



Pentecostal Temple @ COGIC Square

November 6, 2024

Pastor J.Elwood Gatlin Sr

Bible Study: Living with Strength and Grace in Challenging Times

Opening Prayer:

Invite God's wisdom and strength as you study ways to respond to challenges with kindness, humility, and purpose.

1. Be Kind, Always

- **Scripture:**
 - *Romans 12:17-21* – "Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
 - *Proverbs 15:1* – "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
 - **Reflection:**

Kindness under pressure is an act of strength. When we respond with love instead of anger, we show the world a different way to handle conflict. Ask yourself: How can I show kindness even when I feel attacked?
 - **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why do you think God calls us to respond with kindness?
 - How does responding with kindness affect others and ourselves?
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2. Ask Questions

- **Scripture:**
 - *Proverbs 27:17* – "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
 - *James 1:19* – "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
 - **Reflection:**

Not all criticism is harmful; sometimes, it's a tool for growth. Asking questions can lead to mutual understanding and growth, fostering humility.
 - **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can we distinguish constructive criticism from harmful criticism?
 - What are some ways we can remain humble and open to growth?
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3. Move On and Ignore

- **Scripture:**
 - *Philippians 3:13-14* – "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..."
 - *Matthew 7:6* – "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs."
 - **Reflection:**

Our time and energy are valuable. Choosing wisely whom we invest our energy in shapes our future. God wants us to focus on His purpose for us, not on negative distractions.
 - **Discussion Questions:**
 - How does focusing on our purpose help us ignore unnecessary negativity?
 - Who in your life helps you stay focused on your God-given purpose?
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4. Give Back

- **Scripture:**
 - *Luke 6:38* – "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over..."
 - *1 Peter 4:10* – "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace."
 - **Reflection:**

Empowering others is one of the greatest forms of service. Giving back to others builds a legacy that glorifies God and fulfills our calling to love and serve.
 - **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can we empower others in our daily lives?
 - How has giving back impacted your faith and personal growth?
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