A large stained glass window in the background features a central figure of Jesus with a halo and radiating light. Two white doves are shown in flight, one on each side of the central figure. The background is a deep blue sky with a faint, larger-scale version of the stained glass design.

# “40 DAYS OF CONSECRATION”

June 26 - August 4, 2017

Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ  
229 S. Danny Thomas Blvd. | Memphis, TN 38126 | Phone: 901-527-9202  
Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr. - Pastor

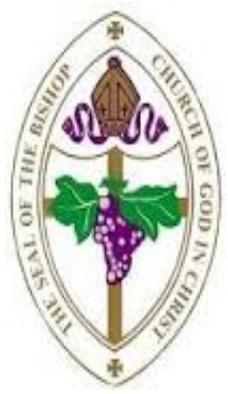
A photograph of the Pentecostal Temple Church building, a large brick structure with a prominent red metal roof and a series of steps leading to the entrance. The building is surrounded by a well-maintained lawn and several manicured bushes. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

[www.pentecostalcogic.org](http://www.pentecostalcogic.org)



*Pentecostal Temple*  
*Church Of God In Christ*

**Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr., Pastor**  
229 South Danny Thomas Boulevard  
Memphis, Tennessee 38126  
(901) 527-9202 Office – (901) 527-1010 Facsimile



June 26, 2017

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Member:

Greetings, in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For the past seven years we as members of Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ have participated in a 40-day Consecration, inspired by the loss of our great leader, my father, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr. During that difficult time the Lord placed on my heart to call for a consecration, and a sense of renewed peace and understanding covered our church, and reminded us that God is with us.

It is my sincerest desire that we live in accordance with His will so that we may be rewarded for our faithfulness and receive all that the Lord has for us. As we consecrate ourselves, “*let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...*” (Hebrew 12:1). For when we demonstrate our dedication to the Lord, He will fill us with His spirit, love and knowledge that surpasses all understanding.

I would like for every member to join me as we prepare for this consecration which begins **Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** and ends **Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**. I am asking that we fast until 3:00 p.m. daily, unless a member has a medical condition that dictates otherwise. These 40 days of Consecration will be accompanied with a **Pastoral Revival**, which will be led by me, and will be held **July 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Remember, God is doing GREAT things, and we are expecting Him to do even *greater things*.

It is my prayer that the spirit of the Lord be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Charles H. Mason Patterson, Sr.

**“Like never before I will read God’s word,  
pray, worship, fast, witness, love one another,  
forgive others, and serve God”**

### **OUR PLEDGE**

We pledge to pray for our Pastor and First Lady Patterson, our nation, national and local churches, church clergy, executive leaders, auxiliaries and ministries, and for one another. We agree to the following:

1. We will dedicate at least 30 minutes (per day) during the 40 days of consecration to read God’s word
2. We will strive to stop and participate in collective prayer each day at 12 noon, as well as dedicate at least 15 – 30 minutes (per day) during the 40 days of consecration in prayer.
3. We will strive to attend Sunday Night Worship Service at Pentecostal Temple or the church you attend during the 40 days of Consecration.
4. We will strive to attend Wednesday’s Prayer (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon) and W.O.W (Worship On Wednesdays) 7:00p.m. at Pentecostal Temple, or Mid-Week Bible Study/Service at the church you attend during the 40 days of Consecration.
5. We will strive to attend Sunday School 8:30 a.m. at Pentecostal Temple or attend Sunday School at the church you attend during the 40 days of consecration.

# DAILY GUIDE

## Monday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: at least one petition for someone else, church leaders, auxiliaries and ministries
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Tuesday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: unemployed will find jobs that meet the needs of their family, and pray for Pastor Patterson and Sis. Patterson, as well as all Pastors and their Wives
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Wednesday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion.
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: salvation for all who are lost, and wisdom and guidance from God
- Fast until 3:00 pm
- Attend Wednesday Prayer 10:00 am – 12:00 noon and/or W.O.W. Service 7:00 pm/ Mid-Week Service at your home church

## Thursday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: youth hear the word of God and accept Jesus as their savior and pray for family members or friends who are lost
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Friday

- Read your daily scriptures and devotion
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes include in your prayer: national church and leaders, for clergy, missionaries, and evangelist
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Saturday

- Read your daily scriptures
- Pray at 12:00 noon for at least 5 minutes - include in your prayer: those suffering from injustice, comfort for those grieving, healing for the sick, and perseverance for persons participating in the 40 days of consecration
- Fast until 3:00 pm

## Sunday

- Read your daily scriptures
- Attend Sunday Worship Services (i.e. Sunday School, Morning/Evening Worship, YPWW)
- Pray and include in your prayer: the messenger as they deliver God's word, salvation for the lost, spiritual growth of Pentecostal Temple/ your home church
- Fast until 3:00 pm

# Scriptures of Encouragement

## Fasting and Prayer

Faith needs prayer for its development and full growth, Prayer needs fasting for its development and full growth.

1. Humbling the soul before God (Psalm 35:13)
2. Chastening the soul (Psalm 69:10)
3. Crucifying the appetites (2 Samuel 12:16-23, Matthew 4:1-11)
4. Manifests earnestness before God (1 Corinthians 9:15, Luke 5:33)

## Believers should fast when under:

1. Chastening (2 Samuel 12:16-23)
2. Under Judgment (1 Kings 21:27)
3. When in need (Ezra 8:21)
4. When in danger (Esther 4)
5. When worried (Daniel 6:18)
6. When in trouble (Acts 27:9, 33)
7. When in spiritual conflict (Matthew 4:1-11)
8. When desperate in prayer (Acts 9)

## **“40” Days of Consecration**

### **We are Pentecostal Strong, Because we have Pentecostal Power**

The Strength and Power of Pentecost is promised to every Believer. ACTS 1:8 (But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth).

We also read of His descent to the earth to dwell in the believers in the book of Joel 2:28-29 (And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions And also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my Spirit). This promise of indwelling power is promised to every believer if received by faith.

