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**40 DAYS STRATEGIC PRE-CONVENTION FASTING AND PRAYER FOR 2020  
CONVENTION**

**THEME:**

**MOVING FORWARD:**

**BECOMING A MORE SPIRITUALLY DISCIPLINED CHURCH**

**TEXT: HEBREWS 12:5**

*And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,*

**THEME HYMNS**

**BH 350: IS YOUR ALL ON THE ALTAR**

**BH 216: I AM RESOLVED**

**BH 348: LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU**

**VENUE:**

**BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**DATE**

**APRIL 18 – 23, 2020**

## **FOREWORD**

It is another season of organised corporate prayers as a denomination. With gratitude to God our Father, Redeemer and Sustainer, who has constantly honoured our prayers in the past, I introduce to members of the Baptist family the booklet for the year 2020 pre-convention forty days prayer. In the previous years, we have had tangible evidences of our collective prayers. The same God who heard our prayers in the past, will hear us this year also in Jesus' name.

I urge all our pastors, prayer coordinators, institutional leaders to plan ahead for this year's denominational prayer. You may need to assign the days of prayers to those who would coordinate them. This booklet is a guide to make us pray in the same direction daily. The last seven days of the prayer should be with fasting. Apart from the prayer points listed in this booklet, prayer leaders are at liberty to raise more prayer points on daily basis. Churches may wish to observe the prayers at the house fellowship level or corporately in the church. Churches should purchase copies of the prayer booklet for their members.

I wish to appreciate the sacrifices of our writers in producing this prayer booklet. They are: Rev Dr Samuel Oladimeji, Rev Dr Joseph Afolabi, Rev Sunday Adeleke, Rev Mrs Ruth Odejayi, Pastor Onajite Enunuaye, Pastor 'Seun Olawore, Pastor Gbemiga Adeyemo and Pastor Favour Ogundiran. May the blessing of the Lord be released upon them.

Once again, I urge all Nigerian Baptists to be committed to these forty days of corporate prayer. Please note that if there is a Christian to pray, there is God to answer.

**Rev D.O.E. Madoghwe PhD**  
**Vice President (Ministerial)**  
**Nigerian Baptist Convention**

## Day 1

### ENDLESS WORSHIP TO GOD OF ALL AGES

*Psalm 136*

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1, NIV*

It is good to always worship God through praises. God deserves to be ascribed with endless adoration, recognition and submission. Worship is an encompassing concept. However, in its narrow sense, worship is pure adoration, the lifting up of the redeemed spirit toward God in contemplation of His holy perfection. The church at Antioch was worshipping God in prayer and fasting. Why should we worship God? Psalm 136 echoes repeatedly that, “*His love endures forever.*” Similarly, Psalm 115:1 affirms that the Lord alone deserves all praise, because of His love and faithfulness.

God deserves to be worshipped because He is love. The word “love” is one of the descriptions of the nature of God who manifested Himself through Jesus Christ. God’s love is seen through His kindness, mercy and forgiveness. God is qualified for our worship because He is holy. His holiness manifests through His faithfulness, righteousness and trustworthiness. Also, God has the right to our worship because He is personal. Among His names include: the Mighty One, the All-Sufficient and the Beginning and End. Indeed, a faithful, righteous and trustworthy God deserves to be worshipped. Worship Him because His name is above every other names.

#### Prayer Points

1. Declare the praise of the God of all ages.
2. Thank Him for His faithfulness and love towards the Nigerian Baptist Convention.
3. Worship the loving God for His mercy and kindness.
4. Glorify Him for the successes recorded during last year’s convention-in-session.
5. Proclaim an endless praise to God for what He’s set to do in this year’s convention-in-session.
6. Appreciate God for past testimonies and the anticipated fresh ones.
7. Sing and dance in adoration unto God.

## Day 2

### LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

*Luke 11:1*

*Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. Luke 11:1b, NIV*

God has always communicated with His people through prayer. God assures in His Word that He hears every word said in prayer. Whether it is prayers for forgiveness, strength, or healing. Prayer provides the channel to communicate with God and receive supernatural strength and

power! Jesus' life and teachings answer the request of the disciples on prayer. He answered the basic questions of how, where, when and the right attitude to prayer.

Jesus taught us to pray always. Our prayer is not limited to any specific time of the day or month. We are to pray every day and at any time. He taught that prayer is not to be done in the open place for others to see. Prayer is to be a communion with God who is everywhere. However, He does not teach against corporate prayer which may be done in public. Our prayer can be on a specific need, directed to God and with faith in God who is already aware of our needs. Also, Jesus taught us to pray with courage. Answer to prayer may not come at the expected time and the way one wants it. God is able and answers prayer. Trust in Him always.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the move of the mighty hand of God in Nigeria.
2. Pray for the Convention President that he would continue to be relevant throughout his leadership of CAN and NBC.
3. Pray that God will raise prayer warriors in the Nigerian Baptist Convention.
4. Pray that God will inspire us to pray according to His will and mind.
5. Pray that God will grant His church grace to trust and rely on Him.
6. Pray that the Lord will grant people the grace to pray without ceasing.
7. Pray for supply of needed resources for the NBC.

### **Day 3**

#### **OPEN HEAVEN**

*Matthew 3:16*

*As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. Matthew 3:16, NIV*

At the baptism of Jesus, John the Baptist and perhaps few people around him were invaded with the presence of God similar to what happened at the heralding of Jesus's birth to the shepherds. Heaven opened upon Jesus and God shows His approval of Jesus Christ, His Son. Open heaven has often been a proof of God's presence with an individual, a church, a city, or a nation. It is synonymous to a revival or a refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:20, ESV). An occasion of open heaven often include God's people experiencing visitation from angels, great revival and an influx of wealth and financial resources on churches.

Be enlisted as one of the people who will bring open heaven to refresh God's people. Both Scripture and church history give testimonies to this truth that prayer is crucial to experience open heaven. Before a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit resulting in a great harvest of souls and refreshment for the church, prayers have to be offered to break open the way. Pray for open heaven during the coming convention-in-session.

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for more anointing upon the Convention Chairman to continue functioning effectively in his duties.
2. Pray that God's presence would be evident to all our leaders.
3. Pray that God's presence will cause spiritual revival in all Baptist churches.
4. Pray for open heaven during the forthcoming convention-in-session.
5. Pray that Baptist church members will experience God's visitation.
6. Pray that through our prayer, God would harvest more souls to Himself.
7. Pray that you will experience open heaven.

## Day 4

### GRACEFUL REPOSITIONING

*2 Chronicles 7: 14*

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7: 14, NIV*

The refrain of Julia H. Johnston's hymn, *Grace Greater than Our Sin* is about the wonderful grace of God. The lyrics of the refrain is as follow:

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin.*

God is constantly waiting for all humans to be in the right relationship with Him. Sin causes a break in fellowship with a holy God. However, the Holy Spirit is always available to assist a willing sinner who wants to repent. This is His role as described in John 16:8-11. His availability is a privilege or favour called grace. The grace of God is the unmerited favour and His goodness toward those who have no claim to it, nor reason to expect divine kindness.

Your responsibility and mine is to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways (2 Chronicles 7: 14, NIV). God's responsibility is His promises to forgive and heal those who humbly turn to Him. May we pray to God to turn all of us to Him and to help us live in right relationship with Him.

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for the unmerited favour of God for all Baptist members.
2. Pray that God will give us strength to pray through.
3. Pray for Holy Spirit's conviction and grace to humble ourselves before God.
4. Pray for divine healing for our land.
5. Pray for more of God's grace to live in right relationship with Him.

6. Pray that there will be mighty revival resulting into the repentance of many sinners in this year's convention-in-session.
7. Pray that God would bestow His grace on our Vice President Ministerial.

## Day 5

### RAISING A PRAYING CHURCH

*Acts 12:5*

*So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5, NIV.*

Challenges are real to life. It is a leveller, just as football is a leveller when it comes to tribal differences in many nations. The sad thing is that people, and sometimes the church, do not pray for solutions to problems, but would rather talk about the challenges. Talking about persecutions, challenges and national unrest would not bring any solution. There is the need for mobilisation of the entire nation to pray together.

Good enough, Nigerians pray more than many other nationals. This zeal to pray needs to be rightly harnessed and channelled in a productive way by raising a praying church. Let us come together to pray as a team. A praying church wins the battle together and thereby becomes a winning team. Love contributes immensely to the making of a great team. The members of the winning team love themselves, love what they do and thrive together. We will win the battle because God answers prayer. More than before, the battle against the forces of darkness is raging. Martin Luther puts it thus:

*A mighty Fortress is our God,  
A Bulwark never failing;  
Our Helper He amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

It is a necessity for every church to pray.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God would unite His church with genuine love.
2. Pray for Vice President Administration and Human Resources for wisdom, understanding and abundant grace to function for God.
3. Pray for the unity of the church in Nigeria.
4. Pray that God would help Baptist churches to be what He wants the church to be in Jesus' name.

5. Pray that the prayer ministry of each Baptist church would be aglow for Jesus Christ.
6. Pray for the revival of evangelical zeal in our churches and individual's lives.
7. Pray for heavenly wisdom for the leadership of Baptist churches in Nigeria.

