

Summary

As we enter 2026, I want to share what I sense the Holy Spirit is saying to Restoration Life Church. After taking intentional time between Christmas and New Year to seek the Lord, I believe He is calling us into a significant season marked by three clear themes: a reset, a return to the foundation of Christ and the kingdom assignment He has given us, and the beginning of a seminal season that will shape our future for years to come. This is not about a new vision or a new mission, but about being stirred afresh by way of reminder—realigning our hearts, priorities, and practices with what God has already established.

At the center of this season is a renewed focus on Jesus Christ as the true and only foundation of the church. Christ must remain the center of our message, our identity, our unity, our ministry methods, and our discipleship. Flowing from that, I believe we are entering a seminal season—a formative, seed-planting window of time in which God is working beneath the surface to establish truths, convictions, and direction that will govern the years ahead. Much of what God does in this season will be internal before it becomes visible, but if stewarded well, it will produce lasting fruit. In this message, I want to walk us through what that means, why it matters, and how we can faithfully respond together.

Introduction

As we head into a new year—I seem to say this every year—I really like to take some time between Christmas and New Year to seek the Lord, to wait on the Lord, and to get the mind of the Lord for us as a church.

I like to seek the Lord related to this: What is the Spirit saying to Restoration Life Church as we enter 2026?

This is not a predictive prophecy but the prophetic declaration of what I sense the Spirit's mind, heart, and intent is for this local church.

After waiting on the Lord this past week, I'll be sharing today and in the coming weeks what I sense the Holy Spirit is saying to us as a church.

The Main Goal of the "Arise and Build" Series

Last summer, I began sensing from the Lord that I was to teach on the principles of building the church from the book of Nehemiah. While the direction was clear, the timing was not. So I waited on the Lord, holding this in my heart, and only briefly mentioned it to the elders.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025—the final prayer meeting of the year—the Lord gave an amazing confirmation of what He is saying to us in this prophetic season.

During the prayer time, the Lord spoke to Michelle Burns and said, "Turn to the book of Nehemiah." She wasn't sure why, but she obeyed. As she opened her Bible, it fell to Nehemiah chapter 2. She waited, sensing the Lord would highlight a specific verse.

A few minutes later, Alice Unanaowo began to pray from Nehemiah 2:17–18, focusing on Nehemiah receiving the burden from God, communicating the vision to build the wall clearly to everyone, and the people's unified response: "Let us arise and build." Her prayer emphasized casting the vision, ownership of the vision, unity around the vision, and a shared determination for us to do the work for the vision to be accomplished.

As a small but meaningful side note, while writing these notes on January 3, 2026—at the very moment I typed Alice's name—my new Windows 11 computer flashed a photo memory. It was a picture of Angie and me having dinner with Alice and Eddie at our home on January 3, 2015. I had completely forgotten about this. But I love how the Lord gave a subtle confirmation—a personalized wink from the Lord—affirming His now word to us and the prophetic season that we are in.

Here is what Nehemiah 2:17–18 says:

Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach." I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good work.

One of the primary things I believe the Lord is saying to us in this new prophetic season is this:

Cast the vision of God's blueprint for this church so that everyone can take ownership of the vision and build it together.

This series is not about introducing something new, but about clearly articulating in a fresh way what God has already been building among us and calling us to build it in a deeper and greater way together.

1. It's Time for a Reset

What the Lord Is Saying

- I believe the Lord is saying to us, "It's time for a reset."
- This is not a call to do something new. It's now a new vision, a new mission, or a new direction.
- It's a call to be "stirred up again by way of reminder" (2 Pet. 3:1).

Like Restarting Your Computer

- The reset we need is like a computer that starts running slowly, glitching, or freezing. Most of the time you don't need a new computer or a new operating system; it's because too many processes are running in the background.
- Usually, if you simply restart your computer, it will fix everything.
- A restart clears what is cluttering the system and refreshes what was already there.
- That's what this season is.

Haggai and Zechariah Initiated a Reset

- After seventy years of Babylonian captivity, a remnant of Israel (only between 2% to 5%) returned to Jerusalem under God's sovereign hand to rebuild the temple. They came back with hope, promise, and divine authorization. But the work would soon face resistance.
- Although the foundation of the temple had been laid (Ezra 3), opposition caused the remnant to delay completing the temple for sixteen years.
- The vision had been given. The calling was clear. But opposition, discouragement, delay, and distraction caused the work to stall. God's people didn't abandon the mission. They just slowly lost momentum.
- The Lord didn't give them a new assignment. Instead, Scripture says:

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel [the governor], and the spirit of Joshua [the high priest], and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God. (Hag. 1:14, emphasis mine)

- The spirit of prophecy working through Haggai and Zechariah inspired the remnant to resume their building project after a sixteen-year delay.
- Haggai and Zechariah didn't introduce a new vision. They rekindled obedience to the original vision, awakening hearts by the prophetic word of the Lord.
- After the people were stirred, the work of rebuilding the temple resumed with a new fire, passion, and energy.

Starting Fresh without Starting Over

- In many ways, a reset can feel like starting new, but it isn't. It's more like renovating a house.
- You are not buying a new house or tearing down your existing house. Neither are you changing the identity of your home.
- You are restoring and refreshing your existing house—repairing what's broken, removing what no longer serves a purpose, and making it look beautiful and modern again.
- You are bringing the house back into alignment with how it was originally meant to function.
- The Lord is doing something similar in our divine reset.

Returning to Our Why (Mission), Our What (Vision), and Our How (Strategy)

- This reset is a call to return to why we exist as a church and ministry.
- Over time, we can easily forget why we exist and become weighed down by routine and familiarity, slowly losing our passion and expectancy as we begin going through the motions in a lukewarm way.
- As we continue in church life week after week, it's easy for our routines to quench our fire, our activities to blur a clear vision, and faithfulness to dull expectancy.
- A reset is a time to remember our:
 - **Mission**—why we exist.
 - **Vision**—who we are becoming.
 - **Strategy**—how the mission is executed and the vision accomplished.
 - **Values**—what matters most to us.
 - **Culture**—How our values are expressed in our corporate behavior.
- When the foundation is revisited, the building doesn't go backward—it goes higher.
- When we intentionally remember our mission, vision, strategy, values, and culture, it inspires us to fulfill the kingdom assignment the Lord has given us.

What This Reset Will Produce

- A true reset doesn't produce guilt, pressure, condemnation, or a heavy burden to carry.
- It rekindles our mission and vision, producing fresh motivation, energy, passion, and expectation.

- Just like in Haggai's day, where the Holy Spirit stirred up the hearts of God's people through genuine prophetic declarations, He will do the same with us.
- The people in Haggai's day didn't have to be coerced or pushed to work; they gave themselves freely and joyfully again to the work of the Lord.
- In the same way, this season is intended to replace drift with clarity; weariness with energy; and indifference with holy purpose and passion.
- This is not because I am saying anything new, but by way of reminder I am stirring you up afresh, inspiring you to refocus on what matters most—the Lord and His purpose for us as His people.
- This is not a new vision but a refreshed vision.
- This is not a new mission but a renewed purpose.
- We are not starting over but starting again with hearts stirred afresh.
- It's time for a reset so that we can build again with fresh faith and fire.

2. Go Back to the Foundations

What the Lord Is Saying

- The Lord is saying to us, "Go back to the foundation and to your foundations."
- He is not saying, "Start over," and not, "Build something new." Instead, He is saying, "Realign with what has already been established."
- In Scripture, a return to the foundation is never starting something completely new—it is being revived in what has already been established.
- Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilt on an already-laid foundation.
- Haggai and Zechariah stirred the people by reminding them why the house existed.
- Peter says truth must be stirred up again *by way of reminder* (2 Pet. 1:12–13).
- Going back to the foundation is restoring clarity and alignment to our mission and vision where we have grown weary, distracted, busy, or misaligned over time.

Jesus Christ Is the Foundation

- The foundation of Restoration Life—and every church—is the Person of Jesus Christ, rooted in an ever-increasing revelation of who He is, the work He has accomplished, and what He is presently saying to the church through the Spirit.
- There is no other foundation but what has already been laid—Jesus Christ.
- This foundation is not another doctrine about Jesus, a tradition associated with Jesus, nor a movement that uses the name of Jesus for its own purposes. The foundation of the church is the revelation of who Jesus Christ, given by the Father.
- When Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build My church," He was referring to the revelation of Himself. The church is built as each living stone receives greater revelation of Jesus Christ—the God-Man, the

Messiah who fulfilled the prophetic Scripture, and the One crucified, risen, ascended, and presently reigning in heaven.

- The foundation of the church is not Christian topics, such as revival, spiritual gifts, spiritual warfare, prayer and intercession, worship, marriage, parenting, leadership, morality, or mental health. Jesus Christ is the true foundation of the church, and He is the only foundation of the church.
- Paul said, “No other foundation can be laid than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).
- This means that Jesus Christ is everything—the center of all things and the ultimate goal of everything. The foundation of the church is a Person; not a teaching, doctrine, or movement.
- Everything in the life of the church is measured by whether it flows from Christ, aligns with Christ, and leads to Christ.
- “We preach Christ crucified”—He must be at the center of the message. Jesus can never become a supporting verse; He must always remain the substance.
- Building on Christ means building on:
 - *His person*—who He is as the Messiah, God-Man, Savior, Bridegroom, King, Judge, and Warrior.
 - *His work*—what He finished on the cross and is now finishing in us.
 - *His lordship*—He is head of the church and all authority in heaven and earth belong to Him.
 - *His union with believers*—who we are in Him as God’s children, His betrothed bride, citizens of His kingdom, and partakers of His divine nature.
- When Christ is not at the center, the focus subtly shifts toward “Christian topics” like:
 - Revival
 - Cultural transformation
 - Cultural relevance
 - Kingdom expansion
 - Personal success
 - Church growth
 - Moralism
- These things might reference Christ, but they are not built on Him.
- Church activity does not produce Christian maturity.
- When Christ is truly the foundation leaders are servants, not celebrities; gifts are valued, not idolized.
- Christ must be the standard for ministry methods and motives.
- As Paul said, “Let each one be careful how he builds.”

- Some methods grow a church quickly because they avoid repentance, water-down the truth, manipulate emotions, or create a dependence on leaders or experiences.
- But Christ must be the goal of discipleship. As Paul said, “Until Christ is formed in you” (Gal. 4:19).
- The goal is not faithful church attendance, generous giving, or constant religious activity. None of these guarantee that a person will be formed into Christ’s image and likeness.
- When Christ is the goal of discipleship, the aim becomes:
 - Inward transformation
 - Renewed minds
 - Passionate hearts
 - Genuine holiness
 - Love from intimacy and union with Christ.
- God’s purifying fire of judgment reveals:
 - Charisma without truth
 - Programs without spiritual formation
 - Numbers without genuine discipleship
 - Superficial faith lacking obedience and works
- Jesus Christ is not just our starting point. He is the One we build from, build toward, and are measured against.
- Anything built alongside Christ, instead of Christ, or on top of Christ—but not from Christ—will not endure.
- Building on Christ means building on His finished work, including His substitutionary atonement, justification by faith alone, regeneration, union with Christ, sanctification, and confident assurance of salvation.

Going Back to Our Foundations

- Returning to the foundation also means returning to the foundational truths that have shaped this house for many years.
- These core truths are not random. They are expressions of Christ as the foundation across the life of the church.
- Each one flows from Him.
 1. *The Eternal Blueprint*—Christ as the center of God’s eternal purpose.
 2. *Salvation*—Christ’s finished work applied to us and worked out within us.
 3. *Indwelling Life*—Christ living in us by the Spirit.
 4. *The Church*—Christ as the head and life of His body.

5. *Worship*—Christ exalted and worshiped in spirit and truth.
 6. *Prayer*—Interceding for the Lord's will to be accomplished in the church, nations, and Israel.
 7. *Spirit-Empowered Ministry*—The Holy Spirit's power working to reveal Christ through the gifts of the Spirit and the power of the Spirit that heals, saves, and delivers.
 8. *Sermon on the Mount*—Christ's kingdom lifestyle embodied in a people.
 9. *The Bride Made Ready*—Christ returning for a prepared people.
 10. *The Overcomers*—A people who overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, just as Christ also overcame.
 11. *Understanding the End Times*—Growing in understanding and insight into what Scripture teaches about Christ's return, as He removes every obstacle and establishes His rule over the world from Jerusalem.
 12. *The Restoration of Israel*—Standing with God's prophetic purposes for Israel and the Jewish people as He prepares them for the return of Jesus and His millennial reign.
 13. *The Forerunner Call*—Messengers (prophetic) and master builders (apostolic) who are preparing God's people for Jesus Christ and His second coming.
- Returning to this foundation is aligning our hearts and minds with these expressions of Jesus Christ.