What is the meaning and purpose of this “INDWELLING POWER” of the Holy Ghost? In the Greek language there are two words that define this POWER. One is DUNAMIS. When translated, means power. It is strongly related to the English words “dynamic” and “dynamite”. Dunamis is also translated to mean, “mighty” works, and “wonderful” works. The other Greek word used referring to Him is EXOUSIA, when translated, means the power of authority or influence, and of right and privilege. It also means the right to rule or govern. It is the power of Him whose will and command must be submitted to and obeyed. This is the Power that has been bequeathed or willed to the believer through the finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ via the Holy Ghost. We the saints of God have been given Holy Ghost power to rule and reign over all satanic powers. (Read Luke 10:17-20). Remember, when He dwells in us we are infused with supernatural might and power. (Our “natural” becomes infused with His “Super”).

In this last day season, when everything associated with this world’s system is on a downward trend at break-neck speed, we the believers must take a serious look at our personal and spiritual state. We must ask ourselves if we are sitting, standing, and walking in a place of Holy Ghost Power; or do we have enough Holy Ghost, “Dunamis” and “Exousia”, to combat the evil forces of the wicked one that has been waged against us? Could it be that some of us have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof by our lackadaisical attitude, by our inadequate prayer and fasting, or by not seeking Him whom we say our soul loves? We are not living in a “business as usual” time and season. We live in an Ephesians 6:10-18 time and season (read).

We are in a serious spiritual war, and spiritual life-threatening combat. Without the Holy Ghost, the Chief spiritual warfare Strategist, we are bound to lose much, if not all spiritual ground and territories that we have conquered and gained victories over, such as the sin and defeat in our personal lives, as well as the spiritual lives of those who are near and dear to our hearts. This is a war we cannot afford to lose!

Our heavenly Father, through His dear Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the Anointed One has bequeathed to us, given to us, just as He promised, the Third Person of the God-head, the Precious Holy Ghost. He dwells in the entire universe, in all Power. He is the Promised Power given to every believer who will receive Him by faith. He is the Precious Gift the Father sent in the Name of Jesus to testify of Jesus, and to manifest the life of Jesus as He dwells in us in super-natural power and holiness. He is a real Person; not an “it”. He has a personality. He thinks, He feels, He sees, and He knows all things. If we appropriate all that has been willed to us as believers, we will enjoy all things that pertain to life and godliness (read 2 Peter 1:3-10). Each day we are privileged to live, we should implore the Holy Spirit to continually fill us with Himself that we may walk in righteousness, true holiness, wisdom, and power.

### **Day 1 – June 26, 2017**

Joel 2:25 (KJV) And I will restore unto you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

*My restoration must always come before I allow My power to fall on and in My people saith God. I Am restoring, I Am cleaning out, I Am setting aright that which is wrong and out of alignment in My Body, My church, My true worshippers, those who are willing to follow at any cost. I Am sending my army of test and trials to purge and purify that I may pour out of My raw untapped power in the earth. Greater levels, more intense levels of My Holy Spirit will be revealed in and through my People. There can be no “business as usual!!” Intense spiritual warfare must be activated.*

### ***The “Afterward” of Restoration.....***

### **Day 2 – June 27, 2017**

Joel 2:28-29 (KJV) And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.

*“Afterward”, saith God; miracles, signs, and great wonders will I perform. Souls will run to the altars seeking salvation and deliverance. A mighty army will be birthed. Those that love Me unconditionally will speak and move in an unusual anointing. They will be My Mouthpiece, My Hands and My Feet. They will move out, going into the hedges and highways of life and compel souls to come to Me; the True and Living Savior, and I will gladly receive them with open arms. For this has been My patience, what I the Lord have longed and waited for!!*

### **Day 3 – June 28, 2017**

Acts 1:8 (KJV) But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost in come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.  
*Acts 1:8 (AMPC) But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.*

*As you, My people move in the power and authority of My Spirit, My super-natural grace will be upon you to live and perform My Word. You shall be strong in Me and carry out great exploits that I may be glorified and magnified in the eyes of humanity. You will find yourselves in areas and places you never thought you would be. You will be My trophies in this fallen world. But you will be misunderstood, and hated by many. Some will be in your own environment. But I the Lord have carved you out and called you for such a time as this. Continue to trust Me, and you shall have nothing short of victory. I the Lord have spoken it. I will not take it back!*

### **Day 4 – June 29, 2017**

### ***A Sermon Infused with Pentecostal Power (Read Acts2:14-47)***

Acts 2:14 (AMPC) But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: you Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem let this be [explained] to you so that you will know *and* understand; listen closely to what I have to say.....

Pentecostal Power will cause us to speak with boldness the history and the mysteries of the gospel. We will teach and preach Christ unflinchingly. We won't be moved by criticism or threats. The Holy Spirit is preparing and growing our feet to walk in similar shoes. Gospel shoes of steadfastness, being firm and unmoving from the standard of holiness. We are not ashamed of the gospel (the Good News) of Christ. For it is the “Power of God” unto salvation. God's power working unto salvation, [for the deliverance from eternal death] to everyone who believes with personal trust and confident surrender, (submission), and firm reliance (*Roman 1:16 AMPC*). Due to Peter's powerful Pentecostal sermon, 3,000 souls were drawn to the altar seeking salvation and deliverance.

**Day 5 – June 30, 2017**

***The Holy Spirit Invokes a Steadfast Prayer-life that Leads to a Miracle***

***Acts 3:1-26***

Acts 3:1 (AMPC) Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon),

This was the time of the afternoon “prayer watch”. In certain cultures this is the most unlikely time to go to church for a prayer meeting. It is usually a time when most of us are working, or just out and about handling business matters. But this was a daily time of prayer for the early church and the Apostles. Their daily prayer time led them into a profound miracle being performed by the power of the Holy Ghost. This notable miracle got the attention of all the people in the temple and the surrounding area. This miracle opened the door for witnessing and preaching Christ through the power of the Holy Ghost. They preached Christ with boldness and refused to hold their peace. This resulted in approximately 5,000 men believing and receiving Christ.

