

Series: Living Under God Covenant with Gladness
God Will Determine Your Dreams and Future

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for another day you have given us on earth.

Thank you for giving us the guidance and mind to continue to grow our hearts as a mustard seed to heaven.

Thank you for guiding us through our tribulations and determining our steps for our lives.

I ask you to move the devil out of the way to stop him and his kingdom for determining our steps and leading us down the path of unrighteousness.

I ask you to continue to guide us and give this flock to follow your wisdom and knowledge, so our hearts can continue to grow as a mustard seed to heaven.

Guide and lead more people to come to Christ by allowing us to be your disciples to go out to recruit disciples willing to serve your kingdom.

In Jesus name, Amen

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land." Jeremiah 29:11

I want to tell you a true story about myself and my plans and future as a man of God and Bishop of this congregation like he did when I started off homeless at Pacific Garden Mission over ten years ago. God has planned my future when I was an undergraduate student after high school trying to determine if I want to continue to pursue a law school career or obtain my higher education in business and religious studies to become an ordained pastor. God has a plan for my life to help me prosper and that is why I will be moving back to Detroit on October 29 because I strongly believe as a man of God and ordained Bishop that where he wants me to be at the throne in heaven. People in Chicago right now are so ungodly and applaud churches for doing what they do and doing best they can to help people come to Christ by using their spiritual gifts in exhortation. Pastors like myself have to understand that we have to do the best we can to save souls in the world to come to Christ and let Christ come into their life. It is like a minister that preached the gospel as Star of Hope Mission in Houston told me last year as a client in the Spiritual Recovery Program say that I have to let people that wicked and ungodly eventually find themselves and find their own path. They will realize they need to change their ways in their life to better help them and let God plan their life. I was also told to let God continue to guide me and worry about myself on what I am doing in my life to better myself spiritually and economically.

I am thinking about recent days here in Chicago that you see homeless men and women are so wicked and into the world that do not let God prosper them and plan their life. I noticed since I've been here in Chicago that they have been letting the devil control them by worrying about other people in what they are doing in their life and not worrying about themselves. That is the devil controls them and those type people that are homeless and low-income need to find themselves. I want to say that Pacific Garden Mission had more highly motivated and committed spiritual homeless people that used to stay in their

facility, but not no more. You have more homeless men and women that are haters, envious and all about idolatry. It is like preaching in chapel services ten years ago at Pacific Garden Mission were more motivating among guests that stay in their facility and the teachings used to sink in their head for them to understand it. I remember a Pastor at Pacific Garden Mission ten years ago preaching on the topic that if you do not change yourself that your life will continue to run into a wall. That is why I want to stay with you and for you to go out into the world dealing with negative people. Let their life be backed up in the wall and let them find themselves and their own path. I did my homework a long time ago for homelessness and homeless shelters. I received statistics that only people make it out of homeless shelters that are homeless once or twice that are spiritual and let God guide them in their life. I let God guide me in my life as what case managers told me to do when I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston. I want to share with homeless men and women at homeless shelters across this country that let people that are negative, envious, haters and all about world idolatry follow their own path and do not let those people drag you down with you to make you into a wicked person. I want to say to those few homeless men and women at homeless that are not negative, act envious and haters of others, and all about idolatry to let God guide you on your path through Christian journey and let haters and envious people at homeless shelters that like to provide hate and envy towards others find themselves. Turn to the person next to you and say follow your Christian journey. Do not make friends with anybody that likes to think they know it all about the bible and do not serve God in the path of righteousness, instead they continue to live in wickedness and sinful ways daily with their world idolatry. We need to let God direct us and our path on earth because we need a personal savior to turn to when the world as we know it ends. If the earth is destroyed and hit by an asteroid to damage all human life on earth, who will you turn to and where will you go. Only option for those sinful people is hell. If earth is destroyed by global warming and damages our human life on earth, who will you turn to for personal savior? God will not let you into heaven for all the sin you lived on earth. I know I will go to heaven because my heart has been growing like a mustard seed and do not let no one earth judge my righteous heart and let people that know it all just do what they do to be judgemental. Earth is getting hotter and warming up based on the equator is getting hotter from the sun that are causing sea levels to rise with glaciers of ice from places like Antarctica. Climates are usually cold all year around and are getting warmer and you hear these animals that are used to living in colder climates are dying and obtaining life-threatening diseases. Tornadoes and hurricanes are getting worse by destroying homes and towns in this nation. We have towns and people on earth running out of food, money and resources. I look at our national debt in this nation as a wake up call for us and no politicians will not do nothing about it. Both political parties in Congress are too divided to get things done no matter who is in control of congress, Governor mansions and legislatures. Conflict with Israel-Hamas is getting worse by the day. Middle-east is huge turmoil and civil wars going on in the Middle-east. I see human civilization coming to an end as we know it on earth.

