

Faith that Works: Living Out of Your Beliefs

Patient Endurance and Powerful Prayer: Faith for the Long Haul

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for what you have given us in our life so far.

Thank you for giving us food to eat and roof over our head each day to be able to pay the bills.

Guide us and continue to lead us with the fruit of the spirit

Bless the homeless in Detroit to help them get permanent housing and jobs

Unite the homeless with their families to get out of poverty and homelessness

I trust you as rock of my salvation

You are my source for every I need in my life

Help us stay away from mammon in our life

Help us stay away from bondage, temptation, idolatry and abomination

Strengthen our hearts and minds for your kingdom and when you return

In Jesus name, Amen

The importance of patience in waiting for the Lord's return, the warning to the rich, and the incredible power of prayer, confession, and mutual restoration. Faith that works empowers us to persevere and to pray effectively for ourselves and others.

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned. Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."-James 5:7-20

That's why I do not live a lavish lifestyle because I do not want to be seen as a taker by God in his kingdom. I am not a taker and do not hold on to wealth and greed. I have given over \$3,000+ of my personal money to help the homeless and low-income individuals and families in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Houston, Dubuque since 2014 based on my personal tax returns and receipts. I am not a tax collector. I am not all about mammon that care about money and greed. Hoodlums and thuggish people care about greed and mammon because they are out

on the street asking people for money either to ride the bus, train or just asking for money. Hoodlums and thugs on the streets and in public care about money when they try to sell stuff to people. I do not buy anything from them. You see people on the streets buying marijuana and cigarettes from other people including homeless people. Smoking needs to be cut out all together because life on earth is precious. I do not believe in legalizing marijuana because it is bad all together. The rich need to start being more cheerful giving because I asked Creflo Dollar and other rich pastors for money and seed money for the congregation and turned it down. It lets people know that rich pastors and the top 1% of individuals are all about greed and mammon. That's why I created the Office of Honesty and Transparency to allow the church to be more transparent with the public and members of the congregation. Churches are not allowed to file Form 990 every year, but the church files tax forms anyway to be compliant with the IRS and posted on the IRS website with an IRS stamp. Cheerful giving is part of worship. My family members do not live like cheerful givers and give to the poor. I can understand why the Democrats want the rich to be taxed more to pay their fair share in taxes. I believe billionaires should be allowed to pay ten percent of their wealth and income to the federal government each month along with millionaires and upper middle class.

When I get back to Detroit, I will provide a more active role helping the homeless and low-income communities. I will go back to volunteering at homeless shelters and social services organizations to build my resume. I already have a three page career-focused resume. In order to be ready to get to heaven, we must confess and repent everything including our wrong doing. We must give up our traits, idolatry, hurts, habits and hangups. We must give up our sins to the Lord and his kingdom. We must give up living for the world and loving the world. I do not love the world because I love Christ Jesus as my personal savior and rock of my savior forever while I am on earth and living under his grace. We must be thankful to God's kingdom. When I tell you to be thankful, tell God thank you with strong faith in his kingdom in a way you appreciate him and cannot live without his grace. Turn to the person next to you and say God is powerful. We must have our minds renewed and focused on the God plan and Word. Do not put your focus on who you can manipulate in the world to get possessions and what you need from a sinner. God is the one that will give you what you need in your life. When you depend on too much of the world, you are following the path of Satan and Lucifer. You need to ask yourself this comment in your mind daily: I do not fall into the Lucifer and Satan trap to prevent me from doing good. I believe my personal finances will strengthen when I get back to Detroit and settle myself there with the First Lady Jennifer. When I pray to God in my heart, mind and mouth; Christ Jesus hears me at the throne in heaven. My mind is powerful to the kingdom.

I want to tell you a true story about my prayer life. I really do not pray for everybody as a man of God and Bishop of this congregation. I pray for the homeless, but I only pray for the homeless in Detroit, Houston, New York City area, Baltimore, Illinois, Philadelphia and Georgia. I pray for God to give the homeless in these places at homeless shelters and on the streets hope. I pray that God give them hope to be able to unite with their families like what Mr. Freeman used to tell us from the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. I want to say God bless his soul because I found out he died in 2013 from the current staff there. He had a good, humble and Christian heart. He cared about homeless men in the facility getting their life back on track and reuniting with their families. I pray for homeless men and women in the following places to be able to reunite with their children, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend and/or whatever. I take other pastors' advice to continue to pray for the family because they are not spiritual, do not give to the poor and/or homeless, do live an effective prayer life, are wicked and they like to gossip about

everybody. I am ready for Christ Jesus' return because I will be ready if he walks through that door and will not be afraid of his authority. You need to ask yourself "are you ready for God's return?" I let churches and pastors of other places pray for people in their cities, congregations and communities. I worry about praying for this flock and praying for each other's families. I pray to care for the well being of this flock, City of Detroit, Wayne County, people in the State of Michigan and Texas, Houston, and Dallas. I pray for this flock and us living by the fruit of the spirit forever. If the world ends, who will you turn to while continuing to live in sin, idolatry, bondage, temptation and loving the world and possessions in the world? I ignore people that judge me and think they know everything. We want to be in heaven for the heavenly feast with Christ Jesus and new earth. The devil made me sick and caused me to be hospitalized, but God lifted me up out of that situation. The devil made me sick in 2013 with pneumonia and caused me to be hospitalized at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in a hospital room for three days. The devil made me sick in 2014 with autoimmune pancreatitis disease at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for three days. I still have autoimmune pancreatitis disease today by trying to discipline myself with a low fat diet.

