

Facing Challenges and Confirm the Work 2024

Special Offering: November 3 – December 29, 2024

Thesis: We are a people who rise up and face challenges before us with trust in our faithful God, with dependency upon and authenticity with God and one another, and with obedient courage to the Lord and his leadership.

Text: John 14:33; Psalm 90:16-17; 2 Corinthians 9:8-14

If you have been alive for very long, you have faced challenges. The truth is that you will continue to face challenges. The challenges may be relational, physical, emotional, financial, cultural, systemic... or, just fill in the blank.

Jesus said it like this:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart [have courage]! I have overcome the world" (John 14:33).

Facing challenges:

It matters how we respond to challenges, troubles, trials, tests, and difficulties. **The Lord has taught us how to respond.**

1. Run to God.

- a. Cast all your cares, anxieties, and worries upon the Lord, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).
- b. Pour out your heart to God.
- c. Talk with God.
- d. We want to get our lives **established in intimacy with God**, so that we know where to run in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).
 - i. *Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).*

2. Run to others.

- a. *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18).*
- b. Pour out your heart to others.
- c. We were designed to need others.

- d. *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).*
 - e. **You and I were created for dependence upon God and interdependence with others.** We were not meant to live in isolation or as independent contractors.
 - f. So, we seek out others for prayer, wisdom, counsel, and support that comes from just being with one another.
 - g. We practice being an authentic people who express and **experience true Christian community.**
3. **Run with Lord.**
- a. When you face various trials, troubles, tests, and challenges, there comes a point where you have to step out, trusting in the leadership of the Lord Jesus and getting in action around what the Lord is showing you to do.
 - b. *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).*
 - c. **The Lord is a great leader.**
 - i. We seek to get next to God so that we know his heartbeat, values, and character.
 - ii. We seek God for his wisdom, direction, and leadership.
 - iii. We seek godly wisdom, counsel, prayer, and insight from others.
 - iv. Then, we step out in faith humbly walking out what we believe the Lord is working in us (Philippians 2:12-13).
 - v. We can follow the Lord and obey even if we have doubts, fear, or anxiety.
 - vi. We simply step out with obedient courage in the Lord's leadership.
 - d. We are seeking to **extend the kingdom of God** in the earth as we partner with Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others.
 - e. **We remind ourselves that God is faithful.**
 - i. The past faithfulness of God prophesies his current and future faithfulness.

- ii. Since you can trust God with your eternity, you can trust God in the present.
 - iii. So, take time to reflect upon God's faithfulness to you, your family, your church community, etc., as a way to build and encourage your most holy faith in God.
 - 1. *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).*
4. **Here is our corporate identity:**
- a. We run to God, we run to others, and we run with God.
 - b. We are a people who rise up and face challenges before us with trust in our faithful God, with dependency upon and authenticity with God and one another, and with obedient courage to the Lord and his leadership.

Calvary, we are facing a challenge as a church family. It is a financial challenge.

What I just shared with you about facing challenges, that is what I have done as I became aware of a financial challenge we are facing as a church.

- 1. I ran to God to pour out my heart to God.
- 2. I ran to others to help me carry the burden, to get perspective, and for wisdom: staff, elders, deacons, Personnel Committee, and B/F Committee.
 - a. When I shared with these teams, they were full of faith and talked about what God had done in and through us in the past.
 - b. God's past faithfulness prophesies his present faithfulness. We trust God.
 - c. Here was the faith of these teams: "We will get through this together."
- 3. And, I am running with the Lord.
 - a. The Lord is a great leader, and he is giving us direction.
 - b. The Lord is faithful. He is not finished with us yet, and he will finish what he started in us.

Here is what I know:

- 1. We have great and magnificent promises from the Lord in his word for us.
- 2. We have significant prophetic words for our congregation.
- 3. We are partnering with Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence both locally and globally.
 - a. The Lord is allowing us to have impact because we are working out what he is working in us.

- b. We are responding to the initiative of the Lord as individuals and as a congregation.
 - c. What we do matters forever; there is eternal impact and fruit.
4. We are a church family that is open and honest. We practice authenticity.
5. We are a family. Like any other family, we deal with challenges together.
6. The Lord has always taken care of us, and we believe he will do it again this time.

