

## **FAITH IN BUILDING GOD'S FAMILY**

***"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 1:7 NIV)***

Give thanks to God that we have been allowed to enter the fifth month of this year, May 2026, to continue our journey together as believers. For the past four months (January-April), we have been reflecting together on our main theme for 2026, namely, how we can be formed into a "faithful and ever-steadfast church" in these end times (Luke 18:8b; 2 Peter 1:10). This annual topic is given to help us see the purpose and goals of God's congregation more clearly. We must be a church and believers who possess a pure faith and live ever-steadfast lives amidst these increasingly difficult times. If we lack purity of faith and are not steadfast in doing God's will, it will ultimately be in vain because it is not in accordance with His will (Matthew 7:21-23).

This May, we will commemorate two historic events. First, the commemoration of Jesus' ascension into heaven (Christi Himmelfahrt) 40 days after His resurrection from the dead (May 14, 2026), and second, the commemoration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, or Pentecost (Pfingsten), which occurred 10 days after His ascension (May 24, 2026). These events may remind us of the beginnings of the early church. Through the life of the early church, we may learn the basic principles for building God's family with purity of faith (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Peter 1:7).

For the past four months we have been reflecting on the main points of the first part (January-February), namely the part, "Introduction," which is about how we are taught to have faith and be more steadfast in following God in this end time in preparation for welcoming His second coming and the second part (March-April), which is about "Have faith and stand firm in carrying out worship", namely by reflecting on the values of a life of worship, prayer, praise & worship in this end time generation through a series of sermons every Sunday and also discussed in more depth at every PERAK & PERKASA cell group meeting. There are still four (4) main points that we will reflect on together until the end of this year. And the theme that will be further reflected on in the months of May-June 2026, namely about how: "Have faith and stand firm in building His family," meaning how we have faith in building the fellowship of the body of Christ and become more steadfast in this end time (1 Peter 1:7; Isaiah 26:3).

Specifically, in May 2026, we will explore how we can have faith in building God's family life. We are invited to learn how to build a biblical life together and how to develop God's family community with purity of faith. And in June 2026, we will explore further how we can stand firm in building God's family in these end times. May our general services and cell group meetings be special opportunities where we can be built with purity. Let's remain enthusiastic in continuing to build His family through our respective talents and gifts. Happy commemorating the ascension of the Lord Jesus and the day of Pentecost this May. Amen, Lord Jesus bless!

By Ps. Silwanus Obadja