

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY  
JANUARY 2025

# AWAKENING CHURCH ARISE



# SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

JANUARY 2025

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!

*Ephesians 5:14 NKJV – “Therefore He says: ‘AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT.’”*

Do you know what time it is for the Church? **IT IS TIME TO AWAKEN FROM SLEEP AND ARISE TO ACTION!** It is not a time for the Church to lie back, cozy, comfortable, and complacent when the world is under the judgment of fire and souls perishing. **Instead, this should be the time for the Church to arise, become vigilant, take action in obedience to God, recognize its calling, embrace the mission, and make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.** The Church is God’s anointed and fearless battleship, not a cruise ship. We are trained and equipped to war and win, seeing multitudes saved through faith in Jesus Christ!

Do you know what time it is in the world? **It is a time of demonic “wokeness” and the rise of wickedness.** It is a time marked by a profound and unsettling surge of woke deception in which adherents have given themselves over to deviant behavior such as sexual perversion, gender assignment and confusion, surgical mutilation of the human body in an attempt to change the gender of birth to one of choice, and claiming abortion to be a woman’s right and health issue instead of the murder of millions of babies. This extreme wokeness is a significant departure from long-held traditional values, virtues and norms. There is a noticeable and increasing acceptance of various behaviors and lifestyles that are considered abominable—**forbidden in the Bible, behaviors which are now not only tolerated but also actively embraced and promoted by both government entities and large corporations.** The lines between right and wrong, and natural and unnatural, are becoming increasingly blurred, leading to widespread moral and ethical confusion and decay. The Bible warns, **“What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever”** Isaiah 5:20–21 NLT.

The recent Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony bizarrely recreated Leonardo da Vinci’s interpretation of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ and His twelve disciples with drag queens and transgender performers. This profane interpretation of the Last Supper sparked controversy for its derisive mockery of Christ and Christianity, featuring transvestites and a metal horse galloping along the Seine River carrying the Olympic flag. Nicky Doll, a drag

queen who was one of the many torchbearers for the Paris Olympics, had a message for the critics amid the uproar over the scolding presentation of the Last Supper. “It was my absolute honor to perform in front of billions of people around the world and celebrate our Olympians,” Doll proclaimed, adding, “To the ones that had their feathers ruffled seeing queerness on their screen: ‘We ain’t going nowhere.’” This comment was just more evidence of how the spirit of wickedness is spreading globally.

For the Christians in the world, it is also a time of increased waves of religious persecution. Individuals and communities are being targeted, marginalized, and oppressed for their beliefs and practices, often facing discrimination, violence, and even death. This persecution is not limited to any one region or faith; it is a global phenomenon affecting people of various religious backgrounds. The good news is that where sin abounds, **GRACE ABOUND MUCH MORE! In the day of DEEP DARKNESS, God is AWAKENING the CHURCH to ARISE and MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY in these evil days.**

In Ephesians 5:15–18 NLT, Paul writes, “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

**The Church can no longer afford to keep hitting the snooze button and continue to sleep comfortably while millions die in their sin and wake up in hell. GOD IS SOUNDING THE ALARM FOR THE CHURCH TO WAKE UP AND ARISE,** as He sounded the alarm for Jerusalem in Isaiah 51:17 NIV, “Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of His wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.” Just as God then awakened His people out of their sleep of sin and stupor of despair, overwhelmed with their troubles, He is sounding the alarm for the Church to awaken and rise up. The apostle Paul, in his epistle to the saints at Rome, wrote Romans 13:11–14 NASB95,

**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 BELIEVED.** The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make

no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Many churches are not evangelizing and actively impacting culture because they lack awareness that this is God's time for harvest. They do not know what time it is. They think it is their bedtime and they have more time to sleep. When the Bible in Romans 13:11 NKJV says, "Do this, knowing the time," it is talking not about man's time but God's time. **THE WORD TIME IN THIS PASSAGE IS KAIROS, WHICH IS GOD'S APPOINTED TIME TO ACT IN HUMAN AFFAIRS.** It is now God's right time, season, or opportunity. Also, the hour is late because this *kairos* time is running out. The Greek word for sleep is *hypnos*, from where we get the word hypnosis. A definition from the National Library of Medicine says *hypnosis* is "a waking state of awareness (or consciousness) in which a person's attention is detached from his or her immediate environment and is absorbed by inner experiences such as feelings, cognition, and imagery." Sadly, this describes the state of many churches and why God is sounding the alarm to wake up His Church.

The good news is that there are Christians and churches who do know God's time (*kairos*) and know the Lord's return is imminent; they know it is the gospel time, it is the accepted time, it is working time; it is a time to arise and shine because darkness covers the earth and deep darkness the people (Isaiah 60:2); it is time to be watchful, for the enemy of our soul roams around seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). They know it is time to be busy because there is much work to do. Our Master is calling us not to say there are four months and then come the harvest, but to lift up our eyes and see that the harvest is already ripe (John 4:35). They know the time is perilous (2 Timothy 3:1–13). It is time to stay awake for the bridegroom is coming (Matthew 25:13). It's time to awaken from sleep because our salvation is nearer than we first believed (Romans 13:11). We need to wake out of the state of spiritual hypnosis of being detached from spiritual reality in a feeling of carnal security, lukewarmness, negligence, and the sleep of spiritual deadness. It is time to wake up! The NLT translation of Romans 13:11 says, **"THIS IS ALL THE MORE URGENT, FOR YOU KNOW HOW LATE IT IS; TIME IS RUNNING OUT." IT IS TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO WAKE UP!**

**Knowing the time, we must live carefully—not as fools but as wise—making the most of every opportunity in these evil days** (Ephesians 5:15–17). We need to understand what the Lord wants us to do. Let's cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. We should conduct ourselves properly, as befits the day, with no carousing or drunkenness, no sexual promiscuity or sensuality, and no strife or jealousy. Instead, we

must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The combination of spiritual, societal, and cultural wokeness has created an atmosphere of moral and ethical confusion, challenging traditional values and norms on a global scale. The world is experiencing a period of evil and wickedness in which long-standing principles are being questioned and redefined, leading to moral instability and uncertainty similar to the days of Noah and the great flood when every intent of man's thoughts was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. Just as Noah, who walked with God in his time, was righteous and blameless, this is the time for the Church to awaken and rise up in faith, discernment, courage, and a steadfast commitment to truth and holiness. Just as the favor of God was upon Noah, in the midst of the deep darkness in the world, God's favor will rest upon His people who now walk with Him.

In light of the evil days we are living in, we are exhorted to **WAKE UP** and be careful how we live, living not as fools but in wisdom making the most of every opportunity. Our theme for 2025 is **AWAKENING: CHURCH ARISE! We need to...**

- **AWAKE TO KNOW THE TIMES**
- **AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- **AWAKE TO PRAYER**
- **ARISE AND WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT**
- **ARISE AND REDEEM THE TIME**
- **ARISE AND BE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST**

Let us hear Christ's clarion call to the Church to awaken and arise to boldly obey His mandate to go, preach the gospel to all nations, and see His kingdom come, and His will be done globally!

**Klayton Ko, Senior Pastor  
First Assembly of God, Hawaii**

**Notes:**

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## Called to Solemn Assembly: January 2025

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**Week 1 – Personal Preparation (December 29, 2024–January 4, 2025)**

**Week 2 – Corporate Prayer And Fasting (January 5–12, 2025)**

### Regional and Corporate Prayer Schedule (January 6–12, 2025)

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<b>Morning Prayer</b>	6:00–7:00am	Mon–Fri	Red Hill Central Oahu Metro East Honolulu
	6:00–7:00am	online only M–F online only M–F	Leeward Windward
<b>Corporate Noon Prayer</b>	12:00–1:00pm	Mon–Fri	Red Hill
<b>Corporate Evening Prayer</b>	6:00–8:00pm	Mon–Fri	Red Hill
<b>Personal and Family Prayer</b>	Anytime	Sat	
<b>Leaders’ Training (John Harke)</b>	9:00am–12:00pm	Sat	Red Hill
<b>Thanksgiving and Exhortation</b>	6:00–8:00pm	Sun	Red Hill

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL CONCERNING PRAYER TIME

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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.

<b>Evening Prayer Schedule:</b>	6:00–6:30pm	Personal Prayer
	6:30–7:30pm	Corporate Prayer
	7:30–8:00pm	Personal Prayer



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**DAILY PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5–12, 2025**


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Day 1 (Sunday)	<b>Ministry of the Word (AM and PM services)</b>
Day 2 (Monday)	<b>Awake to Holiness</b>
Day 3 (Tuesday)	<b>Awake to Know the Times</b>
Day 4 (Wednesday)	<b>Awake to Righteousness</b>
Day 5 (Thursday)	<b>Awake to Prayer</b>
Day 6 (Friday)	<b>Awake to the Holy Spirit</b>
Day 7 (Saturday)	<b>Leaders' Training (John Harke)</b>
Day 8 (Sunday)	<b>Thanksgiving and Exhortation</b>

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**SOLEMN ASSEMBLY PART I: WEEK OF PERSONAL PREPARATION**  
**December 29, 2024–January 4, 2025 (Sunday to Saturday)**


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**Six Steps To Preparation For Solemn Assembly**

Sunday, December 29, 2024, to Saturday, January 4, 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?**

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### **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?**

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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?**

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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.).

## **How Do We Wait On God?**

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

### **Notes:**

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## Sunday, January 5: Ministry of the Word

### EPHESIANS 5:14–21 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.** 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.

### 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.

### REVELATION 3:1–6 NLT

Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: **“I know all the things you do, and that YOU HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING ALIVE—BUT YOU ARE DEAD. WAKE UP!** Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of My God. Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. **Repent and turn to Me again. If you don't wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.** Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before My Father and His angels that they are Mine. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches.”

..... 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 NKJV .....

*But concerning the **TIMES AND THE SEASONS**, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **YOU ARE ALL SONS OF LIGHT AND SONS OF THE DAY. WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT NOR OF DARKNESS. THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS OTHERS DO, BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

**Notes:**

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## Monday, January 6: Awake to Holiness

LEVITICUS 20:26 NKJV

*You shall be HOLY TO ME, FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY, and have SEPARATED YOU from the peoples, that YOU SHOULD BE MINE.*

HEBREWS 12:10–15 NKJV

*For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that WE MAY BE PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:7–8 NKJV

*For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.*

EPHESIANS 5:14 NKJV

*Therefore He says: ‘AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT.’*

REVELATION 3:1–6 NLT

*Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: “I know all the things you do, and that YOU HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING ALIVE—BUT YOU ARE DEAD. WAKE UP! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before My Father and His angels that they are Mine. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches.”*



..... 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.

..... ROMANS 13:11–14 MSG .....

**But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you LOSE TRACK OF THE TIME AND DOZE OFF, OBLIVIOUS TO GOD.** *The night is about over, dawn is about to break. BE UP AND AWAKE TO WHAT GOD IS DOING!* God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work He began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. **Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!**

..... 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–11 NKJV .....

**But concerning the TIMES AND THE SEASONS, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.** *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. YOU ARE ALL SONS OF LIGHT AND SONS OF THE DAY. WE ARE NOT OF THE NIGHT NOR OF DARKNESS. THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS OTHERS DO, BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER.* *For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.* *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

..... 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9–20 NKJV .....

**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD?** Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. **But you were WASHED, but you were SANCTIFIED, but you were JUSTIFIED in the NAME OF THE LORD JESUS and by the SPIRIT OF OUR GOD. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful.** All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. **Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” **BUT HE WHO IS JOINED TO THE LORD IS ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM.** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS IN YOU, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.**

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–18 NLT .....

Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. **How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? WHAT HARMONY CAN THERE BE BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE DEVIL?** How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? **AND WHAT UNION CAN THERE BE BETWEEN GOD’S TEMPLE AND IDOLS?** For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: “I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, **Therefore, COME OUT from among unbelievers, and SEPARATE YOURSELVES from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.**”

..... COLOSSIANS 1:9–14 NKJV .....

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may **WALK WORTHY of the Lord, FULLY PLEASING HIM, being FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK and INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD;** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **giving thanks to THE FATHER**

**WHO HAS QUALIFIED US TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN THE LIGHT. HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS AND CONVEYED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON OF HIS LOVE, in whom we have REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

..... 1 PETER 1:14–16 ESV .....

