



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

July 2021 Newsletter

## Bishop Smith Encouraged the GCJ Saints to Fast God's Fast



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “God told the Israelites that they had been fasting and praying according to their own way,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church, via Zoom Friday night, July 23, 2021.

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

Bishop Smith taught from Isaiah 58:1-14, focusing on verses 3-7, which state: “Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for

a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? (Isaiah 58:3-7 KJV).”

Bishop Smith said, “When you fast, you bring yourself to the altar of God. If God is not answering your prayers when you fast, you have a problem in your soul and you need to pray deeper in the Spirit.” In Isaiah, God promised the people if they prayed right, He would answer. “Then shall thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am (Isaiah 58:9 KJV).”

In conclusion, Bishop Smith encouraged the saints that the fast is personal between them and God and they must bring themselves to God so He can change them. “What you need to get out of the fast is a better communion with God, a better prayer life and a change in your soul. God promises you that if you fast the fast He has chosen, He will guide you and satisfy your soul.”

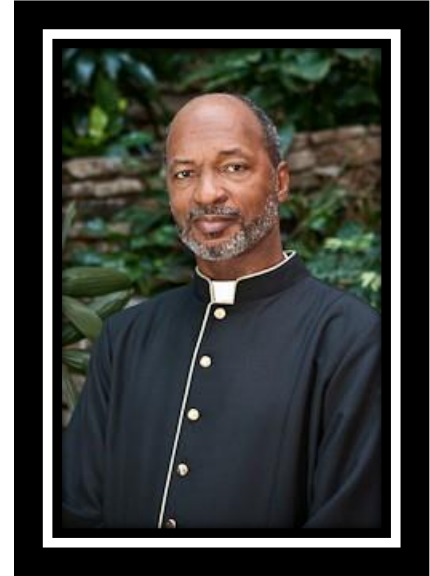
**In the Photos:** Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

## The Bishop's Corner

### *We Wrestle Against Evil Spirits*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:11-18 KJV).”



Evil spirits hinder the work of the ministry, but when we fast and pray, we put evil spirits to flight. Evil spirits attack us individually and they take away our desire to praise God and do the things that please Him. If we listen to evil spirits, they will keep us from wanting to go to church and faithfully serving God. When we find ourselves not wanting to be with the people of God, it is that we are being influenced by evil spirits. If you feel yourself losing the desire to do the things of God, run your spiritual checklist: Am I praying? Fasting? Reading my bible? Assembling myself with the people of God? Hearing the Holy Spirit? Desire to follow Him? If we find we are falling short in any of these things, we must fast and pray until the yokes are broken and the bands of wickedness are loosed. It bothers the devil when we pray deeper in the Spirit.

Even Daniel's prayers were hindered by evil spirits, but the Lord broke the yoke. So, if we continue to pray as Daniel did, the Lord will break yokes for us too. “Then said he unto me, Fear not Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia (Daniel 10:12-13 KJV).”

Evil spirits are also keeping people from coming to church, so we must pray and fast for our local church. Because the local church is the entry point to the Kingdom of God, our local churches are the most important part of the church organization. The churches are here so people can be saved and have access to God. Therefore, those of us who already have the Holy Spirit, have a responsibility to produce others who have the Holy Spirit. The local churches need to be like well-watered garden with everyone in them springing up unto eternal life. Our work starts in the local church, so we need to get in our spot and do our work.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

## More July stories

### Category: Events

*One church had a revival retreat and another church canvassed and donated items to a local Cancer Center.*



- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** HHT had its first church revival retreat July 31-August 1. We came together in worship and fellowship. Even though we were far away in the woods, the Lord met us there. Elder Chuck Latham started the revival on Saturday morning with a virtual seminar entitled, “Walk in Liberty, free to live a life in God.” As Christians we’re not taught the true meaning of having liberty. We often think it is about losing our identity, when actually it is becoming a

new person, letting the old man die. We shouldn’t be walking around as zombie Christians, not getting anywhere. We are slow to work in the ministry, but quick to kill if our toes are stepped on.

We opened Saturday night with praise and worship followed by a seminar taught by Pastor Marcel Williams. Her subject – “The Effectual Fervent Prayer.” She taught us what it means to pray intensely for an expected outcome. We should believe the Lord will give us the same kind of miracle we read about in the Bible. Prayer is essential to Christian life because it brings strength spiritually. Through prayer we learn who God is and develop a relationship with Him. You can truly follow God when you learn of him because we spend time with Him daily.