This is the time we need to start turning our life over to God and letting God plan our life. That moment needs to start now. This is the time we need to be reading the bible and let the bible be our guide on a daily basis. This is the time people need to regain their relationship with God and his kingdom if you left the church and went back to living a sinful life. People need to come back to God and look deep down in their soul to seek God to plan your life on earth, so when life and the world do end that God has been planning your life 100% in the path of righteousness. I want to say the same about homeless men and women that live on the streets afraid to turn their life over to Christ and let God plan their life. I am talking about those homeless people on the streets that have anger management and mental health issues

that are unsustainable that strongly need help. Those types of homeless men and women need prayer and hope, so when the world ends they can have a place to turn and their hearts can grow as a mustard seed to heaven.

1. Finding a church home is the first step to turn your life over to God and the Holy Spirit.
2. Trust God and turn your life over to God and his kingdom
3. Trust God and live obedient to his will daily
4. Trust God as a your healer, provider, protector and source
5. Be born again and get baptized
6. You need to maintain a prayer life by speaking to God with your mouth.
7. Eliminate whatever bondage and idolatry you have in your life now.
8. Stop being a tax collector and living your life by mammon.

We need to let Proverbs 16:9 go in one ear and go in the other ear because we need to understand the scripture is saying to us and why we need to live and honor Proverbs 16:9 to our life daily. *"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.-Proverbs 16:9*

God determines my steps and now God determines my steps because he would not be granting me a breakthrough to move me back to Detroit where he wants me and getting me away from sinners and idolatry in Chicago. Too many people in Chicago have depression and mental health issues because people are willing to put themselves through stuff that does not make sense. When God determined my steps over ten years ago, Christ Jesus determined my steps were not to because a lawyer is to serve communities and make a difference. Although, I got his influence to preach from the teachings of Malcolm X from his speeches. My favorite speech by Malcolm X is the ballot and bullet. He talked about black nationalism and keeping our black businesses and resources in our community. I like the speech that talked about black nationalism and expanding black nationalism in our community to build the wealth and prosperity in our community by not moving our black businesses out of our community. I know Malcolm X was a muslim but I still gained influence from his teachings from some of his speeches in the Civil Rights movement. I want to say when I turned my life over to God that I surrendered most of my plans to him and let him plan my life. After the time I first became homeless at Pacific Garden Mission in 2011, I started to let God plan my life and surrender my plans to him. At that time, my willingness to serve God was not strong enough and I needed to do better. I got better while serving God over time and in ten years. Star of Hope Mission in Houston still helped me with some weaknesses while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program last year before commencement in October 2023. Malcolm X gave the Ballot and the Bullet speech that is my favorite speech in Detroit in 1963. Malcolm X's nickname was Detroit red.

When I was an undergraduate student, God was trying to tell me that he wanted me to serve communities and his kingdom. That's why I gained more unique and gifted spiritual gifts in shepherding, knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, exhortation and teaching. I want to say to you, let God determine your steps and provide you with your path for your christian walk.

1. God is the one that can interpret your dreams.
2. Do not share your dreams with the world. Share your dreams with God.
3. Surrender your plans to God

4. Live your life by God's plan for you.
5. Let God give you knowledge and wisdom for you and your life, so he can guide you on the right path to grow your heart as a mustard seed to heaven.

I want to tell you another true story about my life is that Rev. Charlie Dates and I got our calling to preach and become a pastor at the same time. We are both the same age. When I first became homeless and started to turn my life over to God, I just got my calling to preach at that time. Although, I am still in training and just not open about anything at times and kept my calling a secret. First Lady Jennifer knew that I came forward with my calling to preach publicly when I started opening my congregation on the westside of Chicago in the Douglass Park neighborhood and registered the church in the State of Illinois. Even when I was attending Salem Baptist Church of Chicago before I moved out of the State of Illinois, I was keeping my calling to preach a secret because I was afraid of what people will think of me at that time and worry about what people would say about me getting my calling to preach at a young age. I was taking biblical classes to get my ordination and training, but not from Salem Baptist Church of Chicago.

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.