

Series: Living Under God Covenant with Gladness
Do not lose Direction in your Life as Christians and Disciples

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for being our healer.
Thank you for being our provider and protector to protect us from the sin and idolatry in the world
Open our hearts and doors to your kingdom so our hearts to continue to grow as a mustard seed to heaven
Thank you for moving the devil out of the way to avoid sin and guiding us to love your kingdom first.
Thank you for waking us up daily and giving us an opportunity to live another day on earth.
Guide us to go out into the world to mentor more lost souls to encourage them to trust Jesus in their life.
Save our children and youth while you continue to hear children being shot in this country.
Save more people daily while you hear more people getting shot and killed in this country from gun violence and crime.
In Jesus name, Amen.

I want to start off by telling you a true story about my life and what is going on with me right now while in Chicago. I thought when I came to Chicago that I may want to establish and maintain myself here as a Chicago native. I changed my mind and thought about it since I have been here by not leaning on my own understanding and relying on God and the Holy Spirit. I prayed about it while thinking about the pros and cons of my decision. I really thought and prayed about the decision. I will just decide to get back to Detroit and add on to the 2.5 total years that I lived in Detroit and Southeast Michigan. I say that I gained roots while living in Detroit. I decided to just move back to Detroit because the culture and atmosphere has changed here since the pandemic. Chicago does not look the same and does not look like the Chicago I was born and raised in as a person born and raised on the Southside of Chicago. When I was volunteering at Catholic Charities food pantry last week, the female employee who managed their food pantry said the same thing: that the culture and atmosphere has changed since the pandemic. I found out last week was the last week their food pantry was going to be open because she says Catholic Catholic at 721 North LaSalle Street food pantry was going to be in business up to last week. I already got my ticket to leave Chicago on October 29, 2024 at 3:40 pm. She told me at Catholic Charities food pantry while I was volunteering that there is nothing out there and my best bet is to return back to Detroit. I ran into a friend of mine last week unexpectedly and she told me my best bet is to return to Detroit and establish myself there to add to my 2.5 years residency. After returning to Detroit as a resident, I am not coming back to Chicago or the State of Illinois because I will be like my sister that had my mother come visit her in Dallas. My mother and father live far out in the suburbs making it too expensive to get out there and my mother said the suburb they live in Cook County is as bad as Chicago with people getting shot among gun violence. I am thinking about doing the same thing as having my mother come visit me in Detroit. My stepfather in the household does really travel, so my mother is the only one that visits my sister in Dallas and stays for 1-2 weeks.

I want to give a testimony and say that I strongly believe God is guiding me to return back to Detroit on October 29, 2024 because I have been listening to the case manager from Star of Hope Mission in Houston last year to let God guide me for where he wants to take and guide me. I believe God is guiding me back to Detroit and do not want me to move back here to Chicago. He wants me back in Detroit to continue my pastoral duties and preach back in the pulpit. I believe God wants me back to Detroit to serve

him and his kingdom. It is like what evangelicals say today that God puts you in situations for a reason while he is trying to guide you. As a deeply spiritual person, I know God always controls my mindset daily and tells me things from his kingdom. It means as a spiritual person God actually speaks to me because I continue to rely on his word from the Bible and obey commandments. This is the reason why I am giving this sermon to you all by satellite from Chicago to let you know do not lose direction in your life and continue to follow and focus on God as the rock of your salvation. Turn to the person next to you and say do not lose focus on God and lose direction to God's kingdom. I am really still confused since I was a child about the cartoon called the Jetsons because I am thinking about how they can be living in a world while everything and buildings are on long sticks. I know some of you have to be thinking about it too. Outer space is no ground and nothing but planets and stars.

“Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”-Matthew 11:28

When I made my decisions in my life since leaving Star of Hope Mission in Houston, the Spiritual Recovery Program made me so humble to God that the program really told me of one of my tribulations and burdens by stopping making decisions too fast and quickly to let God guide me. When I read Matthew 11:28, I am letting God guide me right now by working for me, I believe God is guiding me in my mind and heart for his kingdom to return to Detroit to establish myself there long-term. I want to say we all need to do that to let God handle our burdens and tribulations for whatever situation we are in and not let the world handle our burdens and tribulations. If you let the world handle your burdens and tribulations by loving the world more than God, you are more likely to relapse to the world and fall into the devil trap. The Devil wants us to be confused and have weak contentment to God. We must win the war against the devil by sticking to our direction to God and the Holy Spirit. The Devil is trying to prevent you from getting past the brazen altar in the Tabernacle to the Most Holy Place where you need to be. When we catch ourselves lost in the world, we need to start seeking God and coming to him to be willing to live under his grace and mercy.

