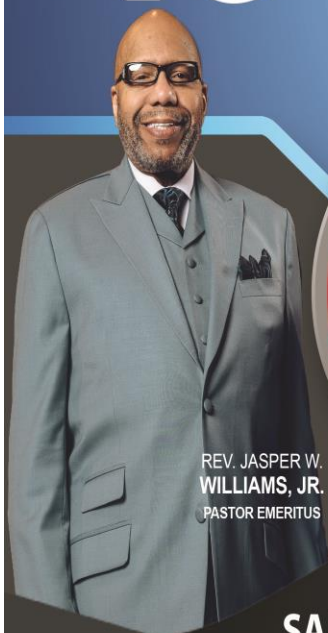


40 DAYS OF GROWTH OVERCOMING



REV. JASPER W.
WILLIAMS, JR.
PASTOR EMERITUS



REV. JOSEPH L.
WILLIAMS
SENIOR PASTOR

SALEM BIBLE CHURCH

SBC CAMPUS ATLANTA
2283 BAKER RD. N.W. ATLANTA, GA 30318

SBC CAMPUS STONECREST
4560 HILLANDALE DR. STONECREST, GA 30058

404.792.0303

 @SALEMBIBLEMINISTRIES

 @SALEMBIBLECHURCH

WWW.SALEMBIBLECHURCH.ORG

Dear Salem Family and Friends:

40 Days of Growth is the theme for our 2020 Lenten season, and it is our prayer that you will join with the members of your Salem family as we take the 40 days of Lent to grow in our faith, Upward, Inward and Outward.

As we have practiced in the past, we are asking all our membership to join us in a corporate fast that you will observe throughout the 40 days of Lent, from February 26th through April 12th. You are free to choose the type of fast that is best for you including fasting from certain foods and from certain activities.

We are asking and expecting every member to commit to and set aside a special financial sacrifice to bring on Easter Sunday to one of the three worship services.

Other highlights of our 2020 Lenten observance include:

- Bible Study classes each Wednesday at 12:00 noon and each Wednesday night at 7:00 at both campuses beginning March 4th
- Weekday devotional readings that deal with some aspect of growth and overcoming, including space for you to record a weekly prayer journal
- A special community outreach during Holy Week when you can join with other members of the SBC family as we reach out to our brothers and sisters in shelters, prisons, nursing homes and other locations with the gospel message
- A Community Outreach for Salem members to volunteer to serve those in need from our community on, Saturday, April 4th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at both campuses
- Easter Sunday Services on Sunday, April 12th including the 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by Easter Sunday worship at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at both campuses

Please note that this devotional guide will be updated and posted weekly on Salem's website (www.salembiblechurch.org) for you to retrieve at your convenience.

We pray that you will participate fully in all the Lenten events and activities and that you will experience the joy of growing and overcoming as God blesses you.

Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Reverend Jasper W. Williams, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Week Seven: Day 35 - Monday, April 6, 2020

Growing and Overcoming through Grief, Grace and Gratitude

Scripture:

For the Lord will not cast off forever, though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion, according to the multitude of His mercies. (Lamentations 3:31-32)

Devotional Reading

As we continue to face the current pandemic along with other personal and community challenges, there is little doubt that you may have experienced feelings of grief and grace. The feelings of grief stem from the isolation of being restricted in our movements and the loss of being able to freely come and go as you please. The feeling of grace is that God has spared most of us with good health and safety despite all.

Even though the spread of the Covid-19 virus may become worse before it becomes better, God will show compassion to God's people. God may not have cause the virus to attack the world but God has allowed it to manifest. Nonetheless, God continues to extend mercy and grace.

Some of us have acted irresponsibly and the virus has infected our bodies and spread to others. That's grief. Some of us have acted responsibly and we have escaped being plagued with the virus. That's grace. All of us are susceptible to the virus but may never experience it. That's mercy.

But above all, no matter what measures we may have to take from being quarantined at home, being laid-off from our jobs, or even having to worship online, there is cause to pause and give God thanks for life and God's compassion to bring us through.

Shalom!

Week Seven: Day 36 - Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Growing and Overcoming through Caring

Scripture:

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25:40)

Devotional Reading

In the pre-takeoff instructions of most airlines, you will be advised that if the oxygen masks are deployed, you should first place the mask on yourself before you attempt to assist any other person with their mask. This procedure is a good example of what it means to care for others. Simply put, to care for others, first requires that you take care of yourself.