## **Day 6**

### **THE FIREBRANDS**

*Zechariah 13:4-9*

*This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.' Zechariah 13:9, NIV*

Zechariah looks at a situation when the Lord will cut off idols, false prophets, and unclean spirits from Israel. The covenant relationship between God and His people, which was long interrupted will be restored again. From the midst of their fiery refinement, the elect remnant of Israel will see Jesus Christ, their Messiah and call on Him as their Saviour and Lord. God will refine them as silver is refined and will try them as gold is tried and shall purge and purify them that they may offer unto Jehovah offerings in righteousness. Sanctification comes after salvation. We cannot be "refined" unless we have first been redeemed. And redemption comes through repentance. When we recognise our sin and we repent, we will find forgiveness at the "fountain" that cleanses...a fountain filled with the blood of Jesus. As forgiven people we can embrace the trials of life knowing God will use them to refine us.

God promises to preserve us, even though He takes us through the refining fires of affliction, so that we will share in His holiness. If you feel dirty, remember that God doesn't maintain business hours, His door is always opened. As saved people of God, we can come for cleansing as often as needed, so that we may remain God's own possession, set apart for Him. And if we are His people, we shall be refined as gold and the end of all our trials and sufferings will be praise, honour, and glory, at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. The ultimate result of Israel's trials and their subsequent triumphs is that *"They will call on His Name, and He will answer them. He will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'"*

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the Lord will help His church to mend her broken walls of righteousness.
2. Declare that the Lord will rekindle the fire on our altars.
3. Pray that the Lord will raise firebrands from among us this year.
4. O God, grant us victory over all devourers and little foxes that are threatening our finance and prosperity as families.
5. Thank God for financial blessings and prosperity that the NBC has been receiving to advance the course of the gospel.

6. Pray for more knowledge, wisdom, and understanding for the Vice President, Finance and Investment. Also pray for all the staff in Finance and Investment department for God's guidance to render their work more sacrificially so as to move the convention forward financially.
7. Pray that God will open the door of grace and divine blessings upon every Baptist to give generously and cheerfully to move the work of God forward at all levels.
8. Pray for financial breakthrough for churches, associations, conferences, of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

## **Day 7**

### **BRING DOWN YOUR GLORY**

*Isaiah 64:1-7*

*For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Isaiah 64:3, NIV*

Prophet Isaiah remembered how God did marvellous and mighty things in the past. God who makes covenant with His people keeps it. He acts on behalf of those who wait on Him. God delights in doing the impossible and the unexpected. He divided the Red Sea with the breath of His nostrils during the exodus from Egypt. His presence can melt a mountain. But now, Isaiah was feeling like God was so far away and he was so concerned about his nation. Isaiah's prayer for God to come and stir up the people of his day is a longing of many today. And perhaps one of the most important preparations that we can make to be ready for the coming convention is to realise that we need God so much. When the heavens open and the Lord descends, He will deliver His people from all forms of bondage, and make all things new—things that we could never imagine.

As God's people needed revival in Isaiah's day, so we need it today. God's people are being carried away into captivity by the world, the flesh and the Devil. God's work is in despair. Many Christians are discouraged; they have no hope for revival. They don't even believe revival is possible. However, revival is not only possible, it is inevitable when God's people get right with Him. Our homes and churches need to manifest God's glory. This nation and the world at large need to manifest God's glory which no military power or economic prosperity can make possible. Not even party elections can manifest this glory. God promised to manifest His glory in the lives of all who are called by His name because that is the purpose of their creation, (Isaiah 43:7). When our hearts are in line with God and our relationship with Him is cordial, He will manifest His glory in our lives, family, workplace, and nation at large.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the Lord will visit Nigeria again with His glory.
2. Pray that the fire of revival will be released upon the church of God universal.
3. Declare that God's presence that is capable of melting mountains will be felt during the convention

4. Declare that shackles and chains will fall off from people during the convention this year. Pray that the blind shall see again and the deaf shall hear and all shall sing hallelujah to God.
5. Thank Almighty God for the amazing ways through which He is helping Publications Department to move the work forward. Thank God for insight, innovation, and wisdom given the Director of Publications to grow from success to success.
6. Pray that God will make all literatures being published by the Publications Department to be inspiring, educative, and resourceful to bless more lives. Pray for good writers for annual literatures. Also pray that God will grant Publications Department victory over all problems and challenges that may cause delay in the release of the annual literatures.
7. Pray for the Baptist Press that all equipment used for printing Baptist resource materials will not break down and will work perfectly.
8. Pray for the Convention/CAN president that the Lord will help him to finish strong.

## **Day 8**

### **RAISING CORRECT ALTAR FOR GOD THROUGH SANCTIFICATION**

*Hebrews 10:19-25*

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

Hebrews 10:22, NIV

The author of Hebrews has been expounding on faith. Faith rests upon the person and work of Jesus Christ. The more we know Jesus as revealed in His Word, the more we will trust Him. The more we trust Him in the difficult matters of our lives, the more we will prove His faithfulness and trust Him the next time. The exhortation is, “*Let us draw near*” (“to God” is implied). Under that command are four things that describe the regenerate person: (1) a sincere heart; (2) full assurance of faith; (3) hearts sprinkled to cleanse from an evil conscience; and, (4) [having] bodies washed with pure water.

Prayer as a spiritual discipline requires that every Christian must cultivate the habit of praying and seeking the face of God always. Drawing near is really the same thing as “seeking” the Lord. If we do not have a clean conscience or if we are aware of sins in our conduct, we cannot draw near to the holy God. So we must confess and forsake our sins, so that we can draw near. Without this sincerity of heart, there can be neither boldness nor confidence in our access to God where we can receive abundant grace. What a great privilege this invitation is, to draw near to the living God! It won’t happen if you don’t make it a priority to spend time alone with Him.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the grace we have to be called brethren.
2. Pray that salvation shall be evident in this year’s convention-in-session.

3. Pray that the church of God in Nigeria will be a 'seeking church' whose passion shall be to solely follow after Christ.
4. Pray that the Lord will purge every leader at the helms of affairs in our nation. Pray that they will lead in the fear of God and be true to Him without compromise.
5. Raise the altar of God against ritual killers, kidnappers, and evil leaders etc. in Nigeria who are only thriving in the suffering of the masses.
6. Thank God for insight and wisdom granted to the Director of Youths and Student ministries of the Convention for improvement and expansion of the work so far. Pray that all youths will always remember their Creator and walk with Him. Also pray that God will grant our students insight, revelation and make them innovative so as to excel in their education.
7. Pray that God will help the youths to deal with rebellion and avoid shortcuts to success. Also pray that God will deliver the youths from the spirit of timidity and endow them with the spirit of courage to excel.
8. Pray that the youths in our churches will not be carried away by the spirit of this world. Ask God to equip them physically and spiritually to be good examples and ambassadors of Christ in our denomination.
9. Pray that the Convention churches shall be known for discipline in all ramifications.

## **Day 9**

### **BACK TO BETHEL FOR GLORIOUS SHIFT**

*Genesis 35:1-5*

*Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau." Genesis 35:1, NIV*

After the murderous rampage in Shechem, God calls Jacob to obey his vow and go to Bethel to make an altar to the God who appeared to him when he was running from Esau (35:1), referring to the vision of the angels going up and down the ladder (28:10-17). God is calling Jacob to spiritual renewal after drifting spiritually for years. Jacob had settled for less than the place God wanted him to be. It wasn't that he abandoned God during those ten years or so. He erected an altar at Shechem (Genesis 33:20). But even though he went through the outward motions, the reality of Bethel and of Peniel had faded. Yet God has not given up on him. To raise an altar to God at Bethel, Jacob called everyone to throw away all their idols. He also requests that they purify themselves and change their garments, a metaphor for changing behaviour.

We get out of a spiritual setback by responding obediently to God's Word. Jacob identified and put away everything that hinders his relationship with God. He cleansed himself with his household, by confessing their sins and appropriating God's forgiveness and grace. We should think about the things we have promised to do for God and recommit ourselves to do them by His grace. We have all of God's treasures in Jesus Christ and in the written Word which

reveals Him as El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One. If you've been experiencing a setback, shake it off by responding obediently to God's Word.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God will increase our passion to pray.
2. Pray that beyond Bethel experience, the people of God shall have a special encounter with Him during the Convention this year.
3. Declare an end to every yoke of retrogression over your life and family.
4. Pray that God will arrest every situation that is bringing the church to her knee.
5. Pray that the Lord will visit Nigeria with 'bread' again. Nigeria shall enjoy abundance of blessings from God.
6. Thank God for the Director Social Ministries Department of the Convention and the staff for wisdom, strength, successes and improvement. Pray for more of God's provision to bless and reach out to more lives through the Department. Pray that God will move the hearts of all members to give generously and cheerfully to Social Ministries for more resources so that souls will be blessed through their effort and the kingdom of God expanded. Pray for divine acceleration and completion of the Skill Acquisition and Rehabilitation Centre at Ijaye.
7. Pray for the Convention/CAN President and his team that no evil hand might touch them as they go about declaring the message of the kingdom.

