

ROMANS 13:11



The Awakening

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Pastor Keith Graham | Now Word Covenant Church | San Antonio, Texas | www.nowword.org

*This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out.
Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

~Romans 13:11



The Awakening Workshop 2021

AGENDA

Friday, January 15th, 2021, 7pm

General Session 1

“Have We Forgotten?”

Elder (E) Albert Long

Saturday, January 16th, 2021, 9am

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Pastor Rhongea Nixon

Overview & Special Instructions

Pastor Dan Brooks

General Session 2

“Radical Faith”

Pastor Carolyn Ramsey

Breakout Sessions (3)

Pastors Brooks, Varner & Terry

General Session 3

Senior Pastor Address & Question/Answer

Pastor Keith Graham

Closing

Pastor Dan Brooks








Zoom Workshop – Etiquette and Best Practices

Here are some great tips on etiquette and best practices when joining a Zoom meeting. We hope these help you get the best out of your experience!!

BEFORE THE MEETING/WORKSHOP		
	Test Your Technology	Test all your technology <i>(including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and screen sharing if you are the host or presenter)</i>
	Practice Speaking to the Camera and Not the Screen	Our tendency is to look at the person on the screen, but you should look at the camera when you speak so the audience feels like you're talking directly to them.
	Dress Appropriately	Take a few minutes to throw on a clean shirt and brush your hair. The best part of actually getting ready while working remotely is that you'll put yourself in the right headspace to be productive.
DURING THE MEETING/WORKSHOP		
	Speak Up Upon Entry	When you enter a small meeting (around 2 to 5 people) announce yourself when you join. Just make sure not to interrupt someone mid-sentence.
	Be Attentive	Don't stare at your phone while other people are presenting, be attentive and present.
	Silence Your Phone	Turn off all notifications and make sure your cell phone is on silent
	Don't Type in the Background	Leave your keyboard alone Unless you want to ask questions and make comments silently if desired using the "Chat" feature. In this case make sure your microphone is muted.
	Be Respectful – Raise Your Hand	Don't interrupt other people when they're speaking (or attempt to speak over them) If you want to speak, physically raise your hand or use the "raise hand" feature that is available in the participant panel.



	Mute Yourself	Mute your microphone when you're not talking. This will help eliminate any feedback or background noise that can be heard in your environment.
	Don't Multitask	<p>Don't work on other tasks (like checking email) during the virtual meeting</p> <p>It may be tempting to check your inbox or carry on a side conversation during a dull moment in a meeting, but don't do it! You might miss out on key information or an opportunity to give input</p>
	Stay Seated and Stay Present	If you're using your webcam, use attentive body language: sit up straight, don't make big extraneous movements, and don't let your eyes wander too much.
QUICK DO's AND DON'Ts		
	8 Do's of Video Conferencing Etiquette	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do be courteous to other participants 2. Do speak clearly 3. Do keep body movements minimal 4. Do move and gesture slowly and naturally 5. Do maintain eye contact by looking into the camera 6. Do dress appropriately 7. Do make the session animated 8. Do be yourself and have fun!
	7 Don'ts of Video Conferencing Etiquette	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't make distracting sounds 2. Don't shout 3. Don't make distracting movements 4. Don't interrupt other speakers 5. Don't carry on side conversations 6. Don't wear "noisy" jewelry 7. Don't cover the microphone



SESSION 1: Awakening Your Consciousness of God (Holiness)

Objective:

The objective of this session is for participants to come to a greater awareness of the presence of God and His sovereignty in their lives.



Overview:

In this session, we will encourage all participants to:

- Recognize God's **PRESENCE** in Your Life
- Rediscover God's **PURPOSE** for Your Life
- Reach God's **PEOPLE** in Your Life

Benefit of this Session:

Oftentimes we go through life oblivious to God's hand over our lives. We fail to recognize that it is He who maneuvers us through challenging times and gives us the strength to overcome obstacles. This class is intended to bring us to a greater awareness of God and his providence in every facet of our lives.

I. Recognize God's Presence in Your Life

Pre-Reflection: Take a moment and reflect on your personal relationship Christ. Would you say you were "asleep" in any way to the presence of God in your life?

1. _____ - 1 Peter 5:6

- Our behavior fails to acknowledge God's sovereignty and Him being the giver of life.
- The Bible tells us to humble ourselves under the mighty power of God.