This is just one of the many facets of what He (the Holy Spirit) does through the life of the yielded believer. He is an expert at breaking down the stubborn will of the unbeliever. He knows how to soften their hearts, making them pliable and ready for salvation and deliverance.

What we also see is the wrath, jealousy, and hatred of those whose minds have been set up by the arch-enemy, Satan, to reject Christ and the manifestation of His power through the Holy Spirit. So.... Get ready for the suffering that comes with naming the Name of Christ!

**Day 6 – July 1, 2017**

Acts 4:1 (AMPC) And while Peter and John were talking to the people, the high priest and the military commander of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them.

The “*religious*” leaders, people who had only a *form* of godliness, and practiced religious ritualism came against these Spirit filled Apostles. The temple powers that be had with them, the temple “MP’s”, whose assignment was to maintain order in the temple precincts and arrest anyone whom they thought were trouble-makers, or anyone who came against what was thought to be common temple practices. Of course the miracle of the lame man being healed was totally out of the scope of their common ritualistic temple order.

So it is today in many ritualistic religious circles. If some of us “Pentecostals” entered their places of religious worship and began to genuinely praise and worship loudly, thereby charging the atmosphere with His Presence; (which creates an atmosphere conducive for miracles to take place), and the lame began to leap out of wheelchairs, cancerous tumors began to fall out of and off of the diseased bodies of the people, the police would most likely be summoned, and we would probably be arrested for disturbing their order of service.

WOW!! These religious leaders had passed this lame man daily. They may have even tossed him a coin or two as they looked on him with disdain. This awesome miracle they had witnessed greatly disturbed them and fueled a jealous rage in their unregenerate hearts. Are we (Holy Ghost filled) saints ready for this!!

## **Day 7 – July 2, 2017**

### ***Punished and Persecuted because of Pentecostal Power (read Acts 4:2-31)***

Acts 4:3 (AMPC) So they laid hands on them (arrested them) and put them in prison until the following day, for it was already evening.

This notable miracle that happened because of the Holy Spirit testifying through the Apostles the healing power of Jesus, caused quite a stir. Peter and John were the flesh-house the Holy Spirit used to testify of who Jesus is and what He does. His testimony will always represent who Jesus is; for He does what Jesus was doing when He walked in the flesh, and what Jesus continues to do. (**John 15:26**)

Now, we are the flesh-houses, (just as Peter and John were), who the Holy Spirit indwells to testify and manifest the awesome and powerful works of Jesus. Just as Jesus (the Word) became flesh and dwelled among us in a flesh and blood body, our body (flesh) has to yield to the Word, (Jesus) that His life Via the Holy Spirit, might dwell and move freely in us in any way he chooses, that He may be glorified.

We must remember the Words Jesus spoke in John 14:12. “If we believe” (have faith in who He is, what He has done for us, and what He has promised), He said, “the works that I do”, these works we would do also. And greater works than these, (in greater capacity, in greater mass, in greater volume), because He had to finish His course and report back to His heavenly position, where he is seated at the right hand of the Father. There He continually makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

## **Day 8 – July 3, 2017**

Acts 4:7 (AMPC) And they set the men in their midst and repeatedly demanded, by what sort of power or by what kind of authority did [such people as] you do this [healing]?

The interrogation begins!! What sort of power is this? Better yet, who gave you “common” men the authority to do what you did? (Not wanting to publicly call a miracle a miracle). Why could you not leave well enough alone, and leave temple business as usual? What name or authority figure gave you permission to operate in this area of “our” religious order? We must be ready to answer all the “what”, “why” and the ‘who”, just as Peter and John were. This is not a time to shrink in fear and shame.

## **Day 9 – July 4, 2017**

### ***The Strength of Pentecostal Power Being Displayed (Acts 4:8-12, Day 9 – 12)***

Acts 4:8-12 (AMPC) Then Peter, [because he was] filled with [and controlled by] the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and members of the council (the Sanhedrin),

If we are put on trial [here] today *and* examined concerning a good deed done to benefit a feeble (helpless) cripple, by what means this man has been restored to health,

Let it be known *and* understood by all of you, and by the whole house of Israel, that in the name and through the power and authority of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, [but] Whom God raised from the dead, in Him *and* by means of Him this man is standing here before you well *and* sound in body.

This [Jesus] is the Stone which was despised *and* rejected by you, the builders, but is become the Head of the corner [the Cornerstone]. [Ps. 118:22]

And there is salvation in *and* through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by *and* in which we must be saved.

### **Day 10 – July 5 2017**

As we look at the transformed Peter we see that the crushable “pebble” has become a “solid rock”. *Denial* is now being *denied*. He is converted and standing in the power and strength of his Pentecostal (Holy Ghost) experience.

Some years ago a secular music artist recorded a song titled, “What a Difference a Day Makes”. The scripture in Acts 2:1 states, “When the *day* of Pentecost was fully come”; this *day* marked an astounding difference in the life of Peter and all the others who were gathered in the Upper Room. After Pentecost, Peter preaches Christ with power and boldness, not being ashamed or afraid of any man.

### **Day 11 – July 6, 2017**

**If we were arrested and tried for naming the Name of Christ, would there be enough evidence to bring a conviction?** The Holy Spirit gives us the super-natural boldness to witness with our lives as well as our words and deeds. His ultimate goal is to testify of Jesus through us, and to do the works that Jesus did. This same Holy Ghost strength and power is available to every believer today; that we may stand with holy boldness and power to proclaim the gospel without wavering!