### **Day 10**

#### **BEYOND LIMITS**

*Zechariah 2:1-6*

*and said to him: "Run, tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it. Zechariah 2:4, NIV*

What we have here in Zechariah 2 is the third of the Prophet Zechariah's eight night visions. In the previous vision (1:18-21), God promised to humiliate the horns of the proud, oppressive, and destructive power. But that alone was not enough to make His people numerous or exalted. So now the Master Builder is shown planning the expansion of His city after His craftsmen have destroyed the demonic opposition. This vision represents the development of God's people and His kingdom till it completely unfolds in its final glory. Zechariah inquires of the Surveyor with the measuring rod to know what He is doing; what was to be measured, and why it was to be measured. The man replies that He is going to measure Jerusalem. Is the Surveyor establishing dimensions of the present city or the millennial city? Since the man is expected to be the pre-incarnate Christ and the city's dimensions are not indicated, it could be the city of the future, the earthly new Jerusalem.

So here we possibly see Jesus Christ establishing how large and great the capital city of the future kingdom is going to be. We have God revealing the expansion and greatness of His earthly kingdom with unfathomable promises. The promises extend to a far greater day than the Israelites could imagine. In the church of God, there is yet room for multitudes of people. God will be a Wall of fire round about them. Jerusalem will be a city without walls because the Prince of Peace will reign from Jerusalem and He will be her protection. Spiritually, now the church has extended herself beyond the walls (Ephesians 2:14-15) of Mosaic ordinances and has spread from cities to country villages.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the way God has helped the Convention to break new frontiers for God so far.
2. Pray for greater measure of expansion of God's work in our Convention.
3. Declare that the Convention breaks demonic limits and boundaries.
4. Declare that God will help you to break demonic limits and grant you victory over every obstacles to your progress.
5. Pray that the Lord will take over the security outlets of Nigeria.
6. Pray for divine security for every participants in this year's convention-in-session
7. Thank God for the Christian Education Director of the Convention. Pray for insight, innovation, and wisdom for the writers, editors, and translators.
8. Pray that God will make all literatures by the CED to be inspiring, educative, and resourceful to bless more lives.

## **Day 11**

### **GRACEFUL AND DESTINY REPOSITIONING**

*Genesis 4: 26*

*Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord. Genesis 4:26, NIV*

Genesis chapter 4 gives us the picture of two brothers – Cain and Abel and their descendants. Out of jealousy and envy Cain killed his brother, Abel which brought unimaginable pain and sorrow to their parents. However, he did not go unpunished by God as he became a wanderer. For Adam and Eve the death of Abel overwhelmed and devastated them as they experienced this horrible incidence, but were later compensated with the birth of Seth, whose descendants began to call on the name of the Lord.

However, it is not an understatement to say that many a Christian homes have encountered similar things to what Adam and Eve experienced. They thought that all was lost but God surprised them. He is still at work. He never goes on holiday. At His appointed time He gracefully and divinely repositioned them as they called upon His name and depended on Him.

So He will still do. Psalms 30:5 says *"For His anger lasts only for a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."*

### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the way He called us out of darkness into His marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).
2. Pray that God will remember you now (Genesis 8:1).
3. Declare that as people calls on God during this year's convention-in-session there shall be answers (Acts 4:31).
4. Pray against the spirit of rivalry in families and churches which has led many into crimes and occultic activities (Acts 4:8).
5. Declare that just like the generation of Seth, people will arise all around Nigeria to call on the name of God. The revelation of Jesus shall draw souls to repentance and people shall indeed serve God in Nigeria. Pray that righteousness will rule in our borders (Genesis 4:26).
6. Thank God for the grace upon the life of the Director of Medical Services of the NBC and his family. Appreciate God for what He is doing in the medical ministry of the NBC. Pray that God's healing anointing will be upon the people in the medical ministries to operate under open heaven.
7. Pray for the convention-in-session medical team for sound mind, guidance and strength as they attend to patients during the session.

### **Day 12**

#### **THE LIVING CHURCH**

*Matthew 16: 18-19; John 20:22*

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

**Matthew 16:18-19, NIV**

*And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:22, NIV*

In what could be described as a closed-door meeting with His close associates, Jesus asked His disciples a question, *'Who do the people say the Son of Man is?'* as they came to the region of Caesarea Philippi. Having given Jesus the public opinion of who the Son of Man was, Jesus further asked His disciples a critical question that was fundamental to their followership of Him. *"But you, who do you say I am?"* Peter responded *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

For the church to be the living church, Jesus Christ must be her foundation or bedrock, the Cornerstone. It is faith like that of Peter, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God that makes the church a living church. Anything short of this is deception. Jesus Christ is central and vital to the church for the church to be living and vibrant through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit. The body of believers must confess or profess Jesus Christ as the Messiah to make the church the living church.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the great gift of fellowship of believers.
2. Pray that our gathering at the annual convention will not be void of God's power.
3. Declare an end to every other revelation that is against the truth of the gospel in our churches. Pray that the Lord of the church will not cease to continually display His power through the church.
4. Pray that every written code against the church will not prosper. Pray that God will continue to dislodge and destabilise all the enemies of the Gospel.
5. Pray that the Lord will destroy every work of false prophets and manifestations of witchcraft in our churches and families.
6. Pray that the resurrection power will bring about revival in our churches (Romans 8:11).
7. Thank God for the life of the Director of Ecumenism, his family and the entire work force. Pray that God will endow him with wisdom and strength to lead the department to the glory of God.
8. Pray for the Executive Committee of the Convention that the Lord will enrich them with wisdom and sufficient strength for the assignment.

### **Day 13**

#### **REBUILDING THE POTENTIAL BUT BROKEN BUILDERS**

*Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

*This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."*

Ezekiel 37:5-6, NIV

This passage gives us the terrible picture of the Jews in captivity as they are scattered and dead. The valley has become a cemetery, a graveyard and there was no hope of restoration for the Jews anymore. But God in His mercy and grace divinely instructed Prophet Ezekiel to prophesy life into the bones that were very dry. Ezekiel's message of hope confirmed that God has not

abandoned His people because of the covenant He had with them; that He would miraculously restore them despite their past sins.

Israel's experience may be true of some of us in our Christian pilgrimage when it seems all hope is lost and restoration is not in sight. Sometimes, feelings are negative and broken relationships seem beyond mending. Yet through the power of His Spirit, God can bring new life to all aspects of life. God can do miracles. He will revive your hope. This is the blessed assurance from the Lord for His own.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Praise God for the way He's been dealing with you in spite of your broken dreams. Pray that God will forgive our sins as a church.
2. Pray that the hand of God will touch you today at your broken points and cause healing (Ezekiel 37:6).
3. Pray that the Lord will visit churches in Nigeria and cause healing to take place among the people of God. Declare that the church shall truly be the church of God.
4. Declare that the Lord will arise and awake every sleeping giant among our pastors and leaders.
5. Pray that God will heal Nigeria from backwardness (Joel 2:25).
6. Pray for the Director of GMB and his family for fresh anointing. Pray for the mission activities of the Global Missions Board that they will fulfil the mind of Christ.
7. Pray that God will protect, provide and preserve all the missionaries within and without the country.
8. Pray for strength for the Convention President and his team as they lead the convention-in-session this year.
9. Pray that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will set people free from every curse.

### **Day 14**

#### **GRACEFUL TOUCH FROM ON HIGH**

*Jeremiah 33: 6-7*

*'Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and I will rebuild them as they were before. Jeremiah 33: 6-7, NIV*

This message of restoration was sent by God through Prophet Jeremiah to the Jews who lived in captivity in Babylon. Having lived a miserable life and experienced disruptive and agonising times in the hands of the Babylonians, it was a wonderful message of hope and restoration. While God was speaking through Jeremiah that He will deal ruthlessly with the Babylonians for

their wickedness against Judah and Israel, He equally promised to bring health and healing to His people, that He will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.

Our experience as a church in Nigeria today could be likened to what the Jews went through in Babylon, finding ourselves having to live through difficult times. The situation is so terrible that the government could not give adequate security to the citizenry. But the One who made the earth, formed and established it has spoken graciously, *"Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security."* He will surely do what He says. He will bring peace and security back to His people.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for Nigeria that, despite the challenges of insecurity, He has kept us as one big family/nation.
2. Pray that the Lord will turn the weapons of the enemies of the church against them.
3. Father, deal with everyone who is turning peace and place of rest in our families to a theatre of war and battle.
4. O God, pull down every stronghold and despicable attack against the church in Nigeria.
5. Decree that the gate of hell – Boko Haram's threat and the wicked activities of herdsmen will not overcome the church.
6. Pray for the Director of Mission Schools for wisdom to lead his team to fulfil its mandate and purpose of establishment. Pray that our students will be great and become responsible future leaders.
7. Pray that Nigeria will regain her lost glory and will become a place where other nations of the world will be looking up to for help.
8. Pray for the Convention/CAN President and his team that the Lord will help them to finish strong.

### **Day 15**

#### **THE DISPENSATION OF THE DELIVERERS FROM ZION**

*Obadiah 1:21*

*Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's. Obadiah 1:21, NIV*

The main message of Obadiah was that God will judge Edom for its evil actions towards God's people; that sooner than later, He will destroy the proud and wicked people because He was displeased with their oppression of God's people. God in His mercy will therefore raise deliverers out of Zion for the liberation of His people.

