



Covenant Life Church

Newsletter #12

Greater Vision

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

Announcements

Updates

On **Saturday, June 27, at 7:00pm** Apostle Jeff will host a **Dial-in Men's Group Bible Study**. The dial-in conference line number is **712-775-7270, Access Code 221090**. You do not have to be member to participate, all men are welcome.

On **Saturday, July 18**, Covenant Life Church will host its first virtual "**Prophetic Prayer Conference**". The conference will begin at 8am, with a dial in morning prayer, from 9am - 12noon there will be teaching sessions via Zoom, and from 2:00 - 5:30pm, families will be able to sign up for ministry via the dial-in conference call line. More information, including how to register is forthcoming.

Reminders: Church Services

Beginning on Father's Day, June 21, we will be returning to the church sanctuary for Sunday services only. However, we will continue to live stream the services via Facebook. To view our services on FACEBOOK, **please "Like" us on FACEBOOK at Covenant Life Church.** <https://facebook.com/covenantlife4>

The Virginia Governor announced Phase I of the reopening of Virginia beginning on May 29. However, due to the impact of the virus, our host church requested that we continue to limit attendance to 10 people during Phase I of the reopening. Consequently, beginning June 21 until Phase II begins, we will only have the necessary CLC staff and worship team in the sanctuary to conduct the Sunday service.

All other services will remain the same. These include:

- Monday Night Discipleship Class at 8:00m vial Facebook Live
- Tuesday **Prayer Tabernacle** at 7:30 PM: The dial in number for the Tuesday night Prayer Tabernacle is: 712-775-7270; access code: 221090.
- Friday Night **Table Talk/School of the Holy Spirit** at 7:30 PM via Facebook Live
- Sunday **Prophetic Class** at 1-2 PM via Zoom
 - Join Zoom
Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255245878?pwd=Mk16bUZhNGFTMU5HVk0vOUJXMjF3QT09>
Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878
Password: 3846
 - Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 852 5524 5878
Password: 3846

Ways to Give:

We appreciate your faithfulness in attending services through Facebook and your generous donations to the church. We thank you advance for your continued support of Covenant Life Church. The following are ways you can pay tithes or make a donation:

- **One-time or Recurring Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can enable one-time giving or recurring donations using the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>

- **Paypal, ACH or Credit Card Donations:** Through **BREEZE** you can give using PayPal, ACH or Credit Card at the link <https://covenantlifechurch.breezechms.com>
 - **TEXT TO GIVE:** You can give by texting the number: **(616) 326-3171**
 - **Mail:** You can mail in your donation to: **CLC, P.O. Box 1262, Springfield, VA 22151**
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Members and Covenant Partners

Above is a photo of the **prayer cloth** we would like to mail to all our members and covenant partners. However, we need your mailing address. Please update your mailing address in Breeze or send your mailing address via email to covenantlifechurch7@gmail.com.

From the Desk of Apostles Jeff & Dr. Linda Herbert

Bishop Dr. Bill Hamon prophesied that 2020 was going to be a year of greater vision, and greater vision indicates that God is enlarging our tent pegs. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he (KJV)..." Understanding our vision is important in giving us direction in our life; without vision Proverbs tells us that we can lose our way. Vision is the way we see ourselves and our future. It is saying to ourselves, "this is what I want to be or do when I grow up." Consequently, we need to understand the Lord's vision for us so that we understand how he is leading us in this season and what we are called to be and do.

With the advent of new challenges in our world such as the Coronavirus pandemic and the related job and financial loss, some have lost vision and are struggling to understand what God has for them. Vision is important because when we lose our vision, we can lose hope for the future. Without vision or revelation, it is easier to become discouraged and to be tempted by the enemy to believe lies. Vision is essential to providing the fuel and energy that encourages

us to accomplish our everyday tasks and to continue walking in our calling. It gives us focus in life.

