us.** As we have been lifted out of the old life and put into the new, we are to be Christ-centered in sight, focus, vision, and attention. Let the spirit of the new creation within shine through us. We

must refuse the old life and the old man who has been crucified and buried with Christ. We are one with Christ in our new life and creation. Therefore,

- **KNOW AND LIVE IN OUR IDENTICALNESS WITH CHRIST.** The Church is not an organization; it is a gathering of sons and daughters of God who are born again through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. **We have been birthed into God's family and kingdom through the blood of Jesus Christ, making us one family with God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** Therefore, the Church is united as one with the Holy Trinity. This unity is our identicalness with Christ, and His eternal life in us is supernaturally causing us to change from glory to glory to be more and more identical with Him in person, character, ways, and purpose. The eternal life given to us is working in us to transform us more and more into the image of Christ and taking on His heart, mind, passion, and priorities. This transformation is what it means to be clothed with Christ.
- **KNOW AND SURRENDER TO OUR TRANSFORMATION INTO CHRIST'S IMAGE OR CHRISTLIKENESS** as the Holy Spirit, the seal of our salvation and dwelling in us, purifies and sanctifies us. We are being transformed daily, and we grow more and more into His likeness, holiness, and righteousness. **The Church must embody who Christ is, manifest what Christ has done for the world, and make Christ the Living water available to the thirsting world.**
- **KNOW AND SUBMIT TO OUR ALIGNMENT WITH CHRIST** by the teaching and working of the Holy Spirit in us, bringing everything concerning us into a perfect unity and alignment with Jesus Christ. We lay aside all that is not of Christ and put on Christ, bringing all into alignment with all that is Christ's.

To arise and be perpetually clothed with Christ, the Church must arise and hunger for Him, seek Him, be filled with Him, and love Him with all of our hearts, souls, and minds.

Finally, How to Be Clothed With Christ Perpetually

Ephesians 4:17–24 LEB — This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles walk: in the futility of their mind, being darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the

hardness of their heart, who, becoming callous, gave themselves over to licentiousness, for the pursuit of all uncleanness in greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard about Him, and **YOU WERE TAUGHT BY HIM (JUST AS TRUTH IS IN JESUS), THAT YOU TAKE OFF, ACCORDING TO YOUR FORMER WAY OF LIFE, THE OLD MAN, who is being destroyed according to deceitful desires, BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND, AND PUT ON THE NEW MAN (IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD), who is created in righteousness and holiness from the truth.**

Following Christ and Being Conformed to His Image

Colossians 3:1–10 NLT — Since **YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST**, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. **FOR YOU DIED TO THIS LIFE, AND YOUR REAL LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you ... **PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE, AND BE RENEWED AS YOU LEARN TO KNOW YOUR CREATOR AND BECOME LIKE HIM.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV — We all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Romans 8:29 ESV — For those whom He foreknew **HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON,** in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

We are following Christ and being conformed to His image because we have died to the old life of sin, and now, the new life in Christ is within us and working in us. This new life is the power that enables us to follow Christ and it works in us to conform to Christ’s image. This is the real life hidden with Jesus. With the new life, we put on our new nature and are being renewed in Him daily. We conform to Christ’s nature from the inside out.

Take Off the Night Clothes (Works of Darkness) and Put on the Day Clothes (Armor of Light)

Colossians 2:11–13 NLT — When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. **Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—THE CUTTING AWAY OF YOUR SINFUL NATURE.** For you were **BURIED WITH CHRIST** when you were baptized. And **WITH HIM YOU WERE RAISED TO NEW LIFE** because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead ... **then GOD MADE YOU ALIVE WITH CHRIST,** for He forgave all our sins.

Ephesians 5:8–11 NKJV — For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And **HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS,** but rather expose them.