What we are witnessing today in our world, particularly in Nigeria, may not be totally different from what the people in Obadiah's time experienced. The people in power care less for others. They display arrogance, dishonesty, and corruption. They engage in ritual killings of the highest order to the extent that one wonders when this ungodliness will come to an end. Almost every person has been a victim of oppression one way or the other. However, God's promise is sure and nothing can break His covenant to protect His people from complete annihilation. God has promised that deliverers will come from Zion to deliver His people and the kingdom will be the Lord's. Nigeria will surely be free and liberated from her political, economic, social and religious oppressors.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the power of the gate of hell will not prevail over the church as God promises.
2. Pray that the tormentors of the church will come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Ask God to remove the scales from the eyes of the troublers of the church so that they can see clearly and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
3. Lord deliver Your church from every demonic strategy of Satan and frustrate the counsel of Ahitophel over Your church.
4. Pray that the Lord will hear the cry of the oppressed in Nigeria and raise deliverers like Moses from among us.
5. Declare the reign of peace and righteousness in your family, the church and the nation.
6. Pray that the Nigerian Baptist Convention will continue to break new frontiers for God.
7. Pray for the Director Men's Missionary Union and his team for wisdom and for God's presence in all their endeavours to expand the frontiers of missions. Commit Men's Missionary Union's projects into the able hand of God for early completion to the glory of His name.
8. Pray for the Convention/CAN President that the hand of the Lord will be upon him and his family.

### **Day 16**

### **RAISING VOICES FOR THE CHILDREN**

*Psalm 127:3-5*

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Psalm 127:3,  
NKJV*

There were few people living in Jerusalem in the post-exilic period (Nehemiah 4:7), and it was important that the young people marry and have families. Among the Jews, it was unheard of that a husband and wife would not want children or that a child would be aborted. The psalmist wrote that children are God's providential blessings and thereby are rewards to those whom they are given. Children are weapons because they are capable of defending the family against aggressors. They are arrows in the hand of the mighty. The mighty are the wise parents who build future generations rather than building physical structures. There is no wisdom in building and guarding houses and cities if there are no future generations to inherit them and keep the family name, city and nation.

Children are precious heritage who should be raised in truth and love. When they are well planted in truth and love of God; they will love their families and others and they will fight the battle against lies and evil (Psalm 128:3, 144:12). The city gate is the place where important legal business is transacted (Deuteronomy 21:19; Ruth 4:1ff; Amos 5:12) and it is helpful to have a godly family to back you up. Gifts are those things generously and graciously given to us by another. Children are a gift from God (v 3). They are a great reward. A man may toil to build a house, but by giving us children God builds our home. The watchman stands guard to provide security and protection, but the children God gives provide a greater security.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Though God gives children, not all families have them. Pray that God will answer all people who are waiting for the fruit of the womb.
2. Pray that children will be brought up in the fear of God; that they will love the truth and stand up for the truth always.
3. Pray that all Christian children would be defenders of the truth wherever they found themselves.
4. Pray that our youth will not neglect discipline.
5. Pray that parents' effort over their children will not be in vain.
6. Pray for the Family Life Division of the Convention that all their writings for children and teenagers will have positive effect.
7. Let us pray that the Women Missionary Union will be more mission minded and not derail as they discharge their ministry to women and ladies.

### **Day 17**

### **LOCATING THE GROUND FOR UNDENIABLE ACCESS**

*John 14:12-14*

*You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 12:14, NIV*

Faith is the bases of asking and receiving. Jesus in His teachings emphasises this fact. To receive anything from God one must believe. Greater grace to do exploit awaits all who believes in Christ, if only they will walk in faith. The truth is that believers in Christ would do greater things if they walk in faith. Greater things, such as the working of miracles as one of the benefits of preaching are countless. We have the ability, by faith, to operate on a word from the Lord. Faith is the key that unlocks the door to heavenly manifestation.

To access anything from God without denial, there is need for faith, obedience and love for God. Love for God makes us to pray in Jesus' name. This means we ask as Jesus would have asked. The name of Jesus is the controlling factor and not magic. Knowing God's name is understanding God's nature, that is; what He is, and what He can do. God answers prayer in order to honour His name, therefore prayer must be according to His will (1 John 5:14-15; Matthew 6:9).

### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the Convention President and the vision to build the Baptist International Conference Centre that will be hosting 107<sup>th</sup> Convention this year.
2. Appreciate God and pray that the Christian Education Department will continue to write according to His will and teach according to His purpose.
3. Pray that all churches of the Convention will be more dedicated to the cooperative programme of the Convention.
4. Pray for the Global Mission Board that they will break new grounds as they reach out to people and nations.
5. Pray for all the editors of the Convention that God will give them eagle eyes, so that our publications will be error free.
6. Pray for all believers, that they will have faith as they approach the throne of grace and will not forfeit every effort in prayer.
7. Pray that our faith will always be alive to do exploits for God not only at the convention-in-session but also in our local churches.

**Day 18**

**INCREASE OUR FAITH**

*Luke 17:5-6*

*He replied, “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it will obey you’”. Luke 17:6, NIV*

Faith, as Hebrew 11:1 puts it, is the “*assurance of things not seen the evidence of things to come*”. Faith can move a mountain, it can uproot a tree, and it can calm a storm. Nothing can be done outside of faith as children of God. The above statement came up as the Lord taught the disciples on the issue of sin and forgiveness. Offence is unavoidable because we are human but in the same way we must learn to forgive those who offend us. When we forgive others their sins, we would also be forgiven by our heavenly Father (Luke 11:4).

The disciples, realising that forgiveness does not come without love and that they also need faith to obey Jesus’ instruction, requested that the Lord increase their faith. The Lord Jesus then made it clear to the disciples that faith will not only help them to forgive sins but it will also make them walk in authority. To uproot a mulberry tree could be difficult even with the aid of heavy machinery; but with faith it will move at a command. We all need faith to live and to love.

**Prayer Points**

1. Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your word that gives light to our soul and teaches us Your ways.
2. Ask the Lord to increase our faith as a denomination.
3. Lord! Let all our drivers put their trust in You and increase their faith.
4. Pray for divine protection for drivers both at the convention and in our churches as we move to the convention-in-session this year.
5. Ask God for an increase in faith.
6. Pray for the grace to love and forgive other people their sins.
7. Pray that we will please God with the way we use our faith.

**Day 19**

**RAISING DISCIPLINED DISCIPLES**

*Mark 14:37-42*

*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping, “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not watch for one hour? Mark 14:37*

Discipline starts from taking caution over little things that seems not to matter. Most things we do not count matters a lot to the Lord Jesus Christ. Raising disciplined disciples is to develop Christians of great character through giving instruction and by practice. Jesus in today’s passage accused the disciples of indiscipline. He asked, “*could you not keep watch for one hour?*” They could not overcome the desire to sleep while they supposed to stand like soldiers to pray and to protect their Master. Jesus’ warning to His disciples against temptation could probably be what the preacher in the book of Proverbs was also warning against, “*A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit*” (Proverbs 6:10).

Jesus knew that sleep to the disciples at that time was a serious temptation, they were supposed to pray because they are about to face trial that will shake their faith. Without prayer, they actually fell victim. Disciples need to watch out and be self-disciplined always. There are lot of things that looks natural but they are open doors to temptations which would take the grace of God to overcome. Therefore, be self-disciplined and never be neglectful of your duties.

**Prayer Points**

1. Let us thank God for His revealed Word.
2. Ask God to help us by raising disciplined disciples for this generation.
3. Ask God to make you a disciplined disciple that will not easily be overcome by trials.
4. Ask God to revive His church so that He will raise for Himself a disciplined church.
5. Ask God to wake up all disciples that are sleeping and slumbering.
6. Pray that our local churches will rise up to the responsibility of raising disciplined disciples.
7. Pray that all our local churches will have a sense of discipline in discharging their responsibilities to the convention.

**Day 20**

**BECOMING A MORE DISCIPLINED CHURCH**

### Hebrews 12:5-13

*And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons; “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you. Hebrews 12:5,*

NIV

The writer of Hebrews viewed the trials of the Christian life as spiritual discipline that could help a believer become mature. Instead of trying to escape the difficulties of life, we should rather face them so that we might grow (Hebrews 12:11). The writer was reminding the disciples who, because of the persecution they were facing, had thought the Lord had forgotten them. He admonishes them to remember the word of the Lord that says, *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in* (Proverbs 3:11-12). Being a disciplined Christian is a sign of maturity. When God’s children are being disciplined through persecution, it is a proof of God’s love, and it is a way of growing the church. Discipline is the evidence of the Father’s love to His church

Certainly, persecution is not the only way God disciplines His people/church. He also disciplines through His Word and circumstances too. One good thing we should know is that God’s hand of discipline is being controlled by His loving heart. God does not want His church to be pampered like babies but to become mature adults who can be trusted with responsibilities of life.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Let us thank God for His church, His Word and the messengers of His Word.
2. Let us pray for the church of God passing through persecution by means of insurgency of Boko Haram in the North, that God will make them see His love rather than feel neglected by God.
3. Let us pray that God will make His church apt to discipline and grow into maturity.
4. Let us pray that the gate of hell that has opened its mouth to devour the church of God shall be consumed and the church of Christ shall stand.
5. Let us pray that God will make His church to be mature and disciplined.
6. Ask God to help all conference presidents to build more disciplined churches for the Master. Pray for safe trip for all convention messengers.

