On Sunday, January 1, 2024, Apostle Leander Robinson presented to CWCC the theme for this year: "Having a Spirit of Expectancy–Now & Beyond!!!" Having been richly blessed by the teaching Apostle Robinson completed on this subject in 2023, I initially thought that I had an understanding of the instruction and expectation that this theme conveyed to us for this year; however, as I began to seek the Lord for the Word this year, I began to see the Direction, Instruction, Challenge, and Command from the Lord that this theme conveys.

As the Lord often has me do, I started by defining our theme for the year using the Merriam-Webster and Cambridge online dictionaries. From this endeavor, my understanding of our theme expanded to the following statement:

"Having A Spirit of Expectancy-Now & Beyond!!!"

"Having (Continuing to Have [hold, maintain, possess]) a Spirit (Soul, Character, Disposition [feeling, behavior, or outlook] of a specific nature) of Expectancy (the state of expecting [continuing to expect], looking forward, awaiting, anticipation)—Now (at the present time or the time immediately to follow) and (in addition to) Beyond (a greater distance, amount surpassing)!!!"

It is from this starting point that this Word comes.

This Year Is An Answer!

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

What are you expecting from the Lord? The Command from the Lord to us is that we are to operate from a State of Expectancy this year. There is a reigniting taking place within us, a rekindling of relationship, and reconnection of purpose. We are to know what we are expecting from the Lord for this year and above all expect that God will move on our behalf, in our situations, and despite our circumstances. For many, this year is an answer.

My sensing is that this is a year of "giant steps." The Lord impressed upon me the sound of many footfalls. I hear steps that are loud and bold, movements that are soft

and faint, and the scuffling of feet. The Lord will cause the impact of our steps (efforts, wins) to be multiplied in this year. We are to continue to press forward, whether by walking, running, or fighting our way forward. There is a stretching to and in us taking place this year. This is a year for pursuing God.

My sensing is that we are in a "kingdom connection testing" year. Connection is key. While we will continue to see the Lord's blessings in our local body and individual lives, the Lord impressed upon me that this year we will encounter situations where we are to be *battle buddies*. We are in a *storm the stronghold* moment. There are mountains that must be moved this year. We are to be ready to strike – so that we may seize every opportune <u>and</u> inopportune moment.

Be warned and encouraged; God knows the state that we are in. There is still a call for the "Sleeping Worshipper" to "Arise!" and cry out to God. There must be an awakening in the body and a return to relationship. For too long, many have deceived themselves into justifying their absence, disconnected state, and lack of commitment. For those who have been discouraged by the "wait" of expecting the Lord to move on your behalf – take heart, this year is an answer. For those who have decided that the way of God is *in* the way of achieving your desired end – take heed, do not be deceived, renew your trust in our Faithful Father for He is a jealous God. The Lord's will for you is still wholeness and connection to the body. His plans for you are still for your good.

This year we will see and experience a dynamic shift in the ministry. We stand at a new frontier. We are to expect and continue to expect the Lord to move on our behalf. There is a longevity to both our expectations and the impact of the results achieved this year. The Sustainer guides us this year.

I see the Lord moving this year like a whirlwind through the land. Mighty is the Work of His Hand. We are in a time of overwhelming blessings being poured out, but this year is not without its pitfalls. The world will continue to be in a state of glorified chaos and unrest. We are to resist a "bandwagon" mentality. We are to remain expecting, speak positively, and continue to press forward. For those who stay the course and maintain a kingdom connected mindset, you shall see the Lord's blessings in and out of season this year.

Be encouraged, Covenant Warriors, this year is an answer!