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*

..... 1 PETER 1:13–16 NLT .....

*So 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.”***

## **EXHORTATION: AWAKE TO HOLINESS**

### **Awake to What the Bible Says About God and His Holiness**

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The Bible is the final authority concerning God, His kingdom, and everything about God. Any teaching that does not align with God’s word is a lie and must be rejected no matter how christianly, appealing, or right it sounds. Only the word of God is eternal, infallible, and unerringly trustworthy. All who believe and live by the word of God are wise and will always overcome and be saved to the end. This is what the Bible says concerning God’s word:

- “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.”  
—Psalm 119:89 NIV
- “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” —Isaiah 40:8 NIV
- “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” —Matthew 24:35 NIV

Jesus was hungry after forty days of fasting when satan tempted Him to make bread out of stones. He overcame satan by trusting and depending on the word of God. In Matthew 4:4 NKJV, He rebuked the devil, saying,

“It is written, **‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.’**” The Church must be on guard that we trust, obey, live and stand fast by the word of God in everything, then we will overcome, thrive and be rewarded. It is through the Bible we learn and know God and His holiness. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and so is His word. Man’s thinking, beliefs, culture, and trends change over time, but not God or His word.

Concerning holiness, the world’s views, values, standards, and trends have been faulty from the beginning, and they have degenerated for the worse over the ages. Unless we have a sound, solid, and steadfast knowledge and conviction of holiness according to the Bible, the Church will conform to the world’s ideologies and standards of holiness and will be destroyed. If the Church conforms to the world, it cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. A.W. Tozer, an American pastor, author, and spiritual mentor, with a holy passion for God, urged the Church through his preaching and writing to give their utmost to God and to live holy and without compromise. He declared that nothing else but God was the only and true standard for holiness.

**Holy is the way God is. TO BE HOLY HE [God] DOES NOT CONFORM TO A STANDARD. HE IS THAT STANDARD. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is.** Because He is holy, all His attributes are holy; whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy.

The Church must be holy as God is holy for without holiness no man can see God. We must have a passion for the holy God and an all-consuming hatred for sin. Charles Spurgeon, a powerful preacher in the 1800s, said,

**Christ will be master of the heart, and sin must be mortified. IF YOUR LIFE IS UNHOLY, THEN YOUR HEART IS UNCHANGED, AND YOU ARE AN UNSAVED PERSON.** The Savior will sanctify His people, renew them, give them a hatred of sin, and a love of holiness. **The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins.** Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

The Church must strive to live holy as God is holy. **GOD IS THE STANDARD OF HOLINESS—His character, ways, attributes, and everything about Him is holy. HE IS THE ETERNAL, DIVINE, AND UNBREACHABLE STANDARD.** Satan attacks both the knowledge of God and His holiness by offering

demonic alternatives. Although subject to aggressive attacks, the Church must know God and His holiness through the Bible. George Whitefield, who was greatly used in the 18th-century Great Awakening, said, **“It is an undoubted truth that EVERY DOCTRINE THAT COMES FROM GOD, LEADS TO GOD; AND THAT WHICH DOTHT NOT TEND TO PROMOTE HOLINESS IS NOT OF GOD.”**

God commands His Church to be holy. As the Bible tells us who God is, it also reveals His holiness. There is no room or need to philosophize, rationalize or debate about what holiness or the standards of holiness are because the Holy Scriptures are inerrant. The Holy Spirit in 1 Peter 1:13–16 NLT commands the Church, saying,

**SO 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.”**

We are to be holy in who we are and everything we do just as Christ, who chose and saved us, is holy. **GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE SOURCE OF HOLINESS, AND HE IS THE ETERNAL, IMMUTABLE, AND TRUE DEFINITION AND STANDARD OF HOLINESS.** The Church does not need to look elsewhere for the meaning or benchmark of holiness. We must look at the God of the Holy Scriptures. **In knowing God and His holiness, the Church must be holy, living and walking in His holiness.** The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As He is unchangeable, so is His holiness. Everything else in the whole universe may change, but not God. **It is to the well-being and eternal security of the Church that we hold fast, stand firm, and be immovable in our conviction of God and His holiness.**

Many followers of Christ have fallen away from God and holiness because of failing to hold true to the Holy Scriptures. The Church must allow the Bible to reveal God and the things of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The world cannot teach who God is, what His holiness is, or what is unacceptable to God. The world is in darkness, and they cannot receive the Holy Spirit; how can the Church lend our ears to their explanation and coaching of God, love, holiness, or anything concerning God and

His kingdom? **IF WE LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW THE WORLD, WE WILL SHIPWRECK OUR FAITH AND BE REJECTED BY GOD.** We must awaken to God and His holiness according to His Holy Scriptures. We must study and obey the Bible, not wavering from or compromising the truth. The world will always have a different spirit and speak a different language. **WHAT HAS LIGHT GOT TO DO WITH DARKNESS?** Darkness can never comprehend or explain light. **WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. ONLY THE CHURCH CAN MANIFEST THE TRUE GOD AND SHINE HIS HOLINESS FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.**

We are called to come out of the world and be separated. How can we then be in agreement with the world's thinking about God and His holiness? The Church must seek to be faithful and true to God and not be troubled by being in conflict with the world's beliefs and values. We are not of this world. The world cannot be won over to Christ through compromise. Seek to be relevant to God more than being concerned about being relevant to the world. When we are relevant to God, His Holy Spirit will draw the world to the light. We must not mistake compromise for compassion and love. True love never compromises the Truth.

### **Awake from Sleep, and Arise from the Dead and God will Give Us Light**

In Leviticus 20:26 NKJV, God declares to His people, **“You shall be HOLY TO ME, FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY, and have SEPARATED YOU from the peoples, that YOU SHOULD BE MINE.”** Holiness is integral to our relationship with God, who has saved us by giving us His Son, Jesus Christ. He has separated us from the world unto Himself, for we are His. It is time to awaken to holiness. **Unless we awake, we are dead, and have no light. Spiritual slumber is one of the battles that God's people must overcome if we are to be more than conquerors, overcomers, and finishers of God's will and work on this earth.** The Church can be defeated not because God's word is not true that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church, but because the Church has fallen asleep, stays asleep, and is dead. The remedy is to awaken.

A sleeping Church is a spiritually dead Church according to the Holy Spirit's sharp rebuke in Ephesians 5:14 NKJV, **“AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT.”** It is in a state of sleeping dead—alive and yet dead, breathing but unable to respond or engage in anything. When the Church falls asleep, it is in spiritual comatose, senselessness, and impotence. **IT CANNOT HEAR, RESPOND, OBEY, AND DO THE WORK OF GOD AND IS TOTALLY VULNERABLE AS**

**PREY TO SATAN, THE ROARING LION, WHO SEEKS TO DEVOUR.** The spirit is no longer as sharp and sensitive to God. It is not as on fire and passionate as before. It has become dull and is in a spiritual stupor, **yet there is no urgency and no sense of need to repent and change.** There is also a lack of spiritual energy, urgency, and passion for God and His priorities. It is spiritually poor and yet not thirsty for God. There is a lack of first love and passion for God, leading to a compromised life and ministry. A sleeping church very easily blends loving God and the world, mixes the holy with the profane, is comfortable with lukewarmness, and oscillates between conviction and compromise. **UNLESS A SLEEPING CHURCH AWAKES AND ARISES, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR SUCH A CHURCH.**

In Revelation 3:1–6 NLT, the Holy Spirit rebuked the church of Sardis for having a reputation of being alive, but in truth, they were dead. God’s command to them was to wake up (v 1–2), **“I know all the things you do, and that YOU HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING ALIVE—BUT YOU ARE DEAD. WAKE UP!”** The church of Sardis had fallen away from God and His requirements, and they were in a spiritual coma. They looked alive and did good works, but they were dead toward God. They were backslidden and had lost their first love for God. Other things had taken the first place of God in their lives. They were more engaged with the world than with God. They had failed to hold on to what God had given them; they compromised, soiled their clothes, and had more of the world than God in them.

### **God Never Sleeps, and the Devil Is Not Asleep, But Is the Church Asleep?**

Are we hearing God’s call to awaken? Are we heeding the Holy Spirit’s sharp warning to awake for the time is short? God never sleeps; the devil is not asleep, but is the Church asleep, especially at this late hour? God’s *kairos* moments are God-appointed times to act according to His plan and purpose, and these are God-given opportunities for the Church to fully seize according to His will. The window of these opportunities is not eternal. When the time is over, the opportunity has passed.

The devil is very much aware of times and seasons. He knows that his time is very short. Revelation 12:12 ESV warns of the devil, **“But woe to you, O earth and sea, for THE DEVIL HAS COME DOWN TO YOU IN GREAT WRATH, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HIS TIME IS SHORT!”** He understands that times and seasons are in God’s hands to determine and do according to His will and purpose. The devil knows that he has no control over time—he cannot create, extend, or borrow. The short time he has is

his only window to try to attack, rob, and destroy the Church. He sleeplessly and ferociously wars to try to destroy the Church and prevent it from doing the will of God and finishing His work. God is never casual about His time and purpose in acting; the truth is neither is the devil. Has the Church become careless, casual, or fallen asleep? It is high time to awaken and arise. Romans 13:11–14 NLT calls for the people of God to awaken:

**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.

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### **We Must Fight to Awake and to Live Holy unto God**

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Do we hear the urgent call of the Holy Spirit to His Church to awake to holiness? If there ever is a time for the Church to awake to holiness, it is now. We must not only awaken but also fight sin unto bloodshed to overcome. Hebrews 12:3–4 NKJV declares, **“For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”**

The Bible clearly commands all believers of Jesus Christ to live holy and worthy of our calling. The powers of darkness are fiercely fighting to lull and keep the Church in spiritual slumber so that we struggle to discern between holy and unholy.

The distinction between light and darkness, righteousness and unrighteousness, and holy and profane must never be compromised. We must understand the distinction of the Church, as redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, from the world. The Holy Spirit calls on His Church to be separated from all that is in the kingdom of darkness because we are in the kingdom of light. What does light have to do with darkness? We have been taken out of the kingdom of satan, delivered from the power of darkness, and conveyed into the kingdom of Jesus Christ—which is of light, righteousness, and love. Colossians 1:9–14 NKJV says,



For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may **WALK WORTHY of the Lord, FULLY PLEASING HIM, being FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK and INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD;** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **giving thanks to THE FATHER WHO HAS QUALIFIED US TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN THE LIGHT. HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS AND CONVEYED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON OF HIS LOVE, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

We must awaken to holiness, walk worthy of God, and understand that we are not our own. It is with a priceless sacrifice that God saves and separates us to Himself as His sons and daughters. **We have been set apart to live unto God separated from the kingdom of darkness and of this world because THERE IS NO HARMONY BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE DEVIL. THERE IS NO UNION BETWEEN GOD'S TEMPLE AND IDOLS.** Paul Washer said, "Holiness is not merely a feeling, state of mind, or good intention. **IT INVOLVES PRACTICAL SEPARATION FROM SIN AND REAL SEPARATION UNTO GOD.**" 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 NLT instructs all Christians concerning this separation:

Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. **How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? WHAT HARMONY CAN THERE BE BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE DEVIL?** How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? **AND WHAT UNION CAN THERE BE BETWEEN GOD'S TEMPLE AND IDOLS?** For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, **Therefore, COME OUT from among unbelievers, and SEPARATE YOURSELVES from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.** And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

As the Church lives separated unto God and from all that is of the kingdom of darkness, the Church is living in holiness. God promises that He will be a Father to His Church, and we will be His sons and daughters. We must awaken to the necessity of this separation to live holy lives. The

kingdom of the devil knows that the hour is late and time is running out. He is relentlessly fighting to keep the Church from awakening to holiness (Romans 13:11). **THIS SPIRITUAL SLEEP HAS TO BE BATTLED UNTIL WE OVERCOME. Awakening is a work of the Holy Spirit, and when we obey His call to awake and submit to His dealings and commands, He sets us free from the spirit of slumber, and we are awakened.**

The Church must know what has put us to sleep concerning holiness. The devil does not always use suffering to put us to sleep; in fact, he uses the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to seduce the Church into sleep. The devil capitalizes on the flesh and its desires to draw the Church first to taste and then to indulge in and feast on all the seemingly harmless things the world has to offer—pleasures, comforts, conveniences, entertainment, and possessions. Soon, we have lost our way, discernment, fear of God, and holiness. In the same way, he seduced Adam and Eve to eat the fruit they were commanded by God not to eat because the fruit looked good to eat and pleasing to the eye.

**The most effective way to awaken to holiness is to REPENT, AND PURPOSE IN OUR HEART AND SET OUR MIND TO SEEK HIM UNTIL WE FIND HIM.** Let us give our days and nights to seeking Him in prayer, fasting, and searching for Him in His word. **TO AWAKE FROM SLEEP, WE MUST DENY OURSELVES, CRUCIFY OUR FLESH, AND PICK UP THE CROSS TO SEEK HIM UNTIL WE ARE AWAKENED AND REVIVED.** If we do not falter, get weary, and stop seeking Him, He will come in power to shake us up, clean us up, and wake us up. **HE WILL SEND US HIS SPIRIT OF AWAKENING AND REVIVAL.** In holiness, God will restore and revive His Church.

## Prayer Focus

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### A. Purpose to Earnestly Seek God in Humility and Contrition

1. Seek God earnestly and unceasingly until you encounter Him.
2. Lay hold of God until the Holy Spirit comes, searches, and reveals everything hidden in your heart and your true spiritual condition.
  - a. Are you asleep or awake?
  - b. Are you lukewarm or on fire for God?
  - c. Do you love God first? Are there areas of trespasses against God and His word?
3. Seek God until His Holy Spirit convicts and deals with your heart.

4. Cry out to God until the Holy Spirit breaks down all walls of resistance to God.
5. Pray until your heart is yielded, compliant, and wholly submitted to God and His dealings.
6. Humbly acknowledge, confess, and repent of all that the Holy Spirit reveals.

**B. Pray Until the Holy Spirit Completes the Following Work in You**

1. Peel the spiritual scales from your eyes that you see clearly and understand:
  - a. God Almighty and be filled with holy awe for Him.
  - b. God's hatred for sin, evil, and anything that is unholy and profane.
  - c. God is to be loved first, honored, and obeyed absolutely.
2. Crush the hardness of heart that you have godly sorrow over all that has grieved the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. Repent of a seared conscience and pray until the Holy Spirit purifies, softens, and sensitizes your conscience again toward God, His kingdom, and righteousness.

**C. Repent of Spiritual Slumber, Apathy, and Lukewarmness**

1. Humbly acknowledge and repent of spiritual slumber and apathy.
2. Cry out to God to awaken you from sleep, backsliding, and lukewarmness.
3. Pray for spiritual hunger and thirst for God to be restored.
4. Lay hold of God until your heart is awakened and you arise
  - a. With a new heart and spirit ablaze for God and His kingdom.
  - b. To live and walk in the Holy Spirit's renewal and revival fires.

**D. Pray to Awaken and Arise to God's Times and Seasons**

1. Awaken to know that time is running out.
  - a. Turn away from all obstacles that hinder you from arising to follow God.
  - b. Put away all personal agendas and pursuits and prioritize God's will, kingdom, and work
2. Purpose to arise and seize every opportunity to live right with God and to obey Him in all things.

**E. Awaken to God's Holiness; Humbly Acknowledge and Repent**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to search, reveal, and convict of the following:
  - a. Spiritual blindness that causes a compromised life, lack of conviction and consecration.
  - b. Friendship with the world rather than separation; loving the world and the things of the world; loss of first love for God.
  - c. Loss of knowledge of God; absence of fear of God and obedience to Him.
2. Pray for a contrite spirit and broken heart over all trespasses against God.
3. Pray for deep conviction leading to complete repentance before God.
  - a. Acknowledge and repent of all that the Holy Spirit reveals.
  - b. Consecrate wholly to God to love, obey, and serve Him.
  - c. Consecrate to be holy as God is holy in your life, character, purpose, and deeds.

**F. Cry Out to God Until He Accomplishes These in the Church**

1. Complete repentance and turning back to God.
2. Times of refreshing falling anew, afresh, and abundantly.
3. Fires of revival are being poured out unceasingly and lavishly.
4. Laborers go out to all nations preach the gospel, baptize believers and teach them to obey all God's commandments.

**Notes:**

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## Tuesday, January 7: Awake to Know the Times

..... ROMANS 13:11 NKJV .....

**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.**

..... 2 PETER 3:8–13 ESV .....

**But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME LIKE A THIEF,** and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE IN LIVES OF HOLINESS AND GODLINESS, WAITING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD,** because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

..... 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16–18 NKJV .....

**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

..... 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.**

..... ACTS 3:19–21 NKJV .....

**REPENT therefore and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, so that TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD,** and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

## Exhortation: Awake to Know the Times

### We are Running Out of Time

We are all running out of time, both the people of God and the people of this world. Time is consistently diminishing with each ticking second. No matter how many more years we have, according to God's will, our time on earth is like a ticking time bomb, and we are invariably moving nearer to the final second when our time is up. No one can extend or add time. Each passing hour is one hour less of whatever remaining time is allotted to us by God who holds eternity in His hands. He decides times and seasons and dispenses them. We do not have a minute to spare or waste on things that have no eternal consequence or value. **THE CHURCH MUST FIND OUT AND UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD WANTS AND QUICKLY OBEY HIM.**

**The most important event concerning God's kairos time that we must fix our eyes on and prepare for is the soon-coming return of our Lord Jesus Christ.** We know it is soon but do not know precisely when, and we must not fall asleep. The Bible warns us that Jesus will return at the most unexpected time, so we must be prepared. In Mark 13:32–37 NKJV, Jesus warns His disciples:

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **TAKE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY; for you do not know when the time is.** It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. **WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE IS COMING**—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—**LEST, COMING SUDDENLY, HE FIND YOU SLEEPING. AND WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO ALL: WATCH!**

God has set *kairos* moments for the unfolding of the things that will take place according to His plan and design. **IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR US TO STUDY THE BIBLE AND UNDERSTAND GOD'S TIMES AND SEASONS SO THAT WE ARE PREPARED AND KNOW HOW WE OUGHT TO LIVE AND WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO. THE CHURCH MUST NEVER TOLERATE BEING ASLEEP OR IGNORANT ESPECIALLY FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.**

To be asleep is to be totally without knowledge or awareness of what is happening around us, and what God is doing. Being asleep or ignorant is spiritually fatal to the Church. **ABOVE ALL, LIVE WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE AND PURPOSE TO WALK IN STEP WITH GOD**

**UNWAVERINGLY, KEEP HIS WORD STEADFASTLY, AND SERVE HIM OBEDIENTLY TILL THE END.** We know that the end is near. We must not get weary of doing well, but we must be careful to live with a God-given purpose because it will not be long before Christ's return. We must not live frivolously squandering our lives as those who foolishly think all things remain the same. We must take heed to Paul's rebuke in Ephesians 5:14–17 NLT:

This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." **SO BE CAREFUL HOW YOU LIVE.** Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN THESE EVIL DAYS.** Don't act thoughtlessly, but **UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LORD WANTS YOU TO DO.**

It is imperative for the Church to first awake from sleep and arise to redeem time by living carefully. We must seek to know God and discern His times, purpose and plans for each season, seizing every opportunity to understand what He wants us to do and obey.

### **Time: Invest or Waste**

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**TIME IS A PRICELESS GIFT FROM GOD. Time is life—one minute of time is one minute of life. WE EITHER INVEST TIME OR WASTE IT.** There is no third option of putting it on hold. Time we do not invest in God and His kingdom is time wasted and can never be recovered. To invest time, we must awaken to know God's will and priority and arise to do it. **WE MUST LIVE WITH THE SAME PURPOSE OF LIFE AS JESUS** when He declared in John 4:34 NKJV, **"MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK."** Whatever time we put into doing the will of God and finishing His work, we are investing our lives in God and His kingdom. Time invested in God and His kingdom is never lost but saved and will bear eternal and multiplied dividends. God is our Rewarder if we invest our time to seek Him. We will receive rewards both now and in eternity. Hebrews 11:6 NKJV declares, **"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."**

It is wise for us to evaluate the things and activities in our lives that are eating up our time but are worthless. **One of the biggest enemies of redeeming time is entertainment and pleasure-seeking, be it being engaged in social media, surfing the internet, watching endless hours**

**of television, shopping, etc.** There has never been a time in human history when the world has been more inundated with countless ways, forms, apps, and things to provide entertainment and enhance pleasure-seeking. These are not just for adults but for every generation. The Church has to understand that just because something is available and not a sin and the world is doing it, we do not have to do the same. Can we deny ourselves, not feel entitled, or think that by not having what the world has we are deprived or falling behind? **These are worthless ways to use our time to entertain human nature and feed the flesh, but they LEAVE THE SOUL EMPTY AND SPIRITUALLY IMPOVERISHED.** These Christians can be church-attenders but are not faithful followers of Jesus Christ. They are bereft of intimacy with God, revelation of Him, and passion for Him. Day after day, they cannot chase after God because they have no desire, knowledge of God, or truth. Minute by minute, they are wasting their lives on the lifestyle of this world as they continue to consume all the world offers.

### **It is Time for a New Awakening**

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If the Church is to do all that God calls us to do in these end times, we must no longer be asleep. It is time for a new awakening. It is time for the greatest revival to come upon nations where all who call on the Lord Jesus shall be saved (Romans 10:13).

**WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO COME MIGHTILY TO BREAK THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL STUPOR, shake His Church awake, and cleanse His temple of all the secular and profane so that THE EYES OF THE CHURCH WILL BE OPENED TO SEE GOD AND OUR TRUE STATE.** The heart of the Church must be shattered by a revelation of God until we fall before God in holy fear and repentance like Isaiah did when he cried out to God in Isaiah 6:5 NKJV:

**WOE IS ME, FOR I AM UNDONE! BECAUSE I AM A MAN OF UNCLEAR LIPS, AND I DWELL IN THE MIDST OF A PEOPLE OF UNCLEAR LIPS; FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS.**

Like Isaiah 6:8 NKJV, the Church will be ready to hear God when He asks, **“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”** We must say, **“Here am I! Send me.”** We must invest time in God and His kingdom rather than waste it.

**What happens in the new awakening?** We arise to live and shine in



the glory of Jesus Christ that He has imparted to us, dispelling all darkness and manifesting Him to the whole world so that all may know He is God. We are awakened to our sinful state and see God for who He is, leading to repentance of all sins, turning to God with the whole heart, and restoring Him to His rightful place of love, worship, and service. There is a new awareness of the holiness of God compelling us to live in the fear of God and tremble at His word. There will be a restoration of passion for God that we seek Him earnestly until He comes, saves, revives, and sets hearts on fire for Him. The Church will have a renewed faith and boldness to arise to crush and prevail over satan and all his dominions by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony as we love not our lives unto death (Revelation 12:11). The Holy Spirit will put in our hearts a vision, passion, and obedience to God's call to world missions, causing many to be willing to abandon all to go wherever He sends them to preach the gospel, bringing in a harvest of souls into His kingdom. We will be willing and eager to die for what Jesus gave His life for—the salvation of souls. The Church will have a heart on fire for God and will not tolerate sin but seek to be the spotless Bride of Jesus Christ by living pure and holy before Him. Like the five wise virgins (Matthew 25), the Church will be ready and prepared, looking toward the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE KEY TO ALL AWAKENINGS. Without the Holy Spirit, whatever we do is man-made. There will be no true transformation, but only renovation.** We ought to be wise and determine how we should live for God and what we should do.

### It is a Time of Deep Darkness

The world is now in deep darkness as Isaiah 60:2 NLT states, **“Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you.”** When there is an absence of God there is a presence of darkness. Genesis 6:5–8 NLT describes the world that was filled with deep darkness because of rampant wickedness, and it says,

**The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and He saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. So the Lord was sorry He had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke His heart.** And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the

birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” But Noah found favor with the LORD.

Once more, we are in a time of deep darkness that covers the nations of this world as in Noah’s time. The Church must awake and arise as light for such a time as this. The glory of God is upon us! Awake and arise to shine. We must not get swallowed up by the darkness, nor should we fear it. Did not our Lord Jesus Christ declare in Matthew 16:18–19 NLT?

**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.

Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and the King of kings, is sovereign, and He has already conquered death, hell, and satan. No other name can compare to His, for His name is higher than all. Every knee shall bow and acknowledge Him as Lord at the mention of His name. His Church cannot be overcome, but in Him we overcome all. No power, spirit, entity, or devilish scheme in heavenly places or on earth can prevail against His Church. The sons and daughters of God, who are children of light, will stand and overcome all darkness through Christ Jesus! It is time amid the blackest of nights for the Church to arise and shine the brightest. Darkness will never be able to prevail against light. The church must now awake, arise, and shine, for the glory of God is upon us.

Just as God raised Noah in his time, God is raising His Church for such a time as this. **THIS IS A TIME OF INVINCIBLE HOPE, UNQUENCHABLE FAITH, AND UNSHAKEABLE COURAGE BECAUSE THE GLORY OF GOD HAS RISEN UPON US.** We have this to look forward to—overwhelming victory as nations get set free and saved in the power of the Holy Spirit. **THE TIME OF DEEP DARKNESS IS THE TIME FOR GREAT REVIVAL.**

### **It is a Time of God’s Judgement**

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God is not only the eternal Almighty God, King of kings, Lord of lords, Heavenly Father, Creator, Savior, Healer, and Provider, but He is also the Lawgiver and the Judge. God gives His laws to His created beings (humanity) to live by and to know Him. Without laws, there is no need for a judge. God judges when His laws are broken. James 4:12 NIV says, **“THERE IS ONLY ONE LAWGIVER AND JUDGE, THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE**

**AND DESTROY.** But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?” God does not have to arrogate to (appropriate for) Himself the power and right to judge, for He rightfully is both the eternal Lawgiver and Judge. That is why the Bible says not to judge but let God judge. Israel rejected God as the Judge over them when they clamored for a king to be their judge instead of God. They displeased God and did a disservice to themselves, but God gave them the king they had asked for.

**THE LAWS OF GOD REVEAL TO US WHO GOD IS AND SHOW US THE WAY TO LIVE AND WALK. God’s judgments assign us the due consequences according to how we live and walk in the light of His laws** (God’s moral law abides even though we have been freed from Mosaic regulations. 1 John 3:4–5). To those who obey, He rewards, and to those who disobey, they reap the consequences of their disobedience, which is judgment. The wages of sin is death. Sin has consequences. The purpose of God’s judgment is to help us see the error of our ways so we can turn back to Him. **Through God’s judgments in this life, we receive the just retribution for sins, which now has the purpose of correcting, training, and restoring. In it, God’s justice is fulfilled, and His saving love is extended. GOD’S CURRENT JUDGMENTS ARE NOT VINDICTIVE BUT REDEMPTIVE.**

The world is under God’s judgment for rejecting Him and giving themselves over to committing every form of rebellion and evil against Him. It also rejects the grace for salvation provided by Jesus Christ who gave His life to save them. Therefore, the whole world groans under the weight of their sins of rejecting and rebelling against God, causing the breeding and multiplying of evil in every form, shrouding the entire earth in deep darkness. **When God judges, He is providing a way for humanity to awaken, repent, and return to Him, and He will save, forgive, restore, and bless.** God’s judgment, although severe, is always righteous, just, and compassionate. His judgment is His megaphone calling sinners to awake, arise, repent, and return to Him.

What is the Church to do in this season of God’s judgment? **JUDGMENT WILL FIRST BEGIN IN THE HOUSE OF GOD, PARTICULARLY WITH THE LEADERS.** 1 Peter 4:17 NLT says, “For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God’s household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News?” **WE MUST FIRST AWAKE, ARISE, AND REPENT OF OUR OWN SINS OF REJECTION AND REBELLION AGAINST GOD BEGINNING WITH THE LEADERSHIP.** When leaders repent, we can lead the people of God to repent. **AS GOD FORGIVES AND RESTORES US, WE MUST STAND IN THE GAP AND EARNESTLY INTERCEDE FOR THE NATIONS TO AWAKE,**

**REPENT, AND BE SAVED.** We not only intercede for the nations, but we must abandon all distractions and obstacles so that we can go to them, preach, and call them into repentance and salvation. We must also teach and disciple them to follow Jesus Christ. Both the Church and the world are running out of time. We must go and quickly do what the Holy Spirit calls us to do.

**In times of God’s judgment, our love for God and faith in Him must grow stronger. This is not the time to fear, be discouraged, get bitter, or fall away. THIS IS THE TIME TO ARISE AND SHINE THAT NATIONS WILL COME TO OUR LIGHT.** Whenever we see judgment, know that ahead is God’s salvation, healing, and deliverance if we turn to Him. There is invulnerable hope, redemption, deliverance, and restoration ahead as nations turn to Him.

### **It is a Time of Salvation and Great Harvest**

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Joel prophesied about the time of salvation and the great harvest that would come upon the world. Peter quoted Joel’s prophecy to all the curious people who wondered about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Christ’s disciples and the manifestation in the upper room. In Acts 2:14–41 NLT, Peter boldly stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and declared to all who were there,

Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming...**No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: “IN THE LAST DAYS,” GOD SAYS, “I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL PEOPLE.** Your sons and daughters will prophesy. 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 prophesy. And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. **BUT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”...So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!** Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, **“EACH OF YOU MUST REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND TURN TO GOD, AND BE**

**BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” **THOSE WHO BELIEVED WHAT PETER SAID WERE BAPTIZED AND ADDED TO THE CHURCH THAT DAY—ABOUT 3,000 IN ALL.**

God is not willing for anyone to perish in sin. He did not give Jesus Christ, His only Son, to save just a few. Salvation is provided for the whole world. **The last days are the most significant days for salvation and a mighty harvest of souls through the power of the Holy Spirit.** Many countries, especially those undergoing persecution, are already experiencing revival and a supernatural harvest of souls against the attacks and severe persecution for their faith.

### **It is a Time of Refreshing**

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We need to awaken to God’s time of refreshing His Church by His Holy Spirit. When a huge crowd gathered and marveled at the disciples speaking in tongues after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Peter spoke to them in Acts 3:19–21 NKJV saying,

**REPENT therefore and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, so that TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD,** and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

If the listeners repent and turn away from their sins and to God, they will be forgiven, saved, and receive times of refreshing in His presence. **Repentance paves the way for the Holy Spirit to have access to do the supernatural in the lives of the contrite be it an individual, a community or a nation.** It is time for the Church to wait on the Lord until He forgives, renews, and refreshes us so that we can “mount up on wings as eagles, we shall run and not grow weary, and we shall walk and not faint” Isaiah 40:31 NKJV. “In waiting, with joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation” Isaiah 12:3 NLT.

In refreshing, the Holy Spirit also restores what was lost or broken through sin. He restores God's divine order, righteousness, and spiritual prosperity. **The Church is then no longer weak, tired, compromised, or downtrodden. There will be faith, hope, love, and courage. In strength, we can bring the gospel to all nations, and the end will come. We await the return of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### Awake to the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ

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Only God the Father knows the hour of Christ's return. It will be sudden and unexpected. The Church must awake, arise, and be prepared, for we are running out of time. **In preparation for His soon but unknown return, we must not get weary in well-doing but be faithful, committed, and trustworthy to do all He has called us to do.** The Church must arise and not be afraid to lay down all, even our own lives, to do the will of God and finish His work. Missions must be our priority and focus—bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth, baptizing converts in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all things as spoken by Jesus Christ.

The Church must not live like the world; neither should we be lukewarm, apathetic, or asleep. It is time to arise and shine that nations will come to the light. We will no longer live for ourselves but all for God as we look forward to welcoming the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and to hear Him say as in Matthew 25:23 ESV, **“WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.”**

As followers and servants, the Church cannot be asleep, lazy, uncaring, and failing to do all that He has appointed us to do. **CHRIST'S RETURN IS ALSO THE DAY OF INESCAPABLE ACCOUNTING AND JUDGMENT. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God because of disobedience, presumptuousness and lack of fear of Him that one would ignore His will and work.** To the servant with one talent who buried the talent and did not do what he was commanded to do, the Master was furious, rebuked, and pronounced a terrible judgment over him. In Matthew 25:26–30 ESV, Jesus said concerning the disobedient servant,

**YOU WICKED AND SLOTHFUL SERVANT!** You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested My money with the bankers, and at My coming I should have received what was My own with interest. So take the talent from

him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And CAST THE WORTHLESS SERVANT INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS. IN THAT PLACE THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.**

Are we awakened and ready for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ? Soon, the end will be here, and we must not be caught lazy, unprepared, and wicked. The Church must awake and arise to give all to love, obey, and serve Him by doing His will and finishing His work.

## **Prayer Focus**

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### **A. Awake to Know God's Times and Seasons**

1. Take your eyes away from yourself and lift your eyes to God in prayer.
2. Pray for God to give you an understanding of His times and seasons.
3. Pray that God will teach you what to do and show you how to.

### **B. Awake to Know You are Running Out of Time**

1. Awake from spiritual slumber and know that your time is running out.
2. Identify areas where time has been wasted and repent.
3. Change how you live your life so that you do not waste time.
4. Find out and understand what God wants of you, and quickly obey.
5. Invest your life and time given by God into His will, purpose, and work as Jesus did. John 4:34 NJKV "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

### **C. Awake and Arise to Live in Alignment with God's Call**

1. Be careful how you live. Live wisely and redeem your time.
2. Live with an eternal perspective and purpose.
3. Walk unwaveringly in step with the Holy Spirit in all things.
4. Keep God's word steadfastly, and be committed and faithful to the end.
5. Seize every opportunity to serve God wholeheartedly and with complete obedience.

## **D. Awake to Know the Times You are Living in and Act According to God's Will**

- 1. Know that it is time for a new awakening. Pray for God and the Church to act.**
  - a. Pray and believe for the Holy Spirit to break through spiritual stupor and to shake and awake His Church.
  - b. Pray that God cleanses His Church of all the profane and secular.
  - c. Pray that He opens the eyes of the Church to understand and see its true state.
  - d. Pray for the Church to wholly repent, awake, and arise to live, to love, and obey Him.
- 2. It is a time of deep darkness.**
  - a. Pray for the Church to dispel all darkness and manifest Him so that others may know God.
  - b. Repent and restore God to His rightful place of love, worship, and service.
  - c. Awake to a new awareness of the holiness of God and be compelled to live in the fear of God and tremble at His word.
  - d. Awake with a new passion for God, renewed faith, and boldness.
  - e. Awake and arise to pray for the greatest revival.
- 3. It is a time of God's judgment.**
  - a. Pray for the Church to awaken and repent of the sins of rejection of and rebellion against God, beginning with the leadership.
  - b. Seek God's forgiveness and restoration.
  - c. Intercede earnestly for nations to awake, repent, and be saved.
- 4. It is a time of salvation and the great harvest of souls.**
  - a. Pray for the Holy Spirit to send out laborers to all fields.
  - b. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring many people into the kingdom of God.
  - c. Thank God for the time of salvation and the great harvest of souls.
- 5. It is a time of refreshing; thank God for refreshing and reviving His Church.**
- 6. Awake to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be prepared.**





## Wednesday, January 8: Awake to Righteousness

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..... ROMANS 1:17 NIV .....

*For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

..... PSALM 145:17–21 NKJV .....

**THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL HIS WAYS, gracious in all His works.** The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.

..... DEUTERONOMY 32:4 NIV .....

**He is the Rock, HIS WORKS ARE PERFECT, and ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUST. A FAITHFUL GOD WHO DOES NO WRONG, UPRIGHT AND JUST IS HE.**

..... PSALM 33:5 NIV .....

**THE LORD LOVES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE; the earth is full of His unfailing love.**

..... PROVERBS 21:3 NKJV .....

**To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.**

..... ISAIAH 53:4–12 ESV .....

