



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

March 2023 Newsletter

Bishop Smith encouraged the GCJ saints to have joy



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “If you read the Word of God and you don’t get excited, then you’re not being revived,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop, and Pastor of Promise Church, while preaching on Friday night, March 18, 2023. Those who could not make it to the church were able to participate via Zoom.

Bishop Smith said that saints should not be bored with having eternal life. “You can’t spread the joy of being in God to others if you don’t have it yourself. Apostle Paul tells us to have joy several times throughout the scriptures.” “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe” (Philippians 3:1, NKJV.)

Bishop Smith tells the saints to set their affections on things above so they can keep their joy. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth” (Colossians 3:1-2 NKJV).

Bishop Smith said that when people don’t have a strong hope in going to heaven, they don’t have joy and they don’t obey. “You must be satisfied with what God does and how He does it because God doesn’t make any mistakes. You’ve got to trust God and give Him your problems and when God moves for you it is because of His mercy and grace,” said Bishop Smith.

Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 14:17, “The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” “We get joy by trusting in God because our righteousness, peace and joy is in God,” said Bishop Smith. “God wants us to have joy, so don’t let anyone take your joy, but look unto Jesus, deny yourself, and pick up your cross daily and follow Him.”

Bishop Smith concluded by saying that Jesus was able to endure the cross because of the future joy of knowing that He was doing the will of God. “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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV).

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

The Bishop's Corner

We shall be caught up

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NKJV).

Those who believe in the Rapture, or the catching up of the saints, believe that God is a person and has a body. God can be seen (Genesis 18:1-6) because we were created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). We have the Holy Ghost, so we worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24). Our soul has the same emotions as God, but we must allow the Holy Spirit to govern them (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

Those who have hope in the Rapture purify themselves even as Jesus is pure (1 John 3:1-3) and choose to be outside of anything that does not have God. Never be around anyone who convinces you that you are never wrong because this prevents you from repenting and getting right with God (Psalms 1:1-6). Do not call wrong right. When you join yourself to evil you become evil. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33, NKJV).

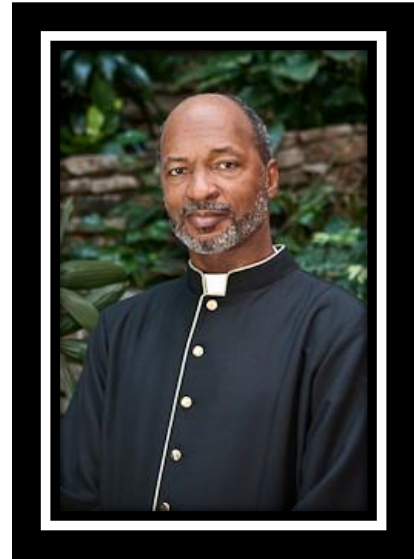
Those who believe they are going to be caught up, are not as sad when saved people die, as they are for sinners when they die, because saved people go to heaven and sinners go to hell. “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15, NKJV).

Those who are saved believe that Jesus is alive. You cannot be saved if you do not believe that Jesus has been raised from the dead. “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20, NKJV).

We are waiting for Jesus to come back for us, so be steadfast in the Lord! “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58, NKJV).

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.gulfcoastelgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."

More March stories

Category: Events

During the month of March, one church had a revival.



- **From Prince of Peace:** Elder Ruth Latham ran a one-day revival at Prince of Peace Church in Jacksonville, FL, on Sunday, March 12. She encouraged the saints to “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” She said they could do this by hungering and thirsting for righteousness, seeking the Kingdom of Heaven first, drawing nigh to God, and not hiding their light under a bushel, nor letting their salt lose its savor. Elder Latham concluded by telling the saints to work out their salvation and be steadfast until Jesus comes back for them.

Elder Paulette Harrison: “We were all blessed and encouraged.”

In the Photos: Prince of Peace saints enjoying the revival.