**Day 21**

## **BREAKING THE WALL OF IMMORALITY**

*Ephesian 5:3*

*“But fornication and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be named among you, as becometh saints.” Ephesian 5:3, KJV*

There is no doubt, we are living in times and seasons where sexual immorality permeates all spheres of our society. There is no age category of people in our present day world that is not prone to the danger of immorality. The society is sex driven and we are faced with the reality of fast becoming Sodom and Gomorrah. The wall of immorality can only be broken if the spirit that works in the children of disobedience is caged finally through the force of prayer. The dangers of immorality are grievous, therefore, to avert the wrath of God, we must consistently pray lest we become like Sodom and Gomorrah.

The church must emphasise the need for purity and holiness. Immorality is capable of driving God from His people both individually and collectively. The desire of the church should be to raise a God-fearing generation that is pure within and without.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Father, let whatever that is threatening the peace of Your church and our families be exterminated by fire.
2. Father, raise a generation of prayer champions who are also disciplined from among us during this year's convention.
3. Great and mighty God, raise God-fearing leaders for this nation.
4. Let the fire of the Lord penetrate every fabrics of this nation and stop all forms of evil in Jesus' name.
5. We cage the spirit of Belial ruling in this nation by fire.
6. We destroy the spirit of rebellion during this year's convention-in-session in the name of the Lord Jesus.
7. The yoke of corruption and immorality is destroyed completely from among us in Jesus' name.
8. Every negative altar where evil men are prepared for evil activities in this nation be destroyed by fire.
9. Bless our convention leaders in the name of the Lord.

**Day 22**

## OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MORE THAN BEFORE

*Act 2:1-4*

*“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*. Acts 2:4, NKJV

The survival of the church is dependent on the effectual working of the Spirit of God. If the church can allow the Holy Spirit to have absolute control of her affairs, there will not be any form of struggle. The Holy Spirit can do in a moment what man's wisdom cannot do for years. God is interested in His church. He would not allow any man to struggle with Him over the leadership of the church. He sends His Spirit to be in charge.

Many churches today operate outside the control of the Holy Spirit. Some have quenched the Spirit while few intermittently give the Spirit a little opportunity. The Spirit of God communicates the mind of God to the church and wherever the church is going astray, the Spirit helps to checkmate it.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Holy Spirit, we need You more than before.
2. Holy Spirit, we need You to equip us with power as of old to do greater works in our midst this year.
3. God of all flesh, we beseech You to dwell among us in glory and power.
4. Father let Your hand rest upon every vessel You will use at this year's convention-in-session
5. Holy Spirit speak through Your servants as You give them utterances during this year's convention-in-session.
6. May no speaker speak during this Convention of their own volition, fill them O Lord.
7. Fire of the Holy Spirit spread across the Nigerian Baptist Convention.
8. Holy Spirit of God, incubate and fill our leaders in the Nigerian Baptist Convention afresh.
9. Bless Nigeria in the name of the Lord.

### **Day 23**

#### **DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT**

*Isaiah 40:1-2, Job 42:10*

*“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins”*.

Isaiah 40:2

Encouragement is motivation. When persons are encouraged, chances are that they will do more and they will get better results. Man's encouragement is temporal and goal oriented. The greatest

encouragement one needs is divine encouragement; this is the encouragement that comes directly from God.

This kind of encouragement is permanent, it comes via the indwelling of the Spirit of God. This kind of encouragement could bring double restoration such as Job experienced. God compensated Job for his pain and suffering as well as the loss of his family and material goods. God's encouragement is geared towards making one better and bigger.

### **Prayer Points**

1. O Lord I need You to encourage me in all areas of life.
2. Father shake and sift our lives by Your strong visitation.
3. Oh God of safety, lead every messenger to 2020 convention safely.
4. Heavenly Father, carry every delegate in Your wings to and from this convention.
5. We cover the roads and all vehicles with the blood of Jesus. Safety belongs to You, O Lord, there shall be no casualty in our journeys.
6. There shall be divine encouragement for as many as comes with burdens to this year's convention programme.
7. Heavenly Father, restore all our losses as a nation.
8. Pray for every pastor and those that are working with them that they will not miss the voice of God and they will always find grace for every assignment.
9. Pray for encouragement for our leaders in the convention.

### **Day 24**

#### **WELCOMING THE GREAT PHYSICIAN**

*Jeremiah 8:22*

*"Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" Jeremiah 8:22, KJV*

God sympathises with our state of health and infirmities. Our health conditions are a great concern to Him. The greatest asset you have is perfect health. God's plan is for us to prosper in health. No amount of affliction we face can stop God's faithfulness toward His own. He promised us healings for our sicknesses and afflictions. In Jeremiah 33:6-7, the Lord promised to bring healing and cure. *"Behold I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return and will build them as the first."*

Jesus became the manifestation of this Scripture in Acts 10:38. Jeremiah 46:11 mentions the healing balm of Gilead. The balm of Gilead is a healing ointment that comes from Gilead, the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. Jesus is truly the "balm of Gilead" for all the hurting people of the world. When healing comes from Jesus, the spread of frequent diseases and pains receives a final order to quit.

## **Prayer Points**

1. Lord, destroy the yoke of diseases and infirmities in our gathering this year.
2. Lord, please release the balm in Gilead to heal as many as are suffering from any ailment.
3. Send Your word to heal and to deliver as many as are oppressed in our families and Nigeria in Jesus' name.
4. Ask God to visit and destroy chronic health challenges. Pray for incredible testimonies during this year's convention.
5. Father we pray for fresh ideas for the leadership of Baptist Press.
6. Ask God for unusual patronage this year for the Baptist Press.
7. Declare that our convention leaders will not be struck with sickness.
8. Pray for all the office staff members in the Baptist Building that they will continue to do their work as unto God and that they will not lose their rewards.

## **Day 25**

### **THE SAVING CROSS**

*Numbers 21:9, John 3:14*

*“And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.” Numbers 21:9, KJV*

As the snake was a symbol of deliverance to the Israelite in the Old Testament, so is the cross the symbol of our salvation in the New Testament church. No cross no salvation. The place of the cross in the history of our salvation experience is most apt. A song writer wrote, *“Look and live”*. Jesus is the Son of Man who is lifted up on the cross the way the snake was lifted up. Jesus, in the place of the snake, is the source of healing, the source of rescue from the poison of sin, and the wrath of God. Jesus is the source of eternal life. When we look up to Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith, overcoming the challenges posed at us will be easier.

We have been surrounded by so much cloud of witnesses, therefore believing in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross gives a lifeline. Jesus saves and we must deliberately depend on the power of the cross for daily victories. What Jesus gives us from the cross is eternal life. “The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14–15). When our sin and God’s wrath are taken away, God is for us totally. And if God is for us, we will never die, but live forever with Him in joy.

## **Prayer Points**

1. Father, let the cross of Christ be revealed during and after this convention-in-session.
2. My Father, my Father, let the power of the cross set the captives free.
3. As we lift up our eyes to the cross, let our lives receive divine attention.

4. Let the cross draw sinners to You every day.
5. We ask, O Lord, that the leadership and members of staff of the New Frontiers Television be equipped spiritually with ideas to further use the media to spread the message of the cross.
6. Pray for the expansion of the New Frontiers Television for greater coverage and impact.
7. Pray for the personal assistant, protocol and drivers to the Convention President that the Lord will continue to keep them from dangers of the ministry. Pray that they will not be an object of attack.

## Day 26

### THE PROPHETIC AND GLORIOUS MATCH

*Zechariah 9:9-13*

*“Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—even on a donkey’s colt.” Zechariah 9:9, NLT*

In the ancient Middle East, the donkey was the preferred means of transport when it is not war times. The donkey which has not been ridden by anyone before is significant in light of the ancient rule that only animals that had not been used for ordinary purposes were appropriate for sacred purposes (Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3; 1 Samuel 6:7).

The Old Testament is full of prophecies about Jesus Christ, the reigning king, whose dominion will bring deliverance to the Jews and others. The New Testament is the fulfilment of those prophecies. Prophet Isaiah spoke extensively about His birth, suffering and death in Isaiah 9:1-7; 53:1-9. Prophet Zechariah prophesied about His victorious match on a donkey which came to pass more than 500 years later as written in Luke 19:29-38 (see also: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11). Jesus rode on a colt into Jerusalem. This affirmed His messianic royalty as well as His humility. Also, this prophecy which came to pass after 500 years, shows that God’s Word will always find expression with time (Matthew 5:18). Jesus’ prophetic and sacred match unveils the power and glory of God among men and naturally dispels the works of darkness. It brings peace and all round blessings. As a family, when we embrace His reign we will enjoy unlimited peace in every battle of life because God desires to give us peace and rest. His promises over our lives will not fail.