*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to His own way; and **THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth...Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. **Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall THE RIGHTEOUS ONE, MY SERVANT, MAKE MANY TO BE ACCOUNTED RIGHTEOUS, AND HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES...** He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 ESV .....

*For our sake He [God] MADE HIM [JESUS] TO BE SIN who knew no sin, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.*

..... 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30–31 ESV .....

*Because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us WISDOM FROM GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*

..... 1 PETER 2:21–25 NKJV .....

*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; WHO HIMSELF BORE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, HAVING DIED TO SINS, MIGHT LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

..... ROMANS 4:20–25 NLT .....

*Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. **And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, ASSURING US THAT GOD WILL ALSO COUNT US AS RIGHTEOUS IF WE BELIEVE IN HIM,** the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **HE WAS HANDED OVER TO DIE BECAUSE OF OUR SINS, AND HE WAS RAISED TO LIFE TO MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD.***

..... ROMANS 4:1–8 NLT .....

*Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. For the Scriptures tell us, **“ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND GOD COUNTED HIM AS RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH.”** When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. **BUT PEOPLE ARE COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUS, NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK, BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN GOD WHO FORGIVES SINNERS.** David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: **“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.***

*Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.”*

..... MATTHEW 6:33 NIV .....

**SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

..... 1 TIMOTHY 6:11 NKJV .....

*But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*

..... 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–15 NKJV .....

*But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. NOW MAY HE WHO SUPPLIES SEED TO THE SOWER, AND BREAD FOR FOOD, SUPPLY AND MULTIPLY THE SEED YOU HAVE SOWN AND INCREASE THE FRUITS OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

## **Exhortation: Awake to Righteousness**

### **Jesus Christ is Righteous**

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Jesus Christ is inherently and immutably righteous. It is not just what He does; it is who He is. Righteousness is His essence, and it is impossible for Him to be anything else but absolutely just, upright, and good in everything. Psalm 89:14 states, “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.” Hebrews 1:8–9 NKJV speaks of how God spoke to Jesus Christ, saying,

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; **A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS**

**THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. You have LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;** therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

Yesterday, today, and forever, He is the same. God does not have to conform or measure up to any standard of righteousness, for He is righteousness. Everything that issues from Him is perfectly righteous and pure—His nature, character, essence, ways, thoughts, and deeds. God loves righteousness, and He blesses the righteous. His passion and requirement for His Church is to be righteous as He is. The Bible also states,

- The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love—Psalm 33:5 NIV
- To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice—Proverbs 21:3 NIV
- The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their cry—Psalms 34:15 NIV

### **The Church Must Awaken to Christ's Righteousness**

In 1 Corinthians 15:34 NKJV, Paul commanded the Corinthian Christians, **“Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”** Some of the Corinthians did not believe in resurrection and were living carelessly and sinning. Paul sternly rebuked them to be ashamed of their sins and wrong beliefs and exhorted them to awaken to righteousness. Today the call to righteousness is even more urgent considering the times we are living in.

The Bible says that all have sinned and there is none righteous, but Christ died for us by taking all our sins upon Himself on the cross. Christ was righteous and without sin, but on our behalf, He submitted Himself to be treated as if He had sinned by both bearing our sins and the judgment for our sins as the Lamb of God. By this sacrifice, all who believe in Him are forgiven, saved, and made righteous in Him.

**Righteousness is not inherent in us who believe in Him, but it has been imputed to us as a gift of grace from Jesus Christ, leading to our living righteous lives through the Holy Spirit's power that is imparted to us. We were sinners by nature but made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.** Our sins are forgiven, and Jesus has made us righteous in the eyes of God. Although freely given to us, this gift of grace is not free. It is costly because it was purchased by the blood of the Lamb shed on the cross

upon which He was crucified. The Church must awaken to the precious and costly righteousness of Jesus Christ, which He has given us. **Nothing and no one can make us righteous except the Lamb's blood.** We must set our hearts to walk carefully in His righteousness and not transgress against it. We must not treat His imputed righteousness as common but incomparable. To live and walk unrighteously is to trample on the shed blood of Jesus Christ who purchased our redemption and made us righteous. Therefore, we are to walk justly, uprightly, and righteously, bearing Christ's name, character, and testimony faithfully. 2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV states, **"FOR OUR SAKE HE [GOD] MADE HIM [JESUS] TO BE SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD."**

Since we have become the righteousness of God, we cannot live unsanctified and sinful lives like the world. In our life, character, and dealings, Christ's righteousness must flow, testifying of and manifesting His glory. It is the righteousness of Christ that marks us as children of God. When the Church lives and walks in Christ's imputed and imparted righteousness, the favor and blessings of God will flow wherever He sends us. Lives will be impacted and hearts will be touched by the righteousness flowing from the people of God. Proverbs 29:2 NKJV states, **"WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE; BUT WHEN THE WICKED RULE, THE PEOPLE MOURN."** As God's people, wherever we are and whatever place of influence we have, people around us will be blessed and experience good outcomes because of the presence of Christ's righteousness being manifested.

We must live separated from the world and set apart unto God. By His grace, the Church must live morally, virtuously, justly, and with integrity. As God is true to Himself in righteousness, we must be true to God in His righteousness.

### **The Church Must Heed God's Severe Warning Against Unrighteousness**

We will reap what we sow. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must not presumptuously think that the grace of Christ gives us the latitude to live unrighteously without consequences. **GOD WILL JUDGE ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BE IT OF A SINNER OR SAINT UNLESS THERE IS REPENTANCE.** Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 NKJV, declaring,

**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD?** Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor

thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. **But you were WASHED, but you were SANCTIFIED, but you were JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD.**

The church must awaken to the truth that God will not be mocked by any presumptuous and disrespectful treatment of His grace which He renders us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit sternly warns us in Galatians 6:7–10 NKJV pronouncing,

**Do not be deceived, GOD IS NOT MOCKED; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Mocked in Greek is *myktērīzō*, which means to turn up the nose or to sneer, disparage, scoff, or disdain. When we walk in the flesh and do not live up to the righteousness imputed to us, we are scoffing at and disdaining Christ's righteousness and the price He paid on the cross for us. If anyone who is saved after knowing the truth, but deliberately chooses to continue to sin with no repentance, there is no longer any sacrifice to cover these sins. By this person's unrighteousness, he has trampled on Jesus Christ, treated His blood that saves as unholy, and insulted the Holy Spirit who brings us God's mercy. Hebrews 10:26–31 NLT states,

**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.

**We are to handle the righteousness Christ has ascribed to us with holy fear and thanksgiving.** Anyone who continues to indulge in sin after having received salvation by faith and is a recipient of the imputed righteousness of Christ is deceived to his own destruction. The Church will never be deceived if we stand firm on God’s truth and do not allow ourselves to be persuaded by other voices. The Bible teaches us, and His Holy Spirit protects, leads, guides, and directs us in righteousness. If anyone falls into unrighteousness, it is a personal choice.

## HOW DO WE AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS?

### Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness

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In Matthew 5:6 NKJV, Jesus Christ teaches us, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”** To hunger and thirst after righteousness means we are acutely aware and painfully feel our need for righteousness. Hunger in Greek is *peinaō* implying to crave ardently or seek with eager desire. Thirst in Greek is *dipsaō*, meaning “to suffer thirst or figuratively those who are said to thirst who painfully feel their want of, and eagerly long for, those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, strengthened.” **Both hunger and thirst speak of an acute need and a driven passion to relentlessly pursue until one obtains the object of the pursuit and the need is met.** In this manner, the Church must hunger and thirst for righteousness, making it a precedence in life. We must strive for it with the same earnestness as searching for food and water. **God promises those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.**

### Live as Slaves of Righteousness unto Christ

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Romans 6:5–23 NLT:

**Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. **For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin...**Sin is no longer your master, for you no



longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace...**Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin...but now you are free from your slavery to sin, and YOU HAVE BECOME SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING...**Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Before we were born again, we were sinners living under the dominion of sin. By believing in Jesus Christ, we have become united with Him in His death and will be raised to life as He was. Our old sinful nature was crucified and died with Christ, and we were set free from the power of sin. We should reckon ourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, we do not let sin control us in any area of our lives. We have been forgiven, saved, and consecrated to Him, who has redeemed us as children of God and children of righteousness. Through our faith in Him, Jesus Christ has imparted to us His righteousness. We are no longer slaves to sin but slaves of righteousness. We surrender our bodies to Jesus Christ as instruments of righteousness to do what is fitting for the glory of God. Therefore, by His grace, we are consecrated to Him to live righteously, uprightly, justly, and with moral and ethical integrity, glorifying Him as slaves of righteousness.

### **Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness**

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We are God's children, and we are also soldiers in Christ's army who are called to wage war against and prevail over the kingdom of darkness. We prevail by being strong in the Lord and the power of His might as we put on the whole armor of God that empowers us to stand and withstand against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this age, and a host of wickedness in the heavenly places. Unceasing prayer is another weapon we must use in this warfare to win and thrive. The armor of God is not only for protection and defense, but it is also for offense as the Church advances against the enemy. It is by God's power, strength, and armor that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church.

One of the pieces of that armor is the breastplate of righteousness. At all costs, we must keep our consecration and righteousness. Our inner being must be protected against defilement and sin by purposing in our hearts to hold on to God's righteousness steadfastly. The Church must "withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Paul commanded the Christians

in Ephesians 6:10–18 NKJV, stating,

**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.

### **Increase in the Fruit of Righteousness**

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2 Corinthians 9:9–15 NKJV:

As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. **NOW MAY HE WHO SUPPLIES SEED TO THE SOWER, AND BREAD FOR FOOD, SUPPLY AND MULTIPLY THE SEED YOU HAVE SOWN AND INCREASE THE FRUITS OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God...Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Paul was teaching and encouraging the Corinthian church in the righteous act of giving liberally, not grudgingly or of necessity. The Church can have an abundance of righteousness both in character and good work through the abounding grace of God, which gives “sufficiency in all things” 2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV. Paul assured that God supplied the seed to the sower and bread for food. Concerning righteousness, we must not stagnate or be careless lest we miss the mark of God because we take the grace of God lightly or wrongfully suppose that grace overlooks slothfulness and presumption. **THE CHURCH MUST STAND FIRM IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRESS FORWARD TO GROW AND INCREASE.**

## Prayer Focus

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### A. Cry Out to God for His Church to Hear His Call to Righteousness

### B. Cry out Until His Church is Awakened to God's Righteousness

1. Pray until the Holy Spirit awakens you to God's righteousness.
  - a. Know that God is inherently righteous.
  - b. Know that God's kingdom is a kingdom of righteousness.
  - c. Know that the unrighteous shall not enter God's kingdom.
2. Pray until the Holy Spirit convicts and breaks your heart over all unrighteousness.
3. Acknowledge and repent of areas of falling short of the righteousness of God:
  - a. The sin of presumptuousness—failure to give due reverence and honor to God's righteousness.
  - b. The sin of compromise—failure to separate from sins; compromise, embracing the ways of the world; spiritual contamination in character and conduct.
4. Cry out to God until the Holy Spirit causes you to hunger and thirst after God and His kingdom.

### C. Cry Out to God Until His Church Awakens and Heeds His Severe Warning Against Unrighteousness

1. Seek to know and be thankful for the price Jesus Christ paid to save and make us righteous before God.
2. Take heed to God's warning that He will not be mocked and disrespected by His Church through their sins.
3. Repent of the times you have trampled on the blood of Jesus and insulted the Spirit of grace by deliberately sinning.
4. Understand you will reap the consequences of what you sow in your life—God's blessings for righteousness or His judgment for unrighteousness.
5. Awake to know that the unrighteous shall not enter or inherit God's kingdom.
6. Humbly acknowledge, repent, and be forgiven and restored.

### D. Cry Out to God Until You Awaken and Arise in the Revival of Righteousness

1. Pray that you will hunger and thirst after righteousness.
2. Pray to know that sin has no dominion over you. You are free.
3. Seek to freely embrace God's call to live and serve Him as His slave of righteousness.
4. Arise to daily put on the breastplate of righteousness.
5. Seek to grow and increase in the fruit of righteousness through grace.
6. Pray that you will be a blessing wherever God sends you, for you are a slave of righteousness.

