

Our Word for the Year 2025

Convergence: Reaching Others with the Love of God

Thesis: We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Text: John 1:1-42; Acts 26:12–18; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Intro:

Each year, we seek the Lord for his word for us for the new year. I seek the Lord personally for his direction. And, I work with our leaders as we try to discern what the Lord is saying and seek confirmation for that discernment process.

The word of the Lord for the year is an emphasis from God about what he wants to do in our lives both individually and corporately in the year.

Our desire is to respond to God's current prophetic word in our actions, attitudes, and affections.

Here is what I believe to be the word of the Lord for us in 2025. It is the same word which God gave to us for 2024.

Convergence: reaching people with the love of God.

Here is our group identity.

We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Here is what I believe:

1. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** what the Lord is doing.
2. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** where we need to grow as a congregation.
3. **Jesus is reaching others and asking them to join Calvary** (Matthew 16:18).
 - a. **Are we joining Jesus in his mission?**
 - b. I would say that we need to practice more.
 - c. We need to be inspired and challenged to practice more.
 - d. We need to celebrate progress.
 - e. And, we need to grow in our capacity to join Jesus on this mission.

Here is a confirmation of what the Lord is saying.

During our **Thursday Morning Corporate Prayer** time (1'16'25), Jay Kelley shared an impression he received from the Lord.

1. Impression: **This is a time about reaping, not sowing.** Jay was reminded of our **convergence word** from John 4:34fl.
 - a. *John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 (1) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. (2) Others have done the hard work, and (3) you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:34-38).*
2. Lift up your eyes. The fields are white for harvest.
3. Here is what Jay was sensing: **"I sent you to reap for that which you did not labor. Others have labored. You have entered into their labor."**
4. Jay prayed:
 - a. May we seize the opportunities to reap what has already been sown.
 - b. We speak that word over our teens today to seize and reap where others have labored and sown.
 - c. Lord, empower all of us to seize the harvest that is ready and ripe today.
 - d. Lord, we ask for that grace to do that today; give us the reminders to do that today.

On the mission trip to Nigeria and the Global Prayerquake for Jan. 3 – 12, the Lord led me to a divine appointment. I believe that conversation speaks into our word for the year.

Divine encounter with Miracle Chris on Saturday after the Prayerquake 1'11'24

It was about 7:25am on Saturday, 1'11'24, when I finished the second point in my spiritual journal and conversation with the Lord.

I felt an impression, or a leading, that I should go outside. I felt like there was someone or that there were some people whom I needed to see or greet.

The only person I knew was Miracle Chris. He was getting out of his car. I just wanted to greet him. Another person was working on Miracle's vehicle; it was broken down.

We exchanged greetings and began sharing. Then, he asked how the church was doing. I told him about our missing a generation, and how we are doing kingdom work among children and youth, but we weren't seeing them and their parents in church. I told them this was true of other churches that I know about, so other churches face the same dilemma.

Miracle began to pour out much wisdom and revelation. I recorded most of our conversation. It was a divine appointment for me. This is why the Holy Spirit led me to go outside.

I need a mindset shift. I needed an impartation. I needed revelation. I didn't know what I didn't know.

Lord, thank you so, so much. Holy Spirit; you are so thoughtful and wise. I don't know how you get my attention though impressions, but I am so, so grateful. I love you. I love you. I honor you. I exalt you. In the name of Jesus.

Here are some takeaways from our conversation and one takeaway from the MPN Global Prayerquake that I want to share with you at this time.

1. Spiritual warfare.

- a. **Evangelism is not just about scattering the seed.**
 - i. Yes, we pray for the seed to take root and bear fruit.
 - ii. Yes, we are a "servant and witness to the things which you have seen in me."
- b. **Evangelism involves warfare.**
 - i. *To open their eyes.* That requires revelation and warfare.
 - ii. *To help them turn from darkness to light.* That requires light and warfare.
 - iii. *To help the turn from power of Satan to God.* That requires a power encounter of warfare. Someone has to win the battle for their lives in the spirit realm.
- c. *Acts 26:12–18 (ESV) In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, **to appoint you as***

*a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,*¹⁷ *delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you*¹⁸ **to open their eyes** [remove the blinders; free them from bondage; level the playing field], (1) *so that they may turn from darkness to light and (2) from the power of Satan to God, (3) that they may receive forgiveness of sins and (4) a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*'

2. Idols.

- a. Evangelism also means dealing with idols according to Miracle Chris.
- b. I agreed with Miracle, saying that lost people have idols in their lives which are stealing away their worship of God.
- c. Yes, that is true, Miracle said. But that is not what he was talking about.
- d. **He was talking about the idols in the evangelist.**
 - i. Idol of expectation of what harvest looks like and how it comes.
 - ii. Idol of expectation on what needs to happen for the person to get saved or to come into a personal relationship with God.
 - iii. Idol of expectation in how to reach each person.
- e. **Yes. I had expectations and assumptions that the Lord wanted to highlight and correct.**
- f. *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols (1 John 5:21).*
 - i. **Reject that which is false and embrace that which is real.**
 - ii. Applying this text for today, Dodd gives the following exhortation: **"It behooves the individual Christian to be on his guard against any such God-substitute, whether it be a political idea, or some fashionable cult, or merely the product of his own 'wishful thinking.'"** (Akin, Daniel L. *1, 2, 3 John. Vol. 38. The New American Commentary.* Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001.)
 - iii. It is easy to adopt expectations and assumptions that are out of alignment with the way of Jesus and the kingdom of God.