Romans 13:12–14 NKJV — The night is far spent, the day is at hand. **THEREFORE LET US CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, AND LET US PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT.** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But **PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO FULFILL ITS LUSTS.**

According to Colossians 2:11 NLT, when Jesus Christ redeemed us, and we are born-again, He “performed a spiritual circumcision—**THE CUTTING AWAY OF YOUR SINFUL NATURE.**” As the old nature of darkness is cut off from us, we also cast off the works of darkness, the former night clothes, and put on the armor of light. We have died to the old life of sin and darkness and received from Jesus Christ a new life hidden in Him. It is a life of light, righteousness, and freedom. As the power of darkness is broken over us, we shake off all that is connected to darkness. We no longer have any association or fellowship with it. We dress our spirit, mind, and body in Christ Jesus and manifest Him in our being, lives, and walk. We are His light in this world because Christ’s light is in us. We are dressed in the fruit of His Spirit in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. **The new life hidden in Christ gives us the grace to put on Christ daily and the power to make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.** We put to death the sinful, earthly things and put on our new nature as we are being renewed through learning from Christ (Colossians 3:10 NLT).

Be Clothed in the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10–20 NKJV — Finally, my brethren, BE STRONG in the Lord and in the power of His might. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Therefore TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **BEING WATCHFUL TO THIS END WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL THE SAINTS**—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The Church must not be asleep concerning spiritual warfare. We are not battling against visible and natural forces and aggression. The enemies of the Church are in the unseen realm of the spirit, and these are satanic principalities, powers of evil, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Their chief is satan, once a cherub serving God, but was cast down from heaven like lightning by God because evil had entered his heart as he rebelled against God in an attempt to be greater than Him. In his rebellion, he influenced and infected the hearts of one-third of the angels with his evil, and they followed him in rebellion. This is the army of the devil who now fights against the people of God. The Church cannot fight spiritual forces of darkness in the natural and with natural forces and power. The battle belongs to God, and we, His army, must be garbed in the Lord's full armor to stand against and withstand the wiles of satan in these evil days and crush and triumph over the devil and his army. We must put on the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, and the shoes of the gospel. Above all, we must pick up the shield of faith that quenches every devilish and fiery dart and wield the sword of the Spirit—which is His Word—and

pray without ceasing.

Nothing on earth or in heaven can defeat the Lord Jesus Christ's armor. Clothed in the armor of God and using His mighty weapons of warfare, the Church will always prevail against all powers of darkness. It is time we suit up for war as God's mighty soldiers and be victorious.

Be Clothed in Christ's Nature, Virtues, and Goodness—His Love, Mercy, Grace, Generosity, Kindness, Compassion, and Humility

Colossians 3:10–17 NLT — PUT ON YOUR NEW NATURE, AND BE RENEWED AS YOU LEARN TO KNOW YOUR CREATOR AND BECOME LIKE HIM. IN THIS NEW LIFE ... CHRIST IS ALL THAT MATTERS, AND HE LIVES IN ALL OF US. Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience ... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts ... Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives ... **AND WHATEVER YOU DO OR SAY, DO IT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS THROUGH HIM TO GOD THE FATHER.**

We must clothe ourselves in Christ's nature, virtues, and goodness. Christ's new life in us must flow out of us in streams of love, kindness, mercy, gentleness, and compassion. We must be clothed in all the qualities and virtues that embody Christ. We are His ambassadors, conduits, messengers, and servants of hope, love, and light in this dark, broken, and suffering world that has been so damaged by the forces of evil. As we have received new life in Christ and deliverance from all powers of evil, we can bring others to the same Light as we shine in the darkness, demonstrating all His love, goodness, virtues, and life. The Church can bring mercy to those who need mercy, deliverance to those who are bound, healing to the broken and wounded, freedom to those in captivity, and eternal life through Christ Jesus. We are the conduits of the Blessed and Living Hope to this world.

Be Clothed in Christ's Servanthood

Matthew 20:24–28 NLT — When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

But among you it will be different. **Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE OTHERS AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.**

John 13:15–16 NKJV — FOR I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Jesus Christ was not only the Son of God, but He was also His Father's Servant sent to be the ransom for the whole world so that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life. He was called Servant in many portions of the Bible. Isaiah 49:5 NKJV says, **"AND NOW THE LORD SAYS, WHO FORMED ME FROM THE WOMB TO BE HIS SERVANT."** In Matthew 20:28 NLT, Jesus speaks of Himself, saying, **"FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE OTHERS AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY."**

One of Jesus' priorities was to be His Father's Servant sent to serve others by giving His life to redeem many, the Church must also be clothed in the servanthood of Jesus and serve as He served. He served by giving Himself and laying down His life as a sacrifice to give life to all who would call on His name. He served that others may be set free, forgiven, rescued from death, gain eternal life in Him, and be adopted in God's family. Through His Church, He still serves the poor and the rich, the weak and the strong, the young and the old, and the whole world through His gospel of being the Lamb crucified to be a ransom for many. We cannot win the world with His gospel unless we are willing to be servants as He is.

