



# Bible Study: Thriving Through Your Trials

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION OF  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED  
PRESENTS

## 2023 BIBLE STUDY SERIES

EPISODE 2

MAY 18, 2023

8-9:30PM

"THRIVING THROUGH YOUR  
TRIALS"



*Rev. Tayon Williams Dancy*  
SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN



*Rev. Dr. Ophelia Livingston*  
SANDHILLS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

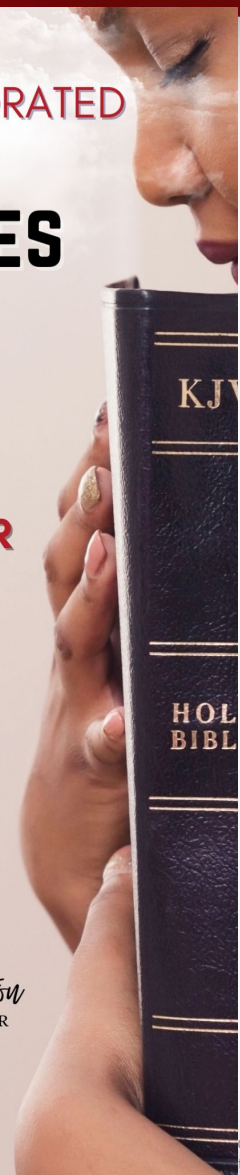
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTRATION VIA ZOOM

## In the Spirit

Rev. Tayon Williams Dancy  
South Atlantic Regional  
Chaplain

Bishop Dr. Ophelia  
Livingston  
Sandhills Alumnae Chapter



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# MISSION ALIGNMENT



## We Promise to Always S.E.E You



- **Sincere Sisterhood** – Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV) 1<sup>st</sup> Command “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 2<sup>nd</sup> Command “Love your neighbor (Soror) as yourself.”



- **Exceeding Excellence** – Colossians 3:23 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.



- **Embracing Empowerment** – Zechariah 4:6 (KJV) Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

# Bible Study Rules of Engagement



- Chat is open to all participants. Please engage with your comments in the chat.
- Q&A is open to all participants. Please post all questions to the Q&A.
  - If we are not able to respond during the meeting, we will review and respond later.
- Grab your bibles and be prepared to reference scripture if needed.
- Use Zoom tools for Emojis and annotations.

# Agenda: Thriving Through Your Trials



- What are Trials?
- What is Endurance?
- Being Rooted in Good Soil
- Thriving by Faith
- Steps to Thrive Through Your Trials
- Question & Answer
- Prayer Request

# What are Trials?



**Trial** - a test of faith, patience, or stamina through subjection to suffering or temptation

**Tribulation** - distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution

**Suffer** - to submit to or be forced to endure

**Suffering** - PAIN

**Oppression** - a sense of being weighed down in body or mind

# What is Endurance?



**Endure** - to remain firm under suffering or misfortune without yielding

**Strive** - to struggle in opposition : **CONTEND**

**Thrive** - : to progress toward or realize a goal despite or because of circumstances; to grow vigorously : **FLOURISH**



# Being Rooted in Good Soil

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**Bishop Ophelia Livingston  
Sandhills Alumnae Chapter**



# What Are Trials?



- Trials are considered sufferings, persecutions, tribulations, difficulties in life, pains, misfortunes, problems, etc.,
- Trials are considered problems that we cannot solve on our own.
- Trials and suffering are apart of life according to Scripture.

# What Does Thriving Mean?



- Doing more than surviving.
  - Life can put us in a tailspin
- Thriving is more than just getting by, or doing the we can.
- Thriving is knowing that God will see you through your worst situation.

# Thriving Requires Being Rooted In Good Soil



When my faith is rooted in God, then I am thriving in good soil. Whatever is planted in good soil will grow.

No matter what we do in life, we are all growing something.

- Seeds of grace
- Seeds of love
- Seeds of joy
- Seeds of compassion



# Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV



7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

# What Does The Bible Say About Suffering



- Undeserved suffering is part of following in Jesus's footsteps, 1 Peter 2:20–21.
- Suffering encourages growth, 2 Corinthians 12:9–10.
- James 1:2 tells us to “*consider it all joy, when we encounter trials*”.