#### Prayer Points

1. Let us declare that our gathering this year will not be void of God’s presence and glory (2 Chronicles 7:1-3).
2. Pray that God will show His mighty power in our midst and no one will be able to resist His touch throughout the convention-in-session (Acts 4:31).

3. Prophecy that there shall be shouts of rejoicing and triumph in our midst this year as the Lord will do great and mighty things (Numbers 23:21).
4. Pray that the church of God in Nigeria will witness His victorious match and there shall be great victory for the church (Zechariah 9:9).
5. Declare peace on every family that is experiencing crises today. Declare that they will begin to witness Jesus' glorious match from now on (Mark 4:39).
6. Pray that everyone of us will receive the fulfilment of God's promises for our lives and families this year (1 Samuel 1:19).
7. Pray that the Lord of the church will rescue His church in the northern part of Nigeria and destroy the rod of their annihilators (Isaiah 9:4).
8. Bless the Convention/CAN president and his team in the name of the Lord.

## **Day 27**

### **THE SPEAKING BLOOD**

*Hebrews 12:18-24*

*“You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which graciously forgives instead of crying out for vengeance as the blood of Abel did.” Hebrews 12:24, NLT*

For some years now, the Nigerian state has witnessed security challenges and all forms of inhuman treatments. Shedding of the blood of innocent citizens happens almost every day and the leaders seem helpless. In the levitical order, blood shedding, other than for sacrifice unto God, was unacceptable and sanctionable. God did not hide His displeasure the moment He heard the cry of the innocent blood of Abel who was gruesomely murdered by his own brother, Cain. The ground literally received the second curse from the Creator after the blood of Abel was shed on the ground and began to make a protest unto God for vengeance. The blood indeed speaks!

The Old Testament placed a huge significance on sacrifices made with animals to restore a broken relationship between man and God. This blood sacrifices prove that trifling with a holy God is sin, and every single sin must be atoned for by blood. The sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ met the requirement of a holy God. The price for the restoration of lost virtues, of peace and blessings for the cursed land and people was fully paid through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The redemptive plan of God was inconclusive without the sprinkling of blood which marks the final sacrifice that man needs to atone for sin and its consequences. God truly cares for us and He's willing to forgive and secure a glorious space for His children through the blood of Jesus which speaks grace. In order to enjoy the efficacious blood of Jesus Christ, we must believe in its power and submit in totality to Him.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Let us pray that the atoning power of Jesus' blood will overrule every other blood that may be speaking vengeance on the nation and the church at large (Hebrews 10:24).

2. Pray that the essence of the blood of Jesus will not be in vain over your life and family (Exodus 12:13).
3. Declare that the blood of Jesus will destroy the yoke of sickness and diseases from among us (Isaiah 53:5).
4. Declare that the wonder-working power of God will be experienced in our convention-in-session this year (Acts 3:1-10).
5. Pray that sinners will have a special encounter with God this year and they shall be saved (Acts 2:46-47).
6. Declare deliverance to as many as are under the bondage of the enemy (Matthew 15:29-31; Acts 10:38).
7. Declare that the power in the blood of Jesus will destroy every yoke that brings retrogression upon our nation, the church and our families. Pray for the healing of our nation (2 Chronicles 7:14).
8. Pray for the Global Missions Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and other mission agencies that the Lord will by Himself encourage them. Pray for as many that are going through crisis among the missionaries that the Lord will visit and support them (Acts 12:5).

## Day 28

### THE RESURRECTION POWER

*Romans 8:9-11*

*“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Romans 8:11, KJV*

The day Jesus died is the blackest day in human history, but brightest is the day He arose from the dead. Hallelujah! As someone has said, these days are but one day apart. One of the hardest things to do or believe is personal deliverance. It would have made a lot of difference if the disciples had believed in Jesus’ power to raise Himself up on the third day as He had earlier told them about His death and resurrection (Mark 9:30-32). When Jesus died, they lost hope. But when He rose from the dead, the disciples’ hope was revived. The beauty of our redemption story is not in the sacrificial death of Jesus on Friday but in His resurrection on Sunday.

In our text, Apostle Paul called the attention of the Roman church to the fact that Christ’s Spirit lives within their human spirits, but their fleshly bodies are still infected by sin and will soon die. Therefore, if the same Spirit that raised Christ from the death dwells in them; that same Spirit is capable to bring their mortal (dead) bodies back to life. The Spirit of God is the resurrection power and His ability has not ceased. His power can raise up dead souls, businesses,

marriages etc. Just dare to believe the resurrection power, it will deliver from whatever negative experience you are passing through.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that the same power that raised up Christ from the dead will resurrect your dead dreams and projects this year (Romans 8:11).
2. Declare that the power of resurrection will set ablaze the fire of revival in our churches.
3. Pray that the guest ministers during this year's convention-in-session will be endued with the resurrection power and they will minister under this influence.
4. Pray that there shall be astonishing miracles during the convention this year.
5. Pray for a special encounter with the resurrection power in our churches (Philippians 3:10).
6. Pray that the Lord will thwart every plan of the devil to bring about war in Nigeria.
7. Declare that the resurrection power visits every family that is going through crises today.

### **Day 29**

### **VICTORY GUARANTEED**

*1 John 4:4*

*“But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.”*

1 John 4:4, NLT

The world is full of pains and troubles on every side. Both believers and unbelievers are not exempted from various challenges of any season of life. People give their mandates to leaders who soon become a thorn in their flesh. Even religious leaders look for powers from lesser gods to manipulate innocent people and to rip off their hard-earned money and other valuables. If prayers were kept in files, Gods table will be overflowing with pending requests. Many believers have compromised and many others have even resolved to commit suicide.

Today's message is an encouragement to the believers who have not been deceived by false teachers, nor pitch their tent with the wicked. Christians overcome false teachers by identifying them and refusing to follow their teachings. God's Spirit who lives in us is greater than the spirit who lives in the world (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1). One constant thing we enjoy as believers is victory through Christ Jesus who lives in us. Believers' victory from the world of sin and difficulty is sure, especially when we don't compromise our faith in the process.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Declare an end to every activities of witchcraft and other vices on our pulpits.
2. Pray that the Lord will arise in anger to destroy as many enemies of the church that are taking advantage of our virtue of patience (Psalms 7:6-8 GNB).

3. We declare victory in advance over all forms of challenges that people might be bringing to the convention-in-session this year.
4. Pray that God's messages to the people during the convention will bring encouragement and a constant reminder of their victory in Christ to them (Numbers 14:14).
5. Pray that the Lord will remove every dark cloud preventing your glorious emancipation this year (Daniel 10:13).
6. Declare over Nigeria that the Lord will arise and His enemies be scattered (Psalms 9:3).
7. Declare that the Lord will open the floodgates of heaven and send a great rain of blessing upon the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

### **Day 30**

#### **A NEW NATION FOR GOD**

*Jeremiah 32:36-41*

*"I will surely bring my people back again from all the countries where I will scatter them in my fury. I will bring them back to this very city and let them live in peace and safety." Jeremiah 32:37, NLT*

Prophet Jeremiah was arrested and imprisoned by King Zedekiah who was disturbed and outraged by Jeremiah's prophecies about the fall of Jerusalem, the king's arrest and exile in Babylon. This was done to silence him (32:3-5). In the midst of this experience, God revealed to Jeremiah the sin of Israel and its consequences. The entire population has been involved in disgusting activities that have led to the city's judgment. But then, the story would not end in slaughter and death. God will ultimately bring health and wealth to His people. He will bring them into a new order superintended by Himself. Then the nation will live in safety and enjoy His everlasting covenant.

In Nigeria, many politicians and religious leaders have not led in the fear of God. They have led the people astray, just as they also have gone astray. The consequences are war, starvation, diseases and captivity. However, there is hope. God is bringing His people into a new dispensation where righteousness will rule supremely from the leaders to the led. He is establishing a new order where evil, violent conflicts, ritual killing, rape etc. will experience a natural death and completely vanish from among us. God is establishing a new covenant where everyone enjoys His goodness eternally.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Declare that the Lord will bring our long term pains to an end.
2. Pray that the Lord will help the church to imbibe the necessary discipline which gets the church to be conveniently seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.
3. Declare that as many that will attend this year's convention will contact a fresh touch of grace and their lives will never remain the same.

4. Pray that the Lord will raise people from among us, who are passionate for mission and evangelism.
5. Pray that the Lord will establish His kingdom in the hearts of the pastors and other leaders of the church (Matthew 16:18).
6. Declare that this year's convention-in-session will mark a glorious new beginning for the Baptist church in Nigeria.
7. Pray that the Lord will greatly inspire the teachers of children in the convention, secular institutions, organisations etc. to do the work as unto God. Also pray that the anointing of the Holy Ghost will fall on children everywhere around the world.

**Day 31**  
**COVENANT OF FRUITFULNESS**  
*Psalm 92:14*

*They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.* Psalm 92:14, NIV

This psalm is a song of praise to the Lord for His love and faithfulness. It is an exhilarating celebration and affirmation of the love and faithfulness of God for His people. It describes God's perspective of the righteous, and the enviable package He has for them. God had said in the preceding verses that the righteous would both flourish and grow (vv 12-13). It is thus established in verse 14 that even in old age, there will be fruitfulness.

