

Twenty-one Days of
Prayer and Fasting

A W A K E N



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Dear Friend,

Throughout the course of biblical history, whenever God wanted to bring forth change in a world, He called for an awakening of his people. In our lifetime, there has been at least five "Great Awakenings" dating back to the 1700's. These awakenings happened in times where the world was in peril, and people had forgotten God. They began to live their lives immorally, fearfully, and oppression swept the nations.

However, God called forth a remnant of His Glory to be manifested in the earth through His people and revival broke out causing change to happen. The great awakenings from the past not only empowered God's people, but it caused them to bring about freedom and deliverance to all that encountered them.

We believe that God impresses on us to birth an awakening right now, in this season and He wants it to begin with us. Prophet Ezra wrote in 2 Chronicles in the mid 400BC,

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

If ever there was a time that God's people need to arise, it is now! Will you join us in this 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting to be the change that the world desperately desires?

On this journey, set aside time to read through this devotional, study the Word and seek God for a greater discernment and anointing to walk out this commission of 2 Chronicles. Whether you have prayed and fasted before, or if this is your first time, you can start where you are and experience what God has in store for you in a powerful way.

The tools provided in this devotional are practical guidelines to help you navigate through this 21 Days of prayer commission. As you read over this information, please consider how it applies to you and your personal circumstances and convictions. Use the SOAP Method (Scriptures, Observation, Application, Prayer) for allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Now, are you ready to "awaken" the spiritual giant that lies within you to take back our nations for the Kingdom of God?

Pastor Tom Manning,
Senior Pastor



Pastor Tom Manning

FASTING TIPS

Fasting is a principle that God intended for everyone to be able to enjoy. It's not a punishment; it's a privilege! By making fasting a way of life, you can get closer to God and grow in your spiritual walk like never before.

Fasting is one of the most powerful weapons God has given us for our daily lives. Through fasting, you can experience a release from the bondage of sin ... restoration in your relationships ... financial blessings ... spiritual renewal ... supernatural healing and so much more!

When you fast, you open up the blessings and opportunities He has provided for you.

Biblical fasting takes a lot of discipline and strength—strength which you can only receive from God. Matt 6:33 says, When you seek God, and His Righteousness, He will reward you.

Isaiah 58:6

"[Is] not this the fast that I have chosen to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

Ezra 8:21-23 (TLB)

"21 Then I declared a fast while we were at the Ahava River so that we would humble ourselves before our God; and we prayed that he would give us a good journey and protect us, our children, and our goods as we traveled. 22 So we fasted and begged God to take care of us. And he did."

How to Begin: Start with a clear goal. Be specific. Why are you fasting? Do you need direction, healing, restoration of marriage or family issues? Are you facing financial difficulties? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Pray daily, and read the Bible.



Preparing Spiritually: Confess your sins to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of weaknesses. Forgive all who have offended you and ask forgiveness from those you may have offended (Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4; 17:3-4). Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ and reject the worldly desires that try to hinder you (Romans 12:1-2).

Deciding What to Fast: Decide ahead of time the type of fasting you choose, it is up to you. Remember to replace that time that you would have spent eating, with prayer and Bible study.

CORPORATE FASTING

There is power in Unity! God's anointing will break the yoke of bondage.

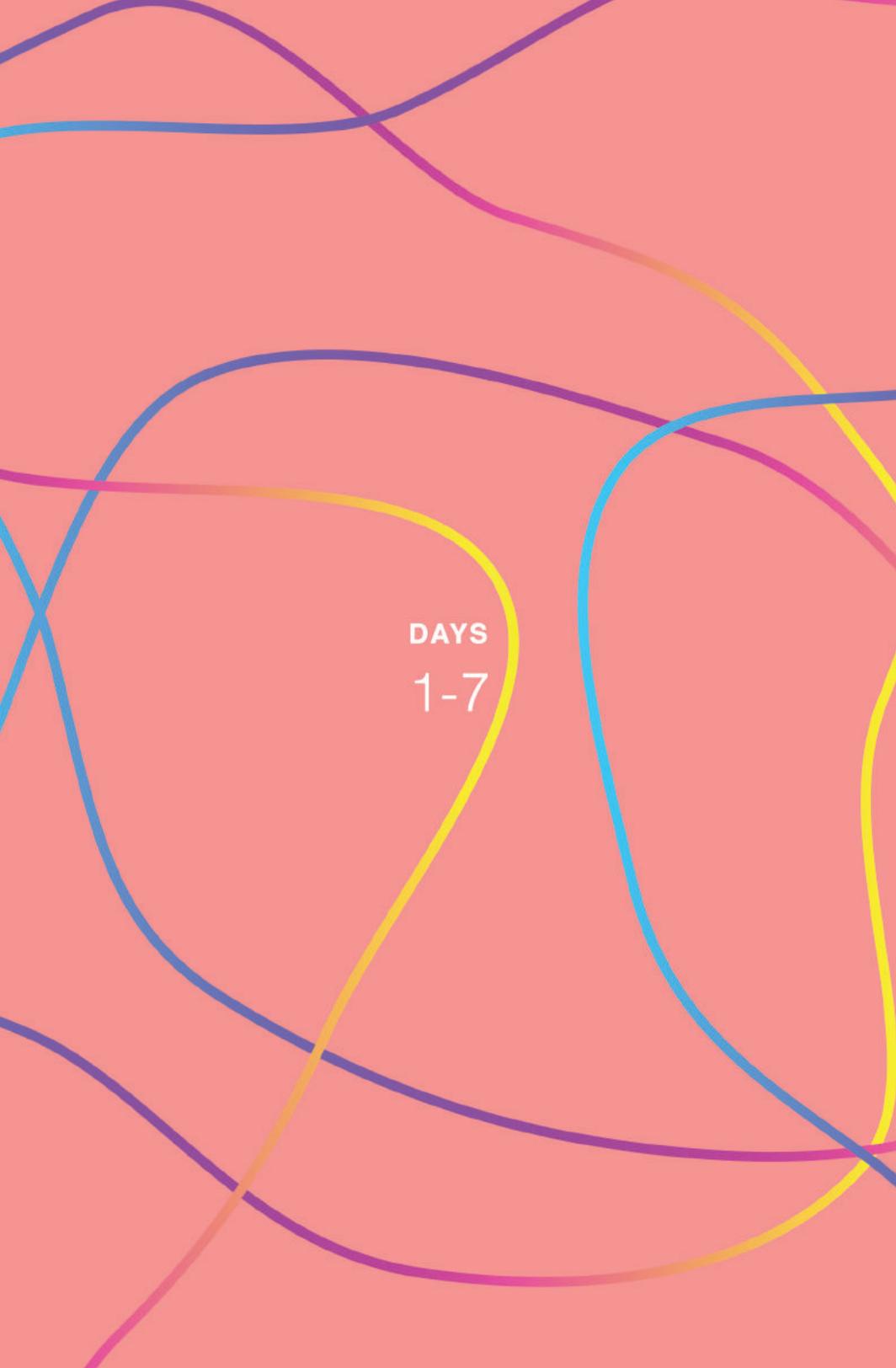
2 Chronicles 7:14-16 (NIV)

