



# THE Voice of Hope

## The Springs of Hope Christian Ministries

Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. Zech 9:12

### MONTHLY PROPHETIC PRAYER

#### POWER-POINTS:

1. By the grace of God I declare that every deferred promise of God in my life come to pass (Proverbs 13: 12)
2. May the grace of God bring a divine visitation to every pending promise of God for my destiny and family (Genesis 21: 1-3; Nehemiah 9: 8)
3. Today I declare that by the grace of God I will fulfill my days and years in the land of the living (Exodus 23: 26)
4. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray that none of the spoken word of promise over my life and destiny will fall to the ground (1 Samuel 3: 19; 1 Kings 8: 56)
5. Today I reject every evil prophecy over my destiny and family (Genesis 37: 20; Lamentation 3: 27)
6. In the name of Jesus Christ I declare that every prolonged word of promise over my life shall graciously come to pass (Joshua 21: 45; Psalm 105: 19)
7. Today I also promise by God's grace to fulfill all my vows to the God of Hope in appreciation of His gracious goodness in my life and family (Psalm 22: 5; Proverbs 7: 14; Ecclesiastes 5: 5)

#### CONCLUSION

And the angel answered and said to Zechariah, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." (Luke 1: 19-20)

### Pastor's Corner

I once again welcome you into the New Year 2016, God's Year for Our LIMITLESS GRACE. Amazingly, this New Month of February is our God's Month of Divine Fulfillment. The Greek word, teleiōsis, means, fulfillment, accomplishment, perfecting, bring to pass, completing, performance or consummation of a promise by the promised maker and keeper. As we all know that the God of Hope is both the promise Maker and Keeper and He is more than able to bring every promise to pass in our life. God is never a liar (Numbers 23: 19). I pray that in this new month, every long-awaited and long delayed promise of God in your life shall come to a gracious fulfillment. Amen.

### Why You Should Not Despair When God is Silent.

by Jeremiah J. Johnston

#### Introduction:

If you are experiencing the silence of God, do not believe the lie that you are a second-tier, second-rate Christian. In reality, it is possible, even probable, that it means quite the opposite. God has entrusted you with His apparent silence for a greater reason. Trust is the central issue that needs your focus. Will you trust God to straighten out this mess in your life? Will you trust God to see you through the desert? Will you trust God, even when He says no or wait or not now? The Bible is a time machine, a portal to the historical past, providing access to examples of common men and women transcending extremely difficult moments with profound courage and faith. As we search the Scriptures for answers to the unanswered questions, we must remember the Bible is history, not mythology. The stories of the Bible exhibit verisimilitude with the reality of the world in which the stories take place. In Latin veritas (root is ver, meaning "veracity, verifiable") means genuine or true; similitude means similar or likeness. Therefore, as historians and biblical scholars, when we say the New Testament exhibits verisimilitude with the first century, we are noting that the contents of the biblical narrative correspond with what we know of the era the document describes.



### Prophetic Focus

"Blessed is she or he who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her or him from the Lord." (LUKE 1: 45)

### REVELATIONAL INSIGHT:

#### CAN YOU SLEEP WHILE THE WIND BLOWS?

We secure ourselves against the storms of life by soaking ourselves with the Word of God, being obedient to it and then placing our faith and trust in God's goodness. We don't need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the midst of our storms. (Brother Andrew)

#### Testimony

The God of Hope, whom we serve has done it again. He promised that "He will give His angels charge over us, so that we don't dash our feet against a stone" This scripture came to pass in the life of one of our sisters, who testified on how God supernatural delivered her from a fall at work, that would have left her with broken bones if not death. But God in His infinite mercy spared her life and did not allow any of her bones to be broken. And for this wonderful testimony in our midst, we declare with a loud voice  
- MAY HIS NAME BE PRAISED FOREVER MORE!  
Amen!!

#### Worship Hours

House of Judah  
Sunday Worship - 10AM  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7PM  
Friday Hour of Victory - 7PM

#### Church Mission Statement

To build a multiethnic Christian Church with a passion for Jesus Christ and compassion for the world.

#### Church Core Values

+ Reaching out with the message of Power, Hope & Glory.

#### Church Vision

- + To proclaim Jesus Christ as the hope of the world through evangelism, worship, preaching, teaching, and humanitarian services to the people of all races and colors.
- + To train and ordain God's people for the manifold ministries of Jesus Christ worldwide. + To raise altars of prayer for God in every member household.
- + To establish schools, hospitals, medical centers, and orphanage at home and abroad.
- + To plant churches home and abroad for the purpose of making disciples of all nations.

