

Series: Living Under God Covenant with Gladness
Discernment, Part I

Heavenly Father,

You declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth.

Forgive us when we try without consulting you

I ask you to help me pursue a job for my needs.

We are your workmanship on earth.

We honor your workmanship on earth.

Guide us while we continue to walk in the spirit while on earth so we can obtain the gift of eternal and everlasting life on earth forever.

Guide us while we continue to walk in the spirit so our hearts can continue to grow as a mustard seed to heaven.

Thank you for being our source and protector.

Thank you for being our healer and provider.

In Jesus name, Amen

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection,^[e] and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, I will take revenge; I will pay them back, says the LORD. Instead, If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap, burning coals of shame on their heads. Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”-Romans 12 (NLT)

I will be preaching on the topic of discernment because we need to know the importance of worshiping God as the rock of your salvation forever to eternal and everlasting life in heaven. We need to know the

importance of worshipping God as the rock of your salvation by letting you grow your heart as a mustard seed to heaven. I strongly agree with Romans 12:1 because we need to give our bodies to God and the Holy Spirit. I said previously that I need to work on Romans 12:1 because I need to pray to God to give me the willpower to stop harming myself daily by eating the foods that I am not supposed to be eating with my pre-existing condition known as autoimmune pancreatitis. I found out that I am stuck with this disease after 2014 because I did so much harm to myself with my body, immune system and healthy cells. That is why the doctor at Northwestern Memorial hospital told me that the body attacks itself and your healthy cells with this disease. When I am back living in Detroit, I have to immediately go back to the doctor once a month for my pre-existing condition of autoimmune pancreatitis. We should be treating our bodies as a temple as Christians and disciples. I was not treating my body as a temple up to 2014 that caused me to end up in the emergency room at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The nurses could not let me eat anything until the third day in the hospital room because they wanted me to flush out my pancreas. My pancreas could still be damaged today because I still get stomach pains and feel the system is attacking itself and my healthy cells. I need to call on God more to give me the willpower to eat the right foods daily, such as steamed, broil. I need to pray to God to give me the willpower not to eat foods with fats, sugars, high in cholesterol, meats, starch foods and dairy products. If I eat too much of these foods, the body starts to attack itself and the healthy cells in the body. I should be eating 4-6 times a day with my pre-existing condition.

I encourage you to treat the body like a temple while you are young because I got the autoimmune pancreatitis disease when I was 30 years of age. You do not want to end up like me with this disease and fighting to gain the willpower to eat the right way with the right diet because you used to eat certain foods for so long. I am used to eating foods for so long and having trouble eating the right foods for an autoimmune pancreatitis diet. I know that I was told in the 12 step classes in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston about harming myself with my pre-existing conditions. Since August 2014 in Chicago, I do not like being homeless and one of the reasons why I want to move in is to get my own permanent housing so I can take better care of myself spiritually and eat the right foods daily, eating like I am supposed to be eating. I need to start exercising daily as well because last time I exercised and performed weight lifting was high school and elementary school in PE. That was over 20 years ago at Esmond Elementary School and Morgan Park High School.

Ways to give our bodies to God?

1. We must live daily and live obedient to God and the Holy Spirit because it is important to be at the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle past the brazen altar. We do not want to be stuck at the brazen altar or trying to get past the brazen altar by continuing to live our life in sin, envy, temptation, flesh and darkness.
2. Whatever we do in our life must be for God and the Holy Spirit, not the world. We must love God and serve God under his covenant rather than the world.
3. Be mindful of your thoughts and do not think with wickedness and wicked ways.
4. 100% have faith and believe in God and the Holy Spirit in order to grow your heart as a mustard seed to heaven.
5. Journal your journey
6. Pray and surrender yourself to God and the Holy Spirit.

7. Defend children in the womb by honoring life and opposing abortion.
8. Give your anxieties to God and let him guide you through your tribulations.
9. Drink plenty of water. This is what I need to be doing right now with my pre-existing condition is keeping a bottle of water handy on me to keep my pancreas and immune system flushed out. I should be drinking plenty of water or fruit juice for my pre-existing condition to keep my immune system healthy daily with my pre-existing condition. My pre-existing condition just sneaked on me in August 2014 like the doctors and nurses told me at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.
10. Getting amount of sleep that are required
11. Do not live your life as a taker by taking more for yourself and not giving to the poor and homelessness graciously.

As a man of God and Bishop of this congregation, I believe the spirit be speaking to me and telling me Christ Jesus want me back in the Detroit community to serve his kingdom to get me from demons, envy and sinners around me like in Chicago that many people have anger management issues, mental health and people going out killing people on daily basis. On October 28 afternoon, I may see about getting my ticket updated to be on the Greyhound bus at 10:10 PM, so I can be in Detroit in my permanent housing on October 29 at 6:00 AM. My current electronic ticket says October 29 at 3:40 PM. I will pray on that because I can make my last day in Chicago October 27, 2024. I am happy because I tell people here that Chicago culture and atmosphere has changed and not the same Chicago I was born and raised in. Atmosphere and culture has changed since the pandemic and after the pandemic. Businesses have been closing and people do not know that they are currently working so that their jobs do not last because those businesses that they work at can unexpectedly talk about closing their doors in Chicago to provide more layoffs. I do not know if the economy in Chicago is good, bad or average. People tell me that I may just go back to Detroit where I lived for a total of 2.5 years because people tell me it is nothing in Chicago and more residents are leaving out of Chicago daily on Amtrak and Greyhound. It is a resident leaving Chicago every 4.3 minutes based on accurate statistics.

I agree with Romans 12:2 to treat our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, not the world. We do not need to be listening to the world and politicians that encourage of get abortions. Women must honor life in the womb. I want to say being gay and homosexual is not honoring your life to God because God says in the bible that he hates homosexuality because all couples are supposed to be man and woman like Adam and Eve. We must let God guide us while looking for a relationship with someone to spend eternity that will be loyal to you, not be like Eve that deceived Adam in the Garden of Eden. It was no such thing as Adam and Steve before Adam and Eve. That is a lie and dishonest when you hear someone in the LGBTQ community tell you that. Women are listening to politicians and the world to be encouraged to support reproductive rights. Turn to the person next to you and say do not let no one damage your salvation to God. I oppose Pride month, same-sex couples celebrations in churches, churches that celebrate homosexuality and pride month, churches that display colors supporting the LGBTQ community in and outside of their churches.

When I read Romans 12:3, I think about what my biological father used to tell me in Las Vegas about myself saying that I act boring and too proper as an adult. He was explaining to me everything that was wrong with me and said he wished that he was able to stick around more during my childhood because he used to tell me that I was raised wrong. When I got back to Chicago after living in Las Vegas for four

months, my stepfather and mother in the household told me that I was raised the right way as a child because I do not do drugs, am not an alcoholic, and do not smoke. I never ended up in prison or went to jail, do not live or act like thuggish or hoodlum. I never had to go to court for anything except for one time when another person and myself got caught walking through each car trying to find a seat on the crowded red line at the time in 2012. My mother and stepfather told me that every child is raised differently in the household. My mother and stepfather tell me not to change myself for no one as a child to be better than who I am because people do not like who I am. That is why you see the person today that is not thuggish, hoodlum, smoke, drink alcoholic, acting envy towards other people, stayed in school and studied hard, completed college education and a well-educated, long detailed and sophisticated resume with a lot of religious background and helping the homeless, and not other there on my own stuff.

I want to encourage your parents as a child because they are doing their best to raise you the right way, so you can grow up like I did trying to change themselves to think they are better than everybody. You see young people out here today buying expensive clothing and shoes trying to be better than everybody else. I do not act like I am better than everybody. You have some pastors of churches trying to act like they are better than other churches. When I started this congregation, it was not all about competition and I did not try to start my own congregation to try to be better than other churches in the world. I do not force people to come forward to be saved and live for God. I have a method I use that is more detailed that I tell people and new members come to seek a church home on my own. That is how this congregation started out small and grew to megachurch today based on my method as senior pastor. I strongly believed that I passed Salem Baptist Church of Chicago membership because their membership is in the 9,000 range and my congregation is 10,314 members with 6,643 members and visitors in attendance. That is 100% fact.

