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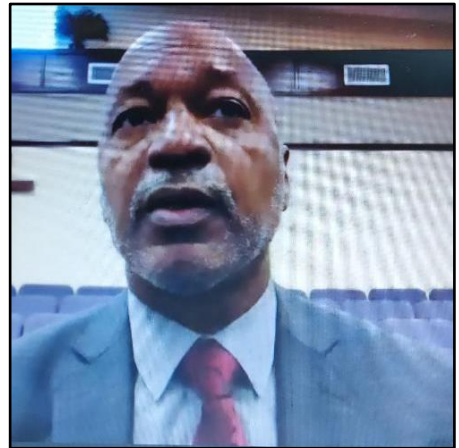
July 2020 Newsletter

Bishop Smith told the GCJ Saints they are peculiar people

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “Peculiar in the bible means that we are the people of God, belonging to Him,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Friday night, July 31, 2020.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Smith has been teaching, using Zoom on Sunday mornings, Tuesday and Friday nights during these times of stay-at-home orders in effect in many states.

“We are God’s possessions and we’re supposed to look, act, walk and be like Him,” said Bishop Smith. Teaching from Exodus 19: 5, which states: “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine.” Bishop Smith said that God tells Moses this because He was going to meet Israel face-to-face and He wanted them to preach the gospel to the whole world.



Bishop Smith said we are supposed to spread the gospel. I Peter 2:9 also mentions our being peculiar people. It reads, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” God considers His people His children. The word “peculiar” according to these scriptures mean we belong to someone, and we’re not orphans; we are sanctified and set apart for God.

“We need to be saved and have the assurance that when Jesus comes back or if we die, we will go back with Him. There’s so much of our old life we must give up so we can be the best we can possibly be in God,” said Bishop Smith. He added that we should not be unequally yoked with people of the world, because we can’t belong to God and the world.

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (II Corinthians 6:17-7:1)

Bishop Smith concluded by saying that we should not say that we have been in the Lord for so many years, yet there is no change. “Perfecting holiness means that we want to be our best self. On the other hand, any righteousness in us that is not of God is filthiness of the flesh and spirit.”

In the photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise, teaching with the Zoom Cloud Meetings App at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The Bishop's Corner

God's Grace and Mercy

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:4-9)

There are many things that God has to change within us when we get saved. Most of us were not like Apostle Paul when he got saved—raised in the church and taught in the scriptures; therefore we don't have that foundation. Whatever stops us from praying and reading our bibles each day is an idol because we must make up our minds that we're going to serve the Lord. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

Thanks be to God for his great mercy and grace which keeps us when we first get saved as well as while we are learning in order to live a new life in Christ. It's like being a newborn baby; there is so much to learn in Christ because we have to work out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12). The earlier we get saved, the lesser amount of damage we do to ourselves and others.

However, we must learn to do things according to the Spirit and not the law. Every law that man makes has an earthly consequence. We need to make sure we are doing things after the Spirit and not the law. We must have the holy nature of God so we can always do the right thing without having a law. Holiness is not a doing it is a becoming. “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.” (II Corinthians 3:6)

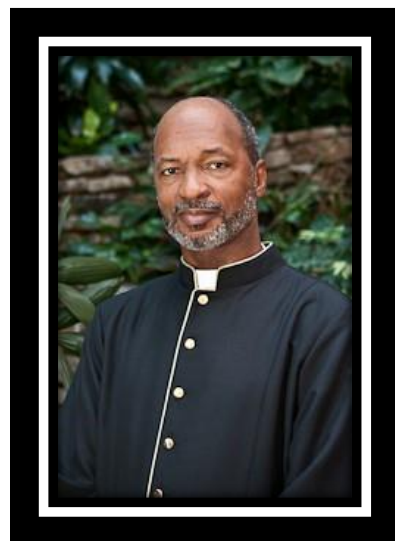
If we believe that Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead, and we ask God to save us, He will save us and give us a new birth. We will know immediately that we have this new birth, but the accuser (the devil) will come and tell us that we are not saved. If we don't say, “I am saved,” and learn the ways of the Lord, we will go back into sin, and the Holy Spirit will leave us. (I Peter 5:8)

When we grow in God, we learn how to follow peace with all men. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” (Hebrews 12:14-15) If we are not peacemakers then we are not spiritual. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Because of God's great grace and mercy, even though Israel got off course in the book of Ezekiel, He told them He would save them regardless of their ways and doings. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:16-27) Thanks be to God for his great mercy and grace!

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More July stories

Category: Events

During the month of July, one church had two wedding ceremonies.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** I Corinthians 13:7-8, says, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Even the current world situation, could not stop love from prevailing in the lives of the saints. Spirit of Christ would like to congratulate our newlyweds who joined together in wedded matrimony in the site of God and witnesses. With a perfect outside venue, an uncle officiating and Pastor Tom Calix blessing their union, Sister Emily Peterson and Brother Anthony Harvey each said, "I Do." The wedding party included Spirit of Christ members, Brother Cameron Lassiter (best man), Minister Sean Francis (groomsman), Minister Stephen Calix (groomsman), Sister Maxine Woods (flower girl), and Brother Shelldon Taylor (ring bearer). It truly was a perfect day for the bride and groom as their family members from out of state were able to join in the couple's union.