Jesus admonishes through parable, that whatever you do to the least of his brothers and sisters, you do the same to Him. Stated otherwise, how you care about others is the proof of how you care about Jesus and what Jesus is concerned about. You cannot care about Jesus apart from caring about others.

Caring for others requires a level of maturity and faith. It is a selfless act and it is the epitome of Christian love. The Samaritan is called "good" because he cared for a man who was socially an outcaste to his cultural mores. The Samaritan was more mature in his faith than the other two men who failed to care for a man in trouble. Grow in your faith by being determined to care for someone who may be in need. When you care for others, you are doing a good deed and doing it to Jesus as well.

Shalom!

Week Seven: Day 37 - Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Growing and Overcoming through Sharing

Scripture:

*But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices
God is well pleased.
(Hebrews 13:16)*

Devotional Reading

You have something to share that nobody else can share. It may be a material possession; it may be a kind word or thought. It may be a smile, a wave or a prayer.

Whatever you have to share, consider it to be a gift from God to share as a gift to someone else. Everything that you have that is good is a gift from God. You don't possess it of your own doing and you will not always possess it. When you consider that God is the giver of abundant and non-ending gifts, it should not be much of a challenge for you to share what you have with others.

Share a ride. Share a meal. Share a book. Share a thoughtful tweet. Share a song. Share a silly video. Share something of value that is no longer useful or significant to you. Share your finances.

When you take the risk to share, you will make a sacrifice to God that pleases God. Resist the inclination to be selfish and self-centered by holding back and holding on to what you can share. Overcome this temptation as you grow by doing one act of sharing as soon as you can.

Your desire is to please God---so share.

Shalom!

Week Seven: Day 38 - Thursday, April 9, 2020

Growing and Overcoming through Bearing

Scripture:

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
(Galatians 6:2)

Devotional Reading

It's unnatural to do it. You may not be recognized for doing it. And the one for whom you do it may not even appreciate what you've done. What is this doing? It is to bear the burden of another.

Bearing the burden of another is to participate in the pain, the misery and the heartache of another's dilemma. It is to expend your energy, your resources, your faith in a situation that is not yours but a situation that you make yours.

Your thoughts are already speaking to you, "But I have enough issues of my own, so I cannot afford to bear the burden of anybody else." Or, "Who is going to help me bear my burden?" Or, "God helps them who help themselves."

Burden bearing is not for the weak. Burden bearing is not for the inexperienced one. Burden bearing is not for the timid or the unconcerned. Burden bearing is for the saint whose faith has grown to the place where they can see beyond what is just possible; they can see what is potential and what is possible.

Bearing another's burden is to be Christ-like. Bearing another's burden fulfills the law (the teachings) of Jesus and moves the burden-bearer beyond what he or she thinks they can do, to what they can do through Christ who gives them strength. How willing are you to bear the burden of another as you grow to fulfill the law of Christ?

Shalom!

Week Seven: Day 39 – Friday, April 10, 2020

Growing and Overcoming through Tarrying

Scripture:

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

(Luke 24:49)

Devotional Reading

When you've reached the point that you are willing to wait on God to move, no matter what may be your present reality, you are just at the beginning of being mature in your faith. When you actually have taken time to wait on God to change your situation, then you have grown and overcome to a place of victorious living.

Jesus before returning to the Father, reassured the disciples and all others of his followers, that they were to convene in Jerusalem and there tarry (wait) for the Promise of God to manifest in their lives. The Promise was that the Holy Spirit would come to guide and empower them. The Promise was that they would complete the mission and work of Jesus. But they had to tarry. They had to wait.

Wherever you are and whatever may be your situation today, good or bad, learn to wait on God. Don't move until God moves you. Wait. Don't make a decision until God speaks to you. Don't stop praying until your change comes. Wait.

Waiting on God takes time, and then some time, and then some more time. Waiting on God may not always be easy or comfortable. Waiting on God is not for the faint of heart. But when you learn to wait, the Promise is God will show up and show out.

Wait on God and be blessed with power from on high. Forever.

Shalom!

Week Seven: Day 40 - Saturday, April 11, 2020

My Weekly Prayer Journal

- Today, my prayer for others is:

- Today, my prayer for my family is:

- Today, my prayer for my church is:

- Today, my prayer for my community is:

- Today, my prayer for my spiritual growth is: