

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Get Ready To Run in a New Way for a New Day December 12, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

We are in a spiritual war. This is a day to be intentional, purposeful, and self-controlled in our thinking and our speaking! Be intentional in who you are in Christ Jesus. Know your purpose. Be Holy Spirit led. We are to be intentional in what we do, how we respond, what we say, and how we think. We are to be purposeful in our actions and reactions. We are to be self-controlled – setting right boundaries. It is time to “gird up your loins” and be ready to run!

God is saying, “gird up your loins”. Secure everything that is valuable and life giving because the Spirit of the Lord is going to come upon you, and you are going to run supernaturally. It may seem like the enemy is out front in the race, but the Lord is going to move on us in such a way that the enemy will be overtaken and annihilated.

1 Kings 18.41-46 summarized

Context of this scripture passage: Elijah had just defeated the prophets of Baal. Fire had fallen from Heaven right before the eyes of all the people. Their response was an IMMEDIATE SHIFT from worshipping false gods to worshipping the One True God – Yahweh. The powers of darkness were defeated.

Elijah told Ahab to get ready because there was a sound of abundant rain. It had not rained in the land for three years because of the decree of the Lord that Elijah had released over the land. Rain is symbolic of the blessing of the Lord.

Elijah went up to the top of the mountain (God is calling us up His mountain). With great authority and travail, Elijah called forth the rain. Dark clouds and wind filled the skies and there was a great rain. The hand of the Lord came upon Elijah, and Elijah girded up his loins and ran. Everything had changed!

Hebrews 12.1-2 NIV

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus,** the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him** he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Get rid of what weighs you down.
 - Evaluate what you are carrying – is it what is needed for now? Attitudes. Desires. Hopes. Dreams. Prophetic promises.
 - Bring your thoughts and your lifestyle captive to what is beneficial – get in alignment.
- Fix your eyes on Jesus and don't lose that focus.
- Allow joy to rise up in your mind and in your bones – be strengthened for the race ahead.

Philippians 1.9-11 TPT

⁹ I continue to **pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things.**

¹⁰ **This will enable you to choose the most excellent way of all—**becoming pure and without offense until the unveiling of Christ. ¹¹ And you will **be filled completely with the fruits of righteousness that are found in Jesus,** the Anointed One—bringing great praise and glory to God!

- Ask Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see what He wants you to see as you prepare to run.
- Make your choices with wisdom and discernment.

John 6.63 NIV

⁶³ **The Spirit gives life;** the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are **full of the Spirit and life.**

- Let the word of God be a light so you can see your path.
- Fill your lungs with Yahweh.

Isaiah 59.19 AMP

¹⁹ So they will fear the name of the LORD from the west
And His glory from the rising of the sun.
For He will come in like a narrow, rushing stream
Which the breath of the LORD drives [overwhelming the enemy].

Colossians 3.15-17 AMP

¹⁵ **Let the peace of Christ** [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] **be the controlling factor in your hearts** [deciding and settling questions that arise]. **To this peace indeed you were called** as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always]. ¹⁶ **Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being]** as you teach [spiritual things] and admonish and train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ **Whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus [and in dependence on Him], giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

- This is how to run unencumbered by the weightiness of the world and its demands.
- State of being is a quality – not a goal.

Through us, the voice of the Lord is over our city and state. The God of Glory thunders! The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning! Angel armies are gathered in the Heavens above Detroit and above our state, ready to execute the orders of the Lord of Hosts released through our command. We speak what God speaks! We see with eyes of understanding and spiritual discernment. The fire of God is in us. The war cry of the Spirit of God has been released over our cities and our nation. We make no treaty with the enemy. The blood of Jesus and the work of the cross have utterly destroyed the works of the devil. Witchcraft has no place in our cities. We worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. We lift on high the Name of Jesus, the Name above all names.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

Declaration over Detroit

Isaiah 51.4-9; Joel 2.7

Listen to Me, My people, My city Detroit. Open your ears to hear My WORD. Receive My instruction. Awaken and be clothed in My strength. I will make you resilient and impervious to your enemies. Pay attention to Me, My city Detroit. For I am releasing My WORD to the nations and to My cities. I will give you the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. I will make you resilient in this time of great pressure, stress, and trauma. Detroit, you will bend but not break. I am increasing your capacity to rise up in victory. I will cause the light of justice to rest upon you, O Detroit. My righteousness is coming closer to you Detroit; My salvation and My deliverance have been released on your behalf. By My mighty arm I will establish My government in Detroit.

Put your hope and trust in Me, Detroit – in the unveiling of My might. My salvation will endure forever; My righteousness will never end. My arm will bring about justice in this city. Look to Me and wait in hope. Lift up your eyes to Heaven, Detroit – My salvation will last forever and My righteousness will never fail you. Hear Me and know what is right. Do not fear the reproach of men or be terrified by their threats.

In Detroit, we, the church, shall run like mighty men; we shall climb the wall. Like mighty men of war, we shall not break rank.