Category: Departmental Announcements:

- **From the GCJ Youth and Young Adult Department: “A message to our young people”**

As I write this last message on prayer, I want to leave you with one final encouraging word: Remember the words of Jesus in Luke 18:1 (NIV), “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

As you are praying and waiting on God to answer remember that we serve a faithful high priest Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:14-16) and if we come with the right heart and the right mind, He will always hear our prayer, even if it doesn’t “feel” like it. Just be patient and know that when the time is right

God's time not ours. God will answer, and please know; God has perfect timing. And while you're waiting on an answer to your prayer encourage yourself in the scriptures. Read about others in the Bible who were waiting on an answer from God and how those prayers were eventually answered. So, in closing, pray and don't give up hope, hold on to God, know that God will answer you, and P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens)! Be encouraged!

Helpful tips for prayer:

Don't forget to:

Come in Jesus's name.

Confess, repent of, and ask God to wash you of your sins.

Forgive (or you won't/can't be forgiven).

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Give thanks!

Tell God you love Him. You like to hear it and so does He!

Don't gauge whether or not God heard your prayer by your feelings; Gauge it based on scripture.

Ask God if your heart right.

Encourage yourself with the Word of God while you're waiting on an answer.

Don't limit God. God doesn't always answer prayer in the way we expect so be open and allow God to show you His way. (Example: You ask for more patience, so God gives you opportunities in which to exercise patience.)

Don't do all the talking in prayer. Stop and allow God to speak back to you. (Maybe you don't have an answer to your prayer because you didn't listen long enough for God to tell you.)

And lastly, P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens)! Don't GIVE UP!

“And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’” Luke 18:6-8 (NIV)

Growing together in Christ,

Minister Shaneika Brinkley

Director, Gulf Coast Youth & Young Adult Department

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- **From the GCJ Evangelistic Department:** Below are the members of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Department. 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 her availability.

1. Elder Ruth Latham – *Revival at Holy of Holies Tabernacle, Holiday, Fla. (Aug 11-13, 2023)*
 2. Minister Crystal Derico
 3. Minister Shaundra D. Smith
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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 avails much" (James 5:16b NKJV).

Elder T'Angela Rogers (Healing)
Elder Paulette Harrison (Complete Healing)
Minister Sirita Loiseau (Healing)
Minister India Rogers (Healing)
Elder Paula Smith (Complete Healing)
Elder Deborah Sewell (Healing)
Minister Eartha Howard (Healing)
Elder Bonita Russell (Healing)
Sister Barbara Cooper (Healing)
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn (Healing)
Elder Jacqueline Terrell (Healing)
Elder Angela Jenkins (Healing)
Sister Nancy Torres (Healing)
Sister Eleanor Rogers' Mother (Ms. Rosa Welcome) (Healing)
Elder T'Angela Rogers' Mother and Stepfather (Healing)
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn's Sister (Veronika) (Healing)
Elder Treani Thompson (Healing)
Elder Lakesha Sewell (Healing)
Brother David Hawkins (Healing)
Minister Tyrone Brinkley (Healing)
Bishop Martha Edwards' Family (Condolence)

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Administrative Department:**

The 2023 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Apr 14-16	Northeast Jurisdictional Conference	Waldorf, MD
May 5-7	Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniversary	Thonotosassa, FL
TBD	GCJ Women's Conference	TBD
TBD	GCJ Men's Conference	TBD
Jun 5	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 3-4	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniversary	Jacksonville, FL
Jun 28	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A

Jun 30-Jul 9	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
Jul 22-23	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniversary	Montgomery, AL
Aug 4-6	First Jurisdictional Conference	Columbus, OH
Aug 24-27	South American Jurisdictional Conference	Paramaribo, Suriname
Sep 1-3	North Carolina/Central States Juris. Conference	TBD
TBD	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	TBD
Sept 15-17	CLGI Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
Oct 7-8	Holy of Holies Tabernacle Church Anniv.	Holiday, FL
Oct 6-8	PNW Jurisdictional Conference	Lithonia, GA
Oct 20-22	European Jurisdictional Conference	Rodenbach, Germany
Nov 17-19	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference	FWB, FL
Dec 2-3	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Service	TBD

***Please note that events and dates are subject to change.**

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 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*