Be Clothed in Christ's Glory

Isaiah 60:1–3 ESV — ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON YOU. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And **NATIONS SHALL COME TO YOUR LIGHT, AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR RISING.**

We are clothed in God's glory, righteousness and grace through salvation in Christ Jesus. The old life of sin is cut off as Christ puts His new life in us, transforming us into His likeness and image. He clothes us in His glorious presence and grace as His Holy Spirit empowers us to reflect His character, attributes, and virtues. God is eminently, unchangeably, and eternally glorious. He is glory in everything—His nature, attributes, holiness, power, and acts. To be clothed in God's glory is not in the natural or the merely outward. It is a glory that exudes from our inner man because of Christ's eternal life in us that we are children of God's kingdom. Christ's life is a gift of salvation that indwells and transforms us so that we emanate His character, nature, and attributes, which is the glory of God.

Through His Church, Christ's glory is shown throughout the earth, giving proof that Jesus Christ is God Almighty, Savior, and the soon-coming King. Believers clothed in Christ's glory are His servants ministering His saving grace, everlasting love, and kindness to all who would come to Him at His invitation. The glory of God upon His Church is the power that defeats all darkness, bringing hope, love, and life to anyone who would receive Christ as Lord and Savior. Even as darkness intensifies and covers the earth in the last days, the glory of God has arisen upon His people, and His people will shine God's beauty, radiance, wonder, and power throughout the earth, ushering many towards His glory and into His kingdom.

Prayer Focus

A. Arise and Repent of Areas Where You Have Not Put on Christ

1. Failure to put off the old nature and the works of darkness.
2. Failure to deny self, crucify the flesh, pick up the cross, and follow Jesus.
3. Failure to die to the flesh and walk in the Spirit of God.
4. Failure to completely surrender to God.

B. Pray to Be Ignited With an All-Consuming Zeal for Christ

1. Seek to be clothed with Christ as He was clothed with His Father.
2. Seek to be consumed with Christ as He was with His Father.
3. Seek to be filled to overflow with Christ's presence, power, and glory.
4. Seek to make Christ the center of all things and manifest Him always.

C. Arise and Hunger for Christ—Seek Him, and Be Filled with Him

1. Love Him with all of your heart, soul, and mind.
2. Set your heart, soul, and mind to:
 - a. live in your identicalness with Christ in person, character, ways, and purpose.
 - b. surrender to your transformation into Christ's image. Embody who Christ is through the working of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. align with Christ through the Holy Spirit's teaching, grace, and power.
 - d. lay aside all that is not of Christ; put on Christ and bring glory to His name.

D. Arise to the New Life In Christ

E. Live in complete union in Christ.

1. Live in the truth that you have been redeemed. Therefore,
 - a. You died to the old life, and your real life is hidden with Christ
 - b. You have been raised to a new life in Christ.
 - c. You now put on your new nature in Christ.
 - d. You are renewed as you learn to know and become like Christ.
 - e. Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.

F. Arise and Be Clothed with Christ

1. Put on Christ and make no provision for the flesh.
2. Follow Christ and be conformed to His image.
3. Take off the night clothes (works of darkness) and put on the day clothes (armor of light).
4. Be clothed in the armor of God.
5. Be clothed in Christ's nature, virtues, and goodness.
6. Be clothed in Christ's servanthood.
7. Be clothed in Christ's glory.

Friday, June 6: Arise to the Power of the Spirit

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20 NKJV

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD BUT IN POWER.

