

THE NEED FOR PURITY IN THE LIFE OF GOD'S FAMILY

"like newborn babies [you should] long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may be nurtured and grow in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfillment], if in fact you have [already] tasted the goodness and gracious kindness of the Lord."

(1 Peter 2:2-3 AMP)

Praise the Lord, we have entered the fifth month of this year, May 2025, to continue our journey together as members of God's family. Over the past four months (January–April), we have begun reflecting together on our main theme for 2025, namely how we can be formed into “a church that is purified and filled with the glory of God” in these end times (Revelation 3:18; Ezekiel 43:5). This yearly theme has been given to help us see more clearly the purpose and direction of the life of God’s congregation. We must indeed become a church and Christians who are increasingly purified and filled with the glory of God amid an increasingly dark era. If we refuse to be purified and filled with God’s glory, then ultimately what we do will be in vain because it is not in accordance with God's will (Matthew 7:21–23).

In May and June, we will commemorate two historic events. First, the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven (Christi Himmelfahrt) after 40 days of His resurrection from the dead (May 29, 2025), and second, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost (Pfingsten), which occurred 10 days after His ascension (June 8, 2025). These events should remind us of the birth of the early church. Through the life of the early church, we can learn foundational principles for building a pure life in God’s family (Acts 2:41–47).

Over the past four months, we have reflected on the first part (January–February), the “Introduction,” which taught us how to be increasingly purified and filled with the glory of God in preparation for His second coming. We also studied the second part (March–April), “The importance of holiness and the glory of God in the worship of His people,” by reflecting on the values of worship, prayer, praise, and adoration in this end-time generation, both in Sunday sermons and in small group meetings (PERAK & PERKASA). There are still four (4) main themes that we will reflect on together through the end of this year. The theme for May–June 2025 is about how we as members of God’s family can continue to be built according to God’s plan and will, namely: “The need for purity and the glory of God in the life of God’s family,” meaning that each of us must help build a fellowship of the body of Christ that is pure and filled with God's glory in these end times (1 Peter 2:2–3 & 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Specifically in May 2025, we will delve into how to build a God-family life full of purity. We are invited to learn how to build a biblical community life and develop a pure community of God's family. In June 2025, we will go deeper into how we can build God's family increasingly filled with His glory in these end times. May our Sunday services and small group meetings be special opportunities where we can be built with full purity in His family. Let us remain passionate about building His family through our respective talents and gifts. Happy Ascension Day at the end of May. Amen, and may the Lord Jesus bless you!

By Silwanus Obadja