

2017 theme:

"THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE" Pro 12:24

- BE OBIDIENT – DO NOT DOUBT (Part 1)
- BE RIGHTEOUS (Part 2)
- BE TRUTHFUL (Part 3)
- SEEK AND FIND KNOWLEDGE (Part 4)
- DEMONSTRATE WORKS (Part 5)
- RELATE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT(Part 6)
- DO NOT BREATHE ANXIETY (PART 7)
- SOW A SEED OF THANKSGIVING (PART 8)
- BE STEADFAST (PART 9)
- GIVE - THERE IS POWER IN GIVING (PART 10)
- PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAILS MUCH (PART 11)
- THE DILIGENT'S EYE MUST BE OPEN (PART 12)
- GOD'S GLORY RAINS ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM (PART 13)
- STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH (PART 14)
- CLEAN YOUR HOUSE (PART 15)
- SUMMARY: 16 KEY TOOLS FOR AN EFFECTIVE TOOL BOX (PART 16)
- TAKE CHARGE (PART 17)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS (PART 18)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS #2 (PART 19) – BEWARE OF MOCKERS AND SCOFFERS
- SOW FOR HIS TREASURE (PART 20)
- FIX YOUR THOUGHTSS ON JESUS (PART 21)
- NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)
- GOD FIGHTS THE BATTLE OF THE DILIGENT (PART 23)

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GOD FIGHTS THE BATTLE OF THE DILIGENT (PART 23)

Text: Zachariah 12

“¹...Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. ³ On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ⁴ On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the LORD. “I will keep a watchful eye over Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. ⁵ Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, **‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.’**”

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⁶“On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all the surrounding peoples right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

⁷“The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem’s inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD going before them. ⁹ On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

Just like He fought for Jerusalem, God fights for the diligent.

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◦ GOD FIGHTS THE BATTLE OF THE DILIGENT (PART 23)

Brethren, for Jerusalem to enjoy God's protection from battle, it had to be ridded of every sin.

In Zachariah 13, the Lord said: "I will open a fountain for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity." 2 "I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land."

Cleansing Jerusalem was necessary for them to enjoy God's favour and protection. Without holiness, it is impossible for anyone to see God (Hebrews 12:14).

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We can now better understand why God has invested a lot of time this year in positioning us for an encounter with Him.

Without holiness, it is impossible for anyone to see God (Hebrews 12:14), so God since the beginning of the year has been given us different lenses to enable us cleanse ourselves and prepare for an encounter with Him.

I hope we are all moving through the lenses God has given us thus far and using them to shape our lives for better. Those who commit to using the lenses to shape their lives will enjoy God's protection.

John 1:12 says, ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed Him, He gave the right to become children of God" **The children of God will be protected.**

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Brethren, lets loose ourselves to the Spirit of God and enable Him to lead us unto all truths concerning our state of preparedness for God to fight our battles.

Romans 8:14 says "all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

Romans 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

Colossians 2 tells us to "be rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as we were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

We need even to be thankful for the various teaching (lenses) that God has given us this year. It is not normal for the teacher who will set and mark your exams, to spend time before your exams and teach you what he will set and how you should respond. But that is exactly what God has done with us.

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We need to embrace His admonitions with gratitude. In-fact God does not care if we don't. He is prepared to punish those who don't. His game is not played with huge numbers but with the skilled few.

In Zachariah 13, the Lord declares

⁸"In the whole land, two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. ⁹This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

So brethren, when God gives us tools to enable us shape ourselves, He is doing us a favour. Those who use the tools will be refined as silver and tested as gold. THESE ARE THE DILIGENT HANDS WHO WILL RULE. GOD WILL FIGHT THEIR BATTLES.

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Conclusion

God fights the battle of the diligent.

To select His diligent hands, He will refine them by fire like silver and test them like gold.

For all we know, His fire of refinement are the various lenses He has been giving us to enable us shape our lives. As many as receive the lenses and shape their lives will pass His test.

Those who pass the test will be called true children of God.

Revelation 21:7 says "The one who is victorious will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son."

BRETHREN, LET'S GO AND BE VICTORIOUS.

GO BLESS YOU!

2017 PRAYER POINTS

1. **Prayer over the message of today**
2. **“Lord, please extend your love to all nations through prayers offered on this alter (Psalm 117)**

Let our prayers be acceptable unto you.

3. **Prayer for Leadership of Nations ...**

- a. Be anointed leaders of honour like Cyrus (**Isa 45:1, Rm 9:21**)
- b. Give them spirit of humility in leadership and wisdom to lead well
- c. Any leader that fails to obey God's Word, should be replaced

4. **Troubles/Wars in nations.**

5. **Leave no room for diseases; cleanse our land**

6. **Missions/Ministries & Missionaries/Ministers**

7. **Marriages, Children & families**

8. **Members of the fellowship – grace to be diligent**

9 **Needs in fellowship**