“14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. 16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.”

In corporate prayer and fasting, there is tremendous power.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF FASTS:

- **Full Fast:** Drink only liquids, usually just water
- **Daniel Fast:** Eat no meat, no sweets and no bread. Drink water and juice. Eat fruits and vegetables.
- **Partial Fast:** Fast a meal. Some fast from sun up to sunset.



DAYS
1-7

DAY 1. Tune In

John 10:22-30: *Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*

Have you ever been searching for a radio station only to be frustrated by finding static rather than music? You then focus to fine tune the dial again, and suddenly you hear a clear signal. The fact is, the signal always existed on the airwaves; the only difference is that now you have adjusted your tuner to the right frequency.

In our hectic lives, there are so many signals bombarding our senses that it can become difficult to distinguish God's voice from the deafening "static noise" of life. Fasting enables us to tune out the world's distractions and tune in to God. As we fast, we deny our flesh. When we deny our flesh, we become more in tune to the Holy Spirit and can hear God's voice more clearly. If you truly listen for God's voice, you will hear it. When you hear it, it will build faith within you.

If you desire to tune out the static of life and tune into the voice of God, come to Him first and foremost with ears that are willing to listen and a heart that is ready to obey what he says. (Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 66:2) The more we practice being in His presence, the clearer and more recognizable His voice becomes.

- In this time of fasting, will you make a commitment to tune your ear to the voice of God?
- What distractions do you need to remove so that you can focus on God?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to tune in to You. As distractions and temptations come, give me strength to turn to You. Teach me. Give me eyes and ears to hear Your voice. Open my heart to Your Word. As I'm challenged in the days ahead, please give me what I need to humble myself and honor You. Help me to take time to spend time with You in secret, to trust in Your Word. You are the potter. I am the clay. Mold me and make me according to Your will.

Day 2. Unwavering in Faith

James 1:2-7: *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

What do you expect when you pray? When we pray with earnest expectation, we are exercising our faith. The earnest prayers of people walking in step with God can produce powerful results, and the most earnest prayers come from us recognizing our need for God.

There can be a natural tendency to shrink back when praying for the seemingly impossible, but we must remember that nothing is impossible with God. If we know the promises that God has given us, and understand His character and the principles by which He works, we can pray with confidence and trust Him for the answer. The Kings James Version of the Bible refers to it as being “unwavering in your faith.” What has caused you to waver in your expectation with God? James reminds us that faith and wavering are actually contradictory – he says “nothing wavering”. Know that God never wavers in His love for you. You can trust Him completely.

- What are you trusting God for in this season?
- How can you line up your expectations with the Word of God when you pray?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to stand firm in my faith as I walk with You. You are my strong tower. I know I can trust in You. May my life be filled with faith and expectation that You are working all things together for my good. I pray that mountain moving faith would be exhibited in my life, knowing that You have promised to do the impossible. May my life, thoughts and expectations reflect who you are.

Day 3. Spiritual Food

Psalm 34:8: *Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the one who take refuge in Him.*

God's Word is life-giving, spiritual food. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Psalm 19 says this about God's words: "They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb." Proverbs 4:22 says, "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

God's Word is life changing, miracle working, alive, holy, true, perfect, empowering, encouraging, trustworthy and healing. It guides us, gives wisdom, judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart, is a mighty weapon and is to be treasured! Jesus was the Word made flesh, our bread of life. When we open the scriptures, we begin to know Him better.

In John 4, we read about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. When Jesus met her, His disciples had gone into town to get food. When they returned with the food, they found Jesus' hunger satisfied. They were confused by this, wondering if He had eaten while they were gone. But Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Jesus was sustained spiritually by doing His Father's will. He then told them in John 6:27, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."

We are spiritually nourished by feeding on God's Word and by doing His will. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes and ears to receive His Word as life-giving and life sustaining. Drink deeply from His Word. Listen for His voice and obey His promptings.