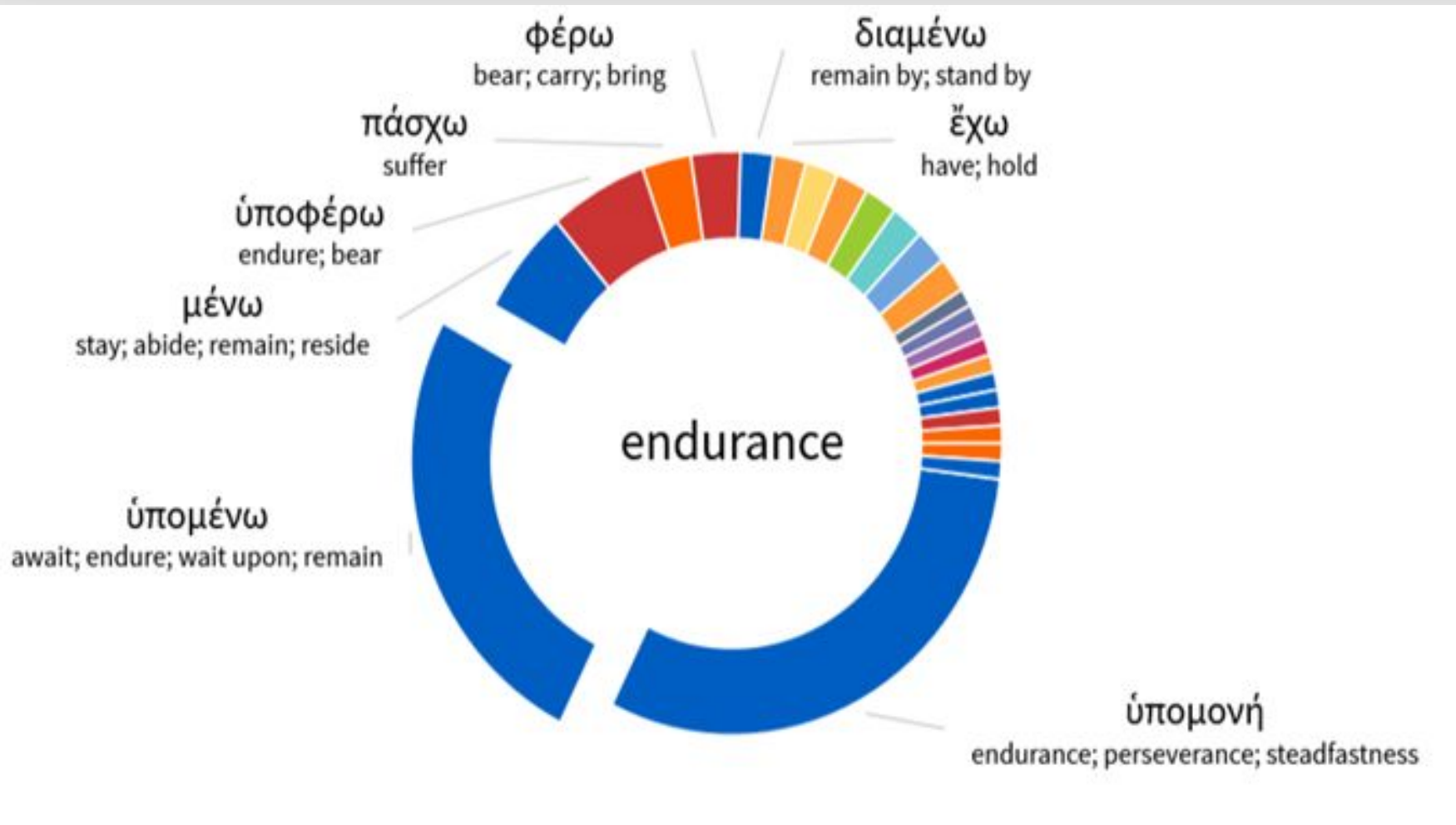


# 1 Peter 2:20–21 NIV

20. But if you *suffer* for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

21. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

# Endurance



Logos Bible Software - Bible Word Study

# 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 NIV



<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is **sufficient** for you, for my **power** is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

<sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I **delight** in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



# Three Questions For You



1. How did your endurance and faith in God, impact your trial or suffering?
2. Did your endurance allow growth to happen in your spiritual walk with God?
3. Are you now able to thrive in your trials because of your faith in God?