### **Day 12 – July 7, 2017**

Acts 4:13 (AMPC) Now when they saw the boldness *and* unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned *and* untrained in the schools [common men with no educational advantages], they marveled, and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Here, once again we see Holy Spirit testifying in Dunamis, and Exousia (explosive power and divine authority) through Peter and John who Jesus is and what He does. They were in awe of these “common men” moving in such power and authority, this was the same power and authority they had witnessed at work in the life of Jesus. They learned that He does not need the permission of the religious hierarchy to display and act out who He is. The Holy Spirit will do the same in us today if we obey the Word and unashamedly submit ourselves to Him.

Question; Does anyone know; Can people discern that we have been with Jesus?

***THIS JESUS STUFF HAS GOT TO STOP!!***

### **Day 13 – July 8, 2017**

Acts 4:17-18 (AMPC) But in order that it may not spread further among the people *and the* nation, let us warn *and* forbid them with a stern threat to speak any more to anyone in this name [or about this Person]. [So] they summoned them and imperatively instructed them not to converse in any way *or* teach at all in *or* about the name of Jesus.

This Jesus stuff has got to stop!! We saw to it that He was murdered (crucified)! So why do these followers of His continue to esteem His Name as some sort of great authority and/or entity? Well, we must remember it is common belief by His followers and many others that He rose from the dead; and that He counseled them, telling them the same works, (miracle, signs, and wonders), they would also do. There seems to be something about His Name that causes miracles to take place. So we cannot afford to permit them to use or say that Name to anyone!! It makes us look bad and mars our reputation as religious leaders. Let’s warn them of the grave consequences they will endure if they continue to use His Name in any way, or towards anything!

## *How to Respond to a Satanic inspired Threat*

### **Day 14 – July 9, 2017**

Acts 4:19-20 (AMPC) But Peter and John replied to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you *and* obey you rather than God, you must decide (judge).

But we [ourselves] cannot help telling what we have seen and heard.

The wisdom of the Holy Ghost stood up in these men of God and spoke through them an answer that put these un-regenerate leaders in a very uncomfortable place. They knew their answer should have been emphatically, “obey God!” But they had only, *a form of godliness, denying the power thereof*. Let us, the saints of God seek Him in faith, submitting ourselves to Him, that this same level of wisdom and authority may rest in us, giving us the boldness to stand and answer anyone concerning the “*real*” God that we serve; even in the threat of major harm, or death. As these are the same kind of days that are now upon us!

### *The Apostolic Conference, and its Results* (Read Acts 4:23-31)

### **Day 15 – July 10, 2017**

Acts 4:23 (AMPC) After they were permitted to go, [the Apostles] returned to their own [company] and told all that the chief priest and elders had said to them.

They returned to their own kind, (those who were filled with the Holy Ghost), and made a thorough report of everything that had been said. How they had been threatened not to speak in that great name of Him whom they so desperately loved, the Name of Jesus. The One who had given them the authority and power to work miracles, signs, and wonders, through His unfailing Name. This action from the religious authorities provoked the Apostles and the saints to pray a prayer that stirred the very powers of heaven on their behalf. At the “Amen” of the prayer and praise service, the Holy Ghost, in His magnificent power showed up in such a way that the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they continued to speak and preach the Word of God with freedom, boldness, and courage!

### **Day 16 – July 11, 2017**

Acts 4:33 (AMPC) And with great strength *and* ability *and* power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them.

The religious leaders wanted Jesus as well as His Name to remain dead and a thing of the past. But these men filled and infused by the Holy Ghost, continued to preach and teach with boldness, walking in the power and authority of the Name of our RESURRECTED Lord, and great grace (increased super-natural ability), was upon them to perform signs, wonders, and miracles by and through His Name. For He is alive and well, watching over His promised Word to perform it in them.

## *Super-natural Strength and Power to Obey*

### **Day 17 – July 12, 2017**

Acts 5:17-21 (AMPC) But the high priest rose up and all who were his supporters, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and being filled with jealousy *and* indignation *and* rage, They seized and arrested the apostles (special messengers) and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and, leading them out, said, Go, take your stand in the temple courts and declare to the people the whole doctrine concerning this Life (the eternal life which Christ revealed).

And when they heard this, they accordingly went into the temple about daybreak and began to teach. Now the high priest and his supporters who were with him arrived and called together the council (Sanhedrin), even all the senate of the sons of Israel, and they sent to the prison to have [the apostles] brought.

The super-natural power of God could not be stopped! These leader thought they could stop Jesus and the Holy Ghost from being who they are, but God mandated the release of His apostles, using heavenly authority, (His angel), not only to perform a sanctified jail-break, but to deliver a message to go back to the *same* place they had been evicted from, (the temple), and teach and preach the *same* life changing gospel.

When we allow the super-natural Grace (God's strength and ability), to take over in our lives, we become unstoppable as well. He begins to stir up a Holy boldness in us, which causes us to press forward to victory, even in the face of strong adversity.

### **Day 18 – July 13, 2017**

Acts 5:22-25 (AMPC) But when the attendants arrived there, they failed to find them in the jail; so they came back and reported, We found the prison quite safely locked up and the guards were on duty outside the doors, but when we opened [it], we found no one on the inside.

Now when the military leader of the temple area and the chief priest heard these facts, they were much perplexed *and* thoroughly at a loss about them, wondering into what this might grow.

But some man came and reported to them, saying Listen! The men whom you put in jail are standing [right here] in the temple and teaching the people.

The Holy Ghost will always leave the devil perplexed and at a loss for words. Man's religious thinking and plans will always come up short. These religious leaders could not figure out nor come to grips with the power and the wise move of God. (*1 Corinthians 2:5 alludes to the fact that our faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power God*).

Just as they in their finite unregenerate minds, could not figure out how Jesus was raised from the dead, as they found the tomb empty, they had no clue of how the apostles had gotten out of jail with their cells heavily guarded; and the soldiers being under the threat of execution if these prisoners escaped. But even worse, the prisoners (apostles) went back to where they had been thrown out of, and boldly taught in the *same* Name they had been forbidden to speak or preach.