- How can you create time to be in God's Word?
- Do you believe that it will nourish you and bring life to you?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for nourishing me with Your Word. It is life to my body and soul. Open my eyes and ears to know and understand Your Truth deeper. Teach me and make me strong in You. Help me to keep Your words in my heart to do Your will. May I use Your Word as a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Lead me to apply Your Word to my daily living, resulting in a transformed life. You are more than life to me.

Day 4. Cultivating Spiritual Hunger

Mark 1:12-13: *Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

Even Jesus disconnected from the world to fast and pray. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke speak of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. They also describe other times Jesus pulled away from the demands of the crowds, His ministry and even His closest friends to pray.

There are times that we, too, need to pull away from the things of the world and focus on God. "The things of the world" can certainly include more than just food. In fact, in our world, it is more likely to be television, movies, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, cell phones and internet that keep us "tuned in" to the world. None of these things are wrong in and of themselves, but they are avenues for a mental and spiritual "crowd" to gather around us and drown out the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit.

- Are you connected to things that are making it difficult for you to hear from God?
- What do you need to disconnect from so that this can be a powerful season of fasting in your life?

Prayer:

Lord, give me a spiritual hunger that I have never known. Increase my thirst for righteousness, for purity, for holiness, for You! Break the power of sin and worldly habits and desires that keep me from You. Renew my mind by Your Word. Wash me and cleanse me by Your Truth. Make me a vessel that You can use to refresh others. Use me in Your service, for your glory.

Day 5. Fasting with prayer removes unbelief

Matthew 17:18-21: *And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, that if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there', and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

When we pray and fast, we don't do so to change God or His will. By praying and fasting, we are the ones changed. Coming into alignment with God helps us curb our doubts and fears. When we pray and fast, one thing that leaves is our unbelief. It is when we have faith to believe, that we can pray with confidence and know that "nothing will be impossible" as we live to bring glory to God.

Ask God to strengthen our hearts to fully believe Him and believe His word. It is okay to recognize and acknowledge if you struggle with unbelief. It's the first step in allowing God to strengthen your faith and bring you into alignment with His plan for your life.

- What is it that you need faith to believe God for?
- Align yourself with God's Word and will during this fast. Ask the Holy Spirit to free you from your unbelief.

Prayer:

Lord, I confess my unbelief. I am weak, but You are strong. Increase my faith. Remind me of the relevance of Your Word for my life. I know it is powerful. Help me to use it to strengthen my spirit and to war against Satan and his efforts against me and my family. Help me to take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. Make me an overcomer as I receive in faith the victory You have for me.

Day 6. Reliance on God

Romans 7:18-20 (NLT): *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong, it is sin living in me that does it.*

There's an internal war that often wages within each and every one of us. Paul describes this so well here in Romans 7. We desire to do the right thing, but in our own efforts, we don't have the power to and we mess up.

The good news is that we don't have to rely on our own strength to make right decisions. We don't have to be dominated by our sinful nature and end up doing the things we don't want to do. But the only way we can live this kind of life is by yielding to the Holy Spirit and relying on the strength of Jesus Christ, not our own.

When we're facing struggles, we must rely on God's power alive within us through the Holy Spirit. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit resides in us and places in us the desire to do what is pleasing to God. (Hebrews 10:16) The Holy Spirit always does what is right. He always uphold the perfect will of God, pleasing the Father in every way. It is our job to lay down our stubborn fleshly will and yield to the will of God. In that moment, the Holy Spirit will be there to help us in our time of need. Instead of trusting in our own strength, let us yield to and become totally reliant upon the Holy Spirit.

- Are there areas in your life causing an internal struggle?
- Make a decision today that you will yield to the Holy Spirit and lean on His strength, not your own, to overcome obstacles of sin and selfishness in your life.

Prayer:

Lord, I desire to please You in all things. I confess that at times I attempt to do things my way. Forgive me of all stubbornness, disobedience and pride. Help me to know your will and choose Your way. I humbly ask You for grace and a willingness to yield to the Holy Spirit who lives in me. May my life reflect Your will for me. Help me to put away childish things and put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Day 7. Fervent Prayer

James 5:16b: *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

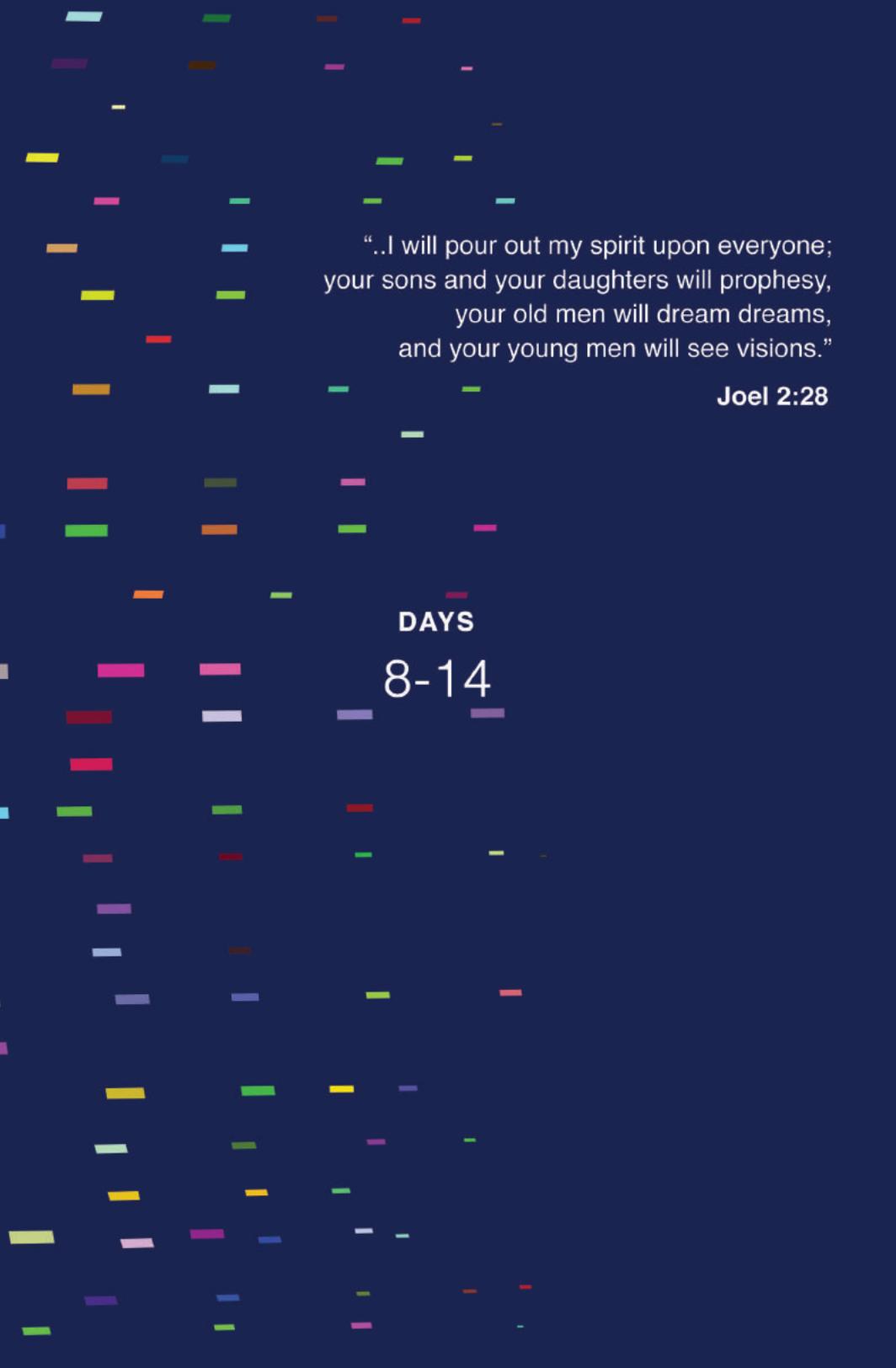
Fervency speaks of our level of intensity, passion and persistence. Many times, we can lose our passion in prayer or stop praying for certain things altogether because we lose heart or give up. But God invites us to keep them before Him and trust Him for an answer in His time. (Matthew 7:7-11)

The Old Testament prophet, Elijah, practiced a lifestyle of fervent, intense prayer and he witnessed incredible miracles in his lifetime as a result. In 1 Kings 17:17-24, we read of a woman whose only son became ill and died. When Elijah heard the news he quickly took action and did what he knew best – he fervently cried out to God. Elijah fully believed that God could bring the boy back to life, and he didn't pray just once. It is recorded that he prayed three times for the boy's soul to return to him. He prayed fervently, repeatedly and he wasn't going to give up. Verse 22 reads, "then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived."

God honored Elijah's obedience and fervent prayers and brought the boy to life. God hears your prayers as well and will bring an answer in His perfect timing. But don't be discouraged or disheartened if the answer is not exactly what you expected. Commit to praying to God with passion and persistence, trusting the answer will come in God's perfect way and in His perfect timing.

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to pray. You have given me the gift of partnering with You in prayer. Stir my heart to prayer and give me ears to listen as You speak to me in the quiet places of my heart. Increase my faith as I trust You for the answers to my prayers. Thank You for hearing me.



“..I will pour out my spirit upon everyone;
your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.”

Joel 2:28

DAYS

8-14

Day 8. Spoken Word

John 11:38-44: *Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

The story of Lazarus' death and resurrection reflects the power of Jesus' spoken Word. He already knew in His heart the miracle that was about to take place, but His words spoke the miracle into existence.

While prayer is our declaration of our dependence on God, our spoken words can be the manifestation of what's happening in our hearts. There is power in our spoken words – whether they are used to build up or tear down. It is so important to keep our hearts filled with the truth from God's Word so that our words will produce good fruit.

As you seek God in prayer, ask Him for the words and discernment that may help someone today. Pray that your words would be encouraging, edifying and aligned with the truth of God's word. Building others up around us with our words allows us to be God's instrument – a vessel for His good work.

As God continues to fill us through this season of prayer and fasting, He wants to take what is now in our hearts and share it with others. How can you use the power of your spoken words to speak God's truth into the lives of others?

Prayer:

Father, Thank You that Your Word is life and power to me. Your Word brings hope to things that appear to have no hope. May Your words take root in my heart so that I can bring life, light and encouragement to others who are weary. Father, though my sins be as red crimson, make them whiter than snow. Through my confession, may my sins be as far removed as the east is from the west. Today I turn from my sins and I turn completely to you. Thank you for your faithfulness to me.

Matthew 17:14-16: *“And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”*

What a great example of humility – this man approached Jesus and knelt before Him in the midst of a crowd. As the father approached Jesus, he believed that Jesus would bring his son relief. But even in his belief, his approach was humble and submitted to what Christ would choose to do. Looking further into the story, we find the father was also persistent and resisted taking offense. Though the disciples were not able to help him, he set aside his temporary disappointment in their failure and continued to seek after Jesus – the solution to his circumstance, the source of relief through his trial.

