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Senior Pastor

BISHOP'S MISSIVE #101
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Greetings CBC Family,

“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.” (Ezra 8:23, NIV).

We have been fasting and praying for our Project Higher Ground, a.k.a. 2285 Project, for the past few months. Based on a reading of Scripture, the results can be powerful when we fast, pray, and praise. All three of these practices are powerful because they are not designed to change God, but they are designed to change us so that God might move among us. As we move forward, fasting, praying, **AND** praising, will create both atmosphere and opportunity that will exceed our expectations.

What makes these practices so powerful? Fasting is a natural way to express our faith with our physical and spiritual selves. It is a recommitment of our connection with God. Prayer is a demonstration of our dependence on God. We only ask for help when we discover that we are incapable of completing a task alone, and prayer is such a demonstration. Praise is an expression of both our thanks and our expectations. We get excited when we acknowledge that if it had not been for God, our outcomes might have been different. We get excited when we anticipate something happening that we know will take divine participation.

We are poised to encounter God in some unprecedented ways in 2022. I hope you are excited and have not allowed discouragement, disappointments, and delays to distract you. It is easier to quit than it is to keep moving. However, fasting, prayer, and praise are indicators of our steadfastness when it comes to the promises of God. How? All three of these practices 1) give us access to God, 2) transform us in ways that allow God to bless us, 3) are expressions of our relationship with God, and 4) defeat the enemy. But I also believe that these practices are a demonstration of our seriousness – not just about “getting something,” but “becoming something.” It makes little sense to receive what we are unprepared to receive. If you put a million dollars in the hands of an individual with no discipline, you have done more harm than good.

God is preparing us for something and something for us. Whatever the Spirit has exposed concerning you, allow Him to finish that work in you so that when the season of manifestation happens, you are ready to walk in it. May our daily prayer be, “Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. And with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living, sanctuary, Lord for You.”

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