

● December 2022



MONTH *of* GREAT JOY & DOUBLE PORTION

Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Lk. 2.10



We have finally come to the last month of this extremely eventful year. The drums of war and enthusiasm for a continuing, even nuclear, confrontation between Russia and her allies on one hand and Ukraine and the rest of the western world have dissipated. The western allies discovered that the two missiles that hit Poland (a NATO country) was not from Russia but from Ukraine, trying to justify the full engagement of these nations on her side. In the meantime, Ukraine's infrastructure, cities and citizens have been devastated by Russian mindless and ceaseless aggression exposing her own citizens to the severest winter cold and daily bombardment. The month of Peace, Power and Appreciation ended with the hope that peace may return into that region soon especially as the peoples of the nations of Europe and the world demand that their current sufferings arising from the war end.

This month, the Lord calls us to tune our ears to hear good news of great joy as we celebrate the Prince of Peace. Angels announced this two centuries ago and the wise men who came from the east (modern day Iran) also were filled with exceeding joy when they saw Him (Mt. 2.10). The Lord Himself promised during His earthly ministry that those who complied with His commandments would experience His joy. Jn. 15.11. In His presence is the fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. Ps. 16.11.

Notice that the joy of the Lord is different from the joy of the world. The joy of the Lord is defined by the presence of the Lord in our circumstances, no matter what they are. Unfortunately, the people He came to: the Jews of His time did not receive Him. But as many of us that received Him He gave us the power to overcome sorrow and bring hope. His power gives us all the joy we need drives away all fear. Jn. 1.11-12. We can move from joy, to great joy, fullness of joy and exceeding joy.

Expect this month double portion of all of His blessings and favors as you pray and work for it. We can all learn from the wise Elisha, the servant of Elijah, who asked for a double portion of his master's anointing. God's anointing or touch by His Holy Spirit is more valuable than any other blessings in making a positive difference in our world (2 Kgs 2:9-10; Acts 3.6-7).

Banish fear!. As people called to be a king and a priest and to reign on God's behalf in your world, every child of God needs the power and authority of a king. (Rev. 5.10, Ecc. 8.4). You are also to keep the fire of the Lord burning on His altar throughout this month and beyond with your praises, testimonies and good works that give glory to His name (Lev. 6.12-13; 1 Pet. 2.9, 21-22).

*Welcome to the month of Great Joy and Double Portion
December 1, 2022
D. Olowu*