Being humble before God is realizing our need of Him, submitting to His will, pursuing Him and being confident the outcome will occur in God’s perfect timing.

Be encouraged that approaching God with a heart of humility will always position you to find relief in Jesus. Don’t be ashamed to humble yourself before God, even in the midst of others looking on. Offenses and disappointment may come but continue in your pursuit of Jesus. You may not get relief right away but know that God is never late and His solution is always perfect.

Prayer is a posture of humility. Humble yourself before the Lord each day and bring your cares to Him. He wants to meet you where you are and answer your every need. Is there discouragement in your heart today? Write it down and release it to our perfect God.

Prayer:

Lord, I bow before You realizing You are Sovereign, Almighty, and All Powerful. I thank You that in Your greatness You still love and care for me. Your ways and thoughts are so much higher than mine, and I acknowledge my need for You. I reject pride from my life, for I confess I am nothing without You. I submit my desires, my will and my life to You. I cast my disappointments and discouragements before you trusting and believing that you are big enough and able to handle them.

Day 10: Clean House

Romans 8:5-6: *For those who live according to the flesh, set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Have you ever looked up at your ceiling fan blades or in the deep recesses of your couch cushions and noticed the filth that builds up over time? Even though we might clean on a regular basis, there are times when we need to go... a little deeper. We realize that what appeared to be clean on the surface was in actuality, quite filthy.

The same thing can happen spiritually. As we go about our daily lives, there are things that can build up over time. Even if we regularly worship, pray and read our Bible, the different pressures and cares of this world can quietly build up, and end up consuming our lives. Without even realizing it, we can lose our peace, our joy, and our passion for the things of God. Our service to God, which used to fill us with life and excitement, becomes a duty that we must fulfill.

Fasting is the deep cleaning that helps us take our mind off the things of this world and instead have a refreshed focus on the things of the Spirit. It is an incredibly effective way to get into the nooks and crannies of our soul and bring all those dusty old habits, broken mindsets and rusty attitudes out into the light of God's truth. In fasting and prayer, our service to God returns to something we want to do rather than something we have to do.

As you pray and fast today, ask God to show you any areas where you could use a refreshed spiritual focus (Phillipians 4:8-9) Like David, in Psalm 51:10-12, pray that God will cleanse your heart, renew your spirit, and restore the joy of your salvation. Pray with confidence, knowing that God desires to fill you with His life and peace.

Prayer:

Lord, at times I grow tired and lukewarm in my love and service for You. Forgive me for allowing distractions and the busyness of life to take my focus off of You. Renew the joy of my salvation and give me a fresh passion for You. I want to love You more than life. Thank You that You never grow weary and that Your love for me endures forever.

Day 11. Empowerment for the Assignment

Luke 4:1-2, 14-15: *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them He was hungry... Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him.*

Fasting and prayer are helpful to receiving a clear vision of God's specific path for our lives. Many times, following a season of prayer and fasting, we can have a more defined understanding of the part that we play in the body of Christ and a greater sense of our particular spiritual giftings. (1 Corinthians 12)

This chapter in the Gospel of Luke describes the circumstances surrounding the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Notice that He went into the desert "full of the Holy Spirit." However, He returned to Galilee, "in the power of the Holy Spirit." Being full of the Spirit is knowing God and his character; walking in the power of the Spirit is when we know that we have the God-given strength and authority in our lives to walk out His will.

The power of the Spirit is essential for us to accomplish the assignment God has for our lives. God could be leading you to fast so that you can receive His specific instructions for your life. He will empower you, not just to know Him, but to walk in His power to accomplish what He has called you to do.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You that Your power resides in me and works through me. As I submit my life to you and surrender my will to yours, reveal to me in deeper ways your call and purpose for my life. Thank You for empowering me to do what you have called me to do. I pray that You will continue the work that you have started in me, seeing it unto completion. May your Light in me, shine brightly through me, for your glory!

Day 12. Don't worry – Pray instead

Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG): *Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.*

Worry seems to be an inescapable fact of modern life. No doubt there is plenty to worry about: our future, the economy, crime, war, disease. . . the list could go on forever! Sometimes it might seem that worry has even replaced Jesus as the focal point of our lives. Jesus Himself admonished us several times not to worry. And the great apostle, Paul, tell us in the passage above that there is an antidote to worry. . . prayer.

When we worry about something, we are spending energy on it, wondering what might happen, rehearsing the "if only's" and "what if's" in our mind. Why not take that same energy and refocus it on prayer instead? When we worry, we are simply talking to ourselves about our fears, but when we pray, we are taking those fears to God. We can't control the future, but it's ok because, God is already there! He knows exactly what is going to happen and He promises to be with us every step of the journey.

As we continue this season of prayer and fasting, let's make an effort to convert our worry into prayer. As Paul says in the verse above, "let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers," and you will find that the peace of God will guard your heart.

Prayer:

Lord, You know there are times in my life when my mind goes to worry and not to trusting You. May my anxious thoughts and worry be quickly turned into prayers to You. You know the plans You have for me, and they are plans to prosper me and not to harm me. Because of this, I can rest in Your peace as I place my confidence in Your plans for me.

Day 13. Praying Boldly

1 Kings 18:36 (KJV): *And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant..."*

The sacrifice referenced above was a declaration that Elijah was a servant of the Most High God. Elijah belonged to God, and he represented God to the people. However, Elijah's boldness was not a result of who he was; it was the result of knowing God!

