

First Fruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Slow Down October 12, 2021 Susan Kirkwood

To slow down – slow speed or tempo

- Taking or requiring a long time (ex. Bread dough)
- Taking more time than usual
- Deliberate (Syn)

Father God wants us to slow down. The world and the devil wants us to get caught up in the busyness all around and listen to all the negative things the news is putting out, and to take on the spirit of fear.

God does not want us to get caught up in those things. That's why we need to **slow down** and spend more time in the Word, spend more time in fellowship with our wonderful God. We need to slow down and look around and be blessed by God's amazing creation.

2 Timothy 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power love and a sound mind.

God wants to do a housecleaning in us. If we don't slow down and spend more time in the Word and meditate on it and increase our fellowship with God we will be caught up in the negativity of the world and let fear enter our mind and spirit. If we let fear come in, we will never fulfill the call of God in our lives. The devil uses fear to stop us, and to take joy out of our lives.

We need to slow down and stop putting other things as our gods. They include TV, our jobs, our everyday chores and even some people in our lives. We need to fill our day and our thoughts with God's word. We must evaluate and discern our thought life. We must be diligent in this. We can train ourselves to be aware of and in charge of our thought life by replacing lying thoughts with God's thoughts from His Word. His words are truth and they illuminate us spiritually and give us spiritual life.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he

looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it-not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it-they will be blessed in what they do.

Be encouraged! As you learn to discipline your mind and take charge of your thought life, your spiritual muscles will become stronger; your mind will become trained to shut out and give no place to negative, dark and false thoughts. We need to slow down and be persistent in our time in the Word and our time with our wonderful God. When you do this, you will recognize God's voice, and as you listen to His voice you will experience increased peace and joy. God's kingdom is growing within you.

This all takes time so we need to slow down and not let things around us distract us.

The city of Detroit recently put in Speed Humps in the neighborhood side streets. Why? Because cars were speeding down the streets with no regard or caring for the children and the people living on those streets. Drivers have had to slow down or get tossed around and possibly get hurt and do damage to their cars. They had to slow down. It didn't happen overnight but eventually they are learning how to safely drive over them and to slow down. The devil would love us to fly over the bumps and get hurt and entertain the spirit of fear. I believe that's why God wants us to slow down and spend more time with Him and His Word so we can learn who we are in Christ and get it deep within our spirit .

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

Joshua 1:5 (NIV) None will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you or forsake you.

Proverbs 3:12 (NIV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path

Philippians 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

As we slow down and fill ourselves with the Word of God, we will then speak His word out of our mouths and have victory over anything the devil or the world throws at us.

We declare over the city of Detroit and the region that the salvation that Jesus provided for us at the cross penetrates deep into the city. That the church, the Ecclesia preach the Word of God with confidence of who they are in Christ, and bring hope to the hopeless. We declare that the Body of Christ is slowing down and spending time with the Lord realizing that God supplies ALL our needs. That greater is He who is in us than he who in the world and Christ in us is the hope of glory.