### **Day 19 – July 14, 2017**

Acts 5:26 (AMPC) Then the military leader went with the attendants and brought [the prisoners], but without violence, for they dreaded the people lest they be stoned.

Another interrogation begins. But the apostles being filled with the Holy Ghost and boldness, refused to change their testimony. They were saved and filled *beyond compromise*, preaching the crucified and resurrected Christ even to them. Letting them know unashamedly that they were His witnesses of these things; as well as the Holy Ghost, whom God has given to those who obey. (*Read verses 27-32*).

Isn't it amazing how the common people were filled with joy and gladness, and magnified God in such a way that these unsaved religious leaders feared them. They would not lay their hands on the people, but had no fear of secretly calling the apostles aside and beating them because they refused to keep silent about Jesus and the Holy Ghost.

## **Day 20 – July 15, 2017**

Acts 5:41-42 (AMPC) So they went out from the presence of the council (Sanhedrin), rejoicing that they were being counted worthy [dignified by the indignity] to suffer shame *and* be exposed to disgrace for [the sake of] His name.

Yet [in spite of the threats] they never ceased for a single day, both in the temple area and at home, to teach and proclaim the good news (Gospel) of Jesus [as] the Christ (the Messiah).

When we really think about this; we say, what a *strong commitment*; is this within my reach? Am I willing to suffer the indignity of shame, hatred, and disgrace that may be laid on me because I choose to live a for real sanctified life-style; one that readily proclaims who I am and whose I am? The answer is; not without a sold-out commitment to Jesus and the Holy Ghost.

Our love and dedication to Christ and the Good News of the Gospel must supersede anything and anyone else in our lives. A decision to follow Christ whole-heartedly may lead to a life of loneliness; but don't despair! Jesus has many followers who are sold out to Him. These He will use as a support system to one another. He has thousands who have not bowed the knee to the Baals of this world's system, nor kissed his ring. We will make it; and make it with joy and peace in the Holy Ghost!

*During this very special time of consecration we continue to explore and learn more about our best friend who was sent to dwell in us and possess our very being. His primary goal is that He may empower and enrich every area of our lives. Let's look at some of His many attributes, and how He as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the God-Head is in perfect harmony (agreement) with the Father and the Son concerning His plan for humanity. He is the Omi-Potent, (all powerful), Omni-Presence, (Everywhere at the same time), and Omniscient, (all-knowing, all-wise, all-seeing) Person dispatched by the God-Head to be in charge of all the plans and business concerning the universe. He is the very essence of Father and Son.*

*For too long much of the church has denied Him His powerful place among us. In doing so many of us have remained spiritually and naturally incapacitated because we don't really know who He is. For the next few days let us explore some of the attributes of His Character.*

### ***Who is He (the Holy Ghost), And What is He to You?***

## **Day 21 – July 16, 2017**

Matthew 3:16-17 (AMPC) And when Jesus was baptized, He went at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And behold a voice from heaven said, This is My Son, My Beloved, in Whom I delight! [Isa. 42:1].

The Holy Spirit, like a Dove, came down and rested upon Jesus at His baptism. We then hear our Father from heaven saying this is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; in whom I delight!

The "Dove" characterizes the gentleness and obedience of the personality of the Holy Spirit. As Noah sent out a dove from the Ark after the flood to bring back news and evidence of the earth's condition, so it is with the Holy Spirit. He opens our mind's eye, and our hearts to our personal earth, (these bodies we live in), as well as the condition and state of the planet earth on which we live. He reveals the perishing condition of both of these. As our spiritual eyes are opened and we begin to see our undone state and the state of the world, we submit to His wooing and nudging as He draws us to Jesus Christ. It is He who gently nudges us moment by moment, day by day, and year by year; imploring us to come to Jesus. He leads and teaches us in love, compassion, and gentleness. Then He waits..... Though His Power is the greatest in the universe, He will never coerce us to repentance or obedience in a harsh or unkind manner. He is the "gentle" Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God who comes to reveal Jesus to us.

## *The Advantage of Having and Knowing Him Personally*

### **Day 22 – July 17, 2017**

John 16:7 (AMPC) However I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you], (and be in you).

He will take up residency, and actually live in these flesh houses, these clay jars, our bodies. Jesus was letting His disciples and all other believers that are to follow, know that He Himself will be present with us through the Third Person of the God-head, the Holy Spirit. He is to the believer exactly what Jesus would be if He were here in the flesh. Listen to what Jesus says in the previous chapter John 15:26 (AMPC) *But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, He [Himself] will testify regarding Me.* He (the Holy Spirit) is using the body of believers, the Body of Christ to do just that.

### *(Day 23 & 24)*

### **Day 23 – July 18, 2017**

John 16:14-15 (AMPC) He will honor and glorify Me, because he will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Everything that the Father has is mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

We should stand in awe at what has been bequeathed unto us as the children of God. We have access to boundless love. This same John stated in 1 John 3:1 (AMPC) *SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him.*

The Holy Spirit was sent to reveal all that Jesus is to us, the Body of Christ. How mind-blowing.... How awesome!!

### **Day 24 – July 19, 2017**

*John 16:15*

Let us drink in the powerful words of Jesus in this verse of scripture as He prepares the disciples for His soon departure, He gives them comforting words letting them know that they would not only have access to Him through the Holy Spirit whom the Father would send in His name, but that He would be to them what He (Jesus) had been to them in the flesh. Isn't it amazing that the *All-powerful, All knowing, unlimited Presence* of the Third Person of the God-Head is on blast to declare, disclose, and transmit to us, the children of God, the richness of what we are entitled to in Christ? Therefore we dare not trust in the wisdom of man and the system of this perishing world. For it is in Christ *we live and move, and have our being.*

(Side bar) *The Dangers of Worldly Wisdom for the Believer*

**Day 25 – July 20, 2017**

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (AMPC) And my language and my message were not set forth in persuasive (enticing and plausible) words of wisdom, but they were in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit and power [a proof by the Spirit and power of God, operating on me and stirring in the minds of my hearers the most holy emotions and thus persuading them],

So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, (human philosophy), but in the power of God.