“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.”-1 Peter 4:7

I thought about 1 Peter 4:7 a week ago when I heard about the asteroid hitting Earth. I look at that as a sign that the world will end soon. When the earth comes to an end, we need a place to turn after we die on earth. We want to make sure heaven is the place we want to turn about to get to after we die on earth and when the world does come to an end. It was the same talks going on back when I was in high school because I have a friend in high school that is good keeping up with astrology and daily events in the media saying the same thing about the world coming to end because asteroid threatened to strike earth and were within striking distance to his earth, but at that time she say in her findings that the asteroid was able to dodge earth and head back out in the solar system. I was thinking that the same asteroid she talked about at the time dodge us and headed back out in the solar system and headed back towards earth. We need to prepare when the world comes to an end so we can have a place to turn after we die on earth. If you are saved and live obedient to God and his kingdom, you have nothing to worry about because heaven is your home. It is important to have a strong christian and prayer life on earth, so when the world does end we do not have to fear it because we can be sent home to God where we belong as disciples.

1. We need to start now by working ourselves spiritually about turning away from the world and let it guide us in any situation.
2. This is the time you find yourself if you are still lost and have a lost soul that still loves the world than you love God as the rock of your salvation.
3. If you have families that are still lost to the world, it is time to start going to those family members and talking to them about God to bring them into God's kingdom. When the world comes to an end, they can come with you to heaven. You can go to family members that are lost and have lost souls to teach them how to grow their hearts as a mustard seed to heaven.
4. This is the time that homeless men and women that have lost souls find themselves and turn away from sin and move the devil out of the way in their life in whatever they do and what decisions they make daily.
5. If you have a friend that is lost, including friends you have broken relationships with, you need to try to repent and recover relationships with those people because you want to make sure they come with you when the world does come to an end. Teach them the importance of worshipping and serving God, growing their hearts as a mustard seed to heaven and obeying God commandments. We do not want to have to leave no one behind if the world does come to an end. We need to pray with people and loved ones daily with discipline to prepare if the world unexpectedly comes to an end. We need to be teaching friends, family and others not to live our life as a tax collector or all about mammon.
6. This is the time we need to turn to God and follow his will, so we can be accepted into his kingdom if the world does unexpectedly come to an end and sinners have no other place to turn except for going to hell after they die.

“And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.” Luke 7:23

God continues to bless us when we stick and loyal to his kingdom during our christian and prayer life as a disciple of Christ Jesus. God blesses us that continue to let him and his kingdom direct us in our life to continue to live in the path of righteousness forever. God continues to bless us when we love him first as rock of your salvation and while our hearts continue to grow as a mustard seed to heaven. People that continue to be sinful and act wicked will continue to fall. People that continue to act jealous, hateful and envious to other people will continue to fall. You want to avoid wickedness among yourself and with other people because it will drag you down the path of unrighteousness. That is why I say homeless men and women are still wicked and still love the world more than God needs to find themselves. God is putting those people in the struggle and homelessness for a reason to find themselves and seek God first in their life. I am not the only person saying this and you hear some christian staff at homeless shelters in this nation saying the same thing that God put you in the homeless shelter for a reason for you to seek God in their life and stop loving the world more than they love God. God unexpectedly gives me breakthroughs in my life because I keep my focus on God and the Holy Spirit to continue to grow my heart as a mustard seed to heaven. I let God bless me to be my protector, provider, deliverer and healer daily.

“Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.”-1 Peter 2:7

We need to honor God as the center of our life and stop relying on the world for advice and possessions. We need to stop letting the world validate and hijack us. In our life. It is time we need to have one direction in our life is trusting in God as the rock of our salvation. We need to let God be our source and provider. When we pray to God for our needs, we need to appreciate what God does give us with thanksgiving. It is the way we continue to let our hearts grow as a mustard seed to heaven. When I read the scripture, I think it is a bad idea to reject God in our life as the rock of our salvation and rely on the world to continue to get things by listening to idolatry, sin and temptation. We need to understand that we do not need to be living in sin because Jesus is the one who sacrificed himself to die for our sins and rose again. We do not need to leave Eve to deceive Adam in the Garden of Eden that causes Adam to do what he did and listen to Eve to sin.

Giving time:

“Remember, the man who plants only a few seeds will not have much grain to gather. The man who plants many seeds will have much grain to gather. Each man should give as he has decided in his heart. He should not give, wishing he could keep it. Or he should not give if he feels he has to give. God loves a man who gives because he wants to give. God can give you all you need. He will give you more than enough. You will have everything you need for yourselves. And you will have enough left over to give when there is a need.”-2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

