

THE HOLY JOURNAL

Ministerial Staff

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Pastor Harrel's Thoughts...



*The Lord bless you
and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you,
And give you peace."*

Numbers 6:24-26

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Greetings in the name of Jesus.....

Thank the Lord for another chance, another day, another year to be found alive and ready to do His will. We must be willing to work while it is day, because when night comes, no man can work.

First Baptist, we

have work to do for the Lord. You and I know that faith without works is dead, so let's get to work doing what God has called us to do.

As a church family and congregation, in 2024 let's pray more, study God's Word more, show more love, more compassion, and more kindness for all mankind.

Let's plan to improve our church attendance, our bible class attendance, and plan to participate more in all activities of sharing the Word of God.

Let's pray that God

will help us love each other more as God loves us and to forgive each other more as God has forgiven us. Let us love and forgive mankind as God has loved and forgiven us.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten SON that we would learn to love and forgive, then ultimately gain eternal life.

Church let's get busy for the Lord. Let's desire to do more for the Lord in 2024.....and beyond. God bless you and keep you is my prayer.

Pastor Leonard Harrel, Sr.

Words to Live By

FEAR WHAT!?

Blessings to you in the New Year! God has been so good, and he has brought us over into a new year – 2024. Praise God! The first quarter of the year is underway. We are already in the last part of the month of January.

How is your year progressing so far? Are you seeking God to direct your path in this new year? Is there anything or anyone that may hinder you from being and doing all that God has assigned you to do for kingdom building? Are you trusting God and standing on his word? Are you walking by faith and not by sight?

God has assignments for all his children, and we should not allow any hindrances or trepidation to keep us from shining our lights in the new year.

2 Timothy 1:7 says: *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

God’s desire is that we continually progress, that we reach higher heights and go to new levels in Him. Oftentimes, as soon as we make the decision to step out in faith and obey God, the enemy brings in *fear* to try to stop us. He’ll bring thoughts like, “What if you fail? What are other people going to think? You don’t have what it takes.” He’ll do his best to use *fear* to try to convince us to shrink back and stay where we are.

The Bible says that *fear* is a spirit. It plays on our emotions and holds us back. But the good news is that we have power over the spirit of fear! The Bible says that perfect love casts out all fear. *(There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18-19 - KJV)*

When we receive God’s perfect love, we will have confidence about the future because we know His plans are for our good. *(And we know that all things work together*

for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 KJV)

I’ve heard it said that *fear* is an acronym for **F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal. Understand that *fear* is a lie. Don’t buy the lie. Instead, choose to believe God’s Word and receive His love so that you can overcome *fear* and move forward into the blessings God has prepared for you!

Let us pray.

Father, I thank you for giving me power, love and a sound mind. I open my heart to you and receive your perfect love. Fill me with your confidence and assurance to embrace everything you have for me in Jesus’ name. Amen.



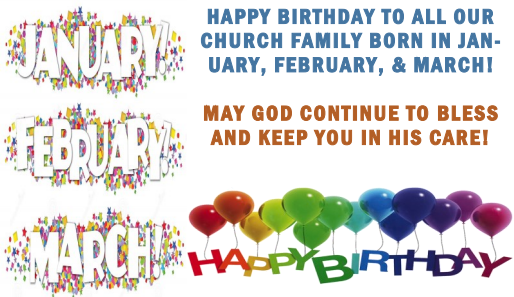
Young Believers of Christ (Y.B.O.C.)

Minister Danielle Sharper

Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The children are our future. In children's church, we take pride in teaching the young believers the way of the LORD. Bible lessons are taught and shown how to apply it to their own lives daily. Thus far, the children are eager to learn. We ask the parents to encourage your children, so the motivation to learn continues to move in the right direction. Young Believers of Christ are the future.

-Pray, have Faith & give it to God!



Our Sundays

Contributed by Sis. Theresa Carter

TRY OUR SUNDAYS AT FIRST BAPTIST, THEY ARE BETTER THAN BASKIN ROBBINS SUNDAES! OUR SUNDAYS ARE SPRINKLED WITH LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY, AND DIPPED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND TOPPED OFF WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU WON'T GAIN WEIGHT WITH OUR SUNDAYS! YOU WILL GAIN THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE WITH THE PREACHING AND TEACHING BY PASTOR HARREL AND HIS STAFF! WHEN YOU TRY OUR SUNDAYS YOU WILL COME BACK FOR MORE!!!

Signs of the End

L.A.Davis

All Praises to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit for allowing us to see a new year, 2024!!!

Jesus **Is** Coming! What emotions come into play for you when this truth is presented? Excitement? Anticipation? Fear? Indifference? Unbelief?

After being asked by His disciples about when the end would come, Jesus shares some signs of the

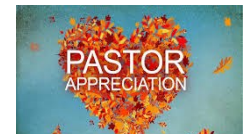
end times in Matthew 24. There will be deceivers that will come claiming to be the Messiah, wars and rumors of wars, nations against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms, famines and earthquakes in different places, and that's just the beginning! We are actually seeing those signs now! Jesus goes on to tell of persecutions, hate, folks turning away from the faith, and betraying one another, false

prophets, and love waxing cold because of the wickedness of the world.

Fam, we are seeing that everyday but thank God for the holy 'but' found in verse 13, "**but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.**" Hallelujah! And this Gospel will be preached to the whole world **then** the end will come! Jesus **Is** Coming! Are you ready? Stand firm!

In Jesus' Love...

EVENTS THIS QUARTER



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MINISTER DANIELLE SHARPER



Dedicated to the service of the Lord for over 100 years!

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions our service times are as follows:

Worship Service: Sundays 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary & via conference call

Sunday School Preview: Tuesdays 6:45 p.m. via conference call only

Please join us in person or via phone

Conference Call Number: 978-990-5000—ID: 693297#