

# Open Door Voice

## *Open Door Baptist Church*

**Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor**  
Pastor

5600 Central Avenue, SE - Washington, DC 20019  
Phone: 202-584-1744 - Fax: 202-584-0661  
Email: [odbc5600@aol.com](mailto:odbc5600@aol.com) - Website:  
[odbc5600.com](http://odbc5600.com)

**Deacon Mark Leach**  
Chairman, Deacon Ministry

**Deaconess Montez D. Taylor**  
President, Deaconess Ministry

**Trustee Bernodette Melton**  
Chairperson, Trustee Ministry &  
Treasurer

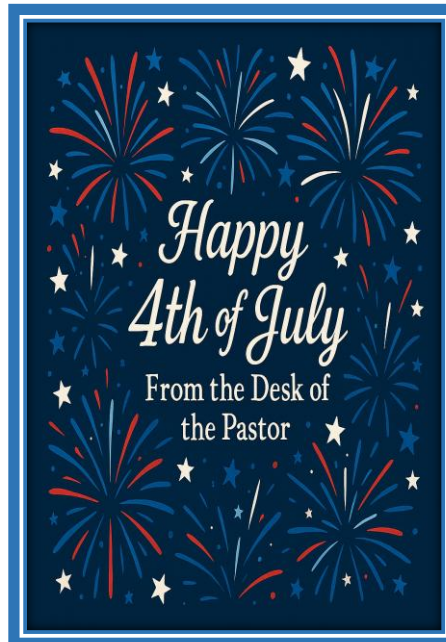
**Trustee Romell McCoy**  
Financial Secretary

**Trustee Tomika Holmes**  
Coordinator – Budget Ministry

**Sister Margaret Jackson**  
Church Clerk

**Sister Chita Taylor**  
Assistant Church Clerk

**Trustee Michelle McCord**  
Date Clerk  
Email: [mmccord24@yahoo.com](mailto:mmccord24@yahoo.com)



Greetings,

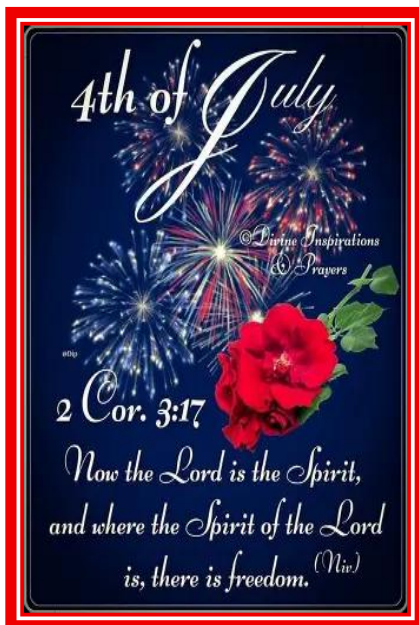
This month, I want to take the opportunity to pass along encouraging news while we go through a very troubling time. World events are rapidly unfolding and this has caused a lot of anxiety, even among the people of God. This is not the first time we have been here and if life continues, it will not be the last.

As we seek to understand all that is going on both domestically here at home and on the world stage internationally, the Word of God provides for us some comfort in times like these. There is a slight problem for many persons who have not taken

advantage of the invitation to get close to God and His Son Jesus, who is our Savior. We are often so estranged that we are unaware of all that we have available through this relationship. This is why bible study is so important and valuable. We could go crazy attempting to figure out the actions of world leaders on our own and trying to know and determine “the next thing.” These are times to “Trust and Believe”; “Follow and Obey”.

One of the things that we have in the Bible is HOPE and keeping hope alive is a very real challenge in a world like ours. We are continually surrounded by doom, destruction, injustice, unrighteousness, unfair practices and on-going evil. The person who is not careful won't know where to turn, who or what to trust.

At crucial times in human history, God has provided guidance and comfort to His people. Through a relationship with Him we can know **EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT!** We may not understand it all. We may not like the process. We may desire to see things done another way. But



trusting in the plan of the One who will, in the end, have the last word allows me to know that it will be alright.