When I read James 5:7-20, I think about how the Star of Hope Mission in Houston guided me and improved me as an already man of God and Bishop of this congregation. Case managers Pastor John Johnson, Mr. Gray and other staff really taught me to stop leaning my own understanding and thinking too fast and take my time to let God work for me. That is why I want to come back and settle myself in Detroit because I really believe God works for me in Michigan more than any place else. When I lived in Georgia or the south, it felt like the devil attacked me and surrounded me with the wrong people. In Georgia, I ran into roadblocks economically and financially that put me in a bind or bad situations that caused me to leave Georgia to better myself during times I lived in Georgia. My personal finances always got better in Michigan because it seems like I do not struggle as much and am able to make it through daily. I believe it is God guiding me on my spiritual journey. I believe it was the Holy Spirit speaking to me in 2015 to tell me to my congregation in Michigan out of Illinois. I believe Michigan is where I belong for the long haul. In Cleveland, I ran into roadblocks economically and financially to put me in bad situations that caused me to move back to Michigan. I felt like I had sin and temptation all around me in Cleveland. I felt like I had the devil and sin around me in Louisville and that I only could be in Louisville for one month. I always left Louisville and moved to another state or back to Michigan. It felt like the devil was trying to surround me and take over in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that caused me to eventually leave Pennsylvania and never return there.

1. **Be patient:** God easily answers my prayers because I am patient and righteous. God always comes through for me during good and bad times. God gave me a breakthrough to get me out of Louisville to Detroit. Do not rush God when you pray to him daily. You need to give him time to answer your prayer. World and sin in the world is not the answer if you cannot get anything from God.
2. **Establish your heart:** let God take care of your troubles and tribulations. Do not take care of your troubles and tribulations yourself by depending on sin in the world. Do not honor 1 John 2:15-17 to your life. People that worry about taking care of their own tribulations end up depressed, haters, envious, dealing with jealousy of other people. The world makes us judgemental, living in bondage and idolatry. I agree with staff at the Star of Hope Mission in Houston that electronic devices and cell phones have hijacked us in society with technology and social media postings.

3. **Don't grumble:** I do not really complain about people and things as much any more. Life is too short to judge people. Men and women say that in Detroit today.
4. **Pray when you are suffering:** pray to God when you are suffering. Do not be like these people in the world that ask people for money on the streets including homeless men and women. Do not turn to selling drugs or gangs.
5. Pray for the sick:
6. **Confessing your sins:** we must apologize for our sins and promise we will not do it again. We must start living a new life in Christ and the Holy Spirit. We must start living for God's kingdom as the rock of our salvation and personal savior.
7. **Pray for one another healing:** I do this all the time as a man of God and Bishop of the congregation.
8. Live your life in the path of righteousness forever
9. See God compassion and mercy
10. Be truthful in your words and actions

James was speaking to Christians that are enduring trials and suffering. James encourages us as Christians and disciples to be patient with the Lord in their life daily. That's why Program Director, Case Manager-Pastor John Johnson, my case manager-Mr. Gray, and other staff told me at Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023 to take my time and let God work for me, take my time and stop thinking too fast. They know when I think too fast that I put myself in bad economic situations. After the Star of Hope Mission, I started to be patient with God and that is what I am going to do when I get back to Detroit on July 28, 2025.

There is nothing joyful about trials in and of themselves. There is no value in suffering for its own sake. God uses both trials and suffering to test our faith, so we can patiently endure. The purpose of temptation is to entice people away from God and his best for him. Homeless men and women turn away from God daily and do not pursue God's kingdom. That's why there is so much idolatry and sin at homeless shelters today. Earthly riches do not equal spiritual wealth. Economic destitution indicates spiritual poverty. Sin is a violation of God's character. God's wisdom leads to harmony and peace while human wisdom leads to arrogance and dissension.

"When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for[a] their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live? Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel? Therefore, son of man, say to your people, 'If someone who is righteous disobeys, that person's former righteousness will count for nothing. And if someone who is wicked repents, that person's former wickedness will not bring condemnation. The righteous person who sins will not be allowed to live even though they were formerly righteous. If I tell a righteous person that they will surely live, but then they trust in their righteousness and do evil, none of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered; they will die for the evil they have done. And if I say to a wicked person,

'You will surely die,' but they then turn away from their sin and do what is just and right—if they give back what they took in pledge for a loan, return what they have stolen, follow the decrees that give life, and do no evil—that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the sins that person has committed will be remembered against them. They have done what is just and right; they will surely live."-Ezekiel 33:8-16

It is my job as a man of God and Bishop of this flock to share God's word. That is why this congregation used to have one bible study every week. Now, we have three bible study services every week. We do not know when the Lord will return to reward Christians and disciples, and set the world the right way. God promises us hope and we must be patient to his kingdom until he fulfills our blessings.

- God holds those who receive his word accountable for delivering warnings to those who need them.
- Repentance is central to escaping judgment and experiencing God's desire to live.
- God's justice is ultimately an expression of his love and desire to restore and bring life.