

2026

The Word of the Lord for 2026

THE YEAR OF DISTINCTION

"If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct?"

EXODUS 33:15-16

ONE WAY CHURCH · HIS PRESENCE IS OUR PRIORITY

WHEN YOU LIVE
DISTINCT
FOR NO REASON,
NO REASON CAN TAKE AWAY
YOUR
DISTINCTION.

From vision to visitation.

When One Way Church launched on September 7th, one declaration was driven into the ground like a stake: His presence is our priority. Not a tagline. Not a marketing phrase. A declaration of identity.

From the beginning this house said: we will not chase trends, and we will not measure success the way the world measures it. If God's presence is not the defining mark of this house, we have no business existing. For months this church said no to shortcuts, prioritized the altar, and lived Moses' desperation from Exodus 33: if Your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

And then the year turned, and something changed.

There is a difference between vision and visitation. Vision is what we carry. Visitation is when God shows up and confirms it.

For months we declared what we believe. Now God is responding to what has been built. He is putting His seal on this house, and He is naming what 2026 will be.

Moses did not only ask for presence. He asked a question every presence-people must ask: how shall it be known that I have found favor, I and Your people? Is it not in Your going with us, so that we are distinct? Moses understood that prioritizing presence is not only about intimacy with God. It is about identity before the world. If You do not go with us, no one will be able to tell the difference between us and everyone else.

Presence does not just change our experience. Presence changes our identity. It marks us. It sets us apart. It makes us distinct.

Because this house has prioritized His presence, God is marking it. And the mark has a name. One Way Church, hear the word of the Lord for 2026: this is the Year of Distinction.

Not performance. Proximity.

Distinction is not what most people think it is. And if we do not understand it correctly, we will chase the wrong thing all year.

Distinction is not visibility. It is not being seen, known, or recognized by the world. Distinction is not growth: not more people, more buildings, more influence. Distinction is not excellence: not doing things better than everyone else. All of those things might accompany distinction, but they are not distinction itself.

Distinction is not what you do for God. Distinction is who you **become because of God. It is not earned through performance. It is revealed through proximity.**

The more time you spend in God's presence, the more you become like Him. And the more you become like Him, the more distinct you become.

The Hebrew: Qadosh

In the Hebrew Scriptures, distinction is tied to the word qadosh, translated holy or set apart. But qadosh does not primarily mean morally pure, though it includes that. Qadosh means other. In a category of its own. When Scripture says God is qadosh, it is saying there is nothing like Him. And when God calls you to be qadosh, He is not just calling you to be clean. He is calling you to be unmistakably different, because you carry Him.

Leviticus 20:26: "You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine." God's holiness is the source of your distinction. You receive it by nearness.

Distinction is not the presence of something extraordinary. Distinction is **the absence of everything artificial. You reveal it by removing what was never supposed to be there.**

The eyes of your heart enlightened.

You cannot live distinct until you see distinct. Distinction is not just a behavior. It is a vision, a way of seeing, and it begins in Ephesians 1:18-19.

Paul prays that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened to know three things. The hope of His calling: that is purpose, seeing why you exist. The riches of His inheritance in the saints: that is identity, seeing your value to God. The immeasurable greatness of His power toward us: that is future, seeing what is available to you.

Some of you are wrestling with all three: What am I here for? Who am I? What about tomorrow? The answer to all three is the same: eyes enlightened. When you see who you are in Him, you stop trying to become something and start revealing what has already been given.

A distinct person is not someone trying to be different. A distinct person is someone who has seen who they really are in Him, and simply lives from it.

A distinct people will be a people of...

2026 will not mark One Way Church by what we achieve. It will mark us by what we embody. Five marks.

1

A People of Sight

Most people see the natural and miss the supernatural. A distinct people see purpose where others see confusion, identity where others see insecurity, future where others see fear. What you see determines how you live. Proverbs 29:18 says without vision the people perish; the Hebrew word para means to run wild, to cast off restraint, to blend in. Without sight, people lose their distinction. With enlightened eyes, they live marked.

EPHESIANS 1:18-19 · PROVERBS 29:18

2

A People of Conviction

Preference says, I like this. Conviction says, I will stand on this. Preference bends under pressure; conviction stands. When the decree went out that no one could pray, Daniel got down on his knees as he had done previously. The circumstance changed, the pressure changed, the threat changed. Daniel did not. A distinct people do not shift with the culture; they stand on truth while the culture shifts around them.

