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*August 2020 Newsletter*

## **Bishop Smith told the GCJ Saints to work out their salvation**

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “We must figure out how to work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12) because sinners have worldly wisdom and know how to make it through life,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Friday night, August 7, 2020.

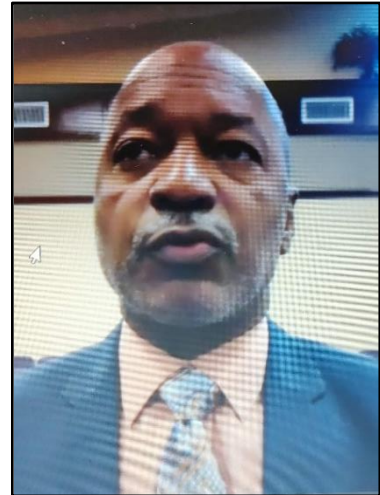
Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Smith has been teaching, using Zoom on Sunday mornings, Tuesday and Friday nights during these times of stay-at-home orders in effect in many states.

“We need God because we want eternal life and to make it to heaven. Salvation is better than all the money in the world; therefore we should not let anyone or anything separate us from God (Romans 8:38-39),” said Bishop Smith.

Teaching from Luke 16 and focusing on verse 8, which states: “And the Lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” Bishop Smith said that we should not let the sinners make us think that their lives are better than ours.

God wanted Israel to drive all the inhabitants out of the promise land when they came over the river Jordan, but Israel decided they could live with the inhabitants. When we come out of sin, and God tells us to let things go and we don’t, the devil deceives us and those things become snares. Such was the case for Ahab who would not obey God so God let him fall. “And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee (I Kings 22:20, 23).”

As closing remarks, Bishop Smith advised that if we are in a church where the gospel is being preached, we should have our minds made up about being saved because if we decide we want to go back into the world, God is not going to stop us.



**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

## *Have patience and keep the faith*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).”

We must hold on to our faith. We're waiting on Jesus to return, and we're doing so many other things while we wait. We need to examine ourselves to see if we desire the things of this life more than we desire Jesus to return. We must remember that the things in this life are temporal, so we should not become impatient waiting on Jesus.

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it (Romans 8:24-25).”

It is not hard for us to be impatient because we are human. There are so many places in the bible where God tells us to be patient and wait on Him. We should not let our confidence in God fade away because He has an appointed time for Jesus to come back.

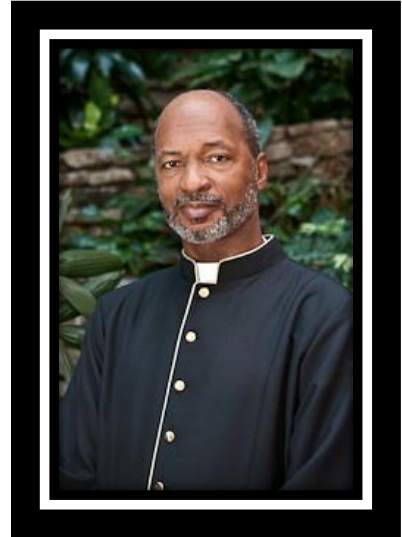
“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:35-39).”

The main point in the verses above is, “after ye have done the will of God.” The reason we are saved and on the earth is to be lights in the world, glorify God and turn people from sin to God (Matthew 5:14-16). We need to ask God to search us so we can see if we are doing His will or what hinders us from doing His will (Psalms 139:23-24). God is perfect, so he is never the hold-up or problem; it is us. God is faithful and dependable; He never comes up short.

“Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).” There is nothing worse than being led away from God; this is why we must have patience and hold on to our faith.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



## More August stories

### Category: Events

*During the month of August, one church had a member to receive a bachelor's degree.*



- **From Prince of Peace:** Sister Deshayla Harrison received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Florida State College, Jacksonville, Fla. We were proud to see her along with her classmates, take the *Florence Nightingale Pledge* also known as the Nurses' Pledge of Service.

*Elder Paulette Harrison:* "We are very proud of Sister Deshayla."

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### Category: Prayer Request

*The saints need healings and comfort.*

To All,

My family and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for all of the prayers, expressions and thoughts in response to the unexpected passing of my father. I would like you to know that every text, email and call helped to strengthen me moment to moment. I am truly blessed to be a part of an organization that not only loves me but also shows it. I appreciate you all.

With Love,

Deacon W. Walker and Family

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- **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)  
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)  
Elder Carolin Taylor (Healing)  
Minister Janice Spivey (Healing)  
Deacon Wayne Walker Jr. and Family (Condolences)  
Minister Crystal Derico and Family (Condolences)

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### **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

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

**The 2020 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Sep 4-6 <b>Cancelled</b> <b>Cancelled</b>	North Carolina Pre-Jurisdictional Meeting <b>Elder Calix's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	TBD <b>Cancelled</b> <b>Cancelled</b>
<b>Oct 9-11</b>	<b>GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship</b> <b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary</b>	<b>Holiday, FL</b>
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
<b>Nov 20-22</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Dec 5-6</b>	<b>Elder Thompson's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Gulfport, MS</b>

*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](mailto: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*