

## **Reflecting on this Year: A Word, a Declaration, and a Prayer for 2019 from Jan. 6, 2019**

**Thesis:** Today, I want to look back at what the Lord said to us as we began this new year. We want to take time to reflect on this year so that we can take stock of what God has done, celebrate what the Lord is doing, and align ourselves with what the Lord still wants to do.

On Jan. 6, 2019, we declared that God is speaking and moving, and we want to stay in step with the Lord. For 2019, I believe that the Lord gave us a word, a declaration, and a prayer.

**Text:** Ephesians 1:17-23; Isaiah 61:1-7; Zechariah 9:11-12

I am excited about what the Lord has been doing among us this year. I believe that the Lord is speaking to us. I have confidence in the Lord's ability to lead, guide, and direct us. Jesus is a great leader.

1. **This year, we have been seeking to live into what it means to be a prophetic and apostolic church** (Ephesians 2:19-22).
  - a. *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)).*
  - b. The Lord is currently moving in restoring and maturing the apostolic and prophetic leadership and ministry to his church. We have sought to respond what God is doing by hosting two conferences this year-- one focusing on the apostolic and one on the prophetic.
  - c. On the weekend of March 29 – 31, Apostle Mosy Madugba and Pastor Steve Meeks shared with us about the apostolic. **It was at that conference that we received a significant word from Apostle Mosy: "give [the Lord] back that fiery passion which [we] gave to [him] before."**
  - d. On September 27 - 29, James Goll and Pastor Steve will lead us to explore the prophetic. We believe that the Lord has a significant word for us from this conference, too.

- e. As a pioneering church, we want to help other churches understand what the Lord is doing in the apostolic and prophetic, and to respond appropriately.
2. **This year, we have gotten into action around some prophetic words the Lord has given to us through Pastor Steve**, especially around *The More of God*.
3. **On Sunday, January 6, we made a change to align with what the Lord is saying.**
  - a. **We began meeting in the Prayer Room for our 10:00am Sunday Worship Services.**
  - b. We believed that the Lord wanted us to bring the coals of our lives together in a more intimate setting.
    - i. As with a fire, when you bring the coals together, the heat grows hotter and the fire increases.
    - ii. We believed that gathering in the Prayer Room for our Worship Services would create more synergy, connectivity, and energy.
    - iii. We believed that meeting in the Prayer Room would give us a chance to connect with the Lord and each other more deeply.
  - c. Recently, I met with our Ministry Leaders and we talked about what the Lord is doing at Calvary. **A number of our leaders talked about what the Lord is doing in our midst through our worship services.** So, I believe that the Lord led us and is still leading us as we connect with him in deep and meaningful ways in worship.

**Our desire as a church is to listen to what God is saying, to move in response to the Lord, and to stay in step with the Holy Spirit.**

God is speaking and moving, and we want to stay in step with the Lord.

**On Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, I shared what we believed that the Lord had given us for this year:**

1. A word: *more*.
2. A declaration: *This is the year of the Lord*.
3. A prayer: *we are praying for double restoration and for harvest from Zechariah 9:11-12.*

#### **Point 1. The Word for the year: more**

The Lord spoke to us about responding more intentionally to the prophetic words which he has given to us. One word that is stirring involves *The More of God* revelation which Pastor Steve shared with us in 2017. In the fall of 2017, Pastor Steve preached a series of messages rooted in Ephesian's teaching on the Spirit and God's promises. Those

messages stressed that Paul wanted the church to have more than doctrine; he wanted the people to move into personal experience.

If God is such a powerful promise maker, is not the mature response for us to be promise takers? Have we been promise takers?

We declared at the first of the year that “there is more of God for us to experience—our Triune God is the Infinite, Eternal One. **And, God wants more of our lives— all of us** (heart, mind, soul, and strength; Matthew 22:37-39).”

