

I visited Zion Tabernacle Holiness Church located at 150A Hart St, Brooklyn, NY where Bishop Charles Watts is the Pastor. Bishop Watts received the Holy Spirit was called to ministry at the age of 9 and although he was very much in tuned with the Holy Spirit and knew he was going to lead a life of serving and servicing the community. Like most who follow the leading of the Holy Spirt, they can't imagine exactly what they might do on this journey. I had the honor and privilege of interviewing Bishop Charles Watts sitting in with his sister Yvonne. Yvonne, who I have come to know as a prayer warrior, is also a pillar of strength and is definitely a warrior in the Kingdom of God.

Bishops Watts has been in ministry for 56 years, and has been a Pastor for 17 years. Bishop Watts assisted his dad in ministry for about 5 years before his dad's transition. Bishop Watts stated that it is "Always God's Will, Not Mine". Bishop knew that he was called to preach and teach the word of God. Bishop Watts is also called to father many who have lost their way and to train them up in the way of the Lord.

Zion Tabernacle's goal is to reach out to the community at large and introduce God to them in a profound way. Although Zion is still recovering from the Pandemic and Bishop has also had some health concerns due to the Pandemic, it does not stop Bishop Watts from continuing in ministry by showing up, being present, teaching others and training them. Although still able to be effective in and for the Kingdom, his goal is to train the next generation so that they can continue the race that was set before them.

Before the pandemic, the church used to go into the community and greet the community and would give out dinners. The church would also stand on all 4 corners giving out tracks and encouraging people to enter a relationship with God. The church would also host an annual

community day where they would have food, games, and events for the community. In the winter the church would distribute coats and clothes to the community. Bishop's goal is to reconcile people back to God by showing the love, patience, care and respect to people and by bridging the gap for those who used to go to church. Bishop also strives to be a connection to those who have never been to church or who have had bad encounters. His heart's desire is that all people shall encounter the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Their philosophy is based on not just talking the talk but walking the walk. The scripture that comes to mind is Romans 1:16-17 (KJV) – ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. The only suggestion that I would give in the area is that it is imperative that even when the work appears tedious or if some do not appear to be responding that the goal is to not stop working in the community but that is when we are to dig in more and possibly change the way that we go into the community and connect with them.

Their theology is based on their belief in the trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When I attended the saervice I felt the love and community that they would like to extend to the community that they worship in. They love to worship God and according to a few of his members, Bishop walks the walk. What you see is what you get always, there is no faking it and Bishop is consistent in his sermon teaching and his one-on-one teachings with his congregants. While Bishop can laugh with all of them, Bishop is also able to be serious and has the respect, love and confidence of his congregants.

They have a service that gives honor and praise to God and portrays the love and teaching of our Lord and Savior. The Bishop has been desiring to do more for the community that he is stationed in and wants to offer transition housing to those who are having a hard time gaining the assistance they need. In addition to Spiritual guidance and transition housing, Bishop Watts wants to offer financial planning and counseling services. This will allow the community to grow mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and financially.