As the body of Christ, we know that God is preparing us, in this season, for the greater work that he has for us; but we may not have clarity on the vision. During this season of the pandemic, the prophets declared that it is time for greater communion with God where God is asking us to come away with Him and seek His face. Communion with God prepares our heart so that He can purge out the old wine in our life and prepare us to receive the new level of anointing and ministry he has for us. He realigns our thinking and resets us for the new season with greater vision. However, during this period, our life may seem dry and unstable, but it is during these times that our spiritual growth occurs. God brings forth maturity and greater spiritual fruit by allowing the circumstances of life to purge and test our character.

Sometimes during these purging processes, some people lose their vision because they don't want to be purged, or they think the process is too hard and they quit. It is important to remember that one of the missions of the Holy Spirit is to transform us into the image of Christ. During transformation we enter a purging process where the ungodliness of our hearts is exposed and strongholds are dismantled. If we decide the process is too hard and we say, "No" to the Holy Spirit, we can thwart our spiritual growth in Christ. The Holy Spirit may try later to give you another opportunity to complete the process but it is best to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in our lives. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit will always seek to purge us before God allows us to obtain a new level. The Word says, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:2). Thus, it is during these purging times that we can lose our vision if our focus is not clear.

(Spiritual Tip: How do we know when we are being challenged or tested by the enemy versus being purged by God? Answer: There is no provision during tests or challenges from the enemy – the devil is going to attack you, not help you! But when God has us in His purging process to bring us to a higher level, He will encourage us through it and provide for us. An example of this is the Israelites where God provided food, clothing etc., for them during the 40 year wilderness purging process!)

The storms in life can also rob us of our vision. In Mark chapter 4 versus 35-39, Jesus told the disciples to cross to the other side of the lake. Immediately, the devil came against them and

caused a fierce storm.

“As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

This is what happens in our life! When God blesses us with something or gives us a prophetic word about the future, the enemy comes immediately to kill, steal and destroy it. Just like the disciples, we can become fearful, hopeless or discouraged and lose our way! We can lose direction during a storm in our life and the enemy will try to deceive or blind us from the truth of God’s Word and His blessing in our life. However, if we resist the devil and persevere through the storm, our faith and trust in God will increase as we stay focused on Christ and mature in Him.

One of the demonic enemies that will try to steal your vision is the Spirit of Jezebel. Jezebel seeks to control, manipulate and seduce the people of God into giving up their vision. Just like Elijah in First Kings chapter 18 and 19, we can become discouraged and run from our calling when Jezebel attacks us. Elijah was courageous while the anointing was on him to challenge the prophets of Baal, but afterward he became fearful and ran when Jezebel threatened him. In First Kings 18:4 Elijah became suicidal and he prayed that he might die and he said, ‘I have had enough, Lord, he said.’ ‘Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.’ ‘Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.’ Later, Elijah continued running from Jezebel for 40 days and 40 nights and ended up in a cave where God asked him, “what are you doing here Elijah?” (I Kings 19:9)

Elijah’s response was one of self-pity and deception where he told God that he was the only prophet still alive. We can see from this dialog with God that Elijah lost his way and he was willing to give up his calling when Jezebel threatened him. When we begin to lose our vision, we begin to run from the very things God ordained us to do. Then there is temptation to backslide, laying down the anointing that God gave and turning to something ungodly. Thus,

we need to bind and cast out a spirit of Jezebel when we begin to lose our vision and are tempted to run from our calling in Christ.

People have quit the ministry because of a demon spirit of Jezebel attacking them and many times Christians don't realize that they are falling prey to this spirit because of the deception this spirit releases. Below are some characteristics of this spirit to note so that we can recognize this enemy and take authority in Jesus Name over it and command it out of lives, ministries and church:[1]

1. Jezebel's ultimate goal is always control.

The Jezebel spirit is always motivated by its own agenda.

2. The Jezebel spirit attacks, dominates or manipulates, especially those in authority.

Queen Jezebel usurped political authority of the kingdom. This spirit's ultimate goal is to conquer or neutralize the prophet because a discerning leader is its greatest enemy. It undermines the leader's authority, stirs up gossip and brings false accusation against those in leadership.