*I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation **to know him through your deepening intimacy with him.** 18 I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling —that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that he finds in us, his holy ones! 19 I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith. **Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you!** This is the mighty power 20 that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! 21 And now he is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age, but in the age that is coming! 22 And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and has given him the highest rank above all others. 23 And now we, his church, are his body on the earth and that which fills him who is being filled by it! (Ephesians 1:17-23 Passion Translation).*

**Here is what we said about *The More of God* revelation.**

1. *The More of God* revelation is a current word for us, and we wanted to respond accordingly.
2. Our first response to this revelation was to increase our capacity for connecting with the Lord and for living in the awareness of his presence.
  - a. In February, we launched *The More of God Series* and the *60/60 Experiment*.
  - b. We sought to create space for encounter with our Living God.
3. We declared that we wanted to experience more of God, and we especially wanted our children, youth, and young adults to encounter God more deeply.
4. **Celebration:**
  - a. We can look back over the year and celebrate what the Lord is doing to lead us to experience more of God.

- i. We increased our capacity for connecting with the Lord and for living in the awareness of his presence through the *60/60 Experiment*.
  - ii. The Lord wanted even more of our lives, all of who we are, calling us as a congregation to return to our first love (March 29, 2019). We want to “give [the Lord] back that fiery passion which [we] gave to [him] before,” as Apostle Mosy Madugba said at the Propel Apostolic Conference.
  - iii. As we processed this word from Apostle Mosy, **it became clear that the Lord was already at work realigning** our hearts, our schedules, our priorities, and our spiritual practices so that we would return to our first love and experience more of God.
  - iv. Through the emphasis on *Returning to Our First Love* from August – December, we are taking the word of the Lord very seriously and responding sincerely.
- b. **We can look back over the year and celebrate what the Lord has done in our youth and children.**
- i. Our youth have been on fire and reaching their friends.
  - ii. Our youth caught fire at youth camp in a very significant way this summer. Lives were changed for good.
  - iii. Our children continue to grow in their relationship to Jesus. And, they continue to reach out to friends and share what they have experienced in Jesus through Kids Church and Kids Club.
  - iv. Plus, our kids had an incredible summer of VBS, Summer Blasts, and the Generations Set, which took our children to new levels with the Lord.

## **Point 2. Declaration: we declared that this is the year of the Lord**

Back in June 2018, in light of Calvary’s current reality and preferred future, Apostle Mosy and Gloria Madugba, who are the Apostolic Leaders with the Ministers Prayer Network, and his team, joined us in praying and fasting for the Global Bridegroom Fast. Apostle Mosy and his team received a prophetic word for us during that time of prayer and fasting. In summary, that word said that we were under attack by spiritual witchcraft and we needed to respond as a congregation.

When we prayed about the prophetic word, it seemed right to us. So, we got in action around the prophetic word. You will remember that we engaged in ***Seven Days of Worship, Prayer, and Warfare***, from July 29 – August 4, 2018. We carried out the prophetic action of the Lord during that time.

There were two other parts to the prophetic word about which got into action.

1. Host a Ministers Prayer Conference [at Calvary] next year (2019).
  - a. The Lord opened the door for Apostle Mosy Madugba to come to Calvary in the Spring of 2019.
  - b. That event became our Propel Apostolic Conference for March 29 – 31, 2019.
2. Declare (2019) the year of the Lord.

And, we felt led to agree with the declaration. So, we **declared that 2019 is the Year of the Lord.**

What does that mean?

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 5 Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. 6 And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. 7 Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs (Isaiah 61:1-7).*

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus shares from Isaiah 61 as a description of his ministry. He comes to bring good news to the lowly Jewish and Gentile people of his day, who were living under the oppressive rule of Rome.

### **What is the Lord saying to us through this declaration?**

We have experienced oppression and opposition by spiritual enemies. The Lord is declaring to us that “this is the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:19).

Both the passage in Isaiah and in Luke have as their background the year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-10).

*"Count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven times seven years: Seven Sabbaths of years adds up to forty-nine years. 9 Then sound loud blasts on the ram's horn on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement. Sound the ram's horn all over the land. 10 Sanctify the fiftieth year; make it a holy year. Proclaim freedom all over the land to everyone who lives in it—a Jubilee for you: Each person will go back to his family's property and reunite with his extended family" (Leviticus 25:8-10 MSG).*

The year of Jubilee is a Sabbath principle. The Lord commanded the Jewish people to declare Jubilee every 50 years. Everyone goes back and gets their land back. Jubilee is a reset. It is about reclaiming what God has given. It involves restoration-- restoring ourselves to the inheritance that God has proclaimed in us. And, it includes renewing our hope in God and celebrating the goodness of God (Steve Meeks, *Year of Jubilee*, sermon, 8'30'15).

Here is what I wrote about my own year of Jubilee in 2011 based on research from the Scriptures. "The year of Jubilee is a season of freedom, a season of restoration, a season of breakthrough, and a season of renewal."

So, in declaring that this is *the year of the Lord*, **we have declared 2019 to be a season of freedom, a season of restoration, a season of breakthrough, and a season of renewal.**

Now, think about that word, "this is the year of the Lord," in light of what the Lord said to us about **returning to our first love**. Both *The More of God* series and the word of the Lord to "return to our first love" are about **freedom** (from cold love, lethargy, and coasting), **restoration** (of fiery passion), **breakthrough** (into new depths of relationship with the Lord), and **renewal** (of our first love, doing or renewing what fuels a loving relationship with the Lord).

I am very encouraged about what the Lord is doing to fulfill his word in us and through us for 2019 and beyond.

### **Point 3. Prayer: we are praying for double restoration and for harvest**

We had a significant experience in the Prayer Room on Monday, November 12, 2018. Prior to that evening, I was praying about 2019 and the theme for the year. During the prayer meeting, Jay Kelley, one of our elders and prayer leaders, prayed from Zechariah 9:11-12 and prophesied 2019 as the year of double restoration.

During the Generations Set at 6:00pm, Jay had an encounter with the Lord. He had an experience where he thought he was in the first Monday of January 2019.

The Lord gave Jay the passage from Zechariah 9:11-12.

Then, the Lord gave Jay a prophetic word and prayer: **We prophecy and pray for 2019 to be the year of double restoration of all that God has done and all that God has promised, in Jesus' name. This is the word of grace.**

*As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you (Zechariah 9:11-12).*

Jay also prayed:

1. Return O Prisoner of hope. Awaken your people, Lord, to this season of grace, this window of opportunity.
2. We speak over every member of Calvary— grace.
3. Father, awaken your people to hope. Restore double portions to your people.
4. This is our prayer: we are praying for double restoration and harvest.

**Regarding restoration:** From this passage, we began praying for the Lord to free our prisoners from hopeless cells of financial brokenness, joblessness, and sickness. We began asking the Lord for greater anointing, healing, and provision. We have also been asking the Lord to restore twice as much as we have lost and what has been stolen from us.

**Regarding harvest:** We have also seen many guests coming to Calvary to experience what the Lord is doing here. And, we are impacting many lives through our youth, children, and missions ministries.

Calvary, this prayer is still on our lips for 2019. Let's pray intentionally into Zechariah 9:11-12 and ask the Lord to fulfill this word in us. We need a financial breakthrough for many of our people and for us a congregation. We have seen the Lord come through in some degrees of financial blessing. We have seen some degrees of healing. We have seen some breakthroughs in touching our community. So, let's continue to knock on the door of heaven for what we need.

**Conclusion: We can take stock of what God has done, celebrate what the Lord is doing, and align ourselves with what the Lord still wants to do.**

1. Because of the word “more,” we have been believing for increased encounters and experiences with the Lord. We are returning to our First Love so that we can have the relationship with God that the Lord desires.
2. Because of the declaration that “this is the year of the Lord,” we have been believing 2019 to be a season of freedom, a season of restoration, a season of breakthrough, and a season of renewal. We believe that this declaration is also expressed in returning to our First Love.
3. Because of the prophetic revelation, we have been praying and expecting that 2019 will be the year of double restoration of all that God has done and all that God has promised. We continue to believe God and pray into this revelation about restoration and harvest.

**Prayers for the new year**

1. Pray that we would go deeper with the Lord and encounter more of the Lord in 2019. Let’s return to our first love and experience more of our God.
2. Pray for the Lord to restore double to us what has been lost or stolen.
3. Pray for the harvest and abundant blessing.
4. Pray for encounters with the Lord, especially for our children, youth, and young adults
  - a. Intimacy
  - b. Revelation
  - c. Encounters
  - d. Experiences
  - e. Luke 11:9-13

**Ministry Time: Lord’s Supper**

**Song: Remembrance**

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)).*



