



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

May 2023 Newsletter

Bishop Smith encouraged the saints to Be Strong in the Lord



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “We need to be equipped in God so we can be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 4),” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop, and Pastor of Promise Church, while teaching on Sunday morning, May 21, 2023. Those who could not make it to the church were able to participate via Zoom.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 10:6, NKJV). Bishop Smith said that the saints must trust and obey the word of God because it is there to sustain them, so they do not go astray.

“One of the biggest destroyers in the church among the saints is envy. We must not compete in the church but be strong in the word of God so we can fulfil the mission of the local church which is to save sinners and disciple saints.” Bishop Smith said that saints must change their mind about the world and have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8). “The strength of the church does not lie in the worth of it, but in the power of God present in the church.” Bishop Smith said that pastors need to grow up and let the saints grow up as well, because we need every part of the Body of Christ so that God can bring us together as one church and not many denominations. “Satan divides churches and bring differences,” added Bishop Smith.

“Saints fall away from God when they do not let go of themselves. You must present your body as a living sacrifice,” said Bishop Smith. (Romans 12:1, NKJV) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Bishop Smith said that God wants His people to live a peaceful and prosperous life and if the saints will not trust and obey God so they can be strong in the Lord, then they will not have that kind of life. “We are citizens of heaven and not of this earth, so our hope comes from God,” concluded Bishop Smith.

In the Photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

The Bishop's Corner

Are you "All in God?"

Praise the Lord Saints,

"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.'" (Mark 12:41-44, NKJV).

We must give our whole livelihood to God as the poor widow gave hers. When we pay our tithes and offerings, it is not about the amount of money we put in, but rather the mindset we have when we are giving. We must have the same mind the poor widow had when she put in all that she had, willing to give her all—her whole livelihood. She put God first. Christ had this mind, and we must have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8) and set our affections on things above (Colossians 3:1-4) to be "All in God." Recognize the devil's evil thoughts sent to weaken your mind and rebuke him.

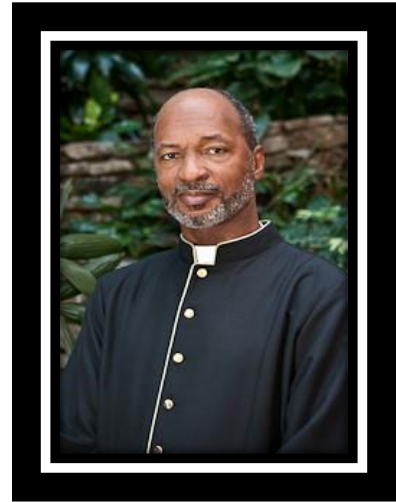
Paul tells the Jews that they are not under the law but the Spirit and not to have confidence in the flesh but follow the Spirit. "For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3, NKJV). Many of our experiences have strengthened us in the flesh and not in the Spirit because we did not allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us through them. It does not matter what type of life we had before we got saved because when Christ came into our life, everything changed for the better. We must always grow in the Lord.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'" (Matthew 16:24-26, NKJV) We must deny ourselves and make sure that we have not put everything in our life above Christ. Jesus came all the way from heaven to die for our sins and we cannot come across town to serve Him because everything always eats into God's time and not our time. The easiest thing we can do in the Lord is to go to church, and that is the thing that the devil fights us the most in doing. Do not let anything cause you not to hold fast to the Lord.

We need to have a pure mind and be unspotted from the world (James 1:27), because God knows all about us, so we can stop pretending that we are more spiritual than we are. The devil only has power over the saints because they let him since greater is he (the Holy Spirit) that is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). We must overcome the world, repent, and get right with God. If we do not watch for Jesus, when He comes we will not be ready. The reward we are going to get is from heaven and we will not come up short if we give God our all. (Revelation 22:12)

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."

More May stories

Category: Events

During the month of May, one church had a revival, baby dedication, and recognized school honors, another church had mental health awareness events, celebrated school graduations and Mother's Day.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** On May 6-7 2023, Lily of the Valley held a Healing and Restoration Revival. On Saturday Elder John Williams brought a blessing with his teachings on healing and having the faith that the same Spirit that was in Jesus healing the multitudes is the same Spirit that is in us today. We must have faith that we can be healed. A couple of saints testified on Sunday that they were healed of back pain and migraines after receiving prayer on Saturday night.