# Types of Soil



Pathway soil – the soil is compacted and the seeds cannot penetrate the ground for growth

Rocky soil – shallow soil, produces shallow plants

Thorny soil – weeds overtake the plants

Good soil – the soil was cultivated and the seeds thrived with proper nourishment

# When We Are Planted in Good Soil



1. Thriving takes place because of our faith in God.
2. Good soil allows our spiritual seeds to take root.
3. Good soil has a water reservoir close by, and His name is Jesus Christ.
4. When we are rooted in the Word of God, our faith will increase.
5. The greater my yielding to God's good soil, the greater the capacity of my fruitfulness to me.

# 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 The Message



<sup>3</sup> All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel.

<sup>4</sup> He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.



# Thriving by Faith

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**Rev. Tayon Williams Dancy**  
**South Atlantic Regional Chaplain**



# Lessons from the Shunammite Woman

## 2 Kings 4:14-20 ESV

<sup>14</sup> And he said, “What then is to be done for her?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” <sup>15</sup> He said, “Call her.” And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. <sup>16</sup> And he said, “At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.” <sup>17</sup> But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her. <sup>18</sup> When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to his father, “Oh, my head, my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” <sup>20</sup> And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died.

# Lessons from the Shunammite Woman



## 2 Kings 4:21-27 ESV

<sup>21</sup> And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out. <sup>22</sup> Then she called to her husband and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again.” <sup>23</sup> And he said, “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath.” She said, “All is well.” <sup>24</sup> Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, “Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.” <sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, “Look, there is the Shunammite. <sup>26</sup> Run at once to meet her and say to her, ‘Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?’” And she answered, “All is well.”

# Lessons from the Shunammite Woman



## 2 Kings 4:27-31 ESV

<sup>27</sup> And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me.”

<sup>28</sup> Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me?’” <sup>29</sup> He said to Gehazi, “Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child.” <sup>30</sup> Then the mother of the child said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her. <sup>31</sup> Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, “The child has not awakened.”



# Lessons from the Shunammite Woman



## 2 Kings 4:32-37 ESV

<sup>32</sup> When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. <sup>33</sup> So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. <sup>35</sup> Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. <sup>36</sup> Then he summoned Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite.” So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, “Pick up your son.” <sup>37</sup> She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

# Lessons from the Shunammite Woman



1. She served despite her circumstances
2. She had self control and order
3. She was not distracted by anything/anyone around her
4. She had faith in the unseen and endured
5. She worshipped God

# We Must Have Self Control



- 1. As her son died in her lap – she was not in a panic.**
  - She simply went and laid the boy down in the man of God’s room as if he were just resting
- 2. She did not just go and take matters into her own hands**
  - She knew she needed to seek the man of God
- 3. She recognized the value and position of her husband who was the headship**
  - She sought out her husband’s blessing twice – the first time was earlier in the chapter verse 9 when she suggested they make place for this man of God to stay –
- 4. She followed God even when her spouse had doubts**
  - She assured her husband that **All was Well** and left

# We Must Ignore All Distractions



1. **She was not distracted. This women had tunnel vision.**
2. **She knew she had to get to the Man of God.**
  - Vs 24 She said to her servant – hurry up man. Don't drag your feet, don't talk to anyone, don't take your eye off the road. Don't you take your foot off the gas unless I say so.
3. **She had one goal and that was to get to the Man of God expeditiously or as fast as possible.**
4. **She fell at His feet and worshipped** when she finally arrived from Shunem to Mt. Carmel.
  - She was in distress but knew where she could carry her burden.
  - She knew that he was a prophet of God and could fix it.

# We Must Have Faith in the Unseen



1. Before leaving home she told her husband **“All is Well”** while leaving her dead child
2. She had faith that if she could get to the man of God, that he had the ability, through God, to resurrect the dead
  - vs 30 As the Lord Lives and you yourself lives – There was evidence that she knew God was real and that He had sent Elisha as a prophet
3. Her faith was in the right place.
  - Jesus did nothing apart from God the father. Elisha, The Prophet, took no action without praying first to God the Father.
4. She again replied even to the Man of God and his servant Gehazi
  - 26 Run at once to meet her and say to her, ‘Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?’” And she answered, **“All is well.”**

# We Must Worship Christ in All Things



1. **She worshipped God.**
  - When the boy sneezed 7 times and opened his eyes, Gehazi went and got the women.
  - She fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground. This was a form of worship.
2. **In the book of Revelations the most frequently used word for worship is bow down. This is a symbolism of what everyone will do at Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.**
3. **Examples of people who worshipped Christ in the Bible**
  - **Woman with the issue of blood** – bowed to touch the hem of his garment
  - **The Sinful Woman** anointed his feet and she was forgiven
  - **Martha & Mary** fell to Jesus' feet when their brother died