Sometimes, we estimate what God can do in our lives using the present realities; we are usually tempted to write off some possibilities. However, God is proving in His Word that nothing can undermine His works in the lives of His people. Even when all indicators are at variance with the reality on ground, God can still work. There can still be productivity, breakthroughs, and advancements, even when human potentials to achieve such are non-existent. Christ chose us to bear fruits (John 15:16) and nothing can stop that possibility, not even old age.

**Prayer Points**

1. Let us adore the God of all possibilities who is not limited in any way and by anything (Matthew 19:26).
2. Let us pray for renewed power, stamina and fresh vision for superlative productivity for convention leadership (Judges 6:14, Acts 1:8).
3. Let us ask God to break every yoke of unfruitfulness and delay in child bearing in the lives of every waiting mothers (Exodus 23:26).
4. Pray for the refreshing of the Holy Spirit for all convention leaders and Baptist ministers (Psalm 23:1-3).

5. Pray that God will grant renewed physical and spiritual strength for all the Nigerian Baptist Convention retirees (Psalm 40:31).
6. Ask God of all seasons to make everything beautiful in its time for every Baptist member (Ecclesiastes 3:11, Psalm 1:3).
7. Pray that every Baptist member will receive fresh grace to remain in Christ and bear much more fruit in Jesus' name (John. 15:16, Titus 2:10-11).
8. Pray that the God of heaven, the Helper of the helpless, will send help to all hapless aged parents in our midst (Psalm 71:9).

## **Day 32**

### **ACTIVATING THE COVENANT OF DIVINE PROTECTION**

*Psalm 121:8*

*“Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”* Psalm 121:8,  
NIV

This song of ascents is a pronouncement acknowledging God as the Helper of they that seek Him. The psalmist who must have experienced the protective arm of God in all situations and circumstances declared what is possible with God. According to this verse, God's protection is for all the time. It is not for some of the time, most of the time, nor for many times, but for all the time. It is a statement borne out of personal experience and conviction.

There are threats and insecurity everywhere, and people live in palpable fears of uncertainty; nobody really feels secure. Human lives are lost in numbers now and then, and valuable property are carted away or destroyed; large scale carnage has become the order of the day. Kidnappers and ritualists are having field days. Travelling from one place to another is now very dangerous. However, notwithstanding the prevalent insecurity in the land, there is the good news of assured protection for God's people.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Appreciate God who has been our shield, refuge and helper in ages past (Psalm 90:1).
2. Pray that God will stop the plagues of ritual killing, kidnapping, armed robbery, and every other means of bloodletting in Nigeria (Numbers 16:48, 2 Samuel 24:25).
3. Pray for the covenant of divine protection and immunity for all Baptist members (Psalm 91:10).
4. Pray for divine protection for all convention leaders as they travel across Nigeria and the world (Psalm 91:7).

5. Pray that the strong hand of the Lord will be stretched over Nigeria and defend the cause of the kingdom in the country (Psalm 89:13; 145:16).
6. Lord, we declare the awesome manifestation of Your power and presence over the hosting conferences, and that You will continue to be their confidence and cover. (Psalm 47:2; 68:35).
7. Pray that God will frustrate every enterprise of the wicked over every Baptist member (Job 5:12; Psalm 33:10).
8. Pray and authoritatively declare the covenant of life over all Baptist families in Nigeria and in diaspora (Isaiah 43:4).

### **Day 33**

### **CEASELESS PRAYING AND ENDLESS RESULTS**

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*“Pray Continually” 1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV*

This epistle was written in Corinth by Apostle Paul to the Christians in Thessalonica. He encouraged believers to constantly be in a prayerful state, frequently speaking to God in actual, dedicated prayer. It is a call unto Christian duty of prayer. A research found that out of approximately 667 recorded prayers in the Bible, there are about 454 recorded answers. This should encourage and motivate us to pray without ceasing. Engaging in unceasing, consistent prayers is one of the secrets to victorious Christian living.

Today, Christians still need to engage in unceasing prayers. The charge of Jesus *“that men ought always to pray and not give up”* (Luke 18:1), is much more applicable to believers today. Christians should not give room for apathy, discouragement, even when it seems the answer tarries. We need to pray unceasingly today to enable us remain committed to the Lord, and to continue to experience uninterrupted testimonies of victory on all sides.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the unfettered access, and confident assurance of His presence (Hebrews 4:16).
2. Pray that Baptist members will continue to have testimonies of God’s mercy, grace and help (Psalm 84:11; Isaiah 50:7).
3. Pray that the power and presence of God will remain manifest in all our theological institutions, as they are used of God to raise kingdom giants (Luke 5:17; 1 Samuel 18:13).
4. Pray that God will continue to grant our convention unceasing outstanding and astounding testimonies (Luke 19:13; Genesis 13:15).
5. Pray for courage, persistence, perseverance and strength to pray for all Baptist ministers, deacons, and other workers (Luke 18:1; James 5:18).

6. Pray for strength for weary hearts, weary hands and weak knees in all our churches (Hebrews 12:12; Isaiah 35:3).
7. Pray for the extraordinary outbreak of God's power for salvation, deliverance, healings, restoration at the convention-in-session (Luke 4:40; 7:21; Acts 2:41).
8. Pray that every Baptist member, deacon and minister will walk in unity of faith and spirit, for the growth of our convention (Psalm 133, Ephesians 4:1-3).

### **Day 34**

### **RAISING MEN OF PASSION FOR END TIME MISSION**

*Matthew 9:38*

*“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:38, NIV*

Christ's compassion for souls was expressed as He went about preaching, teaching, and ministering healing to multitudes of people with the ultimate goal of bringing souls into the kingdom of God. Jesus had heartfelt compassion for the weary, disillusioned and scattered multitudes who were in dire need. The multitudes that thronged to meet Jesus was a pointer that the harvest was ripe, and the urgency of having labourers sent to the harvest field.

Multitudes in the world today are still in dire need of Jesus, even after over two thousand years of His death on the cross. Many souls are as weary, disillusioned and scattered. The work of the church therefore should be that of reaching out to the world. The ripe fields of missions are beckoning on the church of Christ to come for the harvest. Labourers who will carry on the work of the gospel like Christ are still scarce today, hence the appropriateness of the prayer of Jesus. The church's response to soul winning and missions must be the answer to that prayer.

#### **Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the finished work of redemption that has made us believers in Christ today and qualified us as dependable vessels in His hands (John 19:30).
2. Pray that God will rekindle the passion for soul winning in all Baptist members/churches in Nigeria and in all Christians across the world (Isaiah 37:32; John 2:17; 1 Corinthians 9:16).
3. Pray that God will open all the closed doors of missions, especially in the hostile nations, that they may be partakers of the work of redemption (1 Corinthians 16:9; Isaiah 25:7).
4. Pray for power of life, vision, revelation and unction to function; pray for adequate preparation for the task ahead for all pastors in training as they are groomed for the kingdom business (Acts 26:19; John 4:35).
5. Pray that God will open the windows of heaven for the outpouring of His rain on our mission fields for harvest, and for abundant supply of resources for executing the Nigerian Baptist Convention Mission endeavours (Malachi 3:10; Deuteronomy 28:12).

6. Pray for divine protection, renewed strength for all missionaries, and that they will record bumper harvest of souls as they labour on the field (Luke 10:17).
7. Pray for the manifestation of God's power in all our pulpits with diverse healings, deliverances, salvation and edification of souls for kingdom growth (1 Kings 18:20-40).
8. Pray for clear-cut divine direction for all missions endeavours (Matthew 10:5-6).

**Day 35**  
**BELIEVERS AUTHORITY**  
*Mark 16:17*

*“And these signs will accompany those who believe; in my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”* Mark 16:17, NIV

This verse is one of Jesus' post-resurrection promises following His appearance to His disciples, as recorded by Mark. The promise was in preparing them for the task of Great Commission. Jesus charged the disciples to preach the gospel, *“which is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16). The promise reveals that whoever believes in response to the gospel will demonstrate Jesus' power for diverse miracles and wonders, and even speak with new tongues. All these are manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

The charge to go and preach the gospel of the kingdom and manifest the power of the Holy Spirit is ours to realise today. The world should see the demonstration of what God can do through the church as believers operate in the realities of kingdom power and authority. The power which redemption confers on everyone who believes is more than enormous. God has made us a people of power; it is now left for the church to manifest the power as the gospel is preached to the world.

**Prayer Points**

1. Thank God for the privilege to hear the gospel, believe in Christ and be saved through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).
2. Pray that all Baptist churches will operate in the power of the Holy Spirit as they put the preaching of the gospel on the front burner (Matthew 10:1; Acts 1:8).
3. Pray that the God of heaven will protect, provide for, and prosper all members of staff of Baptist Building and their families, and give them astounding testimonies (Jeremiah 31:14; Philippians 4:19).
4. Pray for fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit's power in all Baptist churches, leading to revivals, most especially among the youths, and that they be strengthened to stand for Christ in this perilous times (Psalm 110:3; Joel 2:28).
5. Pray that the power and presence of God will manifest in all Baptist Student Fellowships in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria (Acts 2:17).