3. Power ministry and evangelism.

- a. At the MPN Global Prayerquake, I was also reminded of our calling as a church to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry, evangelism, and warfare.
- b. In 1988, the Lord carved out time in our services for God to touch people with his presence and power. Since 1989, we have trained people through [Ministry Team Training](#) how to do the works of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and out of intimacy with the Living God.

- c. **The truth is that we leak. We leak of faith, belief, conviction, and practice because we live in an anti-supernatural culture and worldview.**
- d. *When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but [so that your faith may rest] on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).*
- e. May each of us recommit to doing the works of Jesus and sharing the words of the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- f. May we both proclaim and demonstration the gospel of the kingdom of God in our spheres of influence.

Here is another confirmation about what the Lord is saying.

At staff prayer on 1'14'25, I shared my learning regarding evangelism, idols, and warfare. **Margaret shared the following revelation she received on 1'5'25**, which confirms the revelation about learning to do spiritual warfare for the harvest, breakthrough, and evangelism.

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Petry <margaret@calvaryhouston.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:54 PM

To: Jeff McGee <jtm@calvaryhouston.com>

Subject: The word I received from the word on Sunday, January 5

Jeff,

This is the word I wrote down in my notebook during worship on Sunday, January 5.

"This is a year of war. Fight for your brothers and sisters, for those I died for. This is a year of taking ground, a year of victories and overcoming. Walk in your authority in Christ."

Conclusion:

God is speaking to us. I am excited about this year and our future.

1. **Convergence: reaching others with the love of God.**
2. We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.
 - a. **Capacity:** Building upon the foundation of intimacy, community, and kingdom, we want to grow our capacity to join Jesus on his mission together with others in our spheres of influence.
 - i. **Awareness:**
 1. What is God saying?
 2. What is God doing?
 3. What can I work out that he is working in me in this moment?
 - ii. **Authenticity:**
 1. How do I show up the way the Lord wants me to as open and honest?
 2. How do I show up with others as a person on a journey, rather than showing up as a know-it-all or as someone sent to debate with others?
 3. How do I show up and love others well by listening deeply, caring, coming alongside, and offering hope and help in the name of Jesus.
 - iii. **Alignment and action:**
 1. In what ways am I aligning with the ways of Jesus in my life and relationships?
 2. In what way am I in action with what the Lord is leading me to do and to say?
 - b. **Skill:**
 - i. Let's look for ways to bless people and to go about doing good (Acts 10:38).
 - ii. Ask: How can I pray for you?
 - iii. Ask people about their stories.
 - iv. Listen for the Spirit to give words of knowledge, wisdom, and prophetic insight.
 - v. Pay attention to others and seek to discern what Jesus is saying about that person or doing in them.
 - vi. Stay in step with Jesus and what he is doing: planting seeds, watering, encouraging light and life, and asking good questions rather than telling.
 - c. **Desire:**
 - i. Asking the Lord to help me see others the way he sees them.
 - ii. Asking the Lord to help me love others the way he loves them.
 - iii. Asking the Lord to use me to bless others the way he blesses them.
 - iv. Asking the Lord to empower me to touch others with his love, light, and goodness.
 - v. Asking the Lord to use me to do his works in the power of the Holy Spirit to heal, save, deliver, and encourage.

Ministry Time:

1. Let's wait in the Lord.

Wayne Drain Prophetic Word Given to Calvary 11'4'23

Calvary Community Church – Houston

As I prayed for you, I had a picture of a three-wheeled bike. It was crafted to be sturdy and strong—even made to go fast! I noticed it was going more slowly than it was made for. I saw that two wheels were strong. But the third wheel was slightly smaller in size. The bike was strong enough to ride but had a slight leaning to it. So, it took more effort to move forward. It was easier to go in a circle. So only the strong could ride this bike and make progress. I asked the lord what he was showing me. I heard that Calvary Church was made to be a multi-generational, a multi-cultural, and a multiplying church.

I sensed God's pleasure in this church in the way you worship and pray, your heart to serve together as a family, and your love for the poor and the alien. These efforts all come up as sweet, smelling incense to the Lord.

You have prayed for addition and God has added to you. Addition is wonderful! But it's time to pray and believe for more. I see a season for pressing in to the Lord as a praying & worshipping family. At the same time, it's a season for pressing out toward a season of multiplication. I asked the Lord what the wheels were. The two stronger wheels are your multi-generational and multi-cultural identity. The smaller wheel is a multiplication of souls saved, baptisms in water and the Holy Spirit.

No doubt you've heard it said, "The great commission is not the great suggestion." Everyone who calls themselves a disciple of Jesus have been given the same commission. Remember it's a co-mission with the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised he would be with us...always. He knows that the first door we must go through is our own. But each time we do, we'll find Jesus waiting there.

As you lean into a season of praying, believing, and witnessing for souls to be saved, multiplication will come quickly. As I prayed for your church, I saw ministries being multiplied through equipping and impartation. I saw finances being multiplied as the people gave themselves to generosity. And I saw people being trained up to share their testimonies. And the giving of the good news was bringing multiplication. And I saw faith overcoming fear to release multiplication in this house and other houses of God you will influence with the good news of the kingdom...both near and far...from neighbors to nations.

E. Wayne Drain
October 27, 2023