Let us have a side bar conversation on *worldly wisdom* for a few moments. As Paul warned and admonished the Corinthian believers, he warns and admonishes us today of the dangers of resting our faith and hope in the wisdom of this world. In the KJV the word *stand* is used instead of *rest*; to stand and to rest denotes being stationary, not moving away from. We as believers must be willing to *move away* from the wisdom of the world to embrace the wisdom from above, which is given by the Holy Spirit.

Let us listen to Paul as he further describes the world's wisdom, as compared to God's Wisdom. *1 Corinthians 1:18-21, 24- 31(AMPC) he states, For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the [manifestation of] the power of God.*

*For it is written, I will baffle and render useless and destroy the learning of the learned and the philosophy of the philosophers and the cleverness of the clever and the discernment of the discerning; I will frustrate and nullify [them] and bring [them] to nothing.*

*Where is the wise man (the philosopher)? Where is the scribe (the scholar)? Where is the investigator (the logician, the debater) of this present age? Has not God shown up the nonsense and the folly of this world's wisdom?*

*For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive and recognize and know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him).*

*But to those who are called, whether Jew or Greek (Gentile), Christ [is] the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.*

*[This is] because the foolish thing [that has its source in] God is wiser than men, and the weak thing [that springs] from God is stronger than men.*

*For [simply] consider your own call, brethren; not many [of you were considered to be] wise according to human estimate and standards, not many influential and powerful, not many of high and noble birth.*

*[No] for God selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame.*

*And God also selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is low-born and insignificant and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are.*

*So that no mortal man should [have pretense for glorying and] boast in the Presence of God.*

*But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God,*

*[revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan for salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].*

*So then, as it is written, Let him who boast and proudly rejoices and glories, boast and proudly rejoice and glory in the Lord.*

### **Day 26 - July 21, 2017**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (AMPC) Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise *and* skillful person glory *and* boast in his wisdom and skill; let not the mighty *and* powerful person glory *and* boast in His strength *and* power; let not the person who is rich [in physical gratification and earthly wealth] glory *and* boast in his [temporal satisfactions and earthly] riches;

But let him who glories glory in this: that he understands and knows Me [personally and practically, directly discerning and recognizing My character], that I am the Lord, Who practices loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

Let us therefore reach and grasp that which The Holy Spirit of God makes possible for us to have, as He reveals the more of Jesus Christ the Anointed Messiah to us. It is paramount that we walk in the Wisdom of God which all Spirit-filled believers have access to; that we not get side-tracked and caught in the snare of the standards of this world's system. We must be wise and remember that our flesh has not forgotten the pleasures of sinful things. Let us take heed to the all-wise counsel and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### **Day 27 – July 22, 2017**

Luke 4:1-3a (AMPC; KJV) THEN JESUS, full and controlled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led [by] the [Holy] Spirit for forty days in the wilderness (desert), where He was tempted, (tried, tested exceedingly) by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they were completed, He was hungry. Then the devil said to Him.....

Satan began to offer Him everything that was already His, the same things He already had authority over. Because Jesus now lived in a flesh house the devil did everything he could to appeal to the desires he knew resided in the flesh. But Jesus as an example to us, shows us the great value of the flesh being submitted to the Holy Ghost, thus allowing the Word to answer all of our temptations when our flesh is tried with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (*Then the devil left Him for a season*), or for a more opportune time. While we are in the flesh Satan will always come back seeking an opportunity to entice us with people, places, and things to lure us away from our place in God. This is why we need to be filled with the Holy Ghost and the Word.

### ***Our Flesh; Our Enemy***

### **Day 28 – July 23, 2017**

Titus 3:3-6 (AMPC) For we also were once thoughtless *and* senseless, obstinate *and* disobedient, deluded *and* misled; [we too were once] slaves to all sorts of cravings *and* pleasures, wasting our days in malice and jealousy *and* envy, hateful (heated, detestable) and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior to man [as man] appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but because of His own pity and mercy, by [the] cleansing [bath] of the new birth (regeneration) and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out [so] richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

The Holy Spirit by the Sovereign will of the God-Head, makes the “spiritually dead” alive by the new birth in Christ. He circumcises the heart and soul of the unbeliever by the process of regeneration (re-gene-ration); cutting away the old way of life from both heart and soul, thereby causing the flesh to model Jesus. If this spiritual process is not done, we will die in our sins. Our spiritual death certificate will read as thus; CAUSE OF DEATH: DIRTY UN-REGENERATE HEART DISEASE.

We must understand that spiritual “open heart surgery” is imperative. The Chief Surgeon and Spiritual Cardiologist in the operating room of our lives is none other than THE HOLY SPIRIT!!

### **Day 29 – July 24, 2017**

Galatian 5:22-23 (AMPC) But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].

This is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit on and in the heart of the believer. Do you not know that we are constantly in danger of a spiritual heart attack? We have to be so very careful of what we feed our spiritual lives so that our spiritual hearts can remain healthy. Our Chief Spiritual Surgeon and Cardiologist is always on the scene to cut away that which will take us back to unhealthy spiritual life-styles, and enrich our hearts daily with a dose of Galatians 5:22-23. It is His assignment and good pleasure to keep our hearts free of the deadly plaque and cholesterol of Galatians 5:19-21(*read*).

### ***The Holy Spirit: His Divine nature and Character***

### **Day 30 – July 25, 2017**

Ephesians 5:8-11 (AMPC) *For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the life of those native-born to the Light].*

*For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life.*

*And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him].*

*Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitful deeds (works) and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them.*

The Holy Spirit exposes to us the Light of Christ. The effect of Him living in the saints of God produces the fruit we read about in Galatians 5:22-23. He is on assignment to root out the dark and uncommitted areas in our lives, turning on the Light of the gospel which begins to transform us from the inside out as we submit ourselves to the Word. As we continue to look into the Word and welcome the x-raying Word to look inside us, we are continually be transformed into His image By the Spirit of the Lord.