6. Pray that God will give the passion, power and purpose geared towards the advancement of God's kingdom among all Baptist churches in Nigeria (2 Chronicles 14:7; Genesis 11:4-6).
7. Pray that God will prosper Baptist members financially, and with willingness of heart to give so that the Nigerian Baptist Convention will have sufficient means to execute the kingdom mandate (Exodus 36:5; 1 Chronicles. 29:9).
8. Pray that God will give utterances for all the speakers at the convention-in-session in Jesus' name (Jeremiah 1:9; Colossians 4:3).

### **Day 36**

#### **THE OVERFLOWING OIL**

*Psalm 23:5*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Psalm 23:5 NIV*

The entire Psalm 23 can be viewed as David's confidence in God and his confession of God's lordship over his life. Though he was vulnerable because he was helpless and defenseless as a sheep, the Almighty cares so much for him that he did not have to fret nor panic but comfortably sit to recline in the presence of his enemies. His enemies became tamed and incapacitated that they could not touch him for evil while he sat at the table prepared for him. The overflowing anointing worked for David to become untouchable.

In the Old Testament time, the anointing was symbolised by the oil which prophets were commanded to use (1 Samuel 16:13). David was anointed with oil, "*So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him (David)....*" However, in the New Testament and now, anointing comes upon the people of God through the Holy Spirit. David testified, "*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*" His anointing was never reckoned to be in the past, it is a daily occurrence. Like David experienced, you must experience daily fresh anointing that overflows. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will give you peace in the presence of your enemies and grace to enjoy the provisions made by the great Shepherd of your soul. May you receive a fresh and overflowing anointing now. Sing - "*Fill my cup Lord, I lift up Lord...*"

#### **Prayer Points**

1. I am set Lord, pour Your anointing in abundance upon me.
2. Release Your anointing upon all Baptist families that will silence the enemies.
3. Father, bring us to Your prepared table.
4. We receive unhindered access to divine provision.
5. We receive anointing to prosper in the presence of our enemies.
6. Refill every empty vessel during this year's convention-in-session, oh Lord.
7. The international delegates shall come safely and return with the overflow of the anointing.

8. Pray for the family of the Vice President Ministerial that the hand of the Lord will rest upon them in power. Declare God's blessings upon them.

### **Day 37**

## **WAITING ON GOD FOR THE LATTER GLORY**

*Haggai 2:2-9*

*“Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the LORD Almighty.” Haggai 2:3, 9 NIV*

God had fulfilled His promise of bringing back the exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem expecting them to rebuild the temple for His glory to return into the midst of His people. After the foundation of the new temple was laid by Zerubbabel, the governor in company of Joshua, the high priest, it was later abandoned due to apathy. The people then became more concerned about building their individual houses. The people were discouraged at the modest appearance of the new Temple as they started rebuilding it. God then assured them that the future glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house. He also assured them of His presence, His promise, and His power.

God's message through Prophet Haggai was a wake-up call. The people neglected God's house and hence suffered the consequences of not having God in their lives. It was not the physical building that was the issue. It was God's place in their lives. Without the Temple it would mean no proper worship. With no worship, it would mean God would be out of their minds and hearts. If the Israelites learned to value and treasure God's presence above everything else, then their circumstances could never discourage them. The presence of the Lord will make all the difference. To experience the latter glory, we must reposition ourselves and realign with God wherever we have derailed from His standard. For God, there is no better yesterday, His intention is always to reveal a new and better level of glory in His church.

### **Prayer Points**

1. We are ready Lord, show us where we have failed.
2. Forgive us for allowing Your glory to depart.
3. We receive a new heart to rebuild Your church.
4. Make us sensitive to witness a new glory.
5. Restore every derailed local Baptist church and leaders to Your glory.
6. Fill our local churches with Your glory.
7. Let your Shekinah glory fill the new International Baptist Conference Centre where the convention-in-session is holding.
8. Every widow and widower shall experience God's latter glory in Jesus' name.

## Day 38

### A SPECIAL DATE

*Acts 3:1-10*

*Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. Acts 3:6, 7 NIV*

The event recorded in today's passage is one of the most exciting manifestations of God's supernatural power by human beings. For both the apostles and the lame man at the temple gate called Beautiful, it was a special date. Why? Because it was a public demonstration of the power received by the apostles in Acts 2. A miracle was done in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom the Jews killed but God raised Him up. It was also a special date for a lame man who received wholeness. His limitation was turned to celebration and stagnation to acceleration. He ceased from being a burden to his caregiver to become a joy giver. Such is today in your life in Jesus' name.

A special date is a remarkable day based on an indelible encounter with God's power that brings about a turn around. Today shall become a special day for you. You shall encounter the power of God, you shall be lifted, jumping, celebrating and praising the Lord. The name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Lord, shall work for you and address your situation.

### Prayer Points

1. I declare today a special date in my life.
2. We declare today and every day of year 2020 convention a special date.
3. May the Lord cause the Baptist ministers to cherish what they have in Christ above "silver or gold."
4. Empower every minister like Peter to minister signs and wonders only in Your name.
5. Turn every bad condition (medical, financial, spiritual...) for good today.
6. Let there be a cause for joy and celebration during and after year 2020 convention.
7. May the Lord endue with power all staff and student pastors of Baptist theological institutions to demonstrate power like Peter.
8. Pray for the Vice President Administration and Human Resources and his family that God's grace shall continually speak for them. Bless them in the name of the Lord.

## Day 39

### THE SOUND OF ABUNDANCE OF RAIN

1 Kings 18:41-46

*And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came... 1 Kings 18:41, 45 NIV*

Oftentimes, sound precedes a rainfall. As the cloud of rain gathers, the sound may come from thunder, lightning or wind. In Samaria during the reign of King Ahab, there was a famine. There has not been any sound of rain for three and a half years as pronounced by Prophet Elijah. The rain ceased due to the wickedness of Ahab. He did *"more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him... married Jezebel... and began to serve Baal and worship him. He set up an altar for Baal... in Samaria... to arouse the anger of the LORD"* (1 Kings 16:30-33). Meanwhile, at the appointed time, Elijah appeared to announce the good news, assuring Ahab of an end to drought. God sent Elijah to tell the king that He will send rain (18:1). Elijah declared accordingly (18:41) and kept on praying on Mount Carmel till sound of rain turned into reality.

You may be hearing the sound of abundance of rain – divine release and fresh outpouring from God, but how would you turn it to reality and experience the actual rainfall? Remember, the prophets of Baal had to be wiped-off. Likewise, we must get rid of idols amidst us, return wholeheartedly to Yahweh, pray fervently like Elijah and be expectant of the sound that will turn to abundance of rain. Get set for this year's convention-in-session, you shall have abundant rain of blessings and fresh outpouring from heaven.

#### Prayer Points

1. Holy Spirit, consume everything that represents altar of Baal among us.
2. Father, we renounce everything that stands for the prophets of Baal among us, take them away.
3. We say no to empty prophetic declaration without visible possession.
4. Inspire Your servants to prophesy accurately during the convention-in-session.
5. Lord Jesus, turn every sound of abundance to the reality of abundance of rain.
6. Let the gathered cloud release peace upon our land, healing and comfort upon our impoverished souls.
7. Let AABF, BWA and other Baptist unions receive abundant outpour of Your Spirit, Lord.

## Day 40

### THE VICTOR'S SONG

1 Samuel 2:1-2

*Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:1-2, NIV*

God has been faithful in giving us strength to seek His face through fasting and prayer. We have engaged in the spiritual warfare and have come out so strong and victorious like Hannah. No doubt, Hannah's interaction with Peninnah was a battle. Peninnah was Hannah's rival who kept on provoking her till she wept and would not eat (1 Samuel 1:6, 7). Hannah was usually made sad until she prayed through at Shiloh. She kept losing the battle yearly to her rival at home but conquered at Shiloh in a particular year. In victory, Hannah became a song composer, a once sad woman started rejoicing and her mouth boasts over her enemies.

Many battles have already been won in the cause of our fasting and prayer. As you make up your mind to participate in this year's convention-in-session, whether through physical presence or connecting through the New Frontiers Television, many other battles are set to be won. You are coming to sing as victors because we are serving a living God who is holy, incomparable and our rock of salvation. When the battle was raging, Peninnah was the one boasting but when victory comes, power changes hand. Hannah rejoices and boasts over her enemy. She who laughs last laughs best. You shall laugh in victory and sing for joy over your enemies. You can sing Hannah's song in verse 2, *"There is none holy as the LORD, there is none beside Him, neither is there any rock like our God, there is none holy as the LORD."*

#### Prayer Points

1. Mighty Father, we thank You for being our strength in battle.
2. Thank You Lord for turning our groaning to joy.
3. Holy Father, fill our hearts with songs of victory.
4. We declare every battle that refused to be won at home to be completely won on the convention ground.
5. Everyone in Hannah's situation will return home and come back next year with Hannah's testimony.
6. No good thing shall be denied anybody at the convention in Jesus' name.
7. Victory, Victory, Halleluiah... Jesus conquered the devil patapata (sing it).