DANIEL 6:10

3

A People of Unconditional Devotion

Most people follow God for a reason: because He blessed, healed, provided. There is nothing wrong with gratitude, but if you follow God for a reason, your followership is conditional, and conditional devotion produces fragile faith. What happens when the blessing delays and the prayer goes unanswered? There is another way. Love Him for no reason at all: not for what He gives, but because He is worthy.

When you love God for no reason, no reason can take your love away. When you live distinct for no reason, no reason can take your distinction away.

This is what separates people who start well from people who finish well. The enemy cannot take what he did not give you.

HABAKKUK 3:17-18

4

A People of Legacy

Distinction is not just personal. It is generational. When God marks you, He marks your bloodline. Deuteronomy 7:9 speaks of a faithful God keeping covenant to a thousand generations of those who love Him. You are not just living for yourself; you are laying tracks. Breaking generational curses is not enough; a distinct people build generational blessing. In 2026, your distinction becomes their inheritance.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

5

A People of Endurance

This is why leaders fall and churches fail: they are sprinters in a marathon. Hebrews 12:1 calls us to run with endurance; the Greek hypomone means to bear up under pressure and stay the course. Distinction is not proven in a moment; it is proven over time. We are not asking God for a moment. We are asking for a mantle. And He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.

HEBREWS 12:1 · PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Distinction is conditional. Guard it.

You have seen churches fall and leaders fail. These warnings are your protection.

Warning One: Familiarity will kill distinction.

This is the silent thief. It does not look like sin; it looks like comfort. You cannot steward presence casually: what you normalize, you eventually lose. In 1 Samuel, the Ark of the Covenant sat in the house of Abinadab for twenty years, and somewhere along the way it became furniture. Uzzah grew casual with the holy, and it cost him everything. The moment we say we know how God moves here, we have lost it. Distinction requires perpetual reverence: not just in the beginning, always. Stay hungry. Stay humble. Never assume you have figured it out.

Warning Two: Speed will tempt you.

Opportunities will come in 2026. Some will look God-sized. But not every open door is a God door; some are ahead of God's timing. Abraham learned this the hard way: when the promise delayed, he ran ahead with Hagar, and the shortcut produced Ishmael. If you outrun presence you may still succeed, but without glory. You can build something impressive without God; it just will not carry the mark. We will not make that trade. We will move at the pace of presence, even when it feels slow.

Warning Three: People will want the fruit without the fire.

As God moves, people will be attracted to the outcome: the unity, the presence, the transformation. Many will admire the outcome without committing to the process. Malachi 3 describes God as a refiner's fire, sitting as a purifier of silver. The fire is not punishment. The fire is purification. But you have to stay in it. Guard the altar, not the applause. We are not building for spectators. We are building for participants.

The end of a version of you.

Something is breaking in the spirit. Not loudly. Not emotionally. Decisively.

God is closing doors you kept revisiting, and stretching you into rooms you kept shrinking in. This is not a moment for comfort. This is a moment for courage, consecration, and clarity. This is a crossing-over moment: not just the end of a year, but the end of a version of you. God is dismantling survival habits and reintroducing you to authority, clarity, and holy confidence. What is ending is not loss. It is limitation.

In Scripture, crossings are never casual. Israel crossed the Red Sea. Joshua crossed the Jordan. Jesus crossed into regions others avoided. Crossings require obedience before understanding, and delay always costs more than obedience. If you feel pressure right now, do not panic: pressure is often the sign that God is expanding capacity, not punishing you.

You cannot carry next-season authority with last-season appetites.

Be careful not to spiritualize hesitation. Waiting on God is biblical; avoiding obedience is not. So hear the word: do not drift into the new year. Cross over awake. Cross over aligned. Cross over stretched, not shrunken. Those who respond now will recognize what God is doing before others do.

The question we carry into 2026:

"Does this protect the **presence,
or just promote us?"**

Filter every decision, every opportunity, and every moment through that question, and this word will mature in your life. The Year of Distinction is not about standing out. It is about standing still long enough for God to be seen. God is not making you famous. He is making you unmistakable. Welcome to 2026, One Way Church.

2026