2. _____ - Genesis chapters 37- 40

- In the Bible, Joseph had a stretch of time during his life where nothing seemed to be right.
- Joseph acknowledged the hand of God in his life and remained committed to living for Him.

3. _____ - Revelations 4:11

- To honor something or someone means to assign value or worth to a thing or person.
- Honoring with actions that come from the heart, not just merely words coming from our lips.

II. Rediscover God's Purpose for Your Life

1. _____ - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

- So, what is God's purpose for our lives?
- Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
- Live in awe of him and recognize Him as the One who gave you life.

2. _____ - Ecclesiastes 1:14



- What's done here in this world is futile.
- All of our striving for things produces nothing fruitful for the enhancement of God's kingdom.

3. _____ – 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

- We need to be careful to focus on what's eternal.
- Only what we do for the Kingdom of God will be able to stand up to Christ's judgment.

III. Reach God's People in Your Life

1. _____ – 1 Peter 3:15

- In order to tell other people about God's goodness, we must be available to be used by Him.
- We must also recognize the opportunities God gives us to share with other people.
- We never know when God will open a door for us to share our testimony with someone.

2. _____ – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- In order for someone to believe us or care enough to want to listen, we must be authentic.
- Telling your story and what God has done for you is generally what people want to hear.

3. _____ - 1 Corinthians 9:21-22

- If we're going to be effective witnesses for Christ, we must be adaptable.
- I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."



NOTES:



SESSION 2: Awakening Your Passion for the Works of Ministry

Objective:

The aim for this session is to encourage Christ Followers to explore “what’s holding you back” from taking action doing the works of ministry by connecting the world to Christ during this season of harvest.



Overview: In this session, we will cover what Christ Followers can do to reignite our passion for the works of ministry to advance the Kingdom of God.

- **REVISIT** our purpose and passion for the works in ministry.
- **REALIGN** our priorities with the Master’s to maximize our possibilities.
- **REALIZE** the promises of God yield eternal results.

I. Revisit our purpose and passion for the works in ministry.

“...four men (purpose) arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴ They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof (possibilities) above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus (promise). Mark 2:3-4 NLT

Healthy _____ is attractive and can persuade people to believe in you and follow you.

Passion in Latin means “*pati*” where we get the word patience or suffer; a feeling of intense _____ towards or compelling desire for someone or something.

How proficient are we really at listening and looking for opportunities to be a blessing? Romans 10:17, John 10:27 NLT

Revelations 2:29 NLT Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

“The word listen contains the same letters as the word _____. ” Alfred Brendel

We have to become comfortable with getting uncomfortable serving. Mark 10:45

We need to actively transition from _____ to become more of a servant-leader like Christ.

Have you ever asked, “Why am I here and what does God want me to be actively doing?”

God has given us this wonderful assignment of _____ people back to him.

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.” 2 Corinthians 5:18

II. Realign our priorities with the Masters’ to maximize our possibilities.



"They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd (prohibiting), so they dug a hole through the roof (possibilities) above his head." Mark 2:4a NLT

- Are we fostering resiliency to deal with and overcome challenges?

Develop a mindset of _____. Most times we see problems, but God offers mind blowing possibilities.

Remember, it's okay to _____ God tough questions and collaborate with fellow members in the Body of Christ.
Eph 3:20, John 14:12

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." James 1:5

We need to recognize for the impossible to be made possible we need to fully trust in God.

Once realigned and submitted to His purpose, God compensates for our weakness and shortcomings. Christ Followers don't stop dreaming, being creative, and exploring. Mark 10:27, 2 Cor 12:9a, Eph 3:20

"God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude (ability/talent/skill) for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams." Daniel 1:17

III. Realize the promises of God yield eternal results.

"... Then they lowered (perseverance) the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." (promise). Mark 2:4b-5 NLT

Faith always results in a call to _____. James 2:18

- Their faith was persistent; seeing the crowd at the house but remained undeterred.
- Their faith was creative; the way to Jesus was blocked, but they _____ (investigate other options).

Our ultimate win; people receive the gospel, be _____ and stay connected. Luke 19:10, 1 Tim 2:4, Titus 3:5

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9

"...And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life." 1 John 2:25

Our responsibility is to go and _____ disciples. John 9:4, Mark 16:15, Matt. 28:19-20, Eph 2:8-10

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matt 28:19-20a



NOTES:



SESSION 3: Awakening to a New "Virtual Reality"

Objective:

The COVID pandemic of 2020 not only changed the world in so many ways, but it has also had a lasting impact on the church worldwide and particularly here in America. In this session, we will explore the impact the pandemic has had on the church and explore some opportunities to capitalize on the prospects for effective *post-pandemic* ministry.