**Romans 8:18 (KJV)**

***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

**Romans 8:28 (KJV)**

***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 8:31 (KJV)**

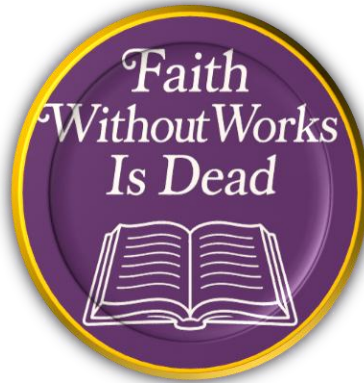
***What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?***

**Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)**

***[38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Summer is in full swing but remember that The Lord never takes a break from the promises He has made. Show your faithfulness by doing what you promised even while you are on your vacation!

Be Blessed,  
Pastor Taylor



## Understanding the Biblical Truth

One of the most profound teachings in the Christian faith comes from James 2:14-26, where the apostle James emphatically states, **"Faith without works is dead."** This passage challenges believers to move beyond mere belief and embrace a faith that is active, transformative, and visible through their actions.

**Biblical Foundation:** James 2:17 declares, **"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."**

This verse speaks to the necessity of demonstrating faith through deeds. The Bible does not teach that works replace faith, but rather that genuine faith **produces** works. It is the natural fruit of a heart surrendered to God. Similarly, Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:16-20 that believers will be known by their **fruit**—meaning, their actions should reflect their faith. Just as a tree is identified by the fruit it bears, so too is a Christian known by their works of love, service, and obedience to God.

### Faith in Action Biblical Examples

Two examples in James 2:21-25 highlight this truth:

1. **Abraham's Faith:** **"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on**

**the altar?"** (James 2:21).

Abraham did not merely believe God's promise—he acted upon it. His willingness to sacrifice Isaac demonstrated his unwavering trust in God, and as a result, his faith was credited as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

2. **Rahab's Faith:** **"Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"** (James 2:25). Rahab's belief in the God of Israel led her to take action by protecting the spies in Jericho, proving her faith through works.

### Works Do Not Earn Salvation, But They - Reflect It

Ephesians 2:8-10 clarifies, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."** Here, we see that salvation is purely by grace, but good works are the **evidence** of salvation. They are the outward expression of a transformed heart.

When believers walk in faith, their actions—helping the needy, loving their neighbors, pursuing righteousness, and sharing the Gospel—become visible testimonies of their commitment to Christ. As Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:16, **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."**

True faith compels action. It is not passive or stagnant but is demonstrated through obedience, love, and good works. As James



2:26 reminds us, **"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."** Let us walk in **living faith**, ensuring that our actions bear witness to the goodness and power of God in our lives. May we strive daily to reflect the love and righteousness of Christ, fulfilling the calling to be **doers of the word and not hearers only** (James 1:22). Let us seek Him, trust Him, and allow His love to transform our hearts!

— — — — —

Experience the Word of God at Open Door Baptist Church where we teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. We welcome you to join us, grow in faith, and experience the life-changing power of knowing Him. Come as you are, and let His Word be your guiding light.

We invite you to worship with us each Sunday at 5600 Central Avenue, SE, Washington, DC at 11:00 AM—please remember to wear a mask. You can also stream our service online at [odbc5600.com](http://odbc5600.com).

The Word of God is preached and taught with great dedication. Join us for:

**Sunday School** – Sundays at 9:45 AM (Meeting ID: 810 2029 3019)

**Mid-Day Bible Study** – Tuesdays at 11:00 AM (Meeting ID: 156-595-416)

**Night Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (Meeting ID: 157-597-139)

You can log on to Zoom at [zoom.com](http://zoom.com) or join by phone at **(301) 715-8592**. This number can be used to dial in and access the Bible studies. The phone number for all studies is the same, the Meeting ID numbers vary.

Everyone is invited and welcomed!



