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RECOMMITMENT AND
DEDICATION

JANUARY 2024

As we begin this New Year, I boldly proclaim there is no better time than the present to recommit and dedicate one's life to Christ Jesus. I anticipate many geopolitical and world changes in 2024, along with a troubled and chaotic presidential election. We all need to be sober to the fact that Satan seeks America's demise.

The apostle Peter admonished that believers should be **"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"** (1 Peter 5:7). If we are not careful, the cares of this life will overcome many as we await our Lord's return.

Jesus said, **"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged (overly burdened) with surfeiting (overeating), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares"** (Luke 21:34). Jesus demanded each believer to look inwardly and not watch others.

Tragically the Second Coming of Christ is going to catch many purported saints of God extremely off guard because they are not wholly committed to Him. The best way to keep from becoming unaware or overcharged in this life is to remain steadfast in prayer and immersed in the Word of God.

Jesus said, **"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape (flee from) all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man"** (Luke 21:36). If there was ever a time for the believers to be disciplined in prayer, it is today.

A common refrain says a man

preaches what he believes, and he believes what he preaches. If that statement is true, then few today believe in preaching and proclaiming the need for prayer. Today, we hardly ever hear a sermon wholly dedicated to prayer and the Word of God. I cannot tell you how long it is been since I personally have heard a message on the necessity of prayer.

It is said that Pastor Edward M. Bounds (E.M. Bounds, 1835-1913) developed a daily prayer life from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. Pastor Bounds once declared: *Wherever prayer is focused that is where the power of God will fall.* Where would this man of God find himself in his Methodist organization today? I am certain he would be thrown out for his fervent Holy Ghost convictions! You know all too well there is very little prayer within the Church today because we are not witnessing an outpouring and demonstration of God's holy power in His body, the Church.

True men of God have always been committed to prayer, and they have always preached that need to their followers. We read, **"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing (stopping) to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you"** (1 Samuel 12:23-24). Samuel understood the soberness and urgency for prayer and declared, *God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in not praying for you.*

We must ask the question: *Is it a sin if we are not praying in this*

hour? We read, **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"** (James 4:17). Samuel truly felt the overwhelming need to pray, and James said if we know to do well or good and fail to do so, then we are sinning against the Lord.

Do you think it could be a sin if we do not pray? As believers, if we fail to pray, I would not say it is a sin unto death, but Samuel certainly felt within himself it would be a sin if he did not pray and seek the face of Jehovah concerning Israel.

When we fail to pray, it cripples the plans of God, it hinders our effectiveness in winning the lost, and prayerlessness fails in building the kingdom of God.

For the past four years, I have been burdened to pray for America and our leadership. You may think I am foolish, but I am praying for men like Donald J. Trump, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, and Joe Rogan. These men have souls and need Jesus as their Savior.

If the Church does not pray and cry out to Jehovah, who then will intercede and touch the hem of His seamless garment? We must not trifle and waffle in our commitment and dedication to prayer. The Lord Jesus is not a hard taskmaster, but if we are redeemed and washed in His precious blood, then I believe we will be driven to our knees by the Holy Ghost to be in His most holy presence on a continued basis.

How privileged we are in having an audience with Jehovah at any time! When failing to embrace this privilege, we will produce a catastrophic failure on our part! I don't

understand how professing Christians will not pray and seek the face of our Lord.

The psalmist declared: *“Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember (recall) his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth”* (Psalm 105:3-5).

I am confident, if the Holy Spirit of God abides within us, he will drive us to spend more time in our Lord’s most holy presence. Not only will the Holy Ghost lead us into prayer, but He will also lead us into Spirit-filled worship.

I feel convicted when I fail to pray or when I become too busy to discipline myself and faithfully commune and fellowship with our Lord. If you ever become too busy to pray, then you are simply too busy.

One of the great attributes of Christ was that He continually prayed and sought the Father. Jesus said of himself: *“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”* (Matthew 8:20). That is was not a mere figure of speech but a reality concerning the life of Christ. *“And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him”* (Luke 21:37-38).

It is evident by this passage of Scripture that Christ spent an enormous amount of time in prayer and fellowship with the Father! Think of His life style: in the day, He was always ministering and teaching the people, and at night, He would go out to the Mount of Olives to commune and abide with the Father. Of course, He would also rest and sleep there during that time

due to His humanity.

Are you noticing how our world and society is becoming filled with more rage and chaos than ever before? Prayer is going to be a mighty force and holy power that sustains the Church in these latter days.

If Samuel felt it would be a sin if he did not pray for his people; how then should we feel when we are not praying for America and the Church? Who will arise and waive the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ? Who will arise and go into the harvest fields for they are white and ready to be harvested? Who will cry aloud and spare not concerning the sin and iniquity of our nation and Church?

The only way anyone can find the courage to confront these present foreboding evils is through prayer, fasting, and the holy writ. The true people of God bow their knees, humble themselves before the living God, and cry out to Jehovah while weeping over the sins of our nation.

I am always moved by the prophet Jeremiah when I read: *“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (Jeremiah 9:1).

Where are those same godly attributes the prophet Jeremiah possessed in America today? How long has it been since the church you attend had an old-fashioned Holy Ghost weeping session where the spirit of repentance, intercession, and brokenness crushed the hearts of every believer and tears flowed like Niagara Falls? How long has it been since you personally had a weeping session before the Lord God of Israel concerning America, the Church, and your loved ones?

Other than biological seed, the only other seed men possess are seeds of tears! *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth* (laments),

bearing (yielding) *precious seed, shall doubtless* (surely) *come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him”* (Psalm 126:5-6). Tears are precious seed in the sight of God. It is my prayer that in the coming days you will be moved and driven to seek the face of Almighty God.

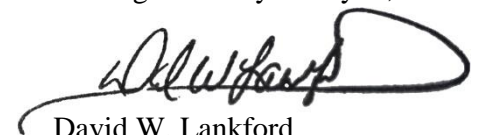
With humility, let me say, we are profusely grateful for the profound love and support you showed this ministry last year. I have come to value and appreciate you and others like you because of your love and faithfulness to our Lord and your commitment to this work. We are only able to do what we do through your love and support. That is why we give God all the glory, honor, and praise for His continued faithfulness and guidance.

No matter what happens in this New Year, do not be moved or unsettled in your-faith. Prayer is going to be the key to all of our successes and failures. Admittedly, my every success has been based upon His faithfulness, and my every failure was based upon my unfaithfulness.

I’m excited to let you know about our upcoming **“Revival Meeting in America,”** scheduled for **September 20-22, 2024** at the **Hickory Metro Convention Center**, in **Hickory, N. C.** Admission is free, but I need you to e-mail us, write us, or phone us so we know how many are coming in your party. I only need this information for seating arrangements.

Do remain in the secret place of our most high God.

Serving faithfully with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist