Begin with the light.

Illustrative sample written for this website. Not an excerpt from Bishop Karel Gray’s manuscript.

The first question is not how powerful the darkness appears. It is where we place our confidence. Christian hope begins with the character of God, not the volume of the voices competing for our attention.

Consider a room at dawn. The light does not argue with the shadows; it makes what was hidden visible. In a similar way, Scripture invites us to bring our thoughts, motives, and decisions into the light of truth. Discernment is not a reason to become suspicious of everyone. It is an invitation to become attentive to what is true, good, and faithful.

Ephesians 6 directs believers toward strength in the Lord and the armor of God. Its call is not to turn other people into enemies. Truth, righteousness, faith, and prayer shape the way we stand—and the way we treat the people around us.

Kingdom living therefore begins in ordinary places: a conversation where we choose honesty, a moment of pressure where we choose patience, a decision where we pause to pray. These choices do not earn God’s love. They are responses to the grace we have received in Christ.

Today, begin with one question: What would faithfulness look like here? Read the passage carefully. Name the fear without allowing it to rule. Ask for wisdom. Then take the next step with humility and hope. The goal is not to become preoccupied with darkness, but to live more fully in the light.

Reflection: Where could you replace a fearful reaction with a faithful response today?

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