

THE HOLY JOURNAL

QUARTER 4 2023

PASTOR HARREL'S THOUGHTS...



Greetings in the name of Jesus.....

As we approach the end of 2023, we are uncertain what the future may hold for us, but we know who holds the future. Church, let us look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

1Peter 3:10-12 reminds us....

¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

I love this verse because it continues to let us know that we are to invest ourselves in the pursuit of peace and goodness. It is the spiritual formula for us receiving our blessings.

As we have a mind to build a new First Baptist Church building, let us not forget the bible says the devil is the author of confusion, and we must be cognizant of his plans and plots to destroy.

We must continue to come together as one family and congregation seeking the Lord for his righteousness, guidance, wisdom, and knowledge as we pursue what He has called our hands to do.

The Lord has an ever-looking eye, and He is looking intently watching over all believers who are trusting in HIM. God will bless those who are following his directive and standards.

Let us strive in the coming months to grow in God's Word and then teaching those around us to do good. By doing this, other people will see the standard you set and will be attracted to the God you serve.

God bless the First Baptist Church of Richmond Park. May all that makes up this congregational family be a light for HIM wherever we go.

Pastor Leonard Harrel, Sr.



MINISTERIAL STAFF

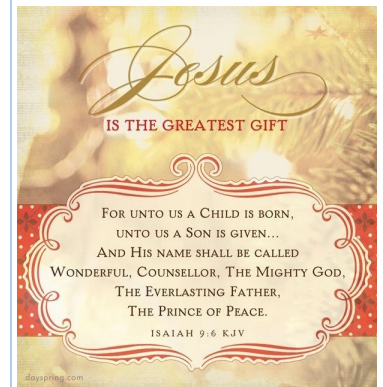
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WORDS TO LIVE BY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! He has blessed us to witness the last quarter in the year 2023. It seems like yesterday that we were on the conference line praying in the new year. God has been so good to us, and we thank him for his many blessings and are grateful for the kind, gracious and merciful God that he is in our lives.

As we enter this last quarter, let us do so with humbleness of spirit and gratefulness in our hearts.

The last three months of the year begin with the arrival of the Fall season; the end of day light savings time; Election Day; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving; Christmas and New Year's Eve.

So much has happened this year in the lives of God's people. We have experienced sickness, disappointments, setbacks, losses of various types, heartaches, and pains. And with each of them God has given us a **"BUT GOD" praise!**

We have observed the faithful God that we serve: open doors that we didn't even imagine existed; made our enemies change their perspectives concerning us; provided for us spiritually, physically, and financially; mended our broken hearts; encouraged us to continue going forward and healed our bodies, minds, and souls.

One thing is certain in this Christian life, and that is that we will

face trials, tribulations, heartaches, and pains. Don't let the trials of this life defeat you. Be confident in who you are in Christ Jesus and know that God has it all under control and He is working it all for the good of you.

"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

As you **go** through, recognize that you are **growing** through. God is at work in you, and He is preparing, grooming, and growing you up to be all that you can be in His perfect plan for your life, and preparing you to receive the blessings that are in store just for you! Go and grow, and the sweet aroma of God's love abiding on the inside will radiate to others.

*"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them **ALL**."* Psalm 34:19

As you observe and celebrate the last quarter of this year keep God first in your life. He is faithful to all his children. God is a great God and worthy of all praise, glory, and honor!

Blessings to you as God demonstrates his unfailing love for you in this 4th quarter.

Be Safe. Be Mindful. Be Grateful.



4TH QUARTER BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Dear God, today I bring my loved one before You on their birthday and pray Your blessings and guidance over their life. Thank You for leading them and guiding them in life. Help them to know how loved and cherished they are. Bless and protect them in the year ahead. May they know Your peace and strength when they wake and Your comfort and rest when they lay down to sleep. May their future be filled with hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

May God bless you with His boundless love, calming peace, and heavenly joy throughout the coming year.

Happy birthday, child of God!



Looking for something AMAZING to watch or stream??? Try The Chosen! *The Chosen* is the first-ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. *The Chosen* allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him.

Fourth Quarter Dates To Remember



10/05 Pastor Harrel's Birthday



10/9 Columbus Day



10/14 Election Day



10/15-19 EBCAA Session: Rock Zion BC & Beech Grove BC



10/29 FBC Trunk of Treats



11/11 Veterans Day



11/18 Election Day



11/23 Thanksgiving Day



11/26 Musicians' Appreciation



12/25 Christmas Day

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 5TH @ 6:30 P.M.



FBC COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT 9/16 & YOUTH DAY SERVICE 9/24

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REV. SHARON HARREL

DR. PATRICIA NORWOOD

MINISTER JAMES CARTER

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#