When I live by the Scripture daily and all the cheerful giving that I did in communities in cities where I lived, I have donated my own personal money to the poor as SSI income has been my only income. God always comes through for me to bless me after I give to the poor and homeless in Chicago, Dubuque, Houston, Louisville, Detroit, Flint, Cleveland and Atlanta. God has not really blessed me that much in Atlanta. It seems like bad economic situations always happen to me in Atlanta like the devil attacks me too much in Atlanta. I may not be wealthy in having lots of money, but I am wealthy in the spirit of God. When I was living in and out of homelessness since 2011, it seems like I always got blessings from God after I give in church and help the poor. I know I prosper spiritually after I give and help the poor. Before I was born again, God did not help me at all in my life because I cared mostly for myself years ago. I really never had to live off the government for nothing in my life except for SNAP, Medicaid and SSI. I believe God will truly bless me when I move back to Detroit because I will not be living SSI income any more and will start paying rent like other apartment renters and homeowners. I will not have to live on SNAP either because I can buy groceries like other Americans and go to food pantries for food for the household. God has blessed me when my family was not able to be in my life and let me live and out of homelessness since 2011. I am grateful for the little help that I was able to get by. As a man of God and Bishop of the congregation, I still pray for my family because my family members are still sinful and live in sin and idolatry. I am still for my family because my family members still live in bondage. I pray for my family in hope for everyone to come together and stop hating each other with negative gossip. I pray for my family to become more Godly and live obedient to God before they unexpectedly leave this earth. When I think about 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, I think about people that do pay offerings in church or while they watch the church service online. When people pay little for offering to God, they will receive little blessings and breakthroughs in your life. When a Christian and disciple pay very little tithes and offerings to church very little during Bible study services and Sunday services every week, you will continue to receive little blessings in your life every week. That is why when my sermons from Bible study are post

on social media every week, I encourage people that are inspired by my sermons to pay very little every week. It is good to be blessed by God very little than not at all. We want to be blessed with God more than a little percentage of the time every week. That is why I ask and encourage people to donate \$1 or \$5 in an offering to the church every Bible study services and Sunday services so they can be receiving some blessings from God in their life if it is very little each time you pay an offering to the church. It will help your heart grow stronger as a mustard seed to heaven. When you pay very little to a church for tithes and offering, God will give you very little help you need spiritually. When you pay more to a church for tithes and offering, God will bless and help what you need a whole lot in your life. People that do not have faith in God and live as sinners will not receive any blessings and breakthroughs from God. Rev. James Meeks used to repeat the same thing when I was going to Salem Baptist Church of Chicago in 2013 to 2015. I need more help from the community because I was able to donate very little to the church out of my personal finances as a person that lives on SSI income. I like to get off SSI income and live on a livable salary from the church. I was able to give a total of \$1,500 or less to the church out of my SSI income since 2014. I do not get help and financial support from family because they never heard and attended any of my congregation church services to hear me preach in the pulpit since 2014. I believe my family members are not 100% godly and not Godly at all. My family members still live in sin and the flesh outside of church, so I have to do what I can for the church financially and economically since 2014. I like the church revenue to match the growing congregation and I need help from members and people in the community for financial support for the church. My biological father's side of the family is the only family members that is spiritual but they have too much going on in their lives, but I still have support from my biological father's side of the family. They are not able to give to church because they are financially squeezed with their personal finances and some are unemployed and retired with SSA. I got my strength spiritually and committed to God from that side for teaching me the Bible, Christ Jesus, attended Bible study and Sunday school, discipleship, stewardship and obedience to God. With my SSI income that I am only able to pay little offering to the church In Detroit. 98% of tithes and offerings still come from members and visitors, but I still pay and give very little of my SSI income to the church to help pay for operations, programs and community development initiatives. You can go to the church website and view our income statements, profit and loss statements, balance sheets and other financial records at LJ.CBC.yolasite.com. I want to let people know starting on Wednesday of this week that the church will be able to get a PO box for the church in Detroit to receive donations made by check, cashiers check or money order made out to Lord Jesus Christ Community Baptist Church. I will get the information for the PO Box in Detroit and be able to get that information to pass on to you all. As bishop and man of God, I keep church and state on my mind that try not to get government and politicians financial support unless they are willing to support the church personally out of their own personal wealth and financially and economically.

I am refreshed with a pure and good heart when I give back to the community, pay tithes and offerings in church and help the poor out of my personal income. I am asking you to follow my example to become a cheerful giver to the Lord and see the results you will receive from your strong faith and obedience to God in your life going forward. I ask you to support our ministries by donating either \$1, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1000. You can donate your tithe and offering to the link below. Wherever you are and looking to make an offering and looking for a church home. When I was living in Chicago, I gave homeless men and women money for food daily to avoid those homeless men and women dealing with food insecurity. I gave homeless men and women on CTA trains leftover food. When I lived in Detroit for

a long time, I provided food and money to the homeless out of my own personal money. When I lived in Louisville for a short period of time, I gave the homeless and poor \$50 of my own personal money to help them out economically and financially. In Cleveland, I donated over \$60 to the homeless on the streets to help them living in poverty and Homelessness. I gave so much money to churches for tithes and offerings over the years to continue my strong cheerful giving to the Lord. It is companies and organizations that help the church financially and economically, but they usually offer a fee for their services and we are not able to pay those fees based on a tight and stressful budget from our growing congregation.

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