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### Meet our Pastors General Overseer

Pastor (Dr.) Lawrence A. Lasisi

Senior Pastor

Pastor Mrs. Grace A. Lasisi

Branch Pastor

South Jersey - House of Miracles

Pastor Akin Obafemi

Houston - House of Power

Pastor Israel Akinpelu

San Diego - House of Mercy

Brother Olu Babatunde

Fontana - House of Hope

Pastor Mberi Ndukwe

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February 2016

Middle of the Month Prayer  
and Daniel Fasting  
Saturday January 2nd by 4pm

Last Friday Night Vigil  
of Hope and Power

#### No Weapon Prayer Summit

Friday March 4th to Sunday 6th, 2016.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

That the Holy Bible is divinely inspired by God, and is infallible, trustworthy and dependable, and authoritative in all matters of faith and conduct.

That there is only one God, who is eternally existed in three distinctive persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That Jesus Christ our Lord is God manifest- ed in the human flesh to take away our sins and hopelessness by his voluntary suffering, death and physical resur- rection.

That salvation of all humanity is only through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our only Hope in the world of hopelessness.

That the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ to live a holy life, to witness about Christ to the lost and to be anointed to be victorious in every sphere of life.

That the church is made up of those who have genuinely accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

That healing of various kinds is integral part of the redemp- tive work of Jesus Christ. Wa- ter baptism and the Lords Supper are au- thentic ordinances of the church.

That there is Satan and its demonic co- workers, whose work is to thwart and frus- trate the purpose of God on earth, but their final end is the hell fire.

That there shall be a bodily resur- rection of the dead in Christ to heaven, and of the un- repentant sinners to hell fire.

That there will be visible immi- nent return of Jesus Christ to take home true believers in God.

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In other words, the Bible finds its place in the ongoing cut and thrust of history and there is tremendous overlap when one compares the sacred Judeo-Christian manuscripts with other extant documents, inscriptions, and archeological findings from antiquity. We can have an abundance of confidence that the Bible speaks of real people in real places, with real ceremonial and cultural customs, who are trusting God through the vicissitudes of life. Accordingly, have you considered that God's silence is biblical? It is usually a surprise to the casual reader of the Bible that several of the major Bible characters faced moments of deafening silence from God.

Abram and his family endured not one but two distinct periods of God's silence. When we encounter Abram and Sarai in the early pages of God's story they are quite ordinary. Even so, against all odds, they are able to exhibit faith in God with reckless abandon. After all, Abram, along with this family, trusted in this personal God, Yahweh ("I Am"), which means the self-existent One, and relocated to a new region called Canaan. If you read too quickly through Genesis 11:27–12:4, you will miss the fact that when Abram responded to God's call on his life, he left behind his heritage, his rightful land, his extended family, and all of his eventual inheritance to follow Yahweh 1,500 miles (2,400 km) from Ur (modern-day Iraq), through Haran (modern-day Syria), to Canaan (modern-day Israel). At his defense before the Sanhedrin, Stephen said, "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you'" (Acts 7:2–3). Hundreds of miles from their cultural home, Abram and Sarai found themselves in a foreign land, aging and childless.

Not only is God's silence biblical, it is also personal. How is that? God's silence is personal because it can be the agent of our transformation. In Genesis 12, Abram ("great father") was a pagan, he was seventy-five years old when God asked him to leave everything he knew to follow Him. God promised Abram, "I will make of you a great nation" (Genesis 12:2). For many Christians it is not difficult to identify with the experience of God's silence. While it might not be the issue of infertility, you can probably point to a time in your life when you wondered if God had forgotten you.

Imagine you were in Abram or Sarai's place. Ten years had passed since God's promise that your descendants would become a great nation, in Genesis 12:2. For many years, God had been silent regarding how and when His covenant with you would be fulfilled. Suddenly, God appears to you (see Genesis 15:1–6) and you find yourself standing outside, gazing at the night sky unobstructed by today's city glare as the Lord compares your future and immeasurable offspring with the innumerable stars of the sky. As with many other characters in the Bible, and probably with us today, clarity came only in hindsight for Abram and Sarai. In the midst of those years of silence, even a man of great faith such as Abram struggled with God's way and timing. He even struggled with the lack of God's presence! He worried. He looked elsewhere for answers.

