

A Church Empowered by the Word of God – April 2024

Celebrating the 50th Year in the Service of God

Open Door Voice

Open Door Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor
Pastor

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Deacon Mark Leach
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Deacon Fred Walker
Deacon Emeritus

Trustee Bernodette Melton
Chairperson, Trustee Ministry &
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Trustee Romell McCoy
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Trustee Jane B. Monroe
Coordinator – Budget Ministry

Sister Margaret Jackson
Church Clerk

Sister Deborah Lyles
Assistant Church Clerk

Sister Shamia Ross
Assistant Church Clerk

Trustee Michelle McCord
Date Clerk
Email: mmccord24@yahoo.com

DO NOT
BE AFRAID.
FOR I HAVE
RANSOMED YOU.
I HAVE CALLED
YOU BY NAME:
YOU ARE MINE.

ISAIAH 43:18 (NLT)



Greetings,

Greetings My Fellow Sufferers,

This month as we approach the Passover Season, Easter and the Resurrection of Christ for the church, the conditions in this world remind us every day that we need the Lord to return soon! We can know that we are approaching the end times by the measuring stick Jesus Himself gave us.

Matthew 24:7-8 (NKJV)
[7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. [8] All these are the beginning of sorrows.

We cannot ignore the evidence of just how far and how deep this world has sunk into sin. But this is both a very

difficult time and a great time to be alive. It's difficult because the conditions that we are forced to live in degrade the quality of our daily life. It's good because the world has never needed our testimony more than at a time like this. It is a blessing to be alive and to have the opportunity of witness and testimony that are so badly needed!!!

We must recognize the need to do more...give more...be better at showing the world who we are and what really matters. This is a tremendous opportunity if we will only take full advantage of it. We must allow the light of Jesus' love to shine bright in our lives so that men and women will be able to see both His light and His power to change their lives. Amen!

I want to thank everyone for the kindness extended to me and my family as we celebrated 33 years together. Every word, gift and gesture was appreciated and the love and thoughtfulness with which they were given continues to fill our hearts with joy. Thank you all so very much! Deaconess Tankard and the entire committee, your hard work is never forgotten.

I am asking each of you to take very seriously my request to join me in praying for our Lord's guidance and direction in several issues that we are facing.

I am confident that while we worry about what may be unknown or uncertain to us, we serve an all-powerful and loving Savior who has promised never to leave or forsake us. We must trust Him at His word and place our faith in the fact that we know the Lord cares about all of His people!

Our goal is to always strive to do our best in words and in deeds in order to bring glory and honor to the Lord's Name!

Finally, spring is here and summer will soon follow. As we are in the middle of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, let us continue to make this a very great and wonderful year. Through and by our service to others we demonstrate our faithfulness to the Lord.

**"GIVING TO CHANGE LIVES...
SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE...BIG
ENOUGH... TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE"**

Be Blessed,
Pastor Taylor



As confessed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, make this year the year that you study the Word of God in order to learn of Him and follow in the footsteps of His Son.

Here at the Open Door Baptist Church we preach and teach Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Join us as we grow and learn of Him.

Join Us Each Sunday in person at 5600 Central Avenue, SE – Washington, DC (**don't forget to wear your mask**) or on our website at odbc5600.com at **11:00 am** for the Worship Service.

The Word of God is Preached and Taught here in Sunday School on Sundays, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays Bible Studies. Join us. Tune in on zoom.com or by phone. The phone number is the same for each class (**301-715-8592**) but the Meeting ID numbers are different for each one. All are invited and welcome to join in. Our **Bible Studies** are as follows.

Sunday School

Sunday @ 9:30 am
ID No: **810 2029 3019**

Mid-Day Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 11:00 am
ID No: **156-595-416**

Night Bible Studies

Wednesday @ 6:30 pm
ID No: **157-597-139**

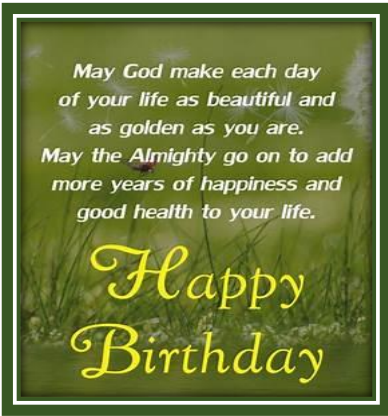
If the church office has your email address, a copy of the Sunday School Study Book will be sent to you. Just download the Lesson/Book, save it in your files where you can find it, open it up and study the lessons. If we do not have your email address and you would like a copy, notify the church office at odbc5600@aol.com.



Please Continue to Pray for:

Brother Bernard Powell
Brother Clinton Winborne
Brother Luke Allsbrook
Brother Marcus McCoy
Brother Nathaniel Scott, Sr.
Brother Ronnell D. Monroe
Brother Roscoe Satterwhite
Coronavirus Victims & Families
Deaconess Kandace Taylor
Deaconess Montez Taylor
Deaconess Patricia Brooks
Haiti & the World
Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor
Sister Brenda V. Jones
Sister Chita Taylor
Sister Cynthia McDuffie
Sister Gloria Jefferson
Sister Grace Ayers
Sister Jackie Caroline
Sister Joan Thomas
Sister Kimella Rodgers
Sister LaKisa Taylor-Allston
Sister LaShawn Farrish
Sister Lisa Ayers
Sister Margaret Smelley
Sister Marva Price
Sister Mary Jones
Sister Mary Latimer
Sister Robin Briscoe
Sister Theresa Law
United States of America
All Members of the ODBC, those in the Medical & Health Care Profession, Fire Department, Police Department, Transit Authority, Preachers, Teachers and all other persons who are on the front line of service

**Special prayers for the unrest
all over the world**



*Happy Birthday to all who were **born in the month of April**, especially to the following.*

Deaconess Delores Walker
April 4

Sister Deborah Lyles
April 4

Sister Helen Scott
April 7

Trustee Bernodette Melton
April 11

Deaconess Patricia Brooks
April 14

Brother Clinton Winborne
April 15

Deaconess Anna Peters
April 23

Sister Gloria Miles
April 24



*To All Who Celebrate their Wedding Anniversary in the month of **April**,*



If God loves us, why does He allow us to sin? Have you ever wondered and wanted to know why? While it may seem puzzling that a loving God allows sin, there are several perspectives to consider.

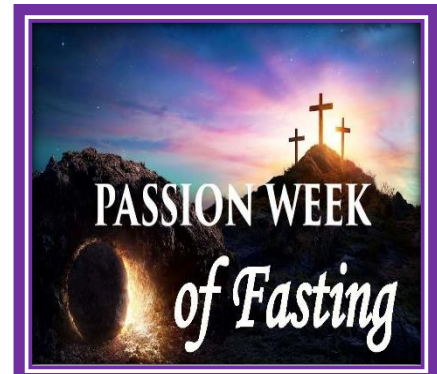
Free Will and Choice: God created humans with the capacity for **free will**. This freedom allows us to make choices, including the choice to sin or rebel against God. Without free will, our love for God would be robotic and forced. True love requires the ability to choose freely.

Grace and Redemption: The presence of sin provides an opportunity for God to display His **grace**. In Romans 5:20, it says, "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." God's grace is boundless and unconditional. Sin allows us to

experience His forgiveness and undeserved favor. Through Jesus Christ, God offers redemption and reconciliation to all who repent and turn to Him.

Spiritual Growth and Strength:

Our struggle with sin strengthens us spiritually. By resisting evil, we grow in faith and character. God allows sin to exist as a testing ground where we learn to rely on Him, seek His guidance, and overcome temptation.



During the **Open Door Baptist Church Passion Week of Fasting**, Monday, March 25th – Saturday March 29th, this writer personally experienced a rejuvenation. Our precious Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor, led us through a week of life-changing experiences. This Fasting did not involve what we normally needed such as food, drink or other desires, but this Fasting focused on fasting on life's negative behaviors, in which prayer, and spiritual reflection allowed me to draw closer to God and seek His presence. As I listened to the message I began to feel a renewed sense of purpose and clarity. Just as Jesus endured suffering and deep emotion during His Passion Week, my own journey through this dedicated time of concentration brought about a fresh perspective, renewed strength, and a deeper hunger for God's glory in

my life. May this rejuvenation continue to impact my walk and all those who logged on with me, not only throughout this year, but forevermore, nourishing our spirits, guiding our steps, and illuminating our paths. Let's reflect on these negative behaviors Pastor Taylor brought out:

Monday, March 25th, we were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Anger.**

Anger, also known as wrath, is an intense emotional state characterized by a strong, uncomfortable, and non-cooperative response to a perceived provocation, hurt, or threat. Anger, as discussed in the Bible, carries significant spiritual and practical implications. Anger is a natural emotion, but how we handle it matters. Seek God's guidance and choose love over anger.

Tuesday, March 26th, we were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Bitterness.**

Bitterness arises when someone feels wronged, hurt, or mistreated. When these emotions distort an individual's view of God, it becomes dangerous. Bitterness consumes an individual, becoming the primary lens through which they view life. It leads to constant anger, dissatisfaction, and resentment, affecting relationships and overall well-being. Getting rid of bitterness allows us to grow closer to God and maintain healthier relationships with others. Let us strive for forgiveness, grace, and love instead.

Wednesday, March 27th: We were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Confusion.**

Confusion refers to a state of bewilderment, where clarity and understanding become indescribable, where thoughts,

ideas, or information become jumbled or unclear. Confusion can also be an opportunity for growth. As we trust God and seek His guidance, our faith deepens, and as Christians, we can rely on God's Word, seek wisdom, pray, and trust that the Holy Spirit within us will guide us away from confusion. Let us embrace clarity, order, and the peace that comes from following God's path

Thursday, March 28th: We were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Criticism.**

Criticism is the act of analyzing, evaluating, or judging the quality of someone or something. The Bible encourages us to be humble and recognize our own imperfections. When we receive criticism, it's an opportunity for self-reflection and growth. Instead of becoming defensive, we can consider whether there's truth in the feedback and use it as a chance to improve. Biblical wisdom encourages us to be discerning (*having good judgement*), gentle, and loving when dealing with criticism. It's an opportunity for growth, both personally and in our relationships with others.

Friday, March 29th: We were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Quitting.**

Quitting refers to the act of ceasing or discontinuing something. When we face challenges, setbacks, or discouragement, we are encouraged to stand firm in our faith and continue doing what is right. What you are doing now could positively affect someone's life, even if you're unaware of it. Your faithfulness and perseverance may be an inspiration to others, leading them to Christ or encouraging them to keep going. Quitting is not an option in God's eyes. Even when circumstances

are tough, keep fighting, keep believing, and hold on a little longer. Breakthroughs may be just around the corner!

Saturday, March 30th: We were asked to Fast on life's negative behavior emotion of **Rebellion.**

Rebellion refers to opposition to those in authority or dominance. Rebellion is a significant theme in the Bible, and it carries both spiritual and practical implications. The Bible consistently teaches that rebellion against earthly authority is equivalent to rebellion against God Himself. When we defy authority, we undermine God's established order and His appointed leaders. When we rebel, we place our desires above God's authority, similar to those who seek supernatural power through forbidden means. The Bible urges us to avoid rebellion, recognizing that it distances us from God, disrupts His order, and carries serious consequences. Instead, let us humbly submit to God's authority and trust in His wisdom and grace.

I personally thank Pastor Taylor's dedication and guidance through this Passion Week of Fasting that has touched my heart and the hearts of many others. We are grateful for the transformative impact he brings to the congregation at the Open Door Baptist Church. His 33 years of service have been a beacon of faith, and we look forward to celebrating his continued leadership and ministry. May his wisdom and compassion continue to inspire us all! I pen this writing not to glorify the Pastor nor myself, but for the Glory of God. Love you ALL, your Sister in Christ Jesus, Margaret B. Jackson. Amen 🙏