3. Jezebel causes fear, flight and discouragement.

This spirit often causes a spiritual leader to flee from his appointed place by character assassination and ruining his/her reputation.

4. People under Jezebel's influence are natural leaders, although often covertly.

The Jezebel spirit attempt to seek out people of influence to win their ear, gain credibility and win endorsement for their toxic cause.

5. People under Jezebel's influence are often insecure and wounded, with pronounced egocentric needs.

They are often trying to fill a love deficit. People under Jezebel's control always have deep, unhealed wounds from sources such as rejection, resistance, fear, insecurity, self-preservation and bitterness, which in turn, spreads its defilement to many.

6. The Jezebel spirit functions subtlety and deceptively.

People controlled by Jezebel use flattery to win you over to their domination. Jezebel spirits manipulate by guilt and undermining authority or discrediting another's influence. Those under Jezebel's control use flirtation and are jealous of anyone they perceive to be a threat.

7. Ultimately, people under Jezebel's influence are proud, independent and rebellious.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23) and will attempt to control others through any means other than the Holy Spirit.

8. It takes an Ahab to let a Jezebel spirit operate unchallenged.

Those under Jezebel's influence do not operate without someone under an Ahab spirit's influence enabling them to function.

9. A Jezebel spirit is always in alignment with a religious spirit and they against God's Word, and especially the prophetic word.

Both Jezebel in the Old Testament and Revelation in the New Testament operated under the cover of religion. They try to undermine the prophetic word by saying it is not true or it is inaccurate or the prophet 'missed it just a little." They also try to gain control by having a better way to do things

10. The families of people under Jezebel's influence are often out of order.

Those under Jezebel's influence control their partners and cause their children to take sides, grow up insecure, disrespect their fathers and mothers, feel manipulated and become distrustful toward true authority.

The Bible says that hope deferred makes the heart sick (Prov 13:12) and this can also cause some to lose vision. Sometimes when we have been waiting a long time for the answer, hope for the future can wane and we need the Spirit of God to re-energize us. The faith greats in Hebrews Chapter 11 had something in common: they all went through God's purging process and they all kept their faith and hope in God. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hope is a key element in vision for the future and seeing ourselves in a better place than we are now.

If you believe that you need to establish or re-establish your vision, below are some recommended steps to take:

1. Overcome the enemy by speaking in tongues and allowing the Holy Spirit to intercede for you according to the perfect will of God.

2. Do the spiritual warfare:

- Bind: Jezebel, Witchcraft, seduction, lies, deception, doubt and unbelief, Death, Murder
- Loose: Hope, faith, life to the vision, faithfulness to the calling of God on our life, righteousness, truth.

3. Be willing to change – Are you willing to change?

- Abraham was willing to leave his country and then he experienced breakthrough

- He had to be obedient to step out in faith and move from the old place.
- The Lord says to us now that it is a new season, the old has passed away – receive the new wine.
- Be willing to die to the old mindsets, etc.
 - The new cannot take place until the old dies.
 - Abraham had to be willing to endure the process of transformation.
- And you must obey the Spirit
 - We have to be willing and obedient before we can eat the good of the land (Is 1:19)
 - Every seed will bear fruit so therefore we must take necessary step to be willing for fruitfulness. (Gen 1:11)

4. Renew our mind with the Word of God: This must take place so we can hear God.

5. Ask the Lord to reveal the vision for your life and release a new hope for you.

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy

- Hope is directly linked to peace.
- It is hard to have peace when we don't think God is moving on our behalf.

6. Activate your faith and persevere.

- Submit to God
 - Don't get stubborn and tell God what you will and will not do.
 - Have a teachable spirit.
 - Jesus submitted to the hand of God.
 - Understand that God is into the marinating process; he likes progression.

2 Cor 3:18 tells us that God takes us from Glory to Glory. But, note that there can be a long stretch between glories so be patient!

We pray that if you need a fresh vision, the Lord will impart that to you during this season of communion with Him. We encourage you to not lose hope, but continue to believe Him for the things that He has promised to you. The Lord always fulfills His Word.