When we read Romans 12:4, we are one body under God's grace along as we remain loyal to God and the Holy Spirit forever. When I tell people about my 53 disciples in my inner circle, we are one body under God's grace that lives for God and the Holy Spirit. People that continue to sin and not live under God's grace rather not live as one body. Sinners rather live by the flesh and love the world. I honor and obey Romans 12:5-6 because God has given me spiritual gifts that I did not know I had at the time I got saved and born again on September 4, 2011; such as shepherding, prophesy, knowledge, wisdom, exhortation and teaching. I started my own personal grassroots project that was formed from evangelicalism and my religious and social service background called Pastor Hobson Homelessness Initiative. It was the same formation for the America Homelessness Coalition in Dubuque, Iowa that was another personal grassroots project to help the homelessness and low-income communities. My spiritual gift and desires to serve others is the following:

1. I like putting my needs before my own, but I need to work on this more because I worry too much about others and not myself. My case manager shared this with me while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston when I was at level 5 of the program when I was completing my level 5 exercise for the 12 Step class. I told myself I use caring for others more as a powerful trait and not not balancing it out to care about myself. That is why I made improvements with this today and commenced in October 2023 from the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston.

2. People tell me at volunteer jobs and jobs I had in the past before and after I started the church that I am a hard worker. Supervisors and management all say that I am a hard worker that likes to serve others. I am a person that has diligence.
3. I am detailed oriented and may be forgetful sometimes with things because I am type of person that always got a lot on their mind because I always busy and have a lot going on in my life because I am spiritual, evangelical, professional, well-educated and sophisticated
4. I am open and honest, but I need to work on that too because I still somewhat go around the bush while being truthful with people. I still do not come out and just tell people truthful stuff and still willing to go around the bush to tell people the truth about stuff. It is like I am afraid to come out and just be honest with people and avoid making people upset that may not take stuff and criticism and opinions well. I am a good listener while I serve others. You have too many people in the world that are envious and lean on their own understanding.
5. I like to volunteer at homeless shelters and churches. I served on Catholic Charities Junior Board, Rainbow Push Coalition, Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, Philly House, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries helping the homeless and veterans, Grace Place. I volunteered at Salem Baptist Church of Chicago Homelessness Ministry serving the homeless once a week before 2015. I was characterized as a hard worker when I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston when clients are allowed to do mandatory work therapy in the facility.
6. I like to task myself. That why I am a multi-tasker as man of God and at previous jobs and volunteer work,

When I read Romans 12:7, I have obtained spiritual gifts to serve a community well like Detroit where my virtues and desires are now. I do not have the desire to serve the Chicago community like I did before 2015. That's why I got so attracted and motivated to Salem Baptist Church of Chicago and became a member by completing their new members program in 2014. I was a 2014 graduate of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago of their new members program. I am still attracted and motivated to Salem Baptist Church of Chicago because I still consider the church to be a home church to me. I still feel motivated with that congregation. I have the spirit to help the homeless according to where my desires are. My good desire to serve God is in Detroit because I got most of my blessings from God in Detroit. In Chicago, I feel like I live in a struggle along with places like Atlanta, Louisville, Cleveland, New York. I found out my struggles after I moved and lived there for a period of time and I believe the spirit was telling me something the whole time saying that God from heaven does not want me in Cleveland, Atlanta, Louisville and New York. I believe God wants me back in Detroit because I never live in the struggle in Detroit and am able to get by when breakthroughs from God and his kingdom with blessings from his kingdom. It seems like I live in the struggle in Chicago as well and the reason why I believe God does not want me here as a bishop and man of God. The Spirit speaking to me in my heart today says God is telling me something from his kingdom in heaven that he wants me back in Detroit while I have good desires to serve God and the Holy Spirit effectively.