In the Photo: Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Harvey.

Elder Debbie Calix: "Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Harvey!"



More Photos:



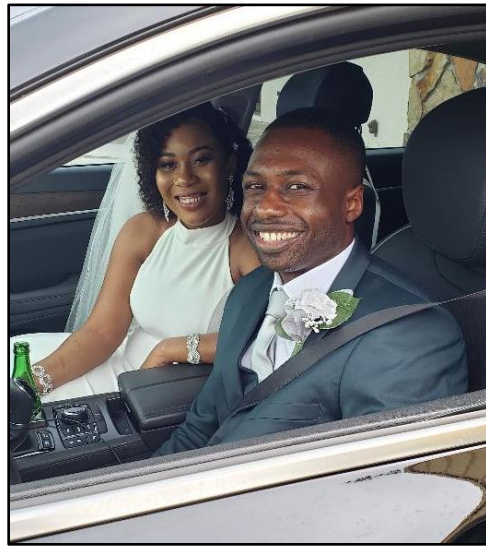
In the Photos: The wedding party for Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Harvey's ceremony.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** Love truly never fails. In a small intimate ceremony at Spirit of Christ, Minister Sean Francis and Sister Shanell Taylor pledged their vows and commitment to each other. Pastor Tom Calix officiated and First Lady Debbie Calix assisted as wedding coordinator. Sister Tonya Calix photographed the couple's union. Minister Stephen Calix was honored to be the best man. Sister Maxine Woods and Brother Shelldon Taylor were the couple's flower girl and ring bearer. The Lord even made a way for Sister Tonya Francis (Minister Sean's mother) to fly in that morning for the wedding. Sister Francis' presence was very special for the bride and groom. They were also happy to have Bishop Charles D. Smith (Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop) there to witness their union.



In the Photo: Mr. and Mrs. Sean Francis.

Elder Debbie Calix: "Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sean Francis!"



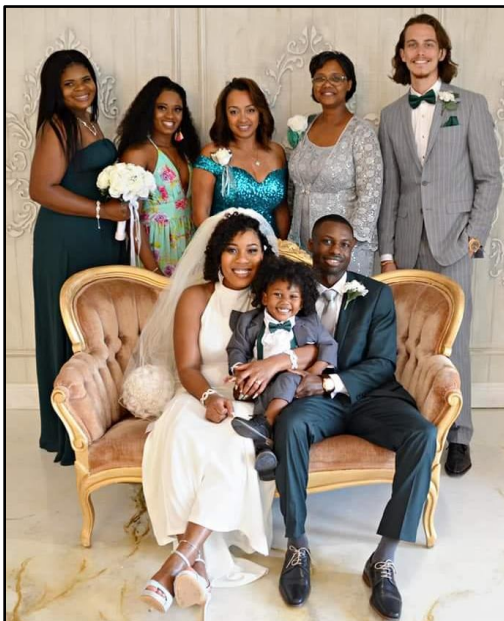
In the Photos: The wedding party, family members and guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Francis' ceremony.

More Photos:



In the Photos: The wedding party, family members and guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Francis' ceremony.

More Photos:



In the Photos: The wedding party, family members and guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Francis' ceremony.

Category: Prayer Request

The saints need healings and comfort.

Hello Saints,

Thanks to all my friends and family for praying for my husband. Today, July 26, 2020, marks the 60th day my beloved husband has been in the hospital due to an Aortic Dissection, which led to emergency open heart surgery. It has been really hard, to say the least, but prayer changes things. All of your prayers going up to Heaven on Pastor Allen's behalf have really caused the Lord to move in miraculous ways. My husband is no longer on life support, and he is no longer in a comma. He is talking, and today he sat up on the side of the bed. It is hard and costly driving nearly three hours every week and staying with friends and in hotels, but every time I walk into his hospital room, it is all worth it. God is so amazing and so good, and each week He is increasing my faith. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray because the Lord is still moving.

God bless you,

Minister Yvette Allen

Praise the Lord Saints of the Most High God,

Once again, I would like to thank you for all of your prayers, encouragements, testimonies, and support you have expressed for Bishop William Lee, III. I believe God, our heavenly Father, has heard your prayers. The Lord blessed Bishop Lee to make it through two surgeries, one on left eye and one on the right eye to reattach the retina and remove cataracts. Please continue to pray that God will accelerate the recovery process and that Bishop Lee's vision will return to normal.

Thank you and God bless,

Minister Curtiss J. Lee
Assistant Pastor, New Full Gospel CLGI

To All,

My family and I wish to extend our gratitude for all expressions of kindness and comfort shown regarding the recent loss of my mother. We thank you for all the plants, flower arrangements, texts, emails, Facebook acknowledgements, all of the wonderful cards and gifts of enclosures, which were given in love.