Overview:

In this session, we will cover:

- The **SITUATION** we find ourselves in as a result of the pandemic and the impact it has on the "church" (i.e., Christians)
- The **SIGNIFICANCE** (or seriousness) of this impact on the Church and address the spiritual and biblical implications
- A **STRATEGY** for making the right adjustments to address these issues efficiently and effectively

I. **The SITUATION:** We must acknowledge and understand where we are as a church (financially, socially & psychologically).

- a. _____: In most cases, increased worship attendance has not translated into increased giving.
- **The Effects:** Communities helped by local churches have suffered; people are turning to government for relief; these concerns cause people to be distracted from focusing on God.
- b. _____: Humans were designed for direct contact with other humans; lack of social interaction causes serious and lasting impact on our ability to cope with life situations.
- **The Effects:** Members become disconnected from their spiritual leaders and each other; those no longer attending church suffer more emotional problems; virtual platforms produce a false sense of connectedness.
- c. _____: Studies show that COVID-19 has negatively changed how people think and reason.
- **The Effects:** There's a direct correlation to isolation and mental challenges; people often turn to drastic measures for coping; generally, faith is overcome by fear and anxiety vs. the opposite.

II. **The SIGNIFICANCE** (Seriousness): Taking a biblical deep dive into the spiritual repercussions of the pandemic on the personal and corporate institutions of worship

a. Personal Worship Impact - *a progression of mental and spiritual decline...*

- Social distancing often leads to social _____ (Proverbs 18:1, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- Social isolation leads to a lack of personal _____ and _____ (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Lack of personal accountability and connection leads to a pattern of hidden _____ and _____ (Hebrews 10:24)

b. Corporate Worship Impact

- Corporate worship produces a _____ of God that cannot be _____ alone (Matt 18:20, Acts 2:1-2, Psalms 27:4)



- Fellowship is an _____ aspect of Christian living and growth (Acts 2:42)
- Corporate worship _____ the importance of the church to the unbelieving world (Matthew 5:14-15, John 13:35)

III. The STRATEGY:

a. Re-entry to Corporate Worship

In person reentry to corporate worship will almost exclusively be mental; we have to reset our minds, which will in turn direct our actions.

1. Guard against the progression of the 3Cs

- Being _____ - started with sincere concern about health threats posed by the virus
- Being _____ - convenience of not "going" to worship service takes the place of concern
- Being _____ - corporate worship doesn't matter anymore - "take it or leave it" mentality

2. Three Reminders:

- Corporate worship is _____ and an essential aspect of Christian living - *"Let us not neglect our church meetings..." Hebrews 10:25; the first church devoted themselves to "the fellowship" Acts 2:42.*
- Corporate worship requires _____ and _____ - *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35; Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life... shall be able to separate us from the love of God..." Romans 8:38-39.*
- Corporate worship _____ you - *"Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls... Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17*

Virtual and online church platforms are not a permanent replacement for Corporate Worship

b. A Virtual Footprint/Strategy Moving Forward - *"Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19*

1. Enhancing Our _____ Footprint: Take advantage of opportunities to reach the "cyber" world:

- Increased IT investments by 20% to cover resources needed to enhance virtual connections.
- Migrated our streaming platform to YouTube, exposing NWCC to the platform's vast customer base.
- Increased social media engagement on all of the major platforms, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, by more than 75%.
- Leveraged the convenience of our website to extend our reach; website activity has tripled over the previous year.

2. Enhancing Virtual _____:

- Every service, class, meeting, etc., performed in-person must have a virtual alternative for participation.
- Develop a "Discipleship Circle" and commit to personal and consistent engagement with those in your circle.
- Commit to having a Christ-centered mentality, not just a consumer mentality; transition from being "hearers only" to "doers."

3. Enhancing Virtual _____: The Virtual Vineyard is Ripe to Reap a Great Harvest!

- Cultivate a culture of active virtual engagement rather than just laying that responsibility on one team.



- Train people on how to use online and social media tools; schedule Master Classes focused on evangelism.
- Build a team of social media influencers to lead this effort.

FACEBOOK POST DEMONSTRATION

Ashley Johnson, NWCC Creative Team

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ACTIONS I'M COMMITTING TO DOING