When we read Romans 12:9, I encourage us to make a list of the things you hate that are evil in your life and try to stay away from those evil things on earth.

1. I hate people that think they know it all about things and other people that do not worry about themselves and their life. There are so many people in the world that have this sin and do not know how to worry about their own life and destiny here on earth.
2. Do not be fake when you meet new people to show love for them. I do not like people that act two-faced to others by being friendly to them and gossiping about them behind their backs thinking they know everything.
3. I hate sinners that continue to live in sin and rather keep living in sin around them. It means I hate how children and young people out here today act like they are on their own stuff speaking like they grew up in public and do not respect.
4. I hate children and youth out here today because they do not know how to respect their elders in public places and around them. They like to disrespect people and adults older than them by gossiping and showing envy towards them. Young adults under 30 do this too because they were not raised in a christian and righteous household as a child.
5. I hate adults and homeless people that disrespect people around them thinking they know everything about people around them acting envy and ungodliness.
6. I hate people walking past homeless people on the streets like they do not see them asking for money for food and down on their luck economically.
7. Do not get even with people

We should never be lazy to serve the Lord daily because whatever we do spiritually for the Lord to serve his kingdom that we must work at it enthusiastically. I like being a cheerful giver and helping the homeless. I work hard being a cheerful giver to help the homeless by volunteering at homeless shelters and serving the homeless on the streets. I will be helping the Benevolence Ministry pass out bag lunches in Detroit starting October 30 that are living on the streets in Detroit with no place to go at night and during the day and night. I do not like to see homeless men and women in Detroit depressed and finding out where their next meal will come from and trying to raise money among themselves to get something to eat. I used to have those desires in Chicago up to 2015, but not any more. It seems like my good desire to help the homeless has moved from Chicago to Detroit. I am not lazy when I preach the word of God to the ungodly and lost soul in Detroit because I stay spiritually disciplined to do so.

I got over 2,000 hours of volunteer work with homeless shelters because I keep track of how often I volunteer at homeless shelters feeding the homeless lunch and dinner.

Romans 12:12 is saying that we need to be willing to pray to God during times of trouble. If someone threatens you or wants to provoke any altercation with you because they are an instigator, you need to be seeking God and praying to God in times of trouble. You do not want to need to handle stuff ourselves in times of trouble because it will guarantee us to sin and listen to the devil. We do not want to make the devil happy by providing chaos in the world with others. The devil does not want us to love one another. The devil wants us to hate and be envious of one another on earth. We should not be distracted from this world by letting the world handle our problems daily. We need to pray to God to handle our troubles and tribulations. After this congregation has started our honesty and transparency initiative we have been getting recognition from local Detroit media, state and local government agencies, businesses based on the emails in the church general inbox. We need to rejoice in hope to God, not the world. I have trouble

abiding by Romans 12:13 because I am just like most people that I would not provide hospitality to anyone, but I will provide hospitality to long time friends or family members.

When I read Romans 12:14, I do not prosecute people that try to prosecute me. I really do not do it any more because I used to pray to God at the throne to ask him to prosecute people for prosecuting me for trying to envy and hate my success. I started to take advice from staff at the Star of Hope Mission in Houston last year to just let people that try to prosecute me and follow their own path. I just let God judge those people on earth. I believe you should not do that but if someone prosecutes you and thinks you know it all, you need to let God at the throne in heaven handle it. I do not lean on my own understanding and should not either. You should not have people like in your inner circle that are envious and lean on their own understanding. You do not want to be a happy person that is continuously sad, depressed and envious trying to bring you down with them. Honestly, I usually provide empathy to other people that have empathy towards me because that is really how I meet new people personally.

I want to talk about envious people that are envious of others and cause broken relationships among other people or certain people in their life. My friend of mine from high school told me this story while she was getting her Master degree from Robert Morris College at the time when the institution was open in 2015. People that they talk to and gossip about other people will not believe what they say about those people because honesty and transparency that people do more of damages envious people's reputation in the world that makes them dishonest among themselves the whole time.

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 posted 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.