**E. Pray that Nations of this World will be Blessed as the Church Arises in the Righteousness of God**

**F. Pray for First Assembly of God Missions**

- Pray for Revival in All our Mission Churches and growth.
  - Pray for Mission Pastors, Leaders, and Congregations—a passion for the Lord and a vision to reach the lost.
1. **Brazil**—Ps. Celina, Bro. Alex, Bro. Agenor, Sis. Helena
  2. **India**—Ps. Prasantha + Sis. Roshika, Sis. Krit
  3. **Ireland**
    - **Dublin**—Ps. Jamie + Sis. Lud Corcoran
    - **Navan**—Ps. Sam + Sis. Sara Corcoran
    - **Dundalk**—Ps. Rebecca Moldovan
  4. **Japan**
    - **Hiroshima**—Ps. Lynne Higa, Sis. Suzanne Pasatiempo
    - **Kyushu**—Bro. Gary + Sis. Linda Sasaki, Sis. Karen So
    - **Kamaishi**—Ps. Keizo + Sis. Mami Yoshioka
    - **Okinawa**—Sis. Miyuki, Sis. Fujiko, Bro. Okusa, Sis. Shizuko, Sis. Keiko
    - **Osaka**—Ps. Atsuya + Ps. Takako Miyashita
    - **Yokohama**—Ps. Kyoko Koyama, Sis. Sayaka + Bro. Victor Groves
  5. **Korea (North & South)**—wisdom for Ps. Ko and Ps. Ernie to raise mission teams
  6. **Marshall Islands**
    - **Delap**—Bro. Mike Larron
    - **Uluga**—Bro. Aichy Hanchor



## Thursday, January 9: Awake to Prayer

MARK 14:37–38 GW

He went back and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? **COULDN’T YOU STAY AWAKE FOR ONE HOUR? Stay awake, and pray that you won’t be tempted.** You want to do what’s right, but you’re weak.”

ISAIAH 56: 6–7 NKJV

Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant—even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for **MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS.**

MARK 11:15–19 NKJV

So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then **HE TAUGHT, saying to them, “IS IT NOT WRITTEN, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”** And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. When evening had come, He went out of the city.

LUKE 11:5–8 NIV

Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ **I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, YET BECAUSE OF YOUR SHAMELESS AUDACITY he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.**”

LUKE 18:1–5 NLT

One day, Jesus told His disciples a story to show that **THEY SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NEVER GIVE UP.** “There was a judge in a certain city,” He said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. **A widow of that city CAME TO HIM REPEATEDLY, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’** The judge

ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but THIS WOMAN IS DRIVING ME CRAZY. I’M GOING TO SEE THAT SHE GETS JUSTICE, BECAUSE SHE IS WEARING ME OUT WITH HER CONSTANT REQUESTS!’”

..... 1 JOHN 5:14–15 NKJV .....

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. And if we know that He hears us, WHATEVER WE ASK, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE PETITIONS THAT WE HAVE ASKED OF HIM.

..... MATTHEW 7:7–8 NLT .....

KEEP ON ASKING, and you will RECEIVE what you ask for. KEEP ON SEEKING, and you will FIND. KEEP ON KNOCKING, and the door will be OPENED to you. For everyone who ASKS, RECEIVES. Everyone who SEEKS, FINDS. And to everyone who KNOCKS, THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED.

..... JAMES 5:16–18 NLT .....

THE EARNEST PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AND PRODUCES WONDERFUL RESULTS. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when HE PRAYED EARNESTLY that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when HE PRAYED AGAIN, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

## **Exhortation: Awake to Prayer**

### **The Church is Called to be a House of Prayer for All Nations**

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When Jesus suddenly returns, what will He find His Church most preoccupied with? Will the Church be preoccupied with many things in the name of worship but not with prayer? Mark 11:15–19 tells of how Jesus entered the temple and saw God’s people wholly preoccupied with buying, selling, money-changing, and hawking their wares, all in the name of worship. He was filled with holy fury and indignation that these people had made His Father’s temple a den of thieves. He immediately drove out the merchants, overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves, and declared in v 17 NKJV, “**IS IT NOT WRITTEN, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’**” When He returns, will He find us

fully engrossed in many programs and activities that we call ministries but bankrupt of prayer? Has the Church become too busy to pray? Are there activities, ministries, and programs that Jesus Christ is overturning and driving out of God's temple so that prayer for all nations can be rightfully prioritized and practiced? Will He find us ready or unprepared, dressed or naked? **WILL HE FIND US PRAYING OR DOING MANY OTHER THINGS?** Where is the Church today concerning prayer? Are we weak, poor, and bankrupt, or rich, strong, and unfainting in prayer? Leonard Ravenhill, a mighty prayer warrior and revivalist, declared,

**NO MAN IS GREATER THAN HIS PRAYER LIFE.** The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.

**IS THE CHURCH ASLEEP IN THIS LATE HOUR AND NOT PRAYING?** Jesus' disciples fell asleep in the most crucial hour when Jesus told them to pray so they would not succumb to temptation. Has the Church fallen asleep in this most critical hour causing us not to pray? God never sleeps; the devil is not asleep. Is the Church asleep at this hour? Has the unassailable Church, according to Jesus' words that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, become a sleeping giant? If yes, what has lulled the Church into a slumber, leaving it exposed, unarmed, unguarded, and vulnerable? It is time to wake up and rise to God's call to pray.

**IS GOD WORTH SEEKING? IS GOD WORTH CONSECRATING OURSELVES WHOLLY UNTO HIM IN PRAYER AND FASTING? IF WE VALUE GOD, WE WILL VALUE PRAYER.** Prayer is not just something we do; it is the essence of who we are—redeemed to love and seek Him with all our heart, soul, and strength. **We are not just prayer warriors, intercessors, or praying people; WE ARE PRAY-ERS, GOD-LOVERS, AND GOD-SEEKERS.** We live and breathe to pursue God and to please Him. **Matthew 13:44–46 NKJV speaks of the priceless of God's kingdom:**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man **FOUND** and hid; and **FOR JOY OVER IT** he goes and **SELLS ALL** that he has and **BUYS** that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant **SEEKING** beautiful pearls, who, when he had **FOUND**



**ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, went and SOLD ALL that he had and BOUGHT IT.**

Prayer is like that hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. It is prudent for us to let go of other things of value in order to make room for that which is of greater value—prayer.

### Prayer is God's Priority

**IF WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND PRAYER, WE MUST SEEK TO UNDERSTAND GOD.** Jesus' perfect understanding and knowledge of His Father was clearly expressed in His most extended recorded prayer in John 17:1–26. Also evidently conveyed was His perfect unity and loving intimacy with His Father. **This prayer is a profound revelation of the innermost nature and heart of the Son and the Father and Their relationship with each other.** In John 17:25 NLT, Jesus declared, **“O Righteous Father, THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW YOU, BUT I DO.”** **No one knew the Father as Jesus did, and no one knew the Son as the Father did.** As sons and daughters of God, we should pray to know God in this kind of intimacy. He will reveal Himself to those who thirst and seek after Him as Jesus did. They will behold God and know Him in a manner that belongs only to those who have given all to know Him.

**God is the Author of and Reason for prayer, and He is the One who calls His Church to prayer. WITHOUT GOD, THERE IS NO CAUSE TO PRAY. THE PASSION TO PRAY EXISTS BECAUSE WE PANT FOR GOD—to know, love, and please Him, AS THE DEER PANTS FOR THE WATER.** In thirsting after God, we will thirst to do His will. His priority becomes our priority as we seek to please Him. David was a man of prayer. He called on God unceasingly. In Psalm 63:1–5 ESV, David expressed his cry for God, saying,

**O God, YOU ARE MY GOD; EARNESTLY I SEEK YOU;** my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. **So I have LOOKED UPON YOU in the sanctuary, BEHOLDING Your power and glory.** Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

**Prayer seeks to LOOK UPON GOD (in His presence and secret place) and to BEHOLD HIS POWER AND GLORY.** Prayer is not just a cry for God to

do all He can for us—blessing, healing, deliverance, or protection; **PRAYER IS A CRY FOR GOD.** Otherwise, we would be praying like heathens who only call on their gods for blessing, provision, protection, and prosperity. We pray as God’s children, having been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, who now seek to love and serve Him. We do not pray as heathens who have yet to come to God and be saved. Their sins are not yet forgiven, their minds are not renewed, they do not have the Holy Spirit in them, and they live in darkness. They do not know God; their lives are centered around themselves, and therefore, they only pray concerning what they eat, drink, what they have, and where they live. The lives of the children of light, sons and daughters of God, are centered around our Heavenly Father so we pray for His kingdom to come and His will be done.

**We pray for He is God, our Lord, and Heavenly Father, not just because we have needs. PRAYER IS NOT MAN-CENTERED BUT GOD-CENTERED— FOCUSED ON GOD’S PRIORITIES, WILL, AND PURPOSE.** Prayer is not getting God to do what we want Him to do. It is a hearing and trusting of God in which He graces us to do what He calls us to, just as Jesus prayed, that God’s will be done, not His.

We must awaken to God’s call to prayer and know that it is His priority. We should not just spend our Christian life using all the resources God has given us in many Christian activities but not in prayer. **PRAYER MUST BE A PRIORITY WE LIVE AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST.** Do we hear the heart of God when He lamented expressing His search for intercessors in Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV, **“SO I SOUGHT FOR A MAN among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; BUT I FOUND NO ONE”?** Also, His great displeasure and disappointment is shown in Isaiah 59:16 ESV when no one stands in the gap to intercede: **“He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede.”** Wondered in Hebrew, *šāmēm*, means to be appalled, astounded, stunned, or stupefied. God is never at a loss in the face of anything, but wondered expresses to us the extent of grievousness for the prayerlessness of God’s people. **When we neglect prayer, we neglect God and His will and have become careless and casual about God and what matters to Him. PRAYER IS GOD’S PRIORITY FOR US BECAUSE OUR PRAYER PRIORITIZES GOD AND HIS WILL. THE CHURCH MUST AWAKE TO God’s CALL TO PRAY.**

- **“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”**  
—Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17

- “Then He [Jesus] spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray and not lose heart.**” —Luke 18:1 NKJV
- Prayer was a priority in Jesus’ life. He set Himself apart to seek His Father.
- Jesus called on His disciples to pray.

## Awake to the Cost and Discipline of Prayer

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**PRAYER IS NEVER WITHOUT A COST AND DISCIPLINE; THAT IS WHY IF WE LIVE IN THE FLESH, WE WILL BE EITHER VERY POOR OR BANKRUPT IN PRAYER.** We must choose to be that kernel of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to all in order to pray. When we die in giving our lives over to prayer, God will take our sacrificed life and cause it to bring forth an abundant and supernatural harvest of lives. This death to self was how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane to do the Father’s will. **We must be aware of the cost of prayer and be willing to pay that price.** Matthew 13:44–46 speaks of how one ought to be willing to sell everything of value in one’s life to buy what is priceless concerning God’s kingdom. **The Church must be willing to sacrifice by selling all to pray until we fully apprehend God as He apprehends us. UNTIL THE CHURCH DIES TO ALL IN ORDER TO PRAY, WE HAVE NOT AWAKENED TO PRAY THE WAY JESUS PRAYED.** Prayer must consume us because seeking God consumes us.

**The cost and discipline of consecration to pray requires the Church to be willing to pay by giving ourselves over to prayer.** Matthew 5:29–30 NLT speaks of this:

So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

The Bible is not only talking about separating from what is evil. It calls for separation from even that which is legitimate, good (not a sin), and of value if it causes one to sin. Concerning prayer, are we willing to cut off things and activities that are legitimate and valuable in our lives but are hindering us from prayer? **We must be willing to take a scalpel to our life and ruthlessly cut away all that stands in the way of prayer or seeking God. We must discipline our effort, priority, desire, relationship, program,**

**and goals and the use of time.** Food and sleep are legitimate necessities, but if they stand in the way of prayer, let us cut them off for a season to give ourselves over to prayer. This discipline is called fasting. Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days before He began His ministry. During His ministry, He also prayed through the night on many occasions. If entertainment, television, social media, socializing, or anything else is robbing time from God in our seeking Him, cut them off. It is better to be in prayer than to be lukewarm because of these things.

