

“Honor and Praise to God, Our Father, To Jesus Christ Our Savior”

To Presider, Sister Rita Ford

To Moderator, Reverend Gregory Nichols, and his Staff, Board members and Trustees, Host Pastor Rev. Monscenior Cunningham

To the Auxiliary Presidents and Leaders:

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To my Pastor Reverend James A. Terrance Jr., President Sister Brenda Hughlon, Ushers, Nurses, Greeters and members of the Friendship Baptist Church thank you for continued attendance and support

To my family grateful for your encouragement and support may God bless you all  
To all of my Brothers and Sisters in Christ Good Evening

Special thanks to my friend Sister Bobbie Stevenson for the introduction

To Sis Shirley Williams, our sincere thanks for being our musician this evening, may God continue to bless you

To Pastor Frank Williams many thanks, whenever called upon you always support the ministry, hope you will continue to be our Bible Teacher

There is a lot of unfairness in the world, but one thing we all have in common is the same amount of time each day. God has allotted twenty-four hours to each of us. Perhaps, because we are products of our fast-paced society, we tend to think and act as though God has short changed us when it comes to time. It is not uncommon to hear comments like, "There just isn't enough time in a day to do everything I need to do." "I just don't know where the time goes." "I'll try to find time, but I'm hard pressed for time at the present." In our day when many people meet themselves coming and going, most people feel pushed for time. The feeling is that there simply aren't enough hours in a day. Life with all its demands is far too busy.

Colossians 4:5

"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time"

Time: Handle with Care

Before the creation of the world, time did not exist. For everyone and everything else but God, there was a beginning. We cannot comprehend the timelessness of God's existence.

God has no beginning or ending. He dwells in an everlasting now, without a past or future, without a yesterday or tomorrow.

On the other hand time is a creature word. We come into the world as babies, it takes time to mature and grow to adulthood, even in the activities of this life-careers, hobbies and secular learning, there is a law of slow growth requiring time, and so as it is in spiritual life. Just as a child must eat, learn and grow, so we must spend time with God in His word and in prayer if we desire to commune with Him and grow

It was said of a young Jesus in His humanity, "the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him". (Luke 2:40) Jesus is our example, He who knew no sin, spent long hours, at times all night, in prayer to God. It is through prayer and study of God's word that He exerts His influence on our spirits. God in us is a reality, but if our lives are to grow and bless the world around us, we must have fellowship with our living God, we must give ourselves over to x his desire if it is to become a reality

We have in us nothing that is pleasing to God except what He puts in us, how important it is that we set aside time for God, and let nothing interfere with it.

If we love someone and want to get to know that person better, we find ways to spend time with that person. If we want a deeper relationship with our living God, we will do the same.

All of our time belongs to God, we are not our own, but rather we are bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus (First Corinthians 6:20)  
God is calling us to a living union with Him, just as the branch abides in the vine  
Christians cannot live as we please, thinking of God only during or few minutes of prayer each day and expect to prevail with God through prayer, our lives influence our prayers and our prayers influence our lives.

#### What is needed for a life of Prayer?

The more we recognize the need for God's help, the more we become aware of opportunities to glorify Him. There is no problem we face that having more of God will not solve. God made us in His own image, made us as independent as a created being can be, with individual wills, His plan is for us to yield our will to His. (Isaiah 43:7), when we truly recognize that we were created for God's glory we have a desire to see His plan for our lives fulfilled. Daily prayer is a way to acknowledge who is really in control of our lives

The first commandments is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). The test of our love for Christ is in our obedience to Him (John 14:21).

The degree to which we love God will be demonstrated in our lives by the amount of our willingness to follow Him wherever He leads  
Obedience requires faith, without which, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). A life of faith requires prayer because by its very nature, faith depends on God not self.

Which one of us can say that we truly pray as we ought? or should? I can't. If we surrender our lives to His glory, He will teach us what it means to have fellowship with Him, and that includes prayer. No matter where we are in our spiritual walk, We can benefit by having more and more of God.

As I count the cost, I need to realize that having more of God means less of me

Jesus said, If any man will come after me, let Him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it (Matthew 16:24-25)

When it comes to the life of the self, gaining is losing and losing is gaining. For the child of God there is no other way.

It doesn't matter who we are or how gifted or how able or strong, we will never be able to meet every need around us nor accomplish all that we see needs to be done. However, we can find time and the ability to do what God is calling us to do.

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known”

God wants us to seek Him and call out to Him. He wants to answer us

And tell us about things beyond our human comprehension

He longs to draw us close so that we can know Him. Like a scared child calls

Out to a loving father in the next room, we too can call on Him knowing that

Our Father will answer, protect, and comfort us, even more than that, our Father

Will reveal to us things that would be impossible for us to know without his grace

Colossians 2:6-7

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”

Some things you don't change, swap or update. In average when computer processors make major leap every few months, software companies release new upgrades every year, we get programmed into looking for the new and improve

version of everything. The simple but profound truth is that Jesus is Lord no update needed, no rival worthy, no change necessary. In fact, if we stray from

this as the basis of our life, we put all we hold dear at risk. But if we continue, if

We grow, if we root ourselves in this truth and make it the undergirding reality of our lives,

then our future is secure and our victory assured

So let us give ourselves over to Him to work in us His perfect will. Give Him your life, and based on the principle of progressive growth, He will have your time

Humbly, Submitted

Billie Edwards, President, New Era District Ushers & Nurses Ministry

Rev Gregory Nichols, Moderator