

## **2023 For The Reunion Church**

### **Fully Equipping**

During my prayer and quiet time over the last two months of 2022, the Lord began to “Holy Spirit download” a vision template of 2023 for the Reunion Church. This template came with both clarity and confirmation from within and without. Meaning simply that God used ***visible signs, trusted relationships, solid foundations from the past***, and most importantly an expanded understanding of the ***sudden impact of the living and written Word of God***.

***My first steps were to bring this 2023 Holy Spirit Download to our Elders for agreement and unity, next steps were to the Reunion Church Leadership to unpack, process, pray, and plan. Final steps were taken here with you where in real-time we are hearing the word of the Lord and seeking to unite as the body of Christ, community of Christ, and household of faith.***

***The Visible Signs*** came from watching and hearing (eyes to see - ears to hear) the global movement towards Biblical teaching, apostolic traditions, discipleship training; and the call of God to Christian leaders from nation to nation to rise and respond to the

Holy Spirit's pull and engagement of people everywhere with God's Word. This Spirit-led movement is gaining momentum day by day, and does not need the devices and strategies of men to reach it's purposed outcome. This movement is not detoured or diminished by cultural, governmental, or systemic opposition. God is at work - the visible signs are everywhere.

***Trusted Relationships*** that God has protected, nurtured, and used in my life for years were all sensing and experiencing the same Spirit-driven downloads. Many had already begun converging around what the Spirit was revealing and were actively using their leadership and influence to rise and respond. When God speaks His leaders and influencers should listen. When God is speaking the same thing at the same time to the same people He is unifying, confirming, and revealing Himself for the unstoppable, unmovable, and non-negotiable *purposes of His kingdom*.

What I heard over and over again from those trusted relationships was this; ***Ninety-five percent of Christian pastors, teachers, and leaders around the world have no formal Biblical education or training. We must rise and respond to teach, equip, disciple, and train these Christian leaders and influencers with the ordered, authoritative, inspired, and eternal Word of***

***God; using reliable and time-tested Biblical principles, sound and steadfast Biblical doctrines, accurate and contextual Biblical interpretation, and finally, communicating a right and righteous Biblical theology. All this for the purpose making disciples, equipping the saints, and making ready for the Kingdom of Heaven.***

***Solid Foundations*** are usable over and over again because they are of course solid foundations. Christ the Word is the cornerstone of the one true foundation - and all other ground is indeed sinking sand. Whatever is being built in the name of Christ, His Church, today or in the future, must be built upon that one true foundation that will forever remain the same - from the ancient of days and the altars of the past until His Kingdom come and will be done. This remains the one true foundation used today, and forever. As Christ builds His Church and we advance the Kingdom of God, we also continue to uncover and discover the foundations of biblical faith, sound doctrine, eternal truth, and Godly wisdom.

These solid foundations will remain long after the buildings and monuments of men are abandoned or torn down. The days of mis-contextualizing Scripture and using a cut and paste theology to monetize, mis-lead, and fleece the body of Christ are over.

There is no freedom in Christ, until Christ the Truth is fully known.

***“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”***

In seeking to confirm and affirm what God was downloading into my heart, mind, and spirit, I understood that whatever it was I thought God was saying - it must first be soundly structured and faithfully consistent to that one true foundation which is Yeshua - Christ Jesus. In Him all things consist.

Ephesians 2:18-22

**For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit**

***The Sudden Impact of the Living and Written Word of God*** is upon us. The world has watched, as Godless governments fully controlled by the wealth and power of globalized Big-Tech,

Logistic Supply-Chain, and Human Traffic networks race-bait, suppress, legislate, enslave, marginalize and neutralize seven billion human souls. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear we are witnessing the sudden impact of the living and written word of God on a world of desperate desperation.

Many believe, but will not say out loud that we are headed for an unprecedented apocalyptic global event or events. Ironically, 2,500 to 3,000 years ago Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, and Joel the great ancient Hebrew prophets received Messianic and end-times revelations and warnings of what we are experiencing presently in real-time. It was six hundred years before the incarnate Christ the Messiah, when the prophet Daniel received a series of cryptic and apocalyptic *ruach ha-kodesh* (divine inspirations and revelations).

The sudden impact from the fulfillment of these and many other ancient prophecies is profound and world altering. Millions are seeking the hope, revelation, redemption, and wisdom provided through the living and written Word - the Bible. Millions around the world are being drawn and pulled into the inspiration, order, and authority of Scripture; only to experience the sudden impact on their mind, body, and spirit as the transformational Spirit of Truth reveals all truth to those who seek.

The Reunion Church now rises and responds by using the very call to equip that God has given us by teaching, preaching, and discipling the living and written Word of God to our community and beyond. 2023, is the time for the Reunion Church to go beyond. Beyond our walls, beyond ourselves, to the people of every nation. We move beyond by using every righteous means possible, to every post and out-post possible, to every child and adult possible. The sudden impact of the living and written Word of God is reality.

Hebrews 4:12-13

**See, the Word of God is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword—it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart. Before God, nothing created is hidden, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.**

**TCJB**

**This is a text sent to a long time friend and fellow pastor just before Christmas 2022.**

We believe God's plan for the new year will bring a move of His Spirit around the world that will draw leaders of faith into unity and advance against evil and the great deception that comes with it. It will be shocking to some, and the answer needed for others. At Reunion, we are strongly sensing our continuing role to engage our community in Biblical understanding and in training pastors and equipping Christian leaders for ministry and kingdom harvest. Like thousands of others, we are intent on being part of whatever our Lord has planned and purposed in this world and in this season! Love you Gary, thank you for your precious friendship and encouragement!!

**1.22.23**

**Week One - Casting a Deeper and Wider Net**

Luke 5:1-11

**On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had**

**taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.**

### **Inductive Conclusions to Casting a Deeper and Wider Net**

- Jesus gets into Simon Peter's boat and asks him to push out a little from shore and then begins to teach the people. [verse 3]
- When Jesus has finished teaching He asks Peter to take his boat out to the deep water and let down their fishing nets to bring in a catch. [verse 4]
- Peter replies, “Master, we fished the entire night and caught nothing! But because you have said it, I will let down the nets again.” [verse 5]
- Peter and whoever is in the boat with him drop the nets into the water. Because of the depth of the water the nets can be lowered deeper and expanded wider. [verse 6]

- The net became so full of fish it was about to break and Peter must call for help from the other boat. Both boats haul in so many fish that they surpass the capable capacity. [verse 7]
- The catch is so powerful and humbling that Peter kneels and bows his face before Jesus. The call and mission of Jesus is given and Peter, James and John follow Jesus to fish for men. [verses 8-11]

## **Rise and Response to God's Call to Cast a Deeper and Wider Net**

- There is a calling from God on us all to serve the mission with the message of Christ - we must rise and respond.
- There is great value and reward to serving and equipping the community of Christ here at Reunion. This is the place and the people to whom we are all called - we must continue to faithfully rise and respond.
- There is also great value and reward to seeing and hearing as the deep calls to the deep. The call is to go beyond the shoreline out into the deep waters and drop a deeper and wider net of serving and equipping. We must rise and respond.

- Rising is the first step of faith. Responding with a step of faith leads us to the righteous steps of obedience. *The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.* Reunion - we must rise and respond.

## **Contextualizing and Personalizing Luke 5:1-11**

### **(What it Means Now)**

- ***Rise in Obedience to the call of Christ***
- ***Respond in to the Call of Christ***
- ***Push Away from the Shoreline the Deep Calls to the Deep***
- ***Drop our Nets Deeper and Cast or Nets Wider***

**1.29.23**

**Week Two - 2023 for The Reunion Church**

**Enlarging the Tents and Stretching Out the Curtains**

Isaiah 54:1-3

**Sing, barren woman who has never had a child! Burst into song, shout for joy, you who have never been in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the woman who is living with her husband,” says ADONAI (The Lord Jehovah). 2 Enlarge the space for your tent, extend the curtains of your dwelling; do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your tent pegs. 3 For you will spread out to the right and the left, your descendants will possess the nations and inhabit the desolated cities. (TCJB)**

**A Historical and Biblical Context of Isaiah 54:1-3 (What it Meant Then)**

**[Verse 1] Sing, barren woman who has never had a child! Burst into song, shout for joy, you who have never been in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the**

**woman who is living with her husband,” says ADONAI (The Lord Jehovah).**

God is speaking to Jerusalem and her people through the voice of the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah 49:14–26, the prophet referred to Jerusalem as a childless woman, because her children had been taken away into exile. Here in 54:1-3, the metaphor has changed. Jerusalem is described as childless woman not because she has never had any children, but because her womb has become barren and her relationship with God/Yaweh (her husband), has been troubled and filled with rebellion and infidelity. However, the message from God is that things are about to change for her (Jerusalem). God instructs the prophet to exhort... *Jerusalem, you are like a woman who has never had children—but now shout with joy! You are like a woman who has never gone through the pains of childbirth—but now sing aloud!”*

After not bearing any children, she will bear so many children that the city will soon become so crowded that it will not be large enough to contain its abundant and multiplied offspring. This figurative language signifies that the abandoned city of Jerusalem will have a rapidly expanding population. So God instructs Isaiah to exhort barren Jerusalem to *sing for joy*, to *shout with a resounding yell* because a divine transformation of her (Jerusalem) situation will take place in the future. This

transformation will be staggering, a miraculous change, and a marvelous act of God. Now, even before the promise is fulfilled, the prophet encourages Jerusalem to respond in faith and in anticipation of God's great and loving actions. She can rejoice because of what God will do. Since this is such a dramatic reversal of present reality, at the end of this verse God assures the audience that what is promised in this communication is indeed what God has said.

**[Verse 2] Enlarge the space for your tent, extend the curtains of your dwelling; do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your tent pegs.**

In order to visualize this transformation in family terms that everyone in the ancient Near Eastern world would understand, God exhorts Jerusalem with **five imperative verbs**.

**One - Enlarge the space for your tent.**

**Two - Stretch out your curtains.**

**[Note]** In the ancient middle-eastern world this was common practice when a family had more children or when a man added more staff and servants. If a family wanted to expand their living space all they had to do was enlarge the support structure, sew additional goatskins together to make the roof larger and then add a curtain or two for

privacy (side panels). The initial imperatives encourage the listener to be optimistic in the expansion of the tent. “Make it wide” and “stretch it out” encourage the woman to not be shortsighted or pessimistic about how many children will be added and how much space will be needed. She is not to hold back her imagination in **dreaming just how big the tent might need to be.**

**Three - Do not hold back.**

**Four - Lengthen your ropes.**

**Five - Strengthen your tent stakes.**

**Expanding in this way requires that** additional stakes be driven into the ground to hold up the new addition to the tent and since the tent support structure is now broader the ropes/cords that are used to tie down the tent have to be stronger to withstand the additional wind pressure on the surface and expanse of the tent. These final prophetic instructions from Isaiah encourage people to believe that God has a significant purpose and plan for the expansion. This needs to be a strong tent that will last and not be destroyed by any external force or internal conflict or resistance. This imagery should not be allegorically interpreted as the pegs or stakes are only the prophets and apostles; instead, the general imagery of expanding a tent should be inclusively

applied to the picture of preparing for a rapid expansion of additional people in Jerusalem/Zion.

**[Verse 3] For you will spread out to the right and the left, your descendants will possess the nations and inhabit the desolated cities.**

The tent metaphor is more descriptively explained in this verse as *a place for an increasing number of descendants to live*. They will “spread out” far and wide in all directions in fulfillment of God’s ancient promise to the patriarchs in Genesis 28:14. In that covenant promise God told Jacob that his seed would spread out to the east, north, and south. The phrase *“to the right and to the left”* in Isaiah 54:3 is a similar expression that means that the children of Israel will live in the greatly expanded city of Jerusalem, which will explode “in all directions.” There will be so many children that they will end up taking possession of property in other nations. Although this might suggest to some that there will be wars in which the Israelites will defeat and dispossess people living in other nations, there is no reference to war in this verse. It is probably better to understand this passage to be describing the peaceful settlement of these additional believers in abandoned cities where no one lives. These images depict an explosive expansion of the people of God, thus assuring the prophet’s audience that God cares for them. There is no claim

that the Israelites will live in any other specific nation, but if Egyptians, Assyrians, and people from many other nations become believers when God sets up his kingdom, one can understand how the people of God will exponentially increase beyond anything that one can imagine. Barrenness and hopelessness will not be a problem, for there will be so many people that there will be no place to put them all.

### **Contextualizing and Personalizing Isaiah 54:1-3**

#### **(What it Means Now)**

- **Enlarge the Place of your Tent Reunion Church / Steve Isaac**
- **Stretch out the Curtains of your Dwelling Reunion Church / Steve Isaac**
- **Don't Hold Back Reunion Church / Steve Isaac**
- **Lengthen your Cords Reunion Church / Steve Isaac**
- **Strengthen your Stakes Reunion Church / Steve Isaac**

#### **Final Thought**

Translators need to be very careful if they decide to replace the tent imagery Isaiah with other figures of speech, or to spell out each time what the imagery represents. If translators abandon

the tent metaphor here, you run the risk of the minimizing the command of God thereby marginalizing faith, limiting vision, and doubting the promises and purposes of God. The command is not to build higher walls - the command is to expand and push the walls out further, wider, deeper - beyond. Beyond what we can control and micro-manage. We need to fully hear something from God today.

**God is not simply in control. God is in command, God is in charge, and in Christ He has placed an order and authority over all things. But, control is not what He wants. No, He wants something better and more valuable, something more powerful and meaningful for us and His Kingdom. He calls us to surrender *our control, submit to His plans and purpose, and He will take you and I to places and people we have never dreamed possible.***

God is saying to The Reunion Church; *“Enlarge [the area of] your house! Move your walls further out and do not hold back; extend your foundations and make them stronger.”*

**SING and Shout Out for Joy Reunion!**

## **2.5.23**

### **Week Three - 2023 for The Reunion Church**

#### **Living in the 521**

Matthew 25:14-30

**For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His**

master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### **Asking the Right Questions about the 521**

*What are we doing with what we have been given?*

*Are we giving life to others, or are we squeezing that life out of them?*

*Are we maximizing and multiplying our time, talent and treasure?*

*What is our plan for using what God has given to us for leading growth, equipping believers, and enriching the lives of others?*

We continue **2023 for The Reunion Church**, by answering these type questions with what we at Reunion have historically called *Living in the 521*. The answer to these question helps us to clarify and confirm what God is calling us to do as it directly relates to what He is doing in the world in 2023.

***Living in the 521***, is based on the parable of Jesus in Matthew's gospel chapter twenty-five. The Master gives talents (5, 2, and 1) to three different servants each according to their skill and ability – and then he goes away. His return, response, and expectations are uniquely significant, and entirely relevant to us in real time as we look forward to 2023 for the Reunion Church.

Among the many messages and overriding truths in this parable, there should be an understanding that the mere possession of the talents given to the servants by the master is not evidence of

approval or salvation. We are servants of the Lord and His kingdom. In this life there are many pleasures, rewards, and fulfillments - sometimes justified sometimes not so much. However, in a biblical context as we follow Christ (the Master) we must understand that we do not all, and we do not always get the reward, recognition, and the affirmation that so many seem to need in order to move forward and finish the journey they have begun. This does not mean that we are not loved by God - we are loved. And, because we are loved by God, we know that we are to faithfully do something meaningful with what He has graciously given - using our time, talent, and treasure.

We walk by faith and obedience to our Lord, regardless of life recognitions, circumstances, successes, failures, accomplishment or adversity. Yes, His Word has promised the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, the assurance of our sustainability through His continued presence and unending love, and the path to overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. But remember Jesus gave a clear warning that in this world we would have trouble, and here in this life – everyone doesn't get a trophy (except in youth sports), only a few actually achieve genuine greatness, and the truth isn't always what I decide it to be. None of these circumstantial obstacles override the righteous expectation that comes with our faith.

Faith in God comes not only with His unending love for us, but also the opportunity to then show our love for Him. If we are faithful in this mutual expectation and belief, then God has promised to not only acknowledge, but to bless our faithfulness to Him.

The biblical principle insisting that we have all been given some type or kind of gifts in this life (in the context of the parable of the talents), is not a groundbreaking revelation. But the 521 parable is significant nonetheless, and is extremely helpful in unpacking the human reality that not everyone uses the talents and gifts from the master to quickly value and multiply those same gifts. We can multiply what we have been given by simply serving others with something of value - by investing in them, what has been invested in us.

It is interesting that the approval and salvation we often seek in this life is uniquely and intentionally attached to growing and multiplying that gift in and through encouragement, service and leadership of others. And within that reality lies the message and the mission of the parable of the 521.

Hardly any parable has any more intrigue than Jesus' parable of the talents. We believe that there is a breath of new life in this

parable, and that its message and mission are for us individually as leaders, and 2023 for the Reunion Church. Join me, in a quick look at *Living in the 521*.

## **521 Context and Conclusions**

- The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 is the sixth and final illustration that Jesus used to relate to being prepared for the second advent (coming). Jesus prioritizes our readiness for His return.
- The context of **the 521** is not about a master who takes his servants from earth to heaven, but rather a master who returns to the scene on earth and judges his servants on what they have done with what He has given them to prepare for His return.
- The 521 introduces us to the biblical principle that good stewardship is always connected to faithfulness. It is not always how much, but always how faithful. God blesses faithful.
- The 521 story does not direct its message to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, like in the parable of the ten virgins - but rather deals with the expectation and judgment of works as they relate to loving and faithful service as the fruit (evidence) of right relationship with Jesus.

- The 521 parable uses the example of ‘money management and stewardship’ to illustrate the reward and the return on faithfulness.
- In the 521 Jesus emphasizes **Four Keys to Faithfulness**:

**Belief** - If the Word of God gives us instruction, we should trust that He is good, and believe that He has begun a good work in us.

[verse 14] *For it will be like a man going on a journey, who **called his servants and entrusted to them his property.***

**Expectation** - God does not have unrealistic expectations of us - but He does have righteous expectations. Maximize every opportunity to do good for the Master.

[verse 15] *To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, **to each according to his ability.** Then he went away.*

**Response** - Our first response to God is most often our best response - our second one is either too late or too comfortable. Respond in faith - it is impossible to please God without it.

[verse 16] *He who had received the five talents **went at once** and traded with them, and he made five talents more.*

**Reward** - God blesses *faith* in the moment, God blesses *faithful* by the intent and the character of our heart, and God blesses *faithfulness* in all things all the time.

[verse 21] *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been **faithful over a little; I will set you over much.** Enter into the joy of your master.'*

- The 521 brings a context and conclusion to the emphasis of Jesus towards readiness for that which is to come. Context - Every believer in Christ should be ready. Conclusion - Stay ready never have to get ready. Fully Equip.

## **The Biblical Theology of Living in the 521**

[Romans 12:6-11]

**But we have a variety of gifts, according to the grace that is given us; one has prophecy according to the measure of his faith, and one has ministry in his service, and one has that of a teacher in his instruction. One has that of a comforter, which is in his comforting, and a giver in generosity, and a top leader with diligence, and that of caregiver with cheerfulness. And be not deceitful in your love, but hate evil and cleave to the good. Be affectionate to your brethren and love one another; be preferring and honoring one another. Be diligent and do not be lazy; be enthusiastic in spirit; be working for your Lord.**

[1 Peter 4:10-11]

**And let each one of you serve his neighbor with the gift he has received from God, as good stewards of the unique grace of God. Everyone who speaks, let him speak according to the word of God, and everyone who ministers, according to what power God gives to him, that God may be glorified in all that you do, by Yeshua The Messiah, whose glory and honor is truly to the eternity of eternities.**

## **Contextualizing and Personalizing Matthew 25:14-20**

### **(What it Means Now)**

- *What are we doing with what we have been given?*
- *Are we giving life to others, or are we squeezing that life out of them?*
- *Are we maximizing and multiplying our time, talent and treasure?*
- *What is our plan for using what God has given to us for leading growth, equipping believers, and enriching the lives of others?*

**2.12.23**

## **2023 for the Reunion Church Fully Equipping - Implementing God's Plans**

During my prayer and quiet time over the last two months of 2022, the Lord began to “Holy Spirit download” a vision template of 2023 for the Reunion Church. This template came with both clarity and confirmation from within and without. Meaning simply that God used ***visible signs, trusted relationships, solid foundations from the past***, and most importantly an expanded understanding of the ***sudden impact of the living and written Word of God***.

