

## CHARGE! The Finish Line

On December 31, 2017, during Sunday service, Apostle Leander Robinson cast the vision for the year 2018 and shared with our congregation the direction the Lord was leading him in. He shared our theme for 2018: Forward! Ever Forward! – a mandate from God. He affirmed that the corporate goals for our body was to complete that which we had started – adding 7 to 10 new families, training our musicians, and dedicating our new edifice upon its erection. During this service, he also shared with us the spiritual meaning behind the Number 18 – Oppression and Bondage. Even as Apostle spoke these words, my spirit man immediately accepted the truth of this warning and rejected it as a reflection of God's will for us this year.

In 2017, the Lord gave us the following warning and encouragement: "We are to be unrelenting in our good fight of faith. We war! We War! WE WAR!! This year, we start strong and we finish stronger!" We surely saw the escalating warfare throughout this year, and though we may have been wounded (or even came limping into the new year) – we did indeed finish the year stronger. Our faith is stronger, our resolve is firmer, and our expectancy is greater that we shall surely see the manifestation of God's blessings in our lives. In fact, we are assured that *it is already done!*

The year 2018 will surely present may challenges that will require careful navigation to overcome. My sensing is that 2018 is a year of **Abundance** and **Freedom** – the result achieved from the unrelenting press towards our goal(s). This result will not be achieved without a fight. We must resolve to continue our press Forward, Ever Forward – through every form of adversity. This is a year of escalation and elevation – elevation and escalation. Escalated warfare, elevated faith, elevated rewards, and escalated blessings. This is a transformational year for the ministry and for us individually.

The warfare is consuming this year. While there are many threats that we will combat from without, the greatest threat in this year comes from within. We are to guard one another. We must be careful that the seeds of discord the Enemy seeks to plant do not take root. I sense in the spirit that the Enemy is lurking along the hedges, looking for a crack. Be vigilant! Once again, the Lord calls us to be our brothers' and sisters' keeper;

more so, we are to guard ourselves. We must not get weary in well doing. Our resolve each day is to be, "This Day We Fight!"

2018 is a year of God's Majesty and Power. The definition of the word *majesty* includes – stateliness, dignity, royal power, supreme greatness or authority, sovereignty. This is a year where we shall see the display of God's Royal Power and Authority on our behalf and in this country. God will show Himself to be Sovereign. We will come to know Him as Resurrecter, Restorer, and Deliverer in this year.

2018 is a continuation year and year of definitiveness and distinction. It is a continuation of the works the Lord has begun in us. It is a leg of the relay race that we have run with grace, faith, and determination the last several years. In 2015, We Built Faith. In 2016, We Put Faith in Action. In 2017, We Pressed Towards the Goal. And, in 2018, We Charge the Finish Line! We must ensure that our handoff of the baton (our goals) is smooth and deliberate, and we are to be focused on definitiveness of purpose as we press Forward, Ever Forward.

### **Dispatch from The Valley:**

Towards the end of November 2017, I heard the voice of the Lord say, "It is STILL Well at the WELL." After this statement, I did not hear anything else for several weeks; however, the Lord began to give me impressions of slogging through mud. I began to see continuous activity taking place upon a muddy surface. At times, it seemed the activity was unhindered by the mud and the movements were focused, effortless, and unrelenting. Other times, the activity was erratic, sluggish, and inconsistent. As we ended 2017, I had a knowing that I'd received a "dispatch from the valley," but its meaning was unclear.

On Sunday, January 21, 2018, the Lord showed me an open vision of the valley first shown to me in 2011 and again in 2013.

*The Lord showed me a wide view of the valley where several areas of activity are taking place. I see the Well centered in the valley; water continues to leak from its pores as it continues to pour in from the heavens. As the Well-water is still overflowing into the valley (and has been), the valley's surface is nearly consumed with it – making much of the surface muddy. There is a bustling of activity encompassing the entirety of the valley. The activities appear to be varied – there are some areas of building; while in*

*others there is a clearing away. The people undertaking these tasks are focused on their efforts and appear to be moving unhindered along the surface. Their feet lift freely from the muddy surface, their steps appear sure and deliberate, and their “garments” are without blemish. As the people move about, there are those who become visible who are having difficulty traversing the muddy surface. Their gaze is cast down as they attempt to navigate a way through the mud. Their steps are cautious and without direction as they pull their mud encrusted feet from the surface. They go about their activities sluggishly and with great effort. Work continues in the valley, and there is a charge of expectancy in the air.*

There is much that the Lord would say to us through this vision; however, at the time of this writing, the Lord has highlighted the following assurances and warnings for us: There has been much progress made in the valley and it is now a place of much visibility. Transformation is currently underway. This is a year of much activity. Our focus is to be on the task(s) we have before us, and not the circumstances that surround us. There is safety and peace of mind in our pressing this year. Losing our focus will cause us to be as those who had trouble navigating the valley. These people have become consumed with the natural appearance of the surface.

This is for us to be a year without blemish. We must guard against the traps of the Enemy that would tarnish that which the Lord is doing in and through us. We must be mindful that the greatest threat within the valley, the biggest hindrance – came from within. We must protect our sight! What we see, gains power.

Even as there continues to be much uncertainty in our world, the Lord assures us that He is Faithful and Just. He has not forgotten a single promise and His Word is finished. 2018 is a year of visible blessings that result from focused efforts. This is the year to lay hold of “it”; that blessing that has alluded us for some time. We are in a time of corporate blessings, but this is very much a personal year. We are to guard each other, but we are responsible for guarding ourselves. We must run our race with due diligence – the finish line is ever before us. The command that resounds within my spirit is –  
**CHARGE!**