EPHESIANS 3:20 NLT

Now all glory to God, who is able, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6–10 NIV

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. **BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY TO SHOW THAT THIS ALL-SURPASSING POWER IS FROM GOD AND NOT FROM US.** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

EPHESIANS 1:18–20 TPT

I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, **UNTIL YOU EXPERIENCE THE FULL REVELATION OF THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING**—that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that He finds in us, His holy ones! **I PRAY THAT YOU WILL CONTINUALLY EXPERIENCE THE IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS OF GOD’S POWER MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH FAITH.** Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! **THIS IS THE MIGHTY POWER THAT WAS RELEASED WHEN GOD RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD and exalted Him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm!**

ACTS 1:2–8 TPT

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus left instructions through the Holy Spirit for the apostles He had chosen. After the sufferings of His cross, Jesus appeared alive many times to these same apostles over a forty-day period, proving to them with many convincing signs that He had been resurrected. During these encounters, He taught them the truths of God’s kingdom. Jesus instructed them, **“DON’T LEAVE Jerusalem, but WAIT here UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE GIFT I told you about, the gift the Father has promised. For John baptized you in water, but in a few days from now YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!”** Every time they were gathered together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is it now the time for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” He answered, “The Father is the One who sets the fixed

dates and the times of their fulfillment. You are not permitted to know the timing of all that He has prepared by His own authority. **BUT I PROMISE YOU THIS—THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE SEIZED WITH POWER. YOU WILL BE MY MESSENGERS to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PLACES ON EARTH!”**

..... ACTS 2:1–41 NLT

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty wind-storm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **AND EVERYONE PRESENT WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE THEM THIS ABILITY.** At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages ... about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” ... Then Peter stepped forward ... shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you ... These people are not drunk ... what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: **‘IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL PEOPLE. YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY. YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN WILL DREAM DREAMS. IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT EVEN ON MY SERVANTS—MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE—AND THEY WILL PROPHECY.** And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved’ ... “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

..... ZECHARIAH 4:6–7 NLT

Then He said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: **IT IS NOT BY FORCE NOR BY STRENGTH, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS THE LORD OF HEAVEN’S ARMIES.**

NOTHING, NOT EVEN A MIGHTY MOUNTAIN, WILL STAND IN ZERUBBABEL'S WAY; IT WILL BECOME A LEVEL PLAIN BEFORE HIM! *And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: 'May God bless it! May God bless it!'*"

..... 2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8 NKJV

I CHARGE YOU therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. FOR I AM ALREADY BEING Poured OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING, AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND. I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. Finally, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Exhortation: Arise to the Power of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit, God Eternal and Almighty

Jesus, as the Son of Man, knew He needed His Father and the Holy Spirit for all things pertaining to His Father's kingdom, will and work. The Bible says that He did nothing on His own but always in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- He was conceived of the Holy Spirit—Luke 1:26–38
- He was baptized in the Holy Spirit—Matthew 3:16–17
- He was filled with the Holy Spirit without limit—John 3:34
- He was led by the Holy Spirit—Luke 4:1
- His strength and anointing came from the Holy Spirit—Luke 4:16–22, Acts 10:38
- He cast out demons and did miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit—Acts 10:38
- He lived, walked, moved and ministered in the Holy Spirit—Luke 4:18
- He taught and directed His disciples by the Holy Spirit—Acts 1:2
- He was strengthened by the Holy Spirit to obey His Father—Luke 22:42–43
- He submitted Himself to the cross by the Holy Spirit—Luke 22:42–43

- He was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit—Romans 8:11
- The Church must learn from Jesus. As He sought, loved, trusted, obeyed and depended on the Holy Spirit, we too, can arise in the power of the Spirit.

The Kingdom of God is Not in Word But in Power

THE CHURCH MUST UNDERSTAND that the Kingdom of God, to which we belong, is not in word but in power (1 Corinthians 4:20). Everything concerning God's kingdom works and is accomplished through the Holy Spirit's power and grace. As God's people, we no longer look at what we have but at who God is in all we are and do. His indwelling Spirit gives us the grace, power, and all we need to love, serve, and please Him. The flesh can only produce things of the flesh. It is powerless to deliver anything of the Spirit that is acceptable to God or glorifying to Him.

Because the Holy Spirit never fails, neither does His power. His is the power that prevails over all for eternity. His is the power that will cause all knees to bow and tongues to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. His is the power that the gates of hell are rendered impotent to prevail against Christ's redeemed, His Church. All hell may break loose, and every demon unleashed against His Church, but they will utterly fail as His Church arises and prevails in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's power is omnipotent—eternally supreme, sovereign, overcoming, unstoppable and invincible. Everything we need to live godly lives, serve Him fully, and love Him entirely is in the power of the Spirit. **Ephesians 3:20 NLT declares, "Now all glory to God, who is able, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK."**

Awake from Spiritual Apathy, and Arise in the Power of the Spirit

The Bible says that God's kingdom is not in word but in power, so where is this power today concerning His Church? Is the Church only good at preaching and teaching about the power of the Spirit, yet failing to live, walk, and move in it? Where is the power of the Church to stand, withstand, and prevail over the gates of hell in this end-time spiritual warfare? Where is the victory of the Church to overcome evil, live holy, and unashamedly declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Where is the courage of the Church to fearlessly preach the Gospel in the midst of attacks, false accusations, and persecution? Where is the faith of the Church to take a stand for truth—to live and speak it—even when hard pressed, shamed, canceled, rejected,

brought to court, or perhaps imprisoned? Where is the power to see many more captives set free and saved?

Are there many more being healed from deadly sicknesses and diseases? Are the dead being raised? Are those bound by drugs, addictions, and demonic strongholds being set free, saved, and serving God? Are cities in darkness turning to Christ and being lit up with righteousness? Are nations living in the oppression of false religions having the light shine on them, being delivered from darkness and put into Christ's kingdom of light to worship Him? All these are to be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through His Church, but in reality is it? Is the Church living and serving God in this power?

The kingdom of God is not in word but in power. Where then is the power in the Church to accomplish what Jesus died and rose again to fulfill? Jesus told His disciples that they would do greater works. **It is time for the Church to awaken and arise in the power of the Spirit. We must not sleep anymore.**

We need to face the truth concerning our spiritual bankruptcy. Not every congregation is in this state. Some believers are on fire for God, living in the power of the Holy Spirit and vigilantly advancing the kingdom of God. As of now, is it not true that there are more who profess to be children of God but are not arising and living in the power of the Holy Spirit?

As God's sons and daughters, have we failed by refusing the Holy Spirit first place in our life, ministry, and church? We have failed in truly knowing, trusting, and yielding to Him completely. The Church has been apathetic and lukewarm. We receive a measure of His infilling and are satisfied. We experience some measures of the miraculous and are contented. We win a few battles and lose many others, and we believe that is the norm. We do not think there is more to the Holy Spirit in our lives, and we settle for limited knowledge and experience of Him. For these reasons, the Church is asleep and weak.

It is time to awaken and arise in the power of the Spirit. It is time to give Him first place in everything. It is time to seek Him in sweat and blood till He fills us to overflowing like the apostles and early Church in the book of Acts. The will of God must be done, and His work must be finished by the power of the Spirit. The eternal destinies of many are at stake. Our hearts must be pierced by the realization of our spiritual apathy and that we care only for ourselves and not for the world that is yet to be saved. It is time to awaken and arise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Until the Church lives, walks, and moves in the power of the Holy Spirit like the Early Church, we are not living in the fullness of the Spirit as

promised by Jesus Christ to those who thirst. In contrast to the Early Church, we are lukewarm, apathetic, blind, and indifferent. It is time to self-examine our spiritual state and contrast ourselves to the Early Church, who were awakened, filled with the Holy Spirit, and flowing in His power. It is time we awaken to our true spiritual state and be appalled at powerlessness with sporadic victories, thin in miracles and breakthroughs, weak in spiritual warfare, fearful and retreating.

We must awaken and abhor our condition of not having the fullness of the Holy Spirit inundating us and fully living and operating in His power full throttle. The Church must face the truth, see our spiritual bankruptcy and apathy, and be able, in brutal honesty, to call out our condition in contrition and repentance. Then we will arise and turn to Him with our whole heart in thirsting and seeking relentlessly after the Holy Spirit until He fills us with His fullness.

There are things taught, preached, and practiced in the Christian community that are not true to the Word of God concerning the Holy Spirit. Therefore, many still sleep comfortably despite lacking knowledge and a relationship with the Holy Spirit. They are comfortable with a lack of thirst for Him. These are difficult and dangerous days both for the world and the Church. Chaos, unrest, and turmoil are worldwide. Gross darkness has covered the earth, evil is increasing and fear is prevalent as it grips the hearts of many. These things should not surprise the Church because the Bible warns of them in the end times.

Unless we arise in the power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot stand, withstand, and prevail. These are not the days for God's people to despair and fear but fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, trust Him wholeheartedly and be perpetually filled with the Holy Spirit and His power. If not now, when should we arise in the power of the Spirit?

Impelled by Eternity; Empowered by the Spirit

Matthew 16:15–19 NLT — Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “**YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**” Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and **UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND ALL THE POWERS OF HELL WILL NOT CONQUER IT. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you**

permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

We must awake to live, impelled by eternity and empowered by the Spirit. The end is near. The whole world is running out of time. Paul understood this truth and was gripped by it. He lived his life driven by eternity, driven by the inward knowledge that life on earth was temporal and that how he lived had eternal consequences. The temporal will affect the eternal. Paul lived with an eternal perspective, focus, and purpose not in his strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit. All his decisions and actions were driven by eternity as he lived utterly sold out to Jesus. When he knew the end was at hand for him, he confidently charged Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5–8 NKJV,

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **FOR I AM ALREADY BEING POURED OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING**, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. Finally, THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul lived this way because he loved Jesus Christ with all his heart, soul, and strength. This world held no attraction for him and had no hold over him. In Philippians 3:7–8 CEV he declared, **“But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless. NOTHING IS AS WONDERFUL AS KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. ALL I WANT IS CHRIST.”** As Paul lived driven by eternity and empowered by the Spirit, so must we.

If we are driven by eternity, we will live as aliens in this world, but as citizens of the kingdom of God in power like the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. These heroes of faith were driven by eternity amid severe persecution of being tortured, loved ones killed, losing all things, being naked and homeless, dressing themselves in goat skins and dwelling in caves, and sometimes losing their lives as they were sawn in two and killed by other means—**THEY KEPT A GOOD TESTIMONY BY BEING WILLING TO LOSE ALL AND EVEN THEIR OWN LIVES SO THEY COULD HOLD ON TO FAITH IN CHRIST. God considered them as those whom the world was not worthy of because, by faith, they lived as driven by eternity for Jesus Christ, their Lord.**

The awakened by God will arise like Paul to live as driven by eternity in

the Spirit's power. As the church arises to live this way, it will live in the last days' spiritual awakening and revival fires. God's Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh as prophesied by the prophet Joel and affirmed by Peter in the Book of Acts. Peter testified to the crowd, who were amazed at what happened when the Holy Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind, filling the disciples, setting tongues of fire upon them, and giving them a new language of the Holy Spirit. The crowd was amazed, and Peter, newly baptized in the Holy Spirit, stepped forward, preached, and confronted the crowd in power to repent and be saved. Three thousand were convicted, repented, and were saved that day.

Wait for the Holy Spirit, and Do Not Leave Until We Receive the Gift

In John 20:19–23, the Resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, appeared to His fearful disciples who were in hiding because they just witnessed the One whom they trusted and believed persecuted, whipped, crucified, and buried. Jesus, in appearing to them, said, “Peace be with you,” and showed them His hands and His side. Then Jesus told them as the Father had sent Him, He also sent them. Verse 22 says, **“And when He had said this, HE BREATHED ON THEM, AND SAID TO THEM, ‘RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.’”** The assembled, discouraged, and fearful disciples received the Holy Spirit from Jesus as He breathed on them. Then the Holy Spirit indwelt them. Before the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples had already experienced a life of power and miracles through Jesus. They were no strangers to the power of God doing supernatural and unbelievable miracles, yet in Acts 1:4–8 TPT, the resurrected Jesus again appeared to them and through the Holy Spirit commanded them,

DON'T LEAVE Jerusalem, but **WAIT** here **UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE GIFT** I told you about, the gift the Father has promised. For John baptized you in water, but in a few days from now **YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!** ... I promise you this—**THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE SEIZED WITH POWER. YOU WILL BE MY MESSENGERS** to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—**EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PLACES ON EARTH!**

Jesus instructed them, “Don't leave Jerusalem, but wait here until ... ” they would receive the gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire; then they would be seized with the Spirit's power to be witnesses everywhere for God. Although they already had the Holy Spirit, according to John 20:22,

Jesus said they had to wait and not leave until the Holy Spirit would come upon them, baptizing them and filling them with His power in a measure that they never had before. This is the power of the Spirit that the Church of today must be awakened to and arise to wait until the Church is baptized with the Spirit's fire and seized by the Spirit's power for such a time as this.