***My first steps were to bring this 2023 Holy Spirit Download to our Elders for agreement and unity, next steps were to the Reunion Church Leadership to unpack, process, pray, and plan. Final steps were taken here with you where in real-time we are hearing the word of the Lord and seeking to unite as the body of Christ, community of Christ, and household of faith.***

**Our Process Together has been...**

**Contextualizing and Personalizing Luke 5:1-11**

**(What it Means Now)**

- *Rise in Obedience to the call of Christ*
- *Respond in Faith to the Call of Christ*
- *Push Away from the Shoreline the Deep Calls to the Deep*
- *Drop our Nets Deeper and Cast our Nets Wider*

### **Contextualizing and Personalizing Isaiah 54:1-3**

**(What it Means Now)**

- *Enlarge the Place of your Tent Reunion*
- *Stretch out the Curtains of your Dwelling Reunion*
- *Don't Hold Back Reunion*
- *Lengthen your Cords Reunion*
- *Strengthen your Stakes Reunion*

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## **2023 For The Reunion Church**

### **Fully Equipping**

Ephesians 4:7-16

**But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in**

**deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. ESV**

### **Fully Equipping - Implementing God's Plans**

Paul used the first three chapters of his prison epistle (letter from prison), to tell the churches of Ephesus about who they were and what they had been given in Christ. His message to them was specific.

*You are secured in the love of the God the Father, you are redeemed and saved by grace in Christ Jesus the Son, and you are joined together and united as one by the Holy Spirit. These are the biblical foundations beneath the equipping of the saints and putting on the full armor of God.*

And upon these Biblical foundations of faith, the Church of Jesus now filled and purposed with powerful gifts and graces moved

forward to use those gifts and graces to teach, preach, disciple, and influence the world to the eternal Word - Christ Jesus.

In the first six verses of chapter four, Paul calls the churches of Ephesus, into the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. Unity was the essential message. In the remainder of chapter four and into chapter six, he then instructs them on ***what they were to do*** with the gifts and graces they had been given. The next steps of 2023 for Reunion are all about the "WHAT" and the "HOW" of what God has recently downloaded for us. Implementing the plans and purposes for what God has called us to do with what we have been given is more than exciting - it is confirmation that loving God, teaching His truth, and caring for one another in fellowship, communion, and prayer has led us to this fully equipped place of readiness. The readiness is where move forward with plans to deepen, widen, expand, lengthen, and use every and all gifts and graces we have been given to impact not only our community of families, friends, and our city - but to teach, train, and influence Christian leaders and nations around the world.

## **The Inductive Conclusions of Ephesians Chapter Four**

**One** - Christ has fully extended Himself to us and has purposely chosen to dwell in us to making certain we are fully equipped with the gifts and grace needed to do the work of the ministry and to build up the community of faith in unity. So now we...

***Gather, Grow, Give, and Glorify***

**Two** - His plan is for us is to openly live out our faith, maximize our gifts move out and away from fearful isolation, sheltered and cloistered communities, or muted spiritual silos. His gifts and graces allow for us to live unashamed of the gospel, never marginalized in our faith, and certainly never silenced because of our beliefs in Christ Jesus. So we must...

***Encourage, Emerge, Embolden, and Empower,***

**Three** - We are spiritually capable and confident because we are children of God, called by His name. We are no longer easily distracted, discouraged, deceived, or detached. We are in Christ, we are united to one another in Him. So we are...

***Resourceful, Resilient, Resolute, and Remarkable***

**Four** - We are now worlds only truth-tellers, communicators of the Gospel, and influencers of the faith. We are held together by

the unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace, the working of His power and finally in the knowledge of God's eternal Word.

***Untether, Understand, Unite, and Uphold***

**Expand and Equip - Actualize the Community at Reunion**

***Increased and Intensified Presence of Prayer and Intercession***

***Open Doors for Worship and Arts Events and Outreach Ministries***

***Expansion of Community Care Groups***

***All Leader Involvement in Equip (More Training - More Teachers - More Leaders - More Capacity)***

***Intentional and Strategic Increases of Resources and Staff for Children's and Student Ministries***

***Enlarge the Footprint and Increase Excellence in Live Stream and Media Platforms***

***Finish Property Development***

**Widen, Lengthen, and Multiply the Gifts and Graces of The Reunion Church - Fully Equipped Bible Institute and Hope Missions**

***Fully Equipped as a Global Ministry of Christian  
Education and Biblical Training  
Full Engagement in Trusted Relationships and Ministry  
Partnerships Globally  
Development and Expansion of Fully Equipped and  
Reunion Church Media***