Submission to Him, (the Holy Spirit), produces fruit of genuine goodness, an up-right heart, and trueness of life. (A life not governed by hypocrisy). Our lives then showcase and are proof positive of what is acceptable to Him, (Christ). All this hinges on the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is this same love that reaches out to humanity with such magnitude, that it will bring exposure, reproof, and conviction (*not condemnation*), to those who may not be saved, bringing them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To the weak and struggling saint, the love of Christ in the body of believers will bear them up in their infirmities, and walk them through and to their deliverance. This is the Holy Ghost testifying through us the Life of Christ.

### ***The Nature of Fruitfulness***

***Is our fruit real, or does it just look real? We do not want to be like fake fruit sitting in a bowl looking lusciously delicious, but have no life. And if real, does it look good on the outside, but have rot and worms on the inside? Is our fruit sour, or sweet? Let us not be in such a hurry to inspect the fruit in the lives of others. Let us first examine our own fruit. (Just a public thought).***

### Day 31 – July 26, 2017

John 15:2 (NKJV) *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

Vs, 4 & 5, (AMPC) *Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vial union with Me] you can do nothing.*

Fruit bearing is a “life-principle”. Fruit cannot be manufactured in a factory like a chair, table, or a vehicle. Fruit comes from a “life” giving seed. The Fruit of the Spirit are not of man’s producing. Fruit bearing is the work of Jesus via the Holy Spirit, it is a direct result of abiding in Christ. Christ-like characteristics in the life of a believer is developed and produced through the Holy Spirit as we yield ourselves to Him. The place that we give Him in our lives will determine our degree of fruitfulness. (Read Ps. 1:1-6).

### *The Danger and Consequences of being Fruitless*

### Day 32 – July 27, 2017

John 15:2a *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:*

Take note of what Jesus say in this verse of scripture, “*every branch in Me*”; He is not referring to one who just professes to be a believer, but the born-again believer. Jesus states emphatically this branch was once a part of the Vine, (Himself). How is it, that one could be not only connected, but a vital part of this life giving Vine and not take in the divine sap that so freely flows through it? What does Jesus do with this unfruitful branch? John 15:6 states, this person (branch), is broken off and withers; then is gathered up as fire wood, thrown into the fire and burned. What an awful fate for one who was once connected to the Divine Vine, Jesus.

### Day 33 – July 28, 2017

Galatians 6:7 (AMPC) Do not be deceived *and* deluded *and* misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretentions or professions, or His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows, that and that only is what he will reap.

We cannot plant tomato seeds and expect to yield a crop of watermelons. **WRONG SEED!**

We cannot plant a sinful disobedient life-style and expect to yield the blessings of God. When seed are sown (planted) into the earth, they come up exactly what they are. Though they may be hidden in the earth for a season with no one having knowledge of what type they are; reaping time is on its way and what they are will be produced publically and unhidden. Just as a banana is a banana anywhere in the world. So shall our fruit be known. What is planted in the dark will come to the light. People will know in time who we are; good or bad, righteous or unrighteous, holy or unholy, saint or sinner. The Holy Spirit already knows.

### **Day 34 – July 29, 2017**

Galatians 6:8 (NKJV) For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

When we sow to the low, carnal, fleshly nature, we reap ruin, loss, and destruction of body and life. We must remember the law of reciprocity; what we put out or put in tends to come back to us multiplied... Plant a watermelon seed, and a watermelon is reciprocated (grows back), full of seeds. Let us be wise and sow to the Spirit, letting Him water us with love, and fertilize us with the Word. The fruit springing forth from our lives will then be saturated in the love of God and filled with Holy Ghost inspired substance.

### ***The Fruit of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:22-23***

### **Day 35 – July 30, 2017**

(NKJV) ***But the fruit of the Spirit is... “LOVE...”***

The fruit of the Spirit is “one” fruit with many different characteristics. The first and most important one is “LOVE”. None of the other divine characteristics of the Fruit can really be lived out in the life of the believer without divine love being activated. Why, because God is love. This Fruit is who and what God is. Jesus told His disciples it would have to be this divine love in operation in their lives that would cause them to love one another. This would make a statement to the world that they belonged to Him. (John 13:35)

Love is an action word; it causes us to act and react towards one other in a certain way. Our love toward others can never be based on their performance or actions toward us. Our spouses, children, siblings, or someone in our church family may not “act” appropriately from time to time. We may become offended by an action or words spoken harshly. This is when the unconditional agap’e love of God must be released from us to them. This is where 1 Peter 4:8 is activated: *Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregard the offences of others]. (AMPC)* This God kind of love is very costly. It took Jesus to the cross to be crucified. If we are committed to follow Him, our flesh must submit to crucifixion as well. I know this is a hard saying, who can hear it. These words are hard to hear and digest into our spiritual being. We must look to God the Holy Ghost to work in us this level of love. Philippians 2:13 (AMPC) ***[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for his good pleasure and satisfaction and delight (Please review 1 Corinthians chapter 13)***

***But the Fruit of the Spirit is...“JOY & PEACE”...***

**Day 36 – July 31, 2017**

Isaiah 12:2-3 (NKJV) Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVEH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the *wells* of salvation.

