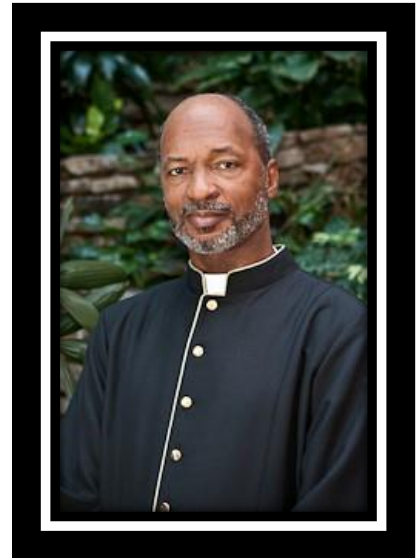


The Bishop's Corner

How well do you know God and Jesus?

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Then Job answered and said: ‘Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God? If one wished to contend with Him, he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who hardened himself against Him and prospered? He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger; He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number. If He goes by me, I do not see Him; if He moves past, I do not perceive Him; if He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’ God will not withdraw His anger, the allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. How then can I answer Him, and choose my words to reason with Him? For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge” (Job 9:1-15, NKJV).



God chose Job to be tempted because of Job's intimate knowledge about God. Who can argue with God and win? Job loved God more than anything else, and he testified about how much he knew God. The Word of God had to sustain Job, and he knew that all good and perfect things come from above (James 1:17). The Word of God must sustain us as well; therefore, we must learn the Word of God and hide it in our hearts. The Holy Ghost can't bring the Word of God back to our remembrance if we don't know it (John 14:26).

We must let the Word of God dwell in our hearts richly so that when we're tempted of the devil it will come to our mind (Colossians 3:16-17). We're not strong in God if we don't know the Word of God. The fullness of God as mentioned in Ephesians 3:18-19, is the Word of God. When we get saved, we must stay in God long enough to learn God and Jesus through the scriptures.

Trials come before blessings; and during trials is the time to draw nigh to God and we will come out of the trial stronger. “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you” (1 Peter 5:10, NKJV). How quickly we come out of a trial is determined by how we pray to God and allow Him to change us. God expects us to grow and mature in Him through every trial.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on “Encouragement” then “Teachings.”