# How You Can Thrive?



**Thrive** - to progress toward or realize a goal despite or because of circumstances; to grow vigorously : **FLOURISH**

1. Remember whose and who you are.
2. Focus on YOU - what is God showing you or teaching you during the trial.
3. Cry - When you are weak, God is made strong.
4. Live on purpose through service.
5. Take time to rest, eat, and be restored.
6. Surround yourself with people that pray and encourage.
7. Surround yourself with people that won't let you "die" where you are.
8. Remember God in your previous circumstances and how He brought you through. If He did it before, He can do it again.
9. Take heed of testimonies from those that have come before you who endured. You are not the only one.
10. Praise God anyhow. He inhabits the very praises of His people.

# What Does Growth Look Like?



**Grow** - to spring up and develop to maturity

1. Getting back to normal activity
2. Accepting help from others
3. Less tears when talking about the trial
4. Less anger at God and/or others
5. Recognizing that you made it another day/minute by God's grace
6. Recognizing joy in your soul even though your circumstance has not yet changed
7. Sleeping and/or eating better
8. Less feelings of shame and/or guilt
9. Seeing a better/new and improved you
10. Thinking less about your circumstance - renewal of the mind



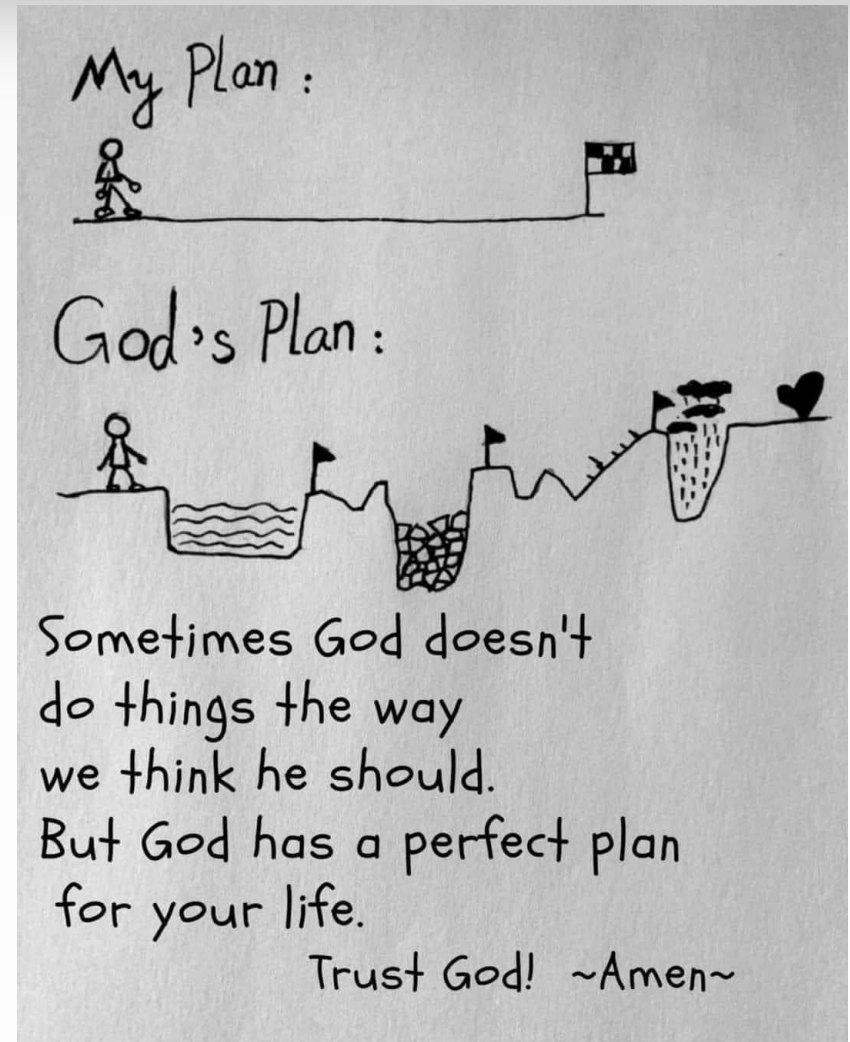
# God's Ways Are Not Our Ways



## Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.