*Thanks be to God, who is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love!*

*As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect His heart—especially toward those burdened by hardship not of their own making. **The Relief Fund** stands as a living testament to that divine compassion, providing timely support in moments of urgent need.*

*To all who give so freely and faithfully, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity sows seeds of hope, uplifts weary souls, and shines the light of God's love into dark and difficult places. **"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done"** (Proverbs 19:17, NIV).*

*Every contribution—great or small—echoes the grace of the One who gave everything for us. Let your giving continue to be a sacred act of gratitude, proclaiming the goodness of our gracious and faithful God.*

**Please Continue  
to Pray for:  
Brother Eric Tankard**

Bother Mike Christ  
Brother Kenneth Rich  
Brother Luke Allsbrook  
Brother Ziare Sinclair  
Deaconess Kandace Taylor  
Deaconess Montez Taylor  
Deaconess Patricia Brooks  
Deaconess Selina Tankard  
Haiti & the World  
Mother Grace Ayers  
Rev. Dr. Bernard M. Taylor  
Sister Brenda V. Jones  
Sister Cheryl Grinston-Ford  
Sister Cynthia McDuffie  
Sister Gloria Jefferson  
Sister Jackie Caroline  
Sister Kimella Rodgers  
Sister Margaret Smelley  
Sister Marva Price  
Sister Mary Jones  
Sister Mary Latimer  
Sister Quineshia Sinclair  
Sister Robin Briscoe  
United States of America  
All Members of the ODBC,  
those in the Medical & Health  
Care Profession, Fire  
Department, Police  
Department, Transit  
Authority, Preachers,  
Teaches 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 **July** especially  
to the following.*

Sister LaKisha Richardson Payton  
July 2

Sister Amber Wilson Walker

July 5

**Sister Kendra Foster**

July 9

**Trustee Jane B. Monroe**

July 21

**Deaconess Selina Tankard**

July 27



*To All Who Celebrate their  
Wedding Anniversary in the  
month of July!*



### A Tribute to Freedom: Honoring the 4th of July

As we celebrate this Independence Day, we lift our voices in gratitude—not only for the freedom we cherish as a nation but for the ultimate freedom found in Christ. As we celebrate the birth of our country, let us reflect on the blessings of liberty, the sacrifices made for freedom, and the guiding hand of God upon our land.

**"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."** — 2 Corinthians 3:17

From the founding fathers to those who have bravely defended our country, countless individuals have paved the way for the freedom we enjoy today. Their sacrifices mirror the greatest sacrifice of all—that of Jesus Christ, who gave His life so that we might be free from the bondage of sin.

**"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."** — John 8:36

As we watch the fireworks light up the sky, let them serve as a reminder of the light of Christ that shines in our hearts, leading us in righteousness and truth. Let us honor our country by living lives of integrity, kindness, and faith—knowing that true freedom is not just found in independence, but in dependence on God.

**"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance."** — Psalm 33:12

May this Fourth of July be a celebration of liberty, a time of reflection, and a moment of gratitude for the divine blessings we hold. Let us pray for our nation, for its leaders, and for unity among all people, remembering that our greatest allegiance is to the Kingdom of God! Amen.

**Happy Independence Day! May God bless America and all who seek Him!**



With sincere joy, we extend heartfelt congratulations to Miss Kenyale Edwards, beloved daughter of Kenneth and Taaliba Edwards and cherished granddaughter of Deaconess B. Ann Williams.

Kenyale graduated from Raymore-Peculiar (Ray-Pec) High School in Peculiar, MO on May 16, 2025, marking a significant milestone in her academic journey. With God's grace, she now sets her sights on a noble path—pursuing a degree in Clinical Psychology, with the aspiration of earning her Doctorate and serving as a Child Psychologist. We celebrate not only her achievements, but the beautiful spirit of compassion and purpose that guides her.

As Scripture reminds us, **"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans"** (Proverbs 16:3, NIV). May the Lord continue to order Kenyale's steps, surround her with wisdom, and strengthen her heart for the meaningful work ahead.

We are so proud of her and the legacy of faith and excellence she carries forward.