Here is a review of our current financial situation:

1. **We celebrate what the Lord did for us this past year financially.**
 - a. We ended the year 2023 strong.
 - b. We began the year 2024 strong.
 - c. We were able to set aside funds for contingency, giving us one month of savings and cash flow.
2. **Our giving pattern changed this past year.**
 - a. After beginning the year strong, we hit a rough patch.
 - b. We are grateful that the Lord provided for us proactively late in 2023 and in January 2024 to help us deal with this financially rough patch.
 - c. We pulled down our cash balance significantly from March – September 2024.
 - d. YTD, we are running about \$2,130/wk behind budget in terms of giving.
3. **Just like you, we have been impacted by inflation and repairs.**
 - a. You know what has happened to your homeowner's insurance.
 - i. Calvary's building insurance more than doubled.
 - ii. Building insurance increased by \$56,099 due to changes in the insurance industry
 - b. Other costs have gone up as well.
 - c. And, we had some HVAC maintenance and replacement that cost a lot.
 - i. Praise the Lord, one of our original units from 1987 just bit the dust.
 - ii. We celebrate that, with service and repairs, we got 37 years out of that a/c unit.
4. **In light of running behind in tithes, we as a church family want to accomplish 2 financial goals for year-end 2024:**
 - a. **We want to finish the year strong financially**, with all of us being faithful in our tithes and offerings.
 - b. **We want to give a special offering to help us navigate the next year financially.**
 - i. **This special offering is over and above our regular tithes and offerings.**
 - ii. We are not asking everyone to give the same dollar amount.

5. **We are asking everyone to pray and to give sacrificially as the Lord gives you the grace to give.**
 - a. In order to tackle our current and projected financial situation, we want to come together through our **Confirm the Work 2024** special offering.
 - b. The dates for our **Confirm the Work 2024** special offering are Nov. 3 – Dec. 29.
 - c. Our goal for the **Confirm the Word Offering 2024** is \$125,000.
 - d. This special offering is over and above our regular tithes and offerings.



Calvary, you are a part of a generous church. Members of our church give joyfully, generously, and sacrificially of their time, talents, and treasure for the kingdom of God. People at Calvary and friends associated with us pray, give, and go in order to join Jesus on his mission locally, nationally, and internationally.

Here is our prayer for this special offering:

Let Your work [power] appear to Your servants and Your majesty [presence] to their children. 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands (Psalm 90:16-17 NASB).

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands (Psalm 90:16-17 NIV).

Call to Action:

In facing this challenge, we get a chance to grow in our individual and corporate capacity to dialogue with the Lord, to obey the Lord, and to step out in faith in the Lord.

1. **Dialogue with the Lord** (1 Samuel 30:8; Psalm 27:4 ESV).
 - a. Inquire of the Lord.
 - b. Ask the Lord how much he would have you give.
 - c. What do you do if you don't discern an answer from the Lord?
 - i. Offer up a number to the Lord.
 - ii. You can make an offering of an amount to the Lord, "Here is what I am thinking. Lord, what are you thinking?"
 - iii. If God hasn't spoken to you, hold something before the Lord and ask: "Lord, is this pleasing to you?"
 - iv. Ask the Lord to confirm it in your heart or to communicate what he wants you to do.
 - v. "Here is what I am thinking. Lord, does this make your heart happy?"
 - d. If you don't get a number or if you don't have a clear answer, then give what is in your heart or capacity to give.
 - i. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful (Colossians 1:15).*
 - ii. *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).*
 - iii. Romans 12:1-2.
2. **Obey the Lord** (2 Corinthians 8:7).
 - a. *But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).*
3. **Step out in faith in the Lord** (Philippians 4:14-19).
 - a. *Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even*

more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:14–19).



Prayer points:

1. Thank the Lord for seeds getting sown, for people coming to Christ, for guests coming to Calvary, for financial provision, and for our kingdom assignment.
2. Pray for people who need jobs, full employment, promotions, etc.
3. Pray for blessings, bonuses, windfalls, and abundant provision for people.
4. Pray for laborers for the harvest field.
5. Pray for financial provision for the vision and for true riches (fullness of God; gifts of the Holy Spirit; character of Jesus; signs, wonders, and miracles).
6. Pray into Wayne Drain's prophetic words of multiplication, generosity, and impact.
7. Pray for the Lord to restore what has been lost to or stolen by the enemy:
Total Recovery.
8. May the Lord make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you may abound in every good work.
 - a. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed

and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:8-15).