We ended the night with a campfire and games. It was so much fun to see the young and old melting marshmallows over the crackling campfire and eating s’mores. We headed back to camp and the competition was on with Connect Four, giant Jenga and Uno. We enjoyed snacks, talking, laughing and sitting in the rocking chairs on the porch.



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the revival retreat.

Sunday morning opened with a seminar taught by Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. We enjoyed his seminar about righteous living. He told us the importance of having a relationship with God. When you have a relationship with God and love Him, you also want to please Him. Knowing God also means accepting his chastening: His correction that is needed for our life. We need it to get things right in our life. God corrects out of love, like parents do for their children.

After service concluded, we had our last fellowship before leaving. We had a BBQ, more games and swimming.

*Minister Kim Mastin:* “Everyone truly enjoyed themselves. We can’t wait to do it again!”



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the revival retreat hosted by Holy of Holies Tabernacle.

**More HHT Revival Retreat Photos:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the revival retreat hosted by Holy of Holies Tabernacle.

## More HHT Revival Retreat Photos:



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the revival retreat hosted by Holy of Holies Tabernacle.

---



- **From New Covenant:** Pastor Augustus Russell and Brother Doug Suddath went canvassing on July 5th and July 26th in the local area surrounding New Covenant Church. They were able to speak and pray for several people. They also met with a local church in the area to plan doing community activities together. On July 27th Pastor Russell and Brother Gary Jackson purchased some much-needed items to donate to the Cancer Center.

*Elder Bonita Russell:* “The Lord is blessing the church.”

**In the Photo:** Brother Gary Jackson making the delivery for New Covenant Church to the local Cancer Center.

---

## Category: Prayer Request

---

*The saints need healing and comfort.*

- **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 KJV).

Elder T’Angela Rogers (Healing)

Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)  
Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)  
Brother Joshua Henderson (Healing)  
Elder Paulette Harrison (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)  
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)  
Bishop William Lee III (Healing)  
Elder Carolin Taylor (Healing)  
Minister Janice Spivey (Healing)  
Elder Deborah Sewell's Mother (Lois Franklin) (Healing)  
Elder Deborah Sewell's Sister (Loretta Green) (Healing)  
Minister Monique Pullin's Uncle (George Pullin) (Healing)  
Minister Lynn Knox's grandson (Elijah) (Healing)  
Minister Crystal Derico (Healing)  
Sister Frankie Ware (Healing)  
Elder Kim Chisolm (Healing)  
Brother Arthur Thompson (Complete Healing)  
Elder Gary Watson, Jr. (Healing)  
Elder Jacqueline Terrell (Healing)  
Pastor Luther McCaskill's Uncle (Rickey Golden) (Healing)  
Pastor Luther McCaskill's Mother (Janice McCaskill) (Healing)  
Minister Janice Spivey's Father (Brother Leon Motley) (Healing)  
Minister Keta McCaskill's Mother (Louise Knox) (Healing)

Sister Eleanor Rogers' Mother (Ms. Rosa Welcome) (Healing)  
Elder T'Angela Rogers' Mother (Healing)  
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn's Sister (Veronika) (Healing)  
Pastor Tolliver 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

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

***The 2021 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Aug 6-8	First Jurisdictional Conference	Columbus, OH
Aug 19-22	South American Jurisdictional Conference	Paramaribo, Suriname
<b>Sep 4-5</b>	<b>Elder Calix Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
Sep 17-19	International Missions Conference	Augusta, GA
<b>TBD</b>	<b>G CJ CE Recreational Fellowship</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Oct 9-10</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary</b>	<b>Holiday, FL</b>
Oct 8-10	PNW Jurisdictional Conference	Honolulu, HI
Oct 22-24	European Jurisdictional Conference	Rodenbach, Germany
Oct 29-31	Central States Jurisdictional Conference	Kansas City, MO
Nov 5-7	Northeast Jurisdictional Conference	Indian Head, MD
<b>Nov 19-21</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Dec 4-5</b>	<b>Elder Thompson 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 [eldruthlath@gmail.com](mailto:eldruthlath@gmail.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*

---