My family and I were sincerely blessed by Pastor Cornelius Hudson, Minister Andrea Spriggs, Minister Donald Jenkins, Jr. and Minister L. Garriss who participated in the service and all who

drove to Charleston, SC to be with us. We also appreciate the unfailing support of our local body, the saints of the Carrollwood Bible Study Center.

We will continue to pray for Minister Michelle Battee and her family as well as Elder Carolyn Taylor and her family and all others who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one. Please know that we are encouraging each other to draw closer to the Lord during this time, and that we love and appreciate you all.

From a heart of thanksgiving, God bless,

Minister Tabitha Hines and Family

- **From the Editorial Staff:** The saints below need prayer. If you have a prayer request, please submit it to the monthly newsletter. We will run the testimonies of saints' answered prayers in the newsletter. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Elder T'Angela Rogers (Healing)
Elder Kim Montgomery (Healing)
Minister George McFadden (Healing)
Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)
Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)
Brother Joshua Henderson (Healing)
Elder Paulette Harrison (Healing)
Minister Ricketa Hurdle (Healing)
Brother Anthony Burrell (Complete Healing)
Elder LaToya Smith's Father (Complete Healing)
Minister Chemiese Hall's Niece (Healing)
Minister Chemiese Hall's Sister (Comfort)
Sister Francesca Di Chiaro (Healing)
Sister Alyssa (Minister Desiree Sewell Walker's daughter) (Healing)
Minister Danni Garcia's Mother (Healing)
Minister Tina Martin's Father (Healing)
Sister T'Shaura Gay's Mother (Healing)
Minister Sirita Loiseau (Healing)
Mother Dorothy Harrison (Healing)
Minister Lajoya Shelly (Healing)
Elder Christiana Russell (Complete Healing)
Jeffery Byrd (Elder Angela Jenkin's Uncle) (Healing)
Deaconess Lisa Gibson (Healing)
Minister Leslie Allen (Healing)
Mother Judy Jones (Healing)
Minister Priya Luchmun (Healing)
Minister India Rogers (Healing)
Elder Paula Smith (Healing)

Elder Deborah Sewell (Healing)
 Minister Eartha Howard (Healing)
 Elder Bonita Russell (Healing)
 Sister Barbara Cooper (Healing)
 Howard and Teresa Jenkins II (Elder Paula Smith's Sister/Brother-in-law) (Healing)
 Exhorter Travis Sewell (Healing)
 Minister Kourtney Littlejohn (Healing)
 Sister Carolyn Skipper (Evangelist Cotinna Harris' Mother) (Healing)
 Bishop William Lee III (Healing)
 Elder Derrick Allen (Healing)
 Deacon Wayne Walker Jr.'s Father (Wayne Walker Sr.) (Healing)
 Elder Carolyn Taylor (Healing)
 Elder Carolyn Taylor and Family (Condolences)
 Minister Tabitha Hines and Family (Condolences)
 Minister Michelle Battee and Family (Condolences)

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Evangelistic Team:** Below are the Evangelistic team members for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction. Please pray that the Lord will use them mightily to speak words that are Spirit and life and confirm His Word by miracles, wonders and signs. If you need a revival at your church, please contact one of the evangelists listed below to check his or her availability.

1. Elder Ruth Latham
2. Elder Tom Calix
3. Minister Crystal Derico
4. Minister Shaundra Smith
5. Minister Desiree Walker

24 Jul - **Lily of the Valley**, Thonotosassa, Fla. (*Minister Desiree Walker*)

4-5 Aug (Tue-Wed) **Christ the Redeemer**, Gulfport, Miss. (*Cancelled*)

6-7 Aug (Thur-Fri) **Promise**, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (*Cancelled*)

- **From the Administrative Staff:** Saints please be mindful of these upcoming events.

The 2020 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jul 31-Aug 2	First Jurisdictional Meeting	Columbus, OH
Aug 20-23	South American Jurisdictional Meeting	Meerzorg, Suriname
Sep 4-6	North Carolina Pre-Jurisdictional Meeting	TBD
Sep 4-6	Elder Calix's Pastoral Anniversary	FWB, FL
Cancelled	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	Cancelled
Oct 9-11	Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary	Holiday, FL

Oct 9-11	PNW Jurisdictional Meeting	Oceanside, CA
Oct 23-25	European Jurisdictional Meeting	Rodenbach, Germany
Oct 30	Central States Jurisdictional Meeting	Kansas City, MO
Nov 6-8	Northeast Jurisdictional Meeting	Indian Head, MD
Nov 20-22	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, FL
Dec 5-6	Elder Thompson's Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS

If you read this Gulf Coast Jurisdictional monthly newsletter and enjoy the articles, please help us keep it going by submitting articles and photos to eldrlatham@yahoo.com so we can enjoy reading and seeing the activities at your church.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully support the newsletter with your monthly inputs.

*Very Respectively,
The Editorial Staff*
