Series: Becoming the Church at Philadelphia
Message 1: Philadelphia—The Bridal Church

I. Intro

1. On May 14, 2025 I sensed in our Wednesday night prayer time that the Lord is inviting us between now and Rosh Hashanah (September 22, 2025) to be refreshed in our walk with the Lord with a fresh hunger and thirst for Christ and to be made ready as a bride for Christ and a renewed desire for the call upon this house as messengers/forerunners anointed in the spirit and power of Elijah.
2. Also, Donna got in prayer on Wednesday, May 21st that God is offering us a "summer of awakening"
3. Bryan got some similar things which I will let him share when he returns if he wants.
4. I plan on doing two 3 part series in response to God's invitation between now and September 22.
    a. The two series are: Becoming the church at Philadelphia which focuses on awakening our passion for being made ready as a bride for Christ and a second series on Becoming a Company of David's Mighty Men.
5. The two scripture verses I got about this are:

2 Tim 1:5-7: 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

> Kindle: to gain fresh life and courage b. that by which the fire is kindled anew or lighted up, a pair of bellows); to kindle anew, rekindle, resuscitate,
>
> Kindle: denotes "to kindle afresh," or "keep in full flame" (ana, "up," or "again," zoos, "alive," pur, "fire"), and is used metaphorically in 2 Tim 1:6, where "the gift of God" is regarded as a fire capable of dying out through neglect. The verb was in common use in the vernacular of the time.

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2 Peter 3:1-2: 3 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

1. These two series are for us as a corporate body at RLC and for the mentors at LSI. We will be sending these messages to the mentors to make sure they understand the importance of being a bride made ready and of making ready a people for the Lord.
2. I believe this to be a true invitation from the Lord and most likely a mandatory one in light of the times and seasons and the need in this fellowship and Lifeschool.
3. Very important take this series seriously.
    a. I know that most have vacations planned and trips which is good to refresh you physically
    b. But do not neglect this. Let's be refreshed spiritually too.
    c. So if you have to miss a Sunday, then watch the messages and stay connected
4. **Call Donna up at this point and have her pray.**

II. Two General points before we go to the Church at Philadelphia

1. The church is in a time in which God is revealing His eternal plan and purpose.
    a. Before we went to Africa in February of 2024, God highlighted this scripture to me that this was to be what we were to begin to train the African mentors on. It is what He has always been doing but it is a major work of the end times.

b. Rev 14:6-7: 6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."
c. From the Eternal Blueprint: Five Aspects of God's eternal plan
    i. Christ at the center and preeminent rather than man
    ii. A family of mature sons for the Father
    iii. A bride made ready for the Son
    iv. A temple for the Holy Spirit
    v. Eternal rewards for believers of eternal glory, authority, and intimacy.
d. God's eternal plan is focused on the good pleasure of the Godhead more than on the blessing of the people

2. We need to understand the principle of the overcomer since Jesus' message to Philadelphia and to all 7 churches are in the context of overcoming.
    a. There are four main views of the meaning of the overcomers
    b. All believers view
        i. That every believer is an overcomer simply by being born again.
        ii. all of the promised rewards listed in the book of Revelation in full measure regardless of their faithfulness in their walk with the Lord or the measure of sanctification they have achieved.
        iii. Charles Stanley wrote in his book, Eternal Security: Can You Be Sure*?:"Even a believer who dies in a backslidden condition is still secure in Christ—and still an overcomer."*
    c. Perseverance of the Saints View
        i. all believers will be overcomers and receive all of the rewards promised to the overcomers.

ii. It differs from the All Believers View in that it holds that all true believers will inevitably overcome the world, sin, and trials through God's preserving grace, and that perseverance in faith and obedience is the evidence of genuine salvation
iii. Calvin and John MacArthur have this view

d. The loss of salvation view
   i. contends that one must overcome the issues Jesus highlighted in Revelation 2-3 and if they don't, they would lose their salvation.
   ii. This view teaches that believers in Revelation 2-3 are being exhorted to faithfulness so that they won't lose their salvation.
   iii. This view is held by some Pentecostal and Charismatic denominations and Wesleyan Arminian denominations
e. The eternal rewards view
   i. It contends that the promises to the overcomers in Revelation 2–3 are not conditions for salvation or evidences of true salvation, but rewards for faithful believers who live a life of obedience and, thereby, mature spiritually after being born again.
   ii. It rightly teaches that every believer must overcome the specific issues that Jesus highlighted in His messages to the seven churches if they want to receive the eternal rewards listed in Revelation 2-3.
   iii. This view teaches that believers are not automatically overcomers because of their saving faith in Jesus Christ
   iv. It teaches that the believer is called to overcome or conquer the specific issues raised in Jesus' seven messages and, by so doing, receive the specific promises highlighted for those who overcome. This view emphasizes that all true Christians are saved and will go to heaven when they die, but only those who overcome will receive the eternal rewards promised to the seven churches of Revelation.