CONFIRM THE WORK

SPECIAL OFFERING: NOV. 3 - DEC. 29, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special Gift \$



Keep this copy for your records

Special Gift \$



SCAN ME

Ways to give:

1. Give to "Confirm the Work 2024" on our Ministry One app, or online at calvaryhouston.com.
2. Mail a check to Calvary: 7550 Cherry Park Dr, Houston, TX 77095. Include the top portion of this card with your check.
3. Use a giving envelope at one of our services. Mark the envelope with "CW 2024" and place it in the offering basket.

**Reminder: A Special Offering is above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings*

Let's acknowledge and celebrate what God is doing currently in and through us:

1. **Forming us according to his vision for our lives and congregation.**
 - a. **Our three-fold vision** is to establish people in intimacy with the Lord, to express true Christian community, and to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.
 - b. These outcomes should be flowering in our lives and bearing fruit: **awareness** of God, **authenticity** with God and others, and **alignment with** and **action around** the ways of the Jesus.
2. **Molding us into a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others.**
 - a. God is letting us partner with him to impact the lives of more than 230 people each week through worship, prayer, Children's Ministry, Student Ministry, small groups, Men's Ministry, Ladies' Ministry, and other teams.
 - b. The Lord Jesus said, *"I will build my church"* (Matthew 16:18).
 - i. Recently, the Lord impressed on me that he was asking people to come to Calvary.
 - ii. Then, I felt like the Lord asked me, "Are you asking them to come?"
 - c. Jesus told us to *"ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"* here at Calvary and beyond (Matthew 9:38).
 - i. God is sending us laborers from near and far to partner with us for his purposes in and through Calvary.
 - d. Jesus is fulfilling his Father's desire in and through us that we might be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13).
 - i. *"... these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"* (Isaiah 56:7).
 - e. Different ones of you are sharing with me how God is setting up divine appointments for you to touch people with the transforming love of God.
3. **Opening up doors for effective service locally and globally.**
 - a. We have amazing [partnerships with ministries and missionaries](#) near and far.
 - b. **Ministry Team Training** continues to give a lifeline to those who want to learn to move in the power of God.
 - c. Together with Copperfield Church, our **Hairgrove Elementary Partnership** is changing the trajectory of children for good as we serve,

- mentor, resource, clothe, and make a difference in public education with students, families, teachers, and staff.
- d. What we are doing in **Myanmar** is very significant to those pastors, missionaries, and church planters.
 - e. **We get to partner with ministries around the world.**
 - i. Ministers Prayer Network: Apostles Mosy and Gloria Madugba.
 - ii. [Loving Houston](#).
 - iii. [CrossWalk Center](#).
 - iv. [Somebody Cares](#).
 - v. [India Gospel Outreach](#).
 - vi. [Faithwalking](#).
 - vii. [Union Baptist Association](#).
 - viii. [New Life Children's Home Guatemala](#).
 - ix. [Clothed by Faith](#).
 - x. [Care Net Pregnancy Centers of Houston](#).
 - xi. [Cy-Fair Helping Hands](#).
 - xii. [Hope Disaster Recovery](#).
 - xiii. Myanmar pastors, missionaries, church planters, and orphanages.
 - xiv. And the list goes on and on.
 - f. **We get to partner with and to send missionaries nationally and internationally.** ([See Calvary Missions Supporter Response Card.](#))
 - i. David Carter: Release the Kingdom Ministries.
 - ii. Daniel and Marlene DeJesus: Prison Ministry; mentoring, etc.
 - iii. Eric and Wendy: Beyond Ministry.
 - iv. Ana: Refugee ministry and ministering cross culturally in Europe.
 - v. Gene and Rene Haub: FamilyLife Ministries.
 - vi. Chase and Megan: Restricted Nation
 - vii. Angela Petry: Prisoners of Hope and other ministers in KC.
 - viii. Michael Newman: Christian Coalition for Reconciliation.
 - ix. Kathy Vosburg-Miller: Crosswalk Center.
 - g. **Ministry to Israel:** The Lord is leading us to send teams to Israel and to mobilize prayer for the protection of the land of Israel, the salvation of the Jewish people, the peace of Jerusalem, the protection of Palestinians, and the end of the war with Hamas and Hezbollah.
4. **Making rich deposits into our lives** through ministers like Wayne Drain, Apostles Mosy and Gloria Madugba, Rickie Bradshaw, and others.

Slides and graphics:



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