As children of God under the new covenant of Jesus, we don't have to be timid or fearful when coming to God in prayer. We can approach God boldly. The Amplified Bible puts it like this:

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]. Hebrews 4:16

It's hard to imagine taking a fearless, confident, bold attitude when coming before God in prayer. While we must always have a spirit of humility before the Lord, we must also remember that we have been given access to come before Him, boldly. The Word admonishes us to do so! God has already settled the issue of our access to Him. Our access is not because of our own righteousness. It's because of what Jesus did on the cross. When we pray, we go to God in the authority of Jesus' name, and we can be confident that we will find grace, mercy and perfectly-timed help.

Prayer:

Father, I thank You that I can approach You boldly, with confidence because I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus' finished work on the cross gives me bold access before the throne of God. May I never overlook such an awesome privilege.

Day 14. Alignment with Heaven

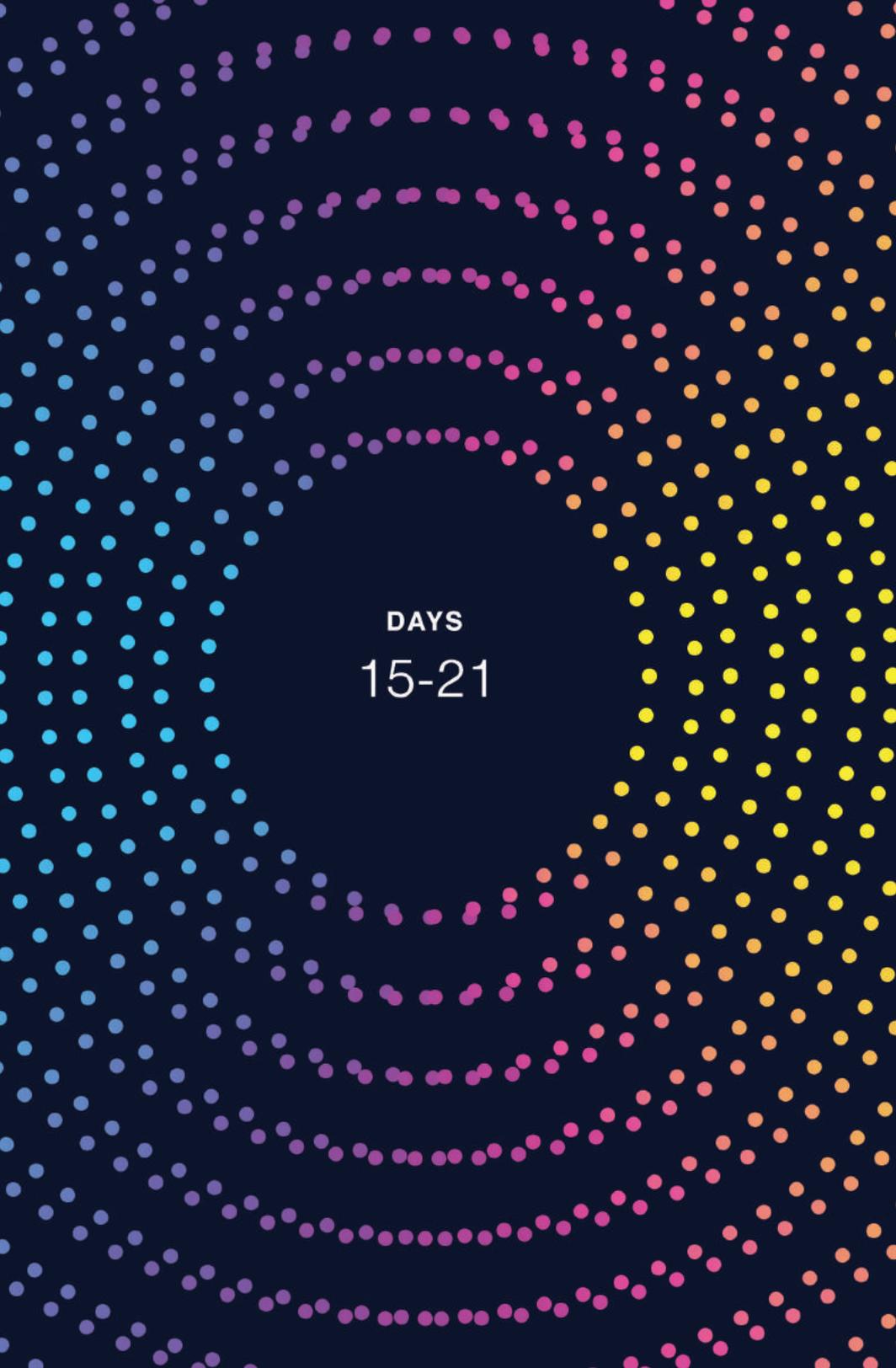
Matthew 6:10 (KJV): *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”*

We have all heard the phrase, “just like heaven on earth.” When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, in Matthew 6:9-13, He provided some insight into what “heaven on earth” might look like. In reality, heaven is a place where God’s will reigns supreme. If we want to have a taste of heaven on earth, then our prayer should be like Jesus’: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done...” The purest motivation for our prayers is that God will be glorified and that His will would reign supreme in our lives, just like it does in heaven.

On a more personal level, we can pray that His will be unhindered in our own lives. Rather than imposing His will upon us, God gives us the choice to surrender to it with trust and gladness. As we yield to the Lordship of Christ over every area of our lives, we come into agreement with Him. We experience alignment with heaven and position ourselves to taste a little bit of heaven here on earth. His will then becomes what we desire and the thing we most seek after. We enter into an incredible adventure of participating in God’s plan to move His kingdom forward on the earth. This is where we find the most fulfilling and joyous life, but it all starts with one, personal “yes, Lord” on our part.