II. Let's begin to talk about Becoming the church at Philadelphia

1. I am sure I have read Jesus' message to Philadelphia at least a hundred times. But over the month of May God has opened it up to me in a way to see things I have never seen before. It has been an amazing time for me
2. I hope it will become that for you also.
3. It forms a picture of the bridal church. The church—a corporate group of people—who have overcome and made themselves ready as a bride for Christ and will receive wonderful rewards because of it.
4. Let's read it

Rev 3:7-13

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

> 8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie — I will make them come and bow down at your feet and make them know that I have loved you. 10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of

My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. 13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

III. Five Reasons Why Philadelphia is the Bridal Church

1. <u>The saints at Philadelphia are promised citizenship in the new Jerusalem which is the dwelling place of the bride made ready.</u>
    a. Rev 21:2: *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.*
    b. Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.
    c. Rev 21:9-11: Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.
        i. numphe (noom-fay'); to veil as a bride; to marry; a young married woman including a bethrothed girl;
        ii. gune (goo-nay'); a woman; specially, a wife:
2. <u>They are promised a permanent place of great intimacy with Christ and the ability to minister deeply to Christ</u>
    a. 12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore;
    b. Rev 21:22: I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
    c. The city is a perfect cube which is also the general dimensions of the holy of holies in the tabernacle.

d. A pillar is a permanent, immovable structure, symbolizing that the overcomer will have a permanent place in God's presence in God's bridal city.
e. There are two Greek words for temple: • (naos) – Refers to the inner sanctuary of the temple (the Holy Place and Holy of Holies)—the dwelling place of God.
f. hieron) – Refers to the entire temple complex, including outer courts, buildings, and surroundings.
g. The word used here is "naos".
h. The overcomers are promised a permanent place in the innermost part of the temple
i. Ezek 44:15-17: "But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood," declares the Lord God. 16 "They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and keep My charge. 17 "It shall be that when they enter at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and wool shall not be on them while they are ministering in the gates of the inner court and in the house.

3. <u>They are promised to take the new name of Christ as a wife takes the name of her husband</u>
    a. In ancient Jewish marriage customs the bride would take on the name of the bridegroom. This represented:
        i. Her legal and covenantal union with him,
        ii. Her new identity and status,
        iii. Her sharing in his inheritance and authority.
    b. Rev 19:12: His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and **He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.**

i. Accompanying Him on His return is the bride made ready
    1. Rev 19:14: And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.
    2. His triumphant return is of a conquering King and also of a Bridegroom finalizing the marriage covenant with His bride, taking her to the wedding ceremony—sealing the covenant with her taking His new name

c. From ChatGPT: "My new name" refers to a future, glorified aspect of Jesus' identity—something not fully revealed during His earthly ministry. Just as Jesus was given a name above every name after His resurrection (Phil. 2:9–11), this "new name" represents the fullness of His revealed glory as victorious King, Bridegroom, and Judge.
d. It points to: A name that reflects His ultimate victory, exaltation, and authority.
e. For the overcoming bride, it represents:
    i. A dimension of identity, possession, intimacy and revelation not previously known.
    ii. it's bridal language. It points to: A permanent, intimate union with Christ (as in marriage), The bestowal of His identity on His bride,
    iii. The completion of the betrothal process (the marriage covenant is finalized and the bride now lives with the Bridegroom forever).

4. <u>They are the only church of the seven who had overcome everything Christ had against the other churches</u>
    a. They already possessed the victors crown (Stephanos)
    b. Smyrna did not get a rebuke but they still had to face the time of testing which lay ahead for them.
    c. Only those who had overcome completely were invited into permanent residence in the bridal city (Rev. 21:7).

5. <u>They were completely set apart for God and were genuine in their walk and they did not deny Christ when pressured to do so</u>
    a. Rev 3:7: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:
        i. These introductions are not random. They are tailored to the spiritual condition, needs, or temptations of each church.
        ii. They reveal that Jesus knows exactly what each church is facing—He introduces Himself in a way that calls them to remember who He is and respond accordingly.
        iii. Ephesus: “Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands” Jesus is intimately present among His churches, including Ephesus, which had lost its first love.
        iv. Smyrna: “The First and the Last, who was dead and came to life” Jesus identifies with their suffering and promises resurrection hope amid persecution—even unto death.
        v. Pergamum: Him who has the sharp two-edged sword” Jesus comes as judge to a compromising church; His Word will divide truth from error.
    b. Philadelphia was completely set apart for God and His purposes and were true and genuine in their walk.
    c. This compares with Rev 19:7-8 righteous acts of the saints

IV. The Importance of Understanding and Becoming the Church at Philadelphia

1. The Church at Philadelphia pictures the church at that will become the eternal wife of the Lamb; the church who has made herself ready
2. Now that we have established that Philadelphia is the bridal church that has made herself ready at the end of the age, what we will be talking about in the next two messages—what we learn about this church in terms of the eternal rewards she will receive and the issues we need to overcome in our own lives

based on what the believers at Philadelphia overcame—become extremely important.