Sunday Bishop Smith preached about stronger faith in Jesus. He said, we should teach and preach about Jesus a lot more in our churches in order to get more sinners saved. He encouraged the saints to make up their minds when it comes to being saved and not to treat Jesus like a working car we get out of and push rather than drive. “When it rains, we are outside the car pushing and getting wet, and when it’s cold, we are outside the car pushing and freezing. But if we would just get in the car, when it’s wet outside we will stay dry, when it’s cold outside we will stay warm. This is how it is when we just ‘Get in Christ.’ We take advantage of all the blessings that are available to us because we get all the way in God.” It was all around a really encouraging weekend.

Following Sunday morning service, Bishop Smith presided over the dedication for Minister Travis and Sister Krystal Sewell's youngest baby girl Emilia Rose Elizabeth Sewell. Emilia was dedicated in the presence of her brother, Isaiah, her sisters Toriana and Liliana, her grandparents Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell, her aunt Minister Desiree Sewell-Walker, her cousin Alyssa Richardson, and godmother Sister Sereese Davis.

Brother Isaiah Sewell was inducted into the National Honor Society and was nominated treasurer and social media specialist for his upcoming junior year of high school. He has put in hard work and remained strong in his faith in the Lord, and it shows in his testimonies to God when it comes to his achievements at school.



Sister Sereese Davis: “I personally believe nobody left the same way they came, whether it was physically or spiritually, everyone got something.”

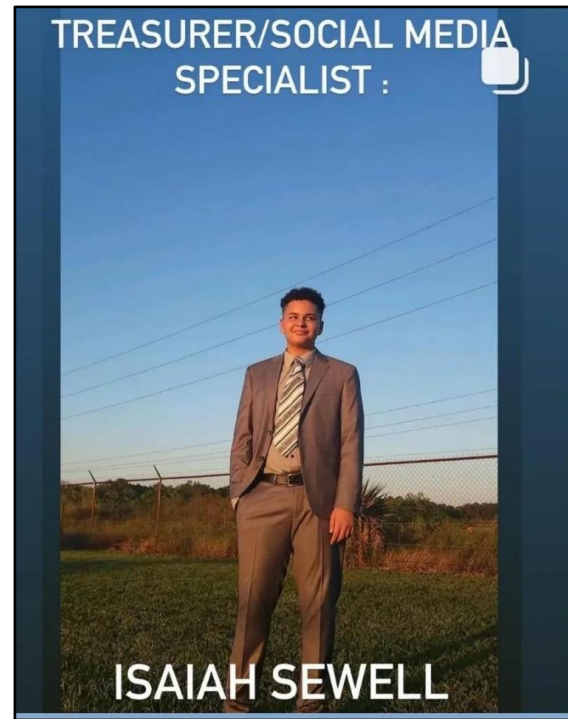
In the Photos: Saints enjoying the healing and restoration revival at Lily of the Valley Church in Thonotosassa, FL.

Lily of the Valley baby dedication Photos:



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the baby dedication at Lily of the Valley Church in Thonotosassa, FL.

Lily of the Valley Photos: National Honor Society



In the Photos: Minister Travis Sewell celebrating with his son, Brother Isaiah Sewell on his school accomplishments.

Do you want to be made whole?
John 5:6

**Meet Us at Resurrection
Recovery Ministry**

HHT
2435 US 19 Suite 130
Holiday FL 34691

• **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** May was Mental Health Awareness Month. During this month HHT started its Resurrection Recovery Ministry which helps others deal with life-controlling issues. HHT now has three certified Mental Health coaches - Elder Chris Mastin, Minister Kim Mastin and Missionary Tanya Brown, all of whom received their certifications this month.

Minister Kim Mastin: “We thank God for this ministry.”

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle loves its moms. All moms were honored and given their flowers on Mother's Day.

Minister Kim Mastin: "We had a great time of fellowship."



In the Photos: Saints honoring their mothers on Mother's Day at Holy of Holies Tabernacle in Holiday, FL.

Holy of Holies Tabernacle Mother's Day Photos Continued:



In the Photos: Saints honoring their mothers on Mother's Day at Holy of Holies Tabernacle in Holiday, FL.

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Congratulations to HHT's graduates. They not only excel in school but they are also active in the church.

Minister Kim Mastin: "We are very proud of all our graduates."



Holy of Holies Tabernacle graduation Photos continued:



In the Photos: Holy of Holies Tabernacle celebrates its school graduates.

Category: Departmental Announcements:

- **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 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)

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Administrative Department:**

The 2023 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Jun 5	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 10-11	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
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*