# LET GOD BE GLORIFIED!!



## Questions & Answer

Submit Prayer Request:  
*In the Spirit*

# CORE EVENT PLANNING TEAM



**Rev. Tayon Williams Dancy** – SAR Chaplain, Western Wake Alumnae, NC

## South Carolina

- **Elder Marian Greene-Thompson**, Georgetown Alumnae, SC

## North Carolina

- **Dr. Rico Wagner**, Charlotte Alumnae, NC

## Virginia

- **Deaconess Marsicia Davis**, Fredericksburg Area Alumnae, VA

## Bermuda

- **Vanessa Phillips-Williams**, Bermuda Alumnae, Bermuda

# SAR Chaplain 2023 Bible Study Participants



Rev. Tayon Williams Dancy- **SAR Chaplain, Western Wake Alumnae**  
Bishop Dr. Ophelia Livingston- **Speaker, Sandhills Alumnae Chapter**

## **Technical Support Team:**

**PowerPoint Editor- Evangelist Yolanda Speed, Charlottesville Alumnae**

**Zoom Support- Dr. Christal M.N. Jenkins, Knightdale-Wake Forest**

**Chat Management- Rev. Katrina Smith, Loudoun County Alumnae**

**Q & A Chat Management- Rev. Claudia Cofield, Western Wake Alumnae**

## **SAR Tech Support:**

**Danielle Cooper, Richland County Alumnae**

**Casheila Heath, Newport News Alumnae**

**Ursula Gregg, Florence Alumnae**

**Demetrics Davis, SAR Secretary, Durham Alumnae**

## **Information & Communications:**

**Bridgette Wilson, Raleigh Alumnae**

**Vee Seward, Virginia Beach Alumnae**

**Jessica Fiason-Johnson, Raleigh Alumnae**



# Backup

# TRUTH TUESDAYS INSPIRATION



## Continuing Truth Tuesdays:

- An opportunity to share inspirational scriptures and/or messages to Sorors and our Social Media followers.
- Begin sharing October through end of Sorority year.
- Post to our Social Media FB, Twitter, and Instagram pages Tuesday mornings. Posts can be shared by chapters or individuals.
- Sent via email to Chaplains & Chapter Presidents for distribution to chapter.
- Chapters and Sorors to share in chapter newsletter, social media pages, websites, and more.

South Atlantic Region  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## TRUTH TUESDAYS

*Tayon Williams Dancy, SAR Chaplain*

Obedience is better than sacrifice. Praying is better than worrying. Godliness is far better than wickedness. Always aim for the better option.

**Proverbs 15:8-9 NLT**

8 The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but he delights in the prayers of the upright.  
9 The Lord detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue godliness.

# PRAYER, PETITIONS, AND PRAISE REPORTS



**Philippians 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

## Weekly Prayer Call

- Hosted Weekly Thursdays
- 6:00 AM start time
- Prayer, praise reports, and petitions.

## Monthly Chaplain/Clergy

## Intercessory Prayer & Check-in



## South Atlantic Region MEDITATION & PRAYER Call

*Join us weekly & invite a Soror.*

*Thursdays at 6:00 am*

*Call-in: 667-770-1025. Passcode: 498044#*

*Mobile one click:*

*667-770-1025,,498044#*

*Join by FCC App: Enter meeting ID: sarc2020*

*Hosted By:*

*Reverend Jayon Dancy*  
South Atlantic Regional Chaplain

**Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV**

**6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

# CONTACT INFORMATION & HELPFUL LINKS



## Contact Information

- Email: [SARChaplain2020@gmail.com](mailto:SARChaplain2020@gmail.com)
- Mobile: 919-454-6400
- Mail: PO Box 1364, Apex, NC 27502

## Helpful Links:

- ***In the Spirit Prayer Request* Form:**  
<https://www.dstsouthatlanticregion.org/inthespirit>
  - Prayer Request Form is on the website and can be submitted by any Soror.
  - Chapter Presidents & Chaplains should share the link to the Prayer Request Form.
- ***Clergy Data Request* Form:**  
[https://www.cognitoforms.com/TayonDancy/\\_202122saregionclergydatarequestform](https://www.cognitoforms.com/TayonDancy/_202122saregionclergydatarequestform)
- ***Chapter Chaplain Data Request* Form:**  
[https://www.cognitoforms.com/TayonDancy/\\_202122SARPresidentsAndChaplainsRequestForm](https://www.cognitoforms.com/TayonDancy/_202122SARPresidentsAndChaplainsRequestForm)