It is time for the Church to purpose to seek, wait for the Holy Spirit, and not leave until He comes, baptizes, and inundates us with the fullness of His person, presence, and power. We will not cease waiting on Him until we are filled with His power to be His witnesses. No longer will we just seek an anointed servant of God to lay hands on us; no longer will we wait for some power-filled minister of God to impart to us and activate the anointing in us because we are seekers, chasers, and pursuers of the Holy Spirit who are not satisfied until we hear, touch and see Him personally. Our hearts burn for Him and hunger to receive from Him. We yearn to encounter Him ourselves and personally hear His voice, touch His heart, feel His fire, and be ignited by Him and His fire in intimacy.

Thirsting and seeking after the Holy Spirit must burn in our spirit like fire so that we will not be distracted, diverted, or fall short of waiting until He comes and baptizes us anew daily. Our eyes must be fixed on Jesus, and our faces set like flint that we will not leave but wait until He comes and fills us with His presence, power, and glory. Then, the Church will be set free, transformed, and filled with His power that overcomes all, and we will be able to do all He calls us to do. The Church, redeemed, transformed, and empowered, will be faithful, glorious, and shining His glory throughout the world. The Church must awake, shake off the dust, and arise in the power of the Spirit.

This is the promise that Jesus gave His Church (John 14:12–14 NKJV):

Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And **whatever you ask in My name, that I will do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Prayer Focus

A. Arise in Knowledge that the Church Must Be Baptized in Spirit and Power

1. We can do nothing without the Holy Spirit and His power.
2. Being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit is Christ's command to all believers. It is not a suggestion or option.
3. Repent of the spirit of slothfulness, indifference, and callousness towards the Holy Spirit, the will of God, and His work.
4. Cry out for an awakening, an arising in repentance, and a turning to God.

B. Awake from Apathy and Arise in Holy Desperation for the Holy Spirit

1. Repent of slumber, lukewarmness, and a lack of urgency.
2. Cry out for the Holy Spirit's conviction to cut you to the quick:
 - a. Awakening you to your state of indifference and powerlessness.
 - b. Awakening you to a holy desperation to cry out and not give up, until the Holy Spirit is poured out on you to the fullest.

C. Arise and Give All to Wait. Do Not Leave Until the Holy Spirit is Poured Out on You

1. Purpose to seek Him and wait for Him.
2. Purpose not to leave, give up, or be distracted, but press in until the Holy Spirit is poured out on you.
3. Purpose to seek Him desperately until:
4. He sends His tongues of fire upon you.
 - a. He fills you up and gives you a new tongue
 - b. He endues you with His power to be His witnesses.
 - c. He sends you out in power as His witnesses to the ends of the world.

D. Arise and Put the Holy Spirit in First Place in Your Heart and Life

1. Seek to know Him.
2. Seek to be filled with Him to overflowing.
3. Seek to abide in Him always.
4. Seek to love, hear, and obey Him always.

E. Arise to Live as Driven by Eternity in the Spirit's power.

PRAY FOR OUR DISTRICT OFFICIALS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

District Superintendent – Klayton Ko
Assistant Superintendent – James Texeira
District Secretary – Janelle Marocco
District Treasurer – Darryl Kua

SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS

Big Island Presbyter – Kevin Brown
Maui Presbyter – Anne Fujii
Oahu Central / Leeward Presbyter – Lokahi Koki
Oahu Metro / Windward Presbyter – Terry Wong
Kauai Presbyter – Darryl Kua

DEPARTMENT & MINISTRY LEADERS

Kidmin – Renee Lo
Men's Ministry – Sam Cockett
Women's Ministry – Donna Bartolome
World Missions – Dan Preciado
Youth Ministry – Dion Maeda
Royal Rangers – Nathan Lasconia
Girls' Ministries – Joann Gomez