Abram was looking for answers to his uncertainties, but the Lord wanted him to look up. God's dynamic and starry sermon illustration provided a vision for what

He planned to do through Abram's example of trust and obedience. Yet when God finally spoke, with this promise beautifully illustrated by the stars in the heavens, Abram "believed in the Lord" (Genesis 15:6). Here we see that even after ten years of God's silence, and having absolutely nothing to show for it, Abram cast himself on the un-failing chesed (Hebrew word translated most often as "lovingkindness" or "grace") love of God. Abram trusted in God's covenant faithfulness and he decided, against all odds, to trust in God's character. Abram affirmed his trust in God's covenant faithfulness and was declared righteous. His faith ('ā-mān)—which in Hebrew means "to be convinced, have confidence, to trust," very similar to our Englishmen—is cited again and again in the New Testament as the doctrine of imputed righteousness. (See, for instance, Romans 4:3, 9, 33; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23.)

Fast-forward to Genesis 17, Abram is now ninety-nine years old (he was seventy-five when God initially promised his progeny), twenty-four years after promising Abram a son, and thirteen years after confirming His covenant. God changes Abram's name to Abraham ("father of multitudes"). Therefore, Abraham's transformation occurred in the midst of God's silence, because he had cast himself unreservedly on the character of El Shaddai—God Almighty. (Genesis 17:1, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty.'") Thankfully the story does not end there. When we study the narratives of the Bible, we must remember that these are not fairy tales. These characters in the Bible are not super heroes or robots. They were normal people, like you and me. One of the most relevant and rewarding aspects of studying the Bible is that the central characters and narratives are so approachable. We can read our stories into the biblical epic as though we were present, watching the scenes as they unfolded, taking hold of timeless principles and examples of faith. What would your response be to God after twenty-four years of silence? After sixteen verses of God proclaiming His



might and power (see Genesis 17:1–16), Abraham responds in a most human way: he laughed in God's face. Abraham's name has been changed yet his immediate reaction was to laugh at God (see Genesis 17:17–18), which was an expression of disbelief and doubt.

Guess what? God has a sense of humor, too. God said in Genesis 17:19 that Abraham shall name his son Isaac ("laughter") so that each time Abraham calls for his son, he will always be reminded that God transcended his momentary doubts and kept His covenant promise. No wonder God asked a third person a question of Himself: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14). Perhaps you have laughed in disbelief at God's apparent absence in your life. It may be that you identify with the father in Mark 9, a believer who struggled with a chronically-ill son, who said to Jesus, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). In this case, Jesus did not berate the father for his believing unbelief! Jesus healed his child and we learn a dynamic lesson: some of the most faithful believers struggle with moments of intense doubt as a result of the adversities in life.

Not only is God's silence real, biblical and personal, it is also common. Consider Joseph's experience with the silence of God. Joseph was obedient to God; he trusted, obeyed, followed, and ended up in a foreign land, Egypt, a teenage victim, sold in a human trafficking transaction (see Genesis 37:1–36) to become a slave in Potiphar's house. Joseph was wrongly accused and Potiphar had Joseph thrown in an Egyptian prison. (See Genesis 39:1–23.) Many overlook the description in Psalm 105:17–19: "...Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with shackles; his neck was put in an iron collar. Until the time his prediction came true, the word of the Lord tested him" (hcsb).

Genesis 40 concludes by saying Joseph was forgotten in prison. God's silence. The meta-narrative was that God did not want Joseph to remain in the land of Canaan, where his family would have most likely died from famine. God did not want Joseph as a slave in Potiphar's house, either. God wanted Joseph to be Pharaoh's prisoner. Why? Because God wanted to favor him in the eyes of Pharaoh. God's silence was a test. Joseph's transformation to becoming the second-most powerful man in Egypt happened through God's silence. Therefore, God's silence can lead to our transformation. The faithful Old Testament prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel all experienced God's silence. God's silence is biblical, personal, common, and not always a bad thing.

So here is the key application: when the silence is real in your life you must recognize that you are not alone in the stillness. In fact, you are in good company. A right biblical framework will cause you to think rightly about your experiences. What is it about human nature that we constantly doubt ourselves? When you realize that Abraham, Joseph, and many of the great prophets all persevered and were eventually promoted through God's silence, we remember we are not alone. First Peter 4:12–13 says, "Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you. Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory" (HCSB).

## 2016 Watchword

God's Year For Our Limitless Grace!

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU FOR MY POWER IS MADE COMPLETE IN YOUR WEAKNESSES AND CHALLENGES."

2 CORINTHIANS 12: 12: 9

Shalom