Prayer:

Father, Your word is very clear about what Your will is. You desire for us to reach out to the lonely, oppressed, marginalized and lost. You have great compassion on them and desire us to be Your hands and feet extended. Please help me to align my will with Yours. Enable me to care about others being lost more than I care about my own comforts or problems in my life. May Your kingdom come, may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And may I be willing to bring Your kingdom to earth by the way I treat others around me. Please open my eyes to who You want me to bless today. Amen



DAYS
15-21

Psalm 51 (NLT): *Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my shameful deeds; they haunt me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner; yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the heart, so you can teach me to be wise in my inmost being. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me, now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to sinners, and they will return to you. Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. Unseal my lips, O Lord, that I may praise you. You would not be pleased with sacrifices, or I would bring them. If I brought you a burnt offering, you would not accept it. The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise. Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased with worthy sacrifices and with our whole burnt offerings; and bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.*

Consider the things that come between you and God, and hold them up to God as a confession. Confession causes us to face our nature, and can be a frightful thing, but it is also a bridge to God. Sincere confession is always followed by God's drawing near in forgiveness.

Prayer:

Merciful Father: 1 John 1:9 says if we confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. We confess to You that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to Your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

Father, I confess to You my great pride, impatience, self-indulgence, prejudice, contempt, cruelty and dishonesty. I confess my exploitation of others, envy of those more fortunate, lust for worldly goods and comforts, negligence in prayer and worship, and my failure to stand firm and be a faithful witness of you. Father, by way of the cross and passion of Your Son our Lord, teach me the joy of resurrection. Amen

Phillipians 2:3-8 (NLT): *“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”*

Our godliness can often be measured by the line between our pride and humility. Pride can ignite God-given desires into an occasion for doing wrong. Humility, on the other hand, makes room for God, who tempers and directs our desires, and guides us to lasting fulfillment.

Scripture tells us that Jesus humbled Himself and was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (a more humiliating event could not have been imagined). So we practice humility as a way to follow Jesus, and to cast off all our ineffective, prideful attempts at self-promotion, self-salvation and self- satisfaction.

When we remember that Jesus’ death is our only hope, and that all our efforts to save ourselves are at best short-term solutions and doomed to fail, we weep for our condition. But through Christ’s resurrection, the humble are lifted up, and those who mourn are comforted with an everlasting comfort.

Prayer:

God grant me the ability to see myself as You see me. Yet protect me from what I find in my own heart, for surely it is more awful than I can bear. Forgive me, and carry my burden of grief when I see my failings. In Your mercy help me to see the pride in my own heart. Heal and renew my spirit; refine the passion of my heart; and help me to walk in humility.

Mark 11:5-10 (NLT): *“As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,*

‘Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!’”

The day Jesus entered Jerusalem before His death and resurrection is known as Palm Sunday. This marks the beginning of the week of Christ’s passion. The word ‘passion’ comes from a Latin word which means ‘suffering’. The suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross has always been referred to as The Passion. There is even a movie by that name. In modern times, we have come to apply the word passion to mean any kind of strong feeling, or commitment, even though it more properly describes a suffering for some worthwhile thing.

In many ways we have lost this sense of the word, in part perhaps, because there is so little of this kind of passion left in the western world. We ascribe the word passion to how we feel about sports teams, music, or our political views. Would you be willing to suffer for those things?

How different is the passion of Jesus: directed by God and willingly accepted. Jesus actively chose His path and the sufferings that followed. In Jesus we see not only the full depth of God’s passion for us and the suffering that was a necessary part of it, but also the full depth of one perfect human’s passion for God (in Jesus): obedience that led to death.

How do we respond to God’s call to follow Him? Are we passionate? Or passive? To walk with Jesus, who said, “take up your cross and follow me,” we must accept God’s direction and choose to follow the path laid out for us. This is a path of certain passion (suffering), but also certain hope because of the victory we have through Christ’s resurrection.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your passionate love for me that You would die for me. And thank You for Your passionate love for the Father, that You would obey Him, even to death. I pray for your strength to overcome my desire to take the road of ease and comfort over doing the Father’s will. Thank you that when I am weak you are strong.

Day 18. The Suffering Christ

Luke 23:44-46 (NLT): *“By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.”*

When we think of Jesus’ death on the cross we also remember all those who were together with Him in the last days. Imagine being in the disciples’ shoes during what was certainly the darkest period of their lives. Through the Scriptures we see Jesus’ followers as they fall asleep, betray Him, deny, flee, despair and generally fail to “get it.” Imagine what it would have been like for them to watch their friend, mentor, King, their Savior, be arrested, whipped, humiliated, stripped naked, crowned with thorns and hammered to a wooden cross. The week before Christ’s death is often referred to as Holy Week and it’s reasonable to ask, “If this is Holy Week, what would an unholy week look like?”

The horror of holy week is a stumbling block to the Jews, even for Jesus’ own followers. They stumbled on the fact that this “King” was killed by the Romans when He was supposed to be conquering them! Instead of taking the throne, He was nailed to a tree, and forever cursed by it, they thought. But Jesus’ way was not their way. He knew that by dying, the Jews could not only be saved from the perceived tyranny of any military power, but from a far worse tyranny, that of sin and evil. Jesus chose the path of suffering and death so that they—and we—could be free forever from the punishment due us because of the evil in our hearts. He took our place on the cross. If we are able to “get” this truth, then suffering and death are no threat to us, whether at the hands of a Roman soldier, or in the hand of a just God. We don’t need to fear death because of what Jesus did.