3. A Seminal Season

What the Lord Is Saying

- Hal Woods was given the word, "In 2026, we will experience a seminal moment and a turning point in our walk with Him and His will for us in His kingdom."
- Based on that, I believe the Lord is saying to us, "This year marks the beginning of a seminal season that will shape the future for years to come."
- This is not a short-lived moment or a passing emphasis, but a crucial 1-to-2-year window in which God is intentionally working beneath the surface to establish things that will determine what follows.

A Seminal Moment

- The word *seminal* comes from a Latin word meaning *seed*.
- Something seminal is not simply important or influential—it is seed-forming.
- It contains within it the DNA of future growth.
- A seminal season is a time when God is planting core truths, deep understanding, and spiritual direction so that we align fully with the mission and kingdom assignment He has given to us.
- A "seed season" is marked by depth, ownership, intentionality, and formation. Much of what God is doing in a seminal season happens internally—within hearts, minds, culture, and spiritual understanding—before it ever becomes visible externally.
- This formative season will quietly but powerfully shape the years ahead.

- This season involves planting the seeds of the DNA of this spiritual house that will shape everything that will follow in the years ahead.

The DNA of the End-Time Church

1. Aligned with God's eternal purpose
2. Transformed by the power of the gospel
3. Lives by Christ's indwelling life
4. Values deeply God's vision for the local church
5. Worships the Lord passionately in spirit and truth
6. Devoted to prayer for the church, nation, nations, and Israel
7. Equipped to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit
8. Practices a Sermon on the Mount lifestyle
9. Hastens the Bridegroom's return by readiness
10. Overcomes the world, the flesh, and the devil
11. Understands deeply what Scripture teaches about the end times
12. Stands with God's prophetic promises for Israel and the Jewish people
13. Prepares the way of the Lord as forerunners in the spirit and the power of Elijah

A Seminal Season

- In a seminal season, God emphasizes clarity, depth, and spiritual formation. Truth is not merely heard; it is owned—internalized. We move from knowing the truth to owning and living it. Following this, we then proclaim it and multiply it.
- What is embraced in this season becomes the lens through which future decisions are made.
- Seeds take time to mature, but once planted well, they produce fruit consistently and sustainably. Rushing this season risks shallow growth later; stewarding it well ensures lasting fruit.
- If we recognize this moment rightly, we will measure it by what is being formed and shaped within us. Years from now, we may look back and realize that this was the season when everything was quietly set in motion for the future.
- A seminal season is *influential*. It sets the course for the church and Lifeschool for many years.
- A seminal season is *pivotal*. While it might seem insignificant at the time, it is later recognized as the primary point of change.

Examples

- *History*: The fall of the Berlin Wall is considered a seminal moment in world history.
- *Personal Life*: A specific conversation or decision that forever changes the course of one's career or life path.

- *Synonyms:*
 - *Watershed moment:* A turning point that marks a divide between what came before and what follows.
 - *Landmark:* An event that is famous or historically significant.
 - *Defining moment:* A point in time that defines the character or future of a person or movement.
 - *Pivotal moment:* A crucial event upon which future developments depend.

Plan For 2026

Let me briefly share a rough plan of what I plan to teach during the next year.

- January: Arise and Build—Fulfilling the Mission the Lord Has Given Us
- February – May: The DNA of the End-Time Church
- July – August: Fulfill Your Kingdom Assignment (teaching on the parable of the talents and minas)
- September – November: Salvation (teaching from my new book, releases sometime next year)
- December: Advent (I am releasing an advent devotional in November 2026)

Let me also state the importance of house church. This is a strategic way that we fulfill our mission to make disciples. Make sure that you make house church a high priority and that you come and participate in it. In our house church meetings, we will discuss these teachings.

This is how the DNA of this spiritual house gets planted into your heart deeper so that we can all take ownership of the vision and build together based on God's blueprint.

To reiterate, make sure that you make house church a high priority and that you read and listen to the messages that will be discussed. It's vital to become a disciple who knows, owns, lives, proclaims, and multiplies the message of this house.