Although water in the scriptures sometimes denotes troubles and trials, it also can represent peace and serenity. David said in Psalms 23:2b, *He leads me beside the still waters.* Waters of turmoil and trouble can be reversed with a joyful spirit. **Wells** denote any area of deliverance one may need. The joy of the Lord is able to reach in and change the situation, or change our attitude concerning it. Joyful praise invites the Holy Spirit into our situations and circumstances. God inhabits the praises of His people. He dwells in the midst of our praise; and while He is in the midst of our praises, fetter, shackles, and chains of all types of bondages are being loosed from us and destroyed. Joyful praise gives strength to remove the objects of painful distractions

A joyful spirit is a precursor to peace. James 3:18 encourages us with these words, *“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”*

Jesus promised the disciples in John 14:27; My “Peace” I leave with you, and give to you. It will not be the temporary peace that the world gives, but an ongoing state of quiet security that is free from mental anxiety. Philippians 4:6-7 admonishes us not to be anxious and worry, or have unnecessary care over no-thing, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our request be made known unto God. And the peace of God that transcends all our human understanding will garrison *and* mount guard (like a legion of soldiers), over our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (It’s impossible to get any better than this!!)

***But the Fruit of the Spirit is...“LONGSUFFERING”...***

**Day 37 – August 1, 2017**

Colossians 1:10-13 (KJV) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Longsuffering means to patiently endure a hardship, offense, or an unpleasant situation over a period of time or the duration. It is not an option for the Spirit-filled saint of God, but a necessary virtue, and must be cultivated through prayer, fasting, the Word, and submission. In the book of James 1:2-4 (AMPC) it states *Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith brings out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance, steadfastness, and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking nothing.*

This is another hard saying, but doable only through the power of the Holy Spirit’s pruning, cultivating, and processing us moment by moment, day by day. This will take every characteristic of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit working in us while we wait in His Presence...

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it (maturing it and bringing it to full completion) until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 2:13 *Not in your own strength for it is God the Holy Spirit who is all the while effectually at work in you, energizing and creating in you the power and desire, both to will and to do of His good pleasure, satisfaction and delight. (Paraphrased)*

***But the Fruit of the Spirit is...“GENTLENESS, GOODNESS & MEEKNESS”...***

**Day 38 – August 2, 2017**

James 3:17 (KJV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, *gentle* and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Gentleness, Goodness, and Meekness are close relatives to the wisdom of God. They are heavenly attributes that model the personality of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of God. They are courteous, considerate, impartial, willing to yield, and not pushy. In these attributes the humility of Jesus is easily seen. Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30, *Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. I will ease and relieve, and refresh your souls. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief, ease, refreshment, and blessed quietness for you souls. For My yoke is wholesome, useful, good-not harsh, hard, sharp or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant; and My burden is light and easy to be borne.* The realness of one is not displayed without the realness the other. These three characteristics define, SUBMISSIVE; as our Lord and Savior was to the will of His Father. We cannot walk with God without allowing His Spirit to cultivate these three very important attributes in our lives.

***But the Fruit of the Spirit is...“FAITH”...***

**Day 39 – August 3, 2017**

Hebrews 11:1(AMPC) NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Now faith is the “*substance*”, the quality of having a solid basis in reality or fact. It is a promise that cannot lie. It has the audacity to rejoice in the fact that God cannot lie. Faith is daring, confident, and disregards the conventional thoughts and thinking of this world’s system. It is restricted only by unbelief. Without it, it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) It is a necessity to believe that God is who He says He is, and is well able to do what He has promised He would do. He rewards those of us who diligently seek Him in faith concerning every area of life.

There are two sides of faith; the right now manifestation of what was asked. Then there is the waiting, enduring, longsuffering side of faith that we read about in Hebrews 11:4-40. This is the side of faith most of us shy away from. Some of us find ourselves suffering through a chronic on-going illness; mental/ emotional abuse; waiting for the salvation of a loved one, and not becoming angry or upset with God in the process; but continuing to remain faithful in the midst of trials and testing; though the manifestation of deliverance may not come; even in our life time. Is there yet joy, peace, and contentment of soul? Is there rest in the mind, will, and emotions? This is where Romans 5:3-5 speaks to us, letting us know that what we’re going through is orchestrated by the divine permission of the Holy Ghost, to stretch and strengthen our faith. As we submit to His cultivation, we come to know Jesus in ways we never would have known Him. Him being our personal Savior takes on a new meaning.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is...“TEMPERANCE”...*

**Day 40 –August 4, 2017**

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (AMPC) Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately *and* restricts himself in all things. Do it to obtain a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a crown of eternal blessedness] that cannot wither. Therefore I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary. But [like a boxer] I buffet my body (my flesh) [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel *and* things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not standing the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit]

Strong language! But very necessary for the people of God. Paul is saying, I discipline my body, (my flesh), keeping it under control so that I can say no to sinful desires, even when it hurts. Our flesh does not understand the phrase, “just say no”. We must say no in faith by the released superior Power of the Holy Spirit. This Power is ruthless against sin. “If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13) This Holy Ghost power assassinates sin in our lives on a daily basis if we bring it to Him. He’s a sin killer!!

I would like to share a true story I recently read about a preacher who was in a life threatening car accident. While driving home from work, a bouncing tire that had flown off of an oncoming semi-truck impacted his windshield head-on at high speed. Although he was covered with beads of broken glass, he didn’t suffer a single scratch because the windshield had been constructed with tempered glass.

Tempered glass, like tempered steel, undergoes a well-controlled heating process which increases its strength. Thus when under pressure or stress is not easily broken into jagged pieces of glass that can injure or kill. So it is with the tempered saint. As we submit to the tempering power of the Holy Ghost we are able to develop self-mastery and live in moderation.

We learn to control the areas in life that will lead us into sin. With temperance at work in our lives every day, we learn to protect ourselves from dangerous excesses and destructive addictions we face in the world today.

### *PRAYER*

*Father we thank you for bequeathing to us your divine power making available to us exceeding great and precious promises. You have given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, even your divine nature that has made it possible for us to escape the correction that is in the world today. As we access what has been given us through The Holy Ghost we do not have to be barren nor unfruitful in knowing the things in the spiritual realm, nor in personally knowing You. Help us to walk out this precious Blood activate Covenant day by day. In doing, so we will never fail. (2 Peter 1:3-10)*

*In Jesus Name, Amen*