Because of Jesus’ suffering, we also have an advocate when we suffer. No matter what we are going through, no matter how tough or terrorizing, one thing is sure: Jesus understands. He has endured far worse, for our sake. When we are tempted to look up out of the dark holes we find ourselves in, to search the heavens and call out to God—we may wonder, “Where is God and why won’t he rescue me?” Consider for a moment that there is no depth of despair to which we can ever descend that is lower than the depth Jesus went when He died under the weight of a world full of evil. But no matter how low we have been his grace is sufficient to meet you there and see you through.

Prayer:

Lord, how can I thank you for this great salvation? Your death on the cross for my sins and your resurrection for my eternal salvation, is beyond my ability to comprehend the extent of your love for me. When I deserved death you gave me your life. Your beauty for my ashes. Great is your love toward me. Help me to live a life that demonstrates my love and gratitude toward you. I love you Lord.

John 13:34-35 (NIV): *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

On the Friday that Jesus died it might seem that the wrath of God has eclipsed the love of God. But it isn't so. Mercy triumph over judgment. Love triumph over wrath.

At the last supper Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He also gave them a new commandment, "Love one another as I have loved You."

But the disciples didn't fully comprehend how deeply Jesus has loved them. After all they had been through, it took a king on His knees with a towel around His waist to prove to them the loving, servant heart of God (what if our president, or a king, were to wash the feet of a bunch of fishermen today? What if it were your feet?). But even so, Peter the disciple doesn't understand why Jesus would defile Himself in this way.

If that night Peter finds it hard to accept that Jesus His king would humiliate Himself by washing His followers' feet, he will be even more confounded the next day. For there will be another demonstration of how God loves on Good Friday, when the perfect love of God in Jesus faces the wrath of God against evil, and triumphs in the end. All for the love of us.

Prayer:

Lord you have shown me the model of love by your sacrifice for me. With the love I have freely receive I must now freely give to others. Lead me to demonstrate your love everywhere I go, to everyone I meet. May your love compel me to live sacrificially and give selflessly.

John 1:1-5 (NKJV): *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."*

Darkness falls over the Earth on Good Friday. God's own Son goes to His death to save us from the darkness in our hearts. While He is walking out this terrifying mission, His followers seem to do everything they can to show how little we humans deserve the favor.

God is a God of Light: He can't tolerate darkness, and darkness cannot survive in His presence. We, who have dark hearts full of sin, should tremble at this fact, but Jesus, who was completely good, took on our sin and stood under the wrath of God.

On the cross, He was destroyed and cut off from His Father. It was to have been our fate. In the midst of humanity's own darkest hour, and in the face of His followers' cowardice, selfishness and laziness, God does not cut us off. In His awesome mercy, He sends His own Son into the darkness so that we might live in the light.

Prayer:

Lord of unchanging power and eternal light: you are the light that shines in me and through me. I pray that we, your church, would be like a lamp set upon a hill to shine your light that all may see, not us but you in us. May your glory be displayed through us, your servants; the weak who have been made strong. May we never be ashamed of the gospel by which we have been saved. But may we daily live it out so that others may see and ask, what is the hope of our calling and we may declare that message of hope, which proclaims, Jesus Christ saves! Amen

Day 21. Victory in Christ!

The darkness of Good Friday ends with a flame of light on Resurrection Sunday. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Matthew 28.1-10; 16-20 (TEV): *After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men. The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!" Remember what I have told you." So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. "Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them.... The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout salvation for the victory of our mighty King! Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Oh Church, and in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind to praise You, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the true Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by His blood delivered Your faithful people.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, You gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God!

May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find His light ever burning in our hearts—He who gives His light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

- Has this season of prayer and fasting strengthened your relationship with Christ? How?
- How will you keep growing spiritually and strengthen your relationship with Christ onward?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank You for walking with and sustaining me during this prayer and fasting journey. You have been faithful, and I thank You for what You have shown me. I ask that you seal the work You have done in my life and help me to continue to walk more closely with You. Open your Word in greater ways to me in the days ahead. Teach me, strengthen my faith and give me persistence and boldness in following Your will for me. Help me to be Your hands and feet in service and blessing to others. You are my risen, ascended, reigning and ruling Lord. I humbly thank You and praise Your name. Amen!

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The CLCFTL App

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PREPARING FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

Join us, as we come together for **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting from January 8 – 28** at the church campuses. Each night will have the opportunity to continue to join us for prayer of the Gatekeepers Prayer gates that represents the ministries of Christian Life Center (CLC).

Gatekeepers Prayer Ministry is modeled after the twelve gates in Jerusalem referenced in the book of Nehemiah. The restoration of the gates in the book of Nehemiah was birthed in the pain of a man who witnessed the ruins and desolation of his nation. In response, Nehemiah set up 12 gates and set a captain for each gate. The captain had gatekeepers to work alongside him. Gatekeepers kept watch on the gates, watching for what may be coming in and out of the city. Everyone had the sword girded at their side!

In building God's Church, we must be alert in prayer and the Word (Sword of the Spirit) to stand watch against every attack of the enemy.

NIGHTS ABLAZE

As we continue in this season of "Awakening," we encourage you to join us for all nights of our revival services, "Nights Ablaze" with Pastors Tom Manning, Rich Wilkerson, Josh Carter and Moses Omoviye from **Wednesday, January 24 through Sunday, January 28** at our Fort Lauderdale Campus. Meet us here to experience a refreshing night of worship and seeking God.

"Father, help us to be **the people and the church** you have called us to be. A people and a church that **always build up** and never tear down; that **always encourage** and never discourage — a people and a church that **take a Message of Hope** everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. In Jesus' name, amen!"



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