

"It's Time to Persevere"
November 6, 2016

(Definition) CHURCH (*ekklesia*)- *"A committed, cooperative people fully invested in the call to bring transformation"*

Hebrews 10:32-39

CORE- America is in an **urgent condition**—indifference to God always leads to self-destruction. This is not a time to *"shrink back"* (to stealthily retreat; i.e., *"I'm just not going to get involved."*)—it is our time to PERSEVERE.

1. IN FAITH

Hebrews 10:35- *"Do not throw away your confidence (i.e., "Don't lose it!")"*
1 Peter 1:7- *"Your faith" is "more precious than gold"—it is refined and made purer/stronger as we persevere through trials.*

"Like Nehemiah, in the realities of difficult times, we have been created to shine and become part of the solution. As we look at the trials we are encountering in our nation—there is always HOPE." -Kris Vallotton

2. IN WISDOM

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

NOTE: Solomon was given the option to ask for "one thing" from the Lord. He chose "wisdom, understanding, discernment—the capacity to see through and into" from God's perspective.

Bill Johnson said (10-25-2016): *"This election is the most bizarre in my lifetime, yet it's not confusing. The spirit of offense is robbing people of their ability to discern. PRAY FOR WISDOM, without the accusations. For WISDOM, seeing from God's perspective, is really all that matters."*

3. IN PRAYER

2 Chronicles 7:14—as WE PRAY (*from a place of humility & sincerity; seeking His face*), He HEARS and HEALS our land!

NOTE: Prayer is a place of CALLING UPON and WAITING ON—attentively listening to His voice. It is both a place of BOLDLY DECLARING and QUIETLY RESTING in His presence. And IT ALWAYS CHANGES THINGS—both IN US and AROUND US!

4. IN WORDS

NOTE: Increased fear of the LORD RE: speaking “careless” or “lifeless” words that “grieve the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30). Instead, letting “His words be in your mouth” (Joshua 1:8).

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

- “Quick”—(Lit.) “quickening”—to infuse with LIFE
- “Powerful”—(Lit.) “as a hammer that causes breakthroughs”
- “Sharper”—effective with one blow (i.e., Jesus: “It is written...”)
- “Double-edged”—logos (written) and rhema (revelatory)
- “It judges”—skilled in discerning what is underlying & motivating

NOTE: Our words “full of grace” (Colossians 4:6)—always communicating that **God can do what seems impossible.**

5. IN HONOR

A strong “culture of DISHONOR” permeates our nation; evident in this election from the hearts and mouths of national leaders.

We must persevere as people of a DIFFERENT SPIRIT.

Aaron Horton’s recent Instagram post: “The devil is the author of confusion, but God has given every believer the birthright of PEACE. Don’t buy into the lie that our current political situation is hopeless.

Please don’t get de-railed by the liberal media or the ridiculous circus we see in this election. HONOR MUST NOT BE SET ASIDE IN THIS PROCESS, even if we cannot see an honorable solution in the natural.

Pray. Discern. Seek the LORD for His heart for America. Don’t throw away your vote with a third party. Look beyond what you can see in the natural. Look at the Supreme Court. Look at the lives of the unborn. Look at “One nation UNDER God—indivisible, with liberty and justice for ALL!”

With all of its flaws, I am forever grateful for the freedom the United States of America gives me. God bless America!”

6. IN PARTICIPATION

“Participation”—do your PART to cause a PARTICIPATION (“ripple effect result”)

- SALT—interacts
- LIGHT—illuminates what is wrong, as well as showing the way out
- LABORERS—the 1st to show up—initiators & influencers
- EKKLESIA (Church)—a people fully invested in bringing transformation

NOTE: YOUR VOTE is a precious right & a serious, sacred responsibility. It is also a private & personal one.

NOTE: (My opinion) Look beyond the personalities of the candidates to the platforms they support. We cannot continue to take the lives of the unborn. The womb has become the most dangerous place for a child to be in America. The Supreme Court seats to be appointed in the near future will long outlast the 4 or 8-year terms of the one who appoints them.

SUMMARY:

IT IS TIME TO PERSEVERE!

How we live impacts culture!

- **TRANSFORMED CULTURE doesn't force people to change—it simply increases their opportunity to access the things of God.**
- **It never takes away the FREE WILL of people—it simply increases their AWARENESS OF HIS WILL.**

And that is why we persevere!