In consecration, let the Church not look back like Lot's wife after being warned not to as she fled from Sodom and Gomorrah. Instead, let us press forward to pray. **We must see to it that we continue until the purging is complete and, in the end, leaving only a circumcised heart and purified life that loves and seeks God above all.** There will be an unspeakable hunger for Him and a thirst that compels us to seek Him even through sleepless nights to lay hold of Him. The heart remains disturbed, unsettled, and even in agony until we encounter Him in prayer. We no longer seek food, sleep, or pleasure as our priority because we burn with a passion for Him. He is first in our thoughts, last in our thoughts, and constantly throughout the day. We live for Him. We live in a relationship with Him where our eyes are always on Him, our hearts perpetually burning for Him, and we pursue Him unceasingly to love, obey, and serve Him with all our hearts and lives. **WE HAVE ONLY ONE CALL, GOAL, AND FOCUS IN LIFE—JESUS! JESUS! AND JESUS ONLY!** He fills us, overtakes us, and consumes us. He is more to us than our father, mother, spouse, children, and even our own life. It is a love and passion that is so single-hearted that we have no time for temptation, doubt, or debate about loving, obeying, and serving Him. **This fervor defined Jesus Christ's life of prayer and love for His Father. WE NEED THIS KIND OF PASSION FOR THE FATHER EVEN AS JESUS DID. Mark 14:32–36 NLT testifies to Jesus' passion.**

They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, **"My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. STAY HERE and KEEP WATCH with Me."** He went on a little farther and **FELL TO THE GROUND. HE PRAYED** that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting Him might pass Him by. "Abba, Father," **HE CRIED OUT**, "everything is possible for You. Please take this cup of suffering away from Me. **Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine."**

**UNTIL THE CHURCH DIES TO ALL IN ORDER TO PRAY, WE HAVE NOT AWAKEN TO PRAY THE WAY JESUS PRAYED.** Prayer must consume us.

**We must overcome the weakness of the flesh.** The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The Holy Spirit will help us if we do not give up. Matthew 26:41 NKJV states, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **Passion can be imparted to us, stamina can be built up, and conviction can be strengthened if we press into prayer and not give up or be discouraged.** If the Church will deny ourselves, crucify our flesh, pick up the cross, and follow Him in prayer, the Church will be burning with unquenchable revival fire, obedient to Him even unto death, and reflecting Jesus Christ with glorious transparency, faithful and unstoppable.

## **The Power of Prayer**

God is Almighty, and He is the source of all power. **Prayer is unlimitedly powerful because the power of God is released through prayer.** Prayer goes as far as God can go. Revivalist Leonard Ravenhill, said, “**PRAYER IS AS VAST AS GOD BECAUSE HE IS BEHIND IT. PRAYER IS AS MIGHTY AS GOD BECAUSE HE HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO ANSWER IT.**” Virginia Whitman, a Christian author, wrote, “**OTHER ACTIVITIES PRODUCE WHAT WE CAN DO. PRAYER OUTPUT IS WHAT GOD CAN DO.**”

**When prayer is God-centered, led, and empowered, it is powerful;** if not, prayer has no foundation, leverage, power, or fulfillment. Prayer is powerful because when we pray, God answers.

- **Prayer brings God into the situation, and He makes all things possible.** Where God is, His power will be.
- **Prayer brings God’s will and purpose to pass** (Matthew 6:10; Joel 2:13–17).
- **Prayer releases the will of God into lives and situations and brings it to fulfillment.**
  - Prayer removes all resistance to God and transforms hearts.
  - A transformed heart allows God to work His will in and through it.
- **Prayer is the weapon through which believers obtain spiritual dominion.** Through prayer, we exercise Christ’s authority and power to overcome (Mark 16:17–20; John 14:13–14).
- **Prayer overcomes evil and brings an outpouring of righteousness** (Hosea 10:12; Mark 16:17–18).
  - Reforms cannot change the spiritual bankruptcy and moral

decay of a human heart. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can do the impossible. The Holy Spirit's power will be poured out through the prayers, fasting, and travailing of the Church that seeks God on its knees.

- Prayer releases the Spirit of Grace, who convicts and works godly sorrow in the heart and breaks the power of sin over lives (Hebrews 10:26–29). Prayer causes God to rain righteousness upon us as we overcome temptation through prayer (Mathew 26:41).
- **Prayer ushers in revival** (Joel 2:12–17,28–32). Prayer ushers in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, bringing revival. When Nineveh fasted, prayed, and repented before God, He spared them from judgment and brought salvation and revival.

### The Blessings of Prayer

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The blessings of prayer are limitless because God is passionate about blessing His people as we call on Him. Prayer does these things:

- **Brings Us Closer to God**—Frequent communication brings us closer to other people. In a similar vein, frequent praying brings us closer to God. God is always listening to our prayers and will answer them in His own way.
- **Guides Us**—When we are lost and do not know what to do, we can always pray to God for guidance. Scripture states: “Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long” Psalm 25:4–5 NIV.
- **Keeps Us from Temptation**—We cannot resist temptation alone, so we need God's help to keep us from succumbing to it. In Matthew 26:41 NIV, Jesus says: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- **Helps Us Accept God's Will**—God always has a plan for us, but sometimes, it can be challenging to understand. Praying helps us understand His will and accept it because His plans are always for our own good. As the Bible says, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV.
- **Helps us to Show Gratitude**—It can be challenging to stay thankful when dealing with difficult things. Praying helps us focus on the

good things God has given us instead of the bad that happens. If we do not know how to be thankful through prayer, the Book of Psalms has many verses about gratitude to inspire us. Psalm 118:1 NIV: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

- **Gives us restful sleep**—“I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me” Psalm 3:5 NIV.
- **Protects us from all fears**—“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1 NIV.
- **Heals the broken heart**—“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit” Psalm 34:17–18 NIV.

## Prayer is Life-Changing

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### Prayer is also powerful because it is:

- Saving—keeping us from sinning, saving us from the works of the enemy and works of the flesh.
- Sanctifying and purifying—revealing our hearts to us through the Holy Spirit, showing us the way to go, giving us a contrite heart and broken spirit that we repent. It restores the backslidden heart and sets it on fire. In grief and repentance, we are awakened to the wasted time, turning our hearts back to God.
- Cleansing—washing our spirit, soul, and mind with the blood of Jesus. It purges us from all that is unclean, profane, and defiled (Psalm 51).
- Renewing—giving us a new spirit, mind, and vision.
- Strengthening—edifying our spirit and giving us courage, hope, and faith.
- Restoring—renewing what has been worn out and worn down by trials, cares of life, and warfare. He makes us new from the inside out. We have a new perspective filled with hope, joy, and faith.
- Reviving—resurrecting anything that dies, just as Lazarus was raised from the dead.
- Revealing—removing scales from our eyes in the presence of God. We see our true state as Isaiah did when he said, “Woe is me, for I am undone!” (Isaiah 6:5 NKJV).

- Transforming—making us more like Jesus in nature and priorities. The more we abide in the Holy Spirit, the more fruit of the Spirit we will bear.
- Overcoming—causing the flesh to die so we will overcome in warfare.
- Enlightening—being enlightened as God reveals Himself to us. We gain divine knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and prophetic insights.

**The Church must awake and arise to prayer!**

## **Prayer Focus**

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### **A. Awake to God's Call to be a House of Prayer for All Nations**

1. Repent of spiritual apathy and prayerlessness.
2. Awake to obey God's call to be a house of prayer for all nations.
3. Pray for a fresh passion and anointing to pray.

### **B. Awake to Make Prayer Your Priority as it is God's Priority.**

### **C. Awake to the Cost and Discipline of Prayer**

1. Choose to be that kernel of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to all in order to pray.
2. Purge your life of all distractions and hindrances to prayer.
3. Press forward to pray until you have a circumcised heart and a purified life that loves and seeks God above all.
4. Ask for an unspeakable hunger and a thirst that compels you to seek Him even through sleepless nights to lay hold of Him.
5. Pray that you live in a relationship with Him where your eyes are always on Him and your heart perpetually burns for Him.
6. Make Jesus your one goal and focus in life, and prayer your calling.

### **D. Awake to the Power of Prayer**

1. Pray to bring God's will and purpose to pass in life.
2. Exercise Christ's authority to obtain spiritual dominion and victory.
3. Pray and trust God for an outpouring of righteousness upon nations.



4. Pray for the Spirit of Grace to convict hearts, bring godly sorrow, break the power of sin, and bring repentance.
5. Pray that God will rain righteousness upon the nations of the earth and usher in revival.

### **E. Awake to and Receive the Blessings of Prayer**

1. Prayer brings you closer to God, guides you, and keeps you from temptation.
2. Prayer helps you to accept God's will, worship Him, and show Him gratitude at all times—good and challenging.
3. Prayer gives you restful sleep and protects you from all fears.
4. Prayer heals you of any inner wounds so that you will prosper in all things.

### **F. Understand and Experience the Life-Changing Ministry of Prayer**

1. Experience prayer that keeps you from sinning and the works of the enemy and the flesh.
2. Understand that prayer purifies your heart, spirit, soul, and mind by the blood of Jesus from all that is unclean and profane.
3. Realize prayer renews your heart, spirit, and mind. It refreshes your vision and zeal.
4. Persist in prayer that strengthens, edifies your spirit, and gives you courage, hope, and faith.
5. Engage in the prayer that renews and restores all that is worn out and worn down by trials, cares of life, and warfare as it refreshes your love, joy, hope, and faith.
6. Grasp that prayer revives, transforms, and fills you with life, strength, and power.
7. Appreciate that prayer enlightens you as you receive revelations of God.

### **Notes:**

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## Friday, January 10: Awake to the Holy Spirit

### ACTS 1:4–8 NKJV

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, **BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### ACTS 2:1–11 NLT

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or **TONGUES OF FIRE APPEARED AND SETTLED ON EACH OF THEM. AND EVERYONE PRESENT WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN SPEAKING IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE THEM THIS ABILITY.** At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!...**WE ALL HEAR THESE PEOPLE SPEAKING IN OUR OWN LANGUAGES ABOUT THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOD HAS DONE!**”

### 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.

### ACTS 4:33 NKJV

And with **GREAT POWER** the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them 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!’”

..... I CORINTHIANS 4:20 NKJV .....

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

..... ISAIAH 40:25–31 LEB .....

**“AND TO WHOM YOU WILL COMPARE ME, AND AM I EQUAL?” SAYS THE HOLY ONE.** Lift your eyes up on high, and see! Who created these? The one who brings out their host by number. He calls all them by name. Because He is great of power and mighty of power, no man is missing. Why do you say, Jacob, and you speak, Israel, “My way is hidden from Yahweh, and my judgment is passed over by my God?” **Have you not known, or have you not heard? YAHWEH IS THE GOD OF ETERNITY, the Creator of the ends of the earth! HE IS NOT FAINT, AND HE DOES NOT GROW WEARY!** There is no searching His understanding. **HE GIVES POWER TO THE WEARY, AND HE INCREASES POWER FOR THE POWERLESS.** Even young people will be faint and grow weary, and the young will stumble, exhausted. **BUT THOSE WHO WAIT FOR YAHWEH SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. They shall go up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not be faint.**

..... JOHN 14:15–18 NKJV .....

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOREVER—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you KNOW Him, for He DWELLS with you and WILL BE IN YOU. I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS; I WILL COME TO YOU.**

## **Exhortation: Awake To The Holy Spirit No Other But The Holy Spirit Makes All Things Possible**

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**ONLY ONE PERSON** can save us, revive the Church, and turn the heart of every tongue, tribe, and nation back to Jesus. He alone can bring a nation to its knees to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. God’s will is done on earth and His work is finished by His power. There is no substitute

for Him. No flesh, power, authority, organization, method, or influence can take His place. **HE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.**

The Church must awaken to the truth that it is not man's ingenuity, invention, or innovation that can bring transformation and salvation to man. **It is the Holy Spirit, the Almighty God,** as Zechariah 4:6 NIV proclaims, **"NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.**" The Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Holy Trinity, is utterly essential to the birth, existence, and ministry of the Church.

**WHERE IS THE CHURCH'S THIRST FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT? WHERE IS THE DEPENDENCY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT?** One of the most significant errors of the Church is marginalizing the person of the Holy Spirit. Have we forgotten how to thirst for Him and seek Him with all our hearts? Are we caught up with pursuing His power, anointing, and miracles but neglecting His person and presence? Have we been enthralled more by what He can do through us than who He is to us? Is the Church lacking in their thirst for Him, which we so desperately need, especially for such a time as this? Maybe we have replaced thirsting for Him with pursuits for many other things—power, influence, effectiveness, worldly success, and man's acknowledgment. Have we pivoted from trusting the Holy Spirit to trusting in talents, giftings, training, strategies, networking, and the right connections? None of these are bad. They are all good, but they cannot replace the preeminence of the Holy Spirit in the Church. It is time to repent in contrition and brokenness for our spiritual negligence and presumption against the Holy Spirit. **THERE IS ONLY ONE RIVER AND ONE SOURCE OF LIFE, THE HOLY SPIRIT** (Isaiah 44:3, John 7:38).

### **The Holy Spirit Is To Be Loved, Honored, Feared, And Obeyed**

God, the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three Persons in one Godhead. They are co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal. They are the same in Their divine nature, power, authority, and lordship over all. The Holy Spirit is not a representative of God, He is God Almighty. He is not just a force or power, He is the all-powerful God, and neither is He an agent on God's mission. He is the Lord God and Sovereign overall—just as the Father and the Son are. The Holy Trinity all exist, function, and move together in perfect unity. As we love, honor, and tremble at the presence of God the Father and the Son, so should we with the Holy Spirit.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Holy Trinity is in perfect unison and identicalness in person. There is no variance in Their will, purpose, and power. We are to seek to know, love, and relate to the Holy Spirit just as

we do with Jesus Christ. The Church must not marginalize the Holy Spirit in any way.

We understand more about who the Holy Spirit is by learning how God the Father and the Son relate to the Holy Spirit. They protect the Person of the Holy Spirit and severely warn of not sinning against Him. In fact, God will forgive all sins except the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

- “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.” —Matthew 12:31 NKJV
- “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” —Matthew 12:32 NKJV
- “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” —Ephesians 4:30 NIV
- “Yet they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. So He [God] turned and became their enemy and He Himself fought against them.” —Isaiah 63:10 NIV

If God puts such a weight on how we ought to relate to the Holy Spirit, the Church must awake to give the Holy Spirit the utmost honor, priority, preeminence, and devotion. God, the Father and the Son, love, respect, and fiercely protect the Holy Spirit against human rebellion, stubbornness, vexation, and blasphemy.

**The Church must not turn to the Holy Spirit and just pray for power, anointing, and giftings. WE MUST NO LONGER SEEK HIM JUST FOR WHAT HE CAN DO BUT FOR WHO HE IS.**

### **The Holy Spirit And Jesus Christ, The Son Of Man**

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The Holy Spirit was Jesus Christ’s inseparable Helper, Comforter, Advocate, and Companion in His earthly ministry as the Son of Man. Christ, in His humanity, had the utmost need for the Holy Spirit. He was Spirit- conceived, Spirit- filled, Spirit- led, and Spirit- empowered to wholly obey and serve His Father as the Lamb slain to redeem the world. Christ did nothing on His own concerning the Father’s will but was always trusting and entirely dependent on the Holy Spirit for all things. As a man, Jesus was not omniscient, omnipotent, or omnipresent. He believed, trusted, and depended on the One who was, the Holy Spirit. He could only be in one place at one time.

His power was limited like any other man. He was not all-knowing, as He had to depend on the Holy Spirit for revelation and understanding. He did that which was told, revealed, and shown to Him by His Father through the Holy Spirit. **WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JESUS, AS THE SON OF MAN, TO BE ABLE TO OFFER HIMSELF UP AS A SACRIFICE FOR THE REDEMPTION OF ALL MEN.** The Holy Spirit testifies in Hebrews 9:14 NKJV, “How much more shall the blood of Christ, **WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO GOD**, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Acts 10:38 NKJV states that the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus Christ for good works. “**How God ANOINTED Jesus of Nazareth WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH POWER**, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Isaiah 42:1 NLT testifies that Jesus was strengthened by the Holy Spirit, “**Look at My Servant, WHOM I STRENGTHEN.** He is My Chosen One, who pleases Me. **I HAVE PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM.** He will bring justice to the nations.” Luke 4:17–19 NKJV details the Holy Spirit’s anointing upon Jesus Christ for ministry.

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH** the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to **HEAL** the broken-hearted, to **PROCLAIM LIBERTY** to the captives and **RECOVERY OF SIGHT** to the blind, to **SET AT LIBERTY** those who are oppressed; to **PROCLAIM** the acceptable year of the LORD.”

In verse 21, Jesus said, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

### **The Church Must Thirst, Seek And Love The Holy Spirit**

Do not just seek the Holy Spirit’s power, anointing, and miracles; seek Him—to know, experience, and encounter Him personally, affectionately, intimately, and devotedly. We must have an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, our Lord, Comforter, Helper, Confidant, and Advocate. Unless the Church learns to pivot from only seeking His power, anointing, and gifts to seeking Him personally to know and love Him and be in holy intimacy with Him, we will not be able to walk in God’s will. We will also be unable to complete our God-given assignment and be all God has called us to be in these last days. **THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE THE CENTER OF OUR FAITH, LIFE, AND MINISTRY.** He is the One who teaches us to know God

and reveals the Father's will. The Holy Spirit speaks in Galatians 4:6–7 NKJV:

**And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out “ABBA, FATHER!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot be born again. Through the Holy Spirit, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are children of God and not slaves. We are also co-heirs with Jesus Christ our Lord. The Holy Spirit is also the seal of our salvation, and He indwells and communicates with us—Spirit to born-again spirit. There is no surer witness of truth than such a witness. There is no other way to be able to have this relationship with God than to be strengthened in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- “Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.”—Ephesians 2:18 NLT
- “Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”—Galatians 3:3 NKJV
- “Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”—Galatians 3:5 NKJV

### **Awake To Hear, Trust, And Obey The Holy Spirit**

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The days we are living in are evil, fierce, and dangerous. These are tricky, deceptive, and spiritually corrosive days we are facing. The only Person who has all the wisdom, understanding, power, and anointing to indwell us and enable us to powerfully, victoriously, and wisely walk through these days is the Holy Spirit. The instruction of God to His seven churches in the Book of Revelation remains the same for the Church today—he who has an ear, let him hear what the Holy Spirit says to the churches. We are to hear the Holy Spirit and obey.

- **“To the church of Ephesus—‘HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.** To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”—Revelation 2:7 ESV



- **“To the church of Smyrna—‘HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.** The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.”—Revelation 2:11 ESV
- **“To the church of Pergamum—‘HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.** To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”—Revelation 2:17 ESV
- **“To the church of Thyatira—‘The one who conquers and who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I Myself have received authority from My Father. And I will give him the morning star. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”**—Revelation 2:26–29 ESV
- **“To the church of Sardis—‘The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”**—Revelation 3:5–6 ESV
- **“To the church of Philadelphia—‘The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from My God out of heaven, and My own new name. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”**—Revelation 3:11–13 ESV
- **“To the church of Laodicea—‘The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne. HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”**—Revelation 3:21–22 ESV

## How Can the Church Be Awakened to the Holy Spirit?

Live in the Holy Spirit and be filled with His power:

“‘I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,’ says the LORD.” —Ezekiel 37:14 NKJV

Trust and obey the Holy Spirit always:

“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” —Ezekiel 36:27 NKJV

Depend on the Holy Spirit, Whose power makes all things possible:

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”  
—Luke 1:35 NKJV

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## Prayer Focus

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### A. Hunger and Thirst After the Holy Spirit.

### B. Pray and Seek to Know, Love, Trust and Obey the Holy Spirit.

### C. Repent and Remove All Obstructions to the In-Filling of the Holy Spirit.

1. Repent for the lack of hunger, thirst, or desire for the Holy Spirit.
2. Repent of ignorance and indifference toward the Holy Spirit.
3. Repent of being asleep, for apathy and lukewarmness in relationship with the Holy Spirit.
4. Turn away from failure to honor, respect, and love the Holy Spirit.
5. Turn away from grieving the Holy Spirit in these matters:
  - a. Disobedience to God's word and the Holy Spirit's conviction.
  - b. Presumptuousness toward the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Defiling of His holy temple, your body.
  - d. Sins and trespasses, especially against Him.

### D. Rededicate and Re-commit to the Holy Spirit

1. Recommit to give Him first place in your life.
2. Recommit to love, honor, and obey Him always.
3. Recommit to be filled and never to presume on Him.
4. Recommit to being sensitive to Him and not ignoring or grieving Him.
5. Recommit to treat His gifts with care, honor, and respect.
6. Recommit to operate in the gifts through faith and obedience.



# PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS & CHURCH PLANTS

## SENIOR PASTOR & FAMILY

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**Klayton + Sharon Ko**

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

## STAFF PASTORS & SPOUSES

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**Bill Bannister**

**Francine + JR Cabbab**

**Horace + Talei Chee-Manuia**

**Ernie + Siew Peng Chow**

**Sam + Lorna Cockett**

**Mel + Jennifer Corpuz**

**Jacob + Hoku Fesagaiga**

**Frederick + Sandra Harris**

**Joshua + Kimberly Ko**

**Trenton + Courtney Oshiro**

**Chizuko + Tyrone Peeples**

**Shyju + Reena Sathyanesan**

**Raymond + Eva So**

**Scott + Debbie Sonoda**

**Andrew + Karen Yasuhara**

## CHURCH PLANTS & MISSIONARIES

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### BRAZIL

**First Assembly of God Brazil**

Ps. Celina Takahashi, Bro. Alex, Bro. Agenor,  
Sis. Helena

### INDIA

**First Gomti Nagar Fellowship AOG**

Ps. Prasantha + Sis. Roshika, Sis. Krit

### IRELAND

**Lighthouse Community Church**

**Dublin:** Ps. Jamie + Sis. Lud Corcoran

**Navan:** Ps. Sam + Sis. Sara Corcoran

**Dundalk:** Ps. Rebecca Moldovan

### JAPAN

**Aloha Assembly Kirigaoka Christ Church**

Ps. Kyoko Koyama,

Sis. Sayaka + Bro. Victor Groves

**Amazing Grace Center Kamaishi**

Ps. Keizo + Sis. Mami Yoshioka

**Hiroshima Gideonite Team**

Ps. Lynne Higa, Sis. Suzanne Pasatiempo

**Kyushu Gideonite Team**

Bro. Gary + Sis. Linda Sasaki, Sis. Karen So

**Okinawa City Church**

Sis. Miyuki, Sis. Fujiko, Bro. Okusa, Sis. Shizuko,

Sis. Keiko

**Osaka Bible Church**

Ps. Atsuya + Ps. Takako Miyashita

### MARSHALL ISLANDS

**First Assembly of God Marshall Islands**

Delap—Bro. Mike Larron

Uliga—Bro. Aichy Hanchor

### MEXICO

**First Assembly of God Huamantla**

Ps. Miriam, Ps. Quechol, Sis. Hudid, Sis. Mimi,  
Bro. Francisco + Sis. Fernanda

**First Assembly of God Ixtenco**

Bro. Miguel, Sis. Fabia

### PHILIPPINES

**First Assembly of God Bohol**

Ps. Bill (interim), Sis. Natalie Bernales,  
Sis. Lolet Gambe, Sis. Fe Ulgaran,  
Bro. Philip Vance Gambe

### SAMOA

**First Assembly of God Faleula**

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

### TIMOR LESTE

**East Timor Assembly**

Ps. Atama + Sis. Melanie Vakalalabure

### UGANDA

**Mbale City Church**

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

### UNITED KINGDOM

**London Family Center**

Ps. Timothy + Sis. Angela Dorjey

### UNITED STATES

**First Assembly of God Hamakua**

Ps. Jacob + Sis. Hoku Fesagaiga, Ps. Maize Luke

**Marshallse Churches**

Pastors and leaders

