

2024 A Year To Grow Strong

Esther - Open in Prayer

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, [18] may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **Ephesians 3:16-18**

Look Back

Steve - Understand the Times

- The Lord has been resetting things within his Kingdom
- STOP - RESET - RECALIBRATE - RELEASE - RUN
- It has led to **4 years of pruning** and realignment, reset and recalibration
- The forming of New Wineskins - New Testament Wineskins
- **One more year** left of deep work, finishing what has been started, completing anything left unfinished.
- 2024 a year to become **Strong** and grow **spiritual enlargement** and **capacity**
- There is coming a release of power and authority in a new dimension
- 2025 A year to flourish - acceleration, beginnings - harvest

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- 2024 a year of Kingdom Movement
- 2024 a time to prepare and be ready for 2025
- Pray - Train - Go

From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. **Isaiah 59:19**

Steve

Promise of Divine Impartation

- **Give strength to your legs**, they will run, turning through the land and the nations
- **I will strength your voice** - your voice will cause shift and movement. Your voice will silence confusion and bring clarity.
- **Prophetic, sharpness to your eyes**, they will sparkle and they will have prophetic, piercing, focus
- **Open your ears**, alert and poised

Lord how will this happen: - *'If you spend extended periods of time with me, I will do the above as a gift.'*

- Just like Daniel's consecration and prayer life led to him being 10 times better, stronger etc (Daniel 1)
- 10 times the normal reward

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- 10 times the reward what an invitation

Three Key focus for the coming season

A. Commit to Pray

At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD. **Genesis 4:26**

Return, Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! [2] Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. [3] Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion." **Hosea 14:1-3**

Steve

1. Prayer for intimacy

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. [5] For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. **Psalms 27:4-5**

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. [2] I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." [3] I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight." [4] Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. [5] LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. **Psalms 16:1-5**

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- Mary only one thing is needed
- Deal with distractions and sit at his feet
- What an opportunity at the beginning of 21 days of prayer and fasting

2. Prayer for personal growth - Strength, capacity

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **Jude 1:20**

- The Lord is building bigger people
- Picture of a race and some people are going noticeably ahead of others - there is coming a separation marked by spiritual growth and enlarged capacity.
- It's the only way to thrive in turbulent times

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7**

- Making decisions from faith, hope and love
- Nothing from fear

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- Strong People
- Strong Marriages
- Strong families
- Strong leadership teams
- Strong Churches
- Strong regional church

3. Prayer for wisdom and strategy

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD- [3] and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; **Isaiah 11:2-3**

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will** through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, **Colossians 1:9**

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4. Prayer to turn the battle at the gates

He will be a spirit of justice to the one who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate. **Isaiah 28:6**

Herod had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. [3] When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. [4] After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring

him out for public trial after the Passover. [5] So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. **Acts 12:2-5**

- No record of Church praying for James and he was Killed, they were shocked but prayed for Peter and he was delivered.
- Battles for families
- Battles for marriages
- Battles for Churches, leadership teams
- Battles for neighbourhoods, cities, regions and nations

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B. Nurture Unity - Restoration, Reconciliation

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. [20] For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." **Matt 18:19-20**

- Huge power in unified prayer
- Little or no effect when prayer is offered while in division

The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **Genesis 11:6**

that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22] I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one- [23] I in them and you in me-so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. **John 17:21-23**

- Jesus high priestly prayer will be answered
- We will experience and walk in that unity
- And it will release a new dimension of authority and power

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C. Grow in Christlikeness - Consecration

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, [20] how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! **Galatians 4:19-20**

- Developing the nature of Christ
- Beatitudes
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Radical obedience
- Ministry of intercession rather than Accusation

- A Christlike people will be an unstoppable people
- Burning ones, free and holy!

Ministry of accusation or Intercession

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the **accuser of our brothers** and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. [11] They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **Revelation 12:10-11**

but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. [25]

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he **always lives to intercede for them**. **Hebrews 7:24-25**

- Jesus lives to intercede for people in their weakness
- Satan is always accusing day and night
- We have a choice whether we will accuse or stand in the gap and intercede