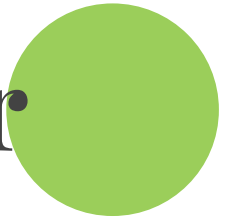


New Life Fellowship

# 21 Days of Prayer

*Daily Devotional*



2024



# Day 01

The disciples had to tarry, staying in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost, not only for their own preparation but because they had to wait until the Lord was actually glorified. And as soon as He was glorified, what happened? "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear." (Acts 2:33) The statement in John 7:39 "for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified"—does not pertain to us. The Holy Spirit has been given; the Lord is glorified—our waiting is not dependent on the providence of God, but on our own spiritual fitness.

The Holy Spirit's influence and power were at work before Pentecost, but He was not here. Once our Lord was glorified in His ascension, the Holy Spirit came into the world, and He has been here ever since. We have to receive the revealed truth that He is here. The attitude of receiving and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives is to be the continual attitude of a believer. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive reviving life from our ascended Lord.

It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit that changes people, but the power of the ascended Christ coming into their lives through the Holy Spirit. We all too often separate things that the New Testament never separates. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an experience apart from Jesus Christ—it is the evidence of the ascended Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make you think of time or eternity—it is one amazing glorious now. "This is eternal life, that they may know You" (John 17:3) Begin to know Him now, and never finish.

*The Life to Know Him* "Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49

## Luke 24:44-53; Acts 2:1-47

### Prayer

Lord, continue the experience of eternal life in us, that we may know You. Thank you for empowering us to make our choices from the leading of your Spirit and fire. We need You to change us into Your image today. Your Promise through your ascended power makes all the difference in our lives. Continue your work in us until You are finished.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 02

What is the sign of a friend? Is it that he tells you his secret sorrows? No, it is that he tells you his secret joys. Many people will confide their secret sorrows to you, but the final mark of intimacy is when they share their secret joys with you. Have we ever let God tell us any of His joys; or are we continually telling God our secrets, leaving Him no time to talk to us? At the beginning of our christian life, we are full of requests to God. But then we find that God wants to get us into an intimate relationship with Himself—so that we get in touch with His purposes. Are we so intimately united to Jesus Christ's idea of prayer—"Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10)—that we catch the secrets of God? What makes God so dear to us is not so much His big blessings to us, but the tiny things, because they show His amazing intimacy with us. He knows every detail of each of our individual lives.

"Him shall He teach in the way He chooses." (Psalm 25:12)

At first, we want the awareness of being guided by God. But then as we grow spiritually, we live so fully aware of God that we don't even need to ask what His will is, because the thought of choosing another way will never occur to us. God guides us by our everyday choices if we are saved and sanctified. And if we are about to choose what He does not want, He will give us a sense of doubt or restraint, which we must heed. Whenever there is doubt, stop at once. Never try to reason it out, saying, "I wonder why I shouldn't do this?" God instructs us in what we choose; that is, He guides our common sense. And when we yield to His teachings and guidance, we no longer hinder His Spirit by continually asking, "Now, Lord, what is Your will?"

*The Secret of the Lord* "The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him."  
*Psalm 25:14*

## Psalm 25:4-15

### Prayer

Lord, help us to pay closer attention to You when You're speaking; to be more aware of Your desire to communicate with us. Help us to be intimately devoted and united with Your idea of prayer. Help us not to miss You wanting to share Your secrets because of our religious idea of prayer. Thank You for Your prompting in the present moment. Help us to remain sensitive to Your leading and not be tempted to make choices based on our common sense.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 03

Your will agrees with God, but in your flesh, there is a nature that renders you powerless to do what you know you ought to do. When the Lord initially comes in contact with our conscience, the first thing our conscience does is awaken our will, and our will always agrees with God. Yet you say, "But I don't know if my will is in agreement with God." Look to Jesus and you will find that your will and your conscience are in agreement with Him every time. What causes you to say, "I will not obey" is something less deep and penetrating than your will. It is perversity or stubbornness, and they are never in agreement with God. The most profound thing in a person is his will, not sin.

The will is the essential element in God's creation of human beings—sin is a perverse nature that entered into people. In someone who has been born again, the source of the will is Almighty God. "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." With focused attention and great care, you have to "work out" what God "works in" you; not work to accomplish or earn "your own salvation". Work it out so you will exhibit the evidence of a life based with determined, unshakable faith in the complete and perfect redemption of the Lord. As you do this, you do not bring an opposing will up against God's will—God's will is your will. Your natural choices will be in accordance with God's will, and living this life will be as natural as breathing. Stubbornness is an unintelligent barrier, refusing enlightenment and blocking its flow. The only thing to do with this barrier of stubbornness is to blow it up with "dynamite," and the "dynamite" is obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Do I believe that Almighty God is the Source of my will? God not only expects me to do His will, but He is in me to do it.

*"Work Out" What God "Works In" You  
"Work out your own salvation...for it is God who works in you." Philipians  
2:12-13*

## Philippians 2:5-13

### Prayer

Lord, help us embrace our natural choices in accordance with Your will so that living this life will be as natural as breathing. Deliver us from the dark barrier of stubbornness that never ceases to defy You. We desire to be obedient to the leading of Your empowering Holy Spirit. Be the source of our will!

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 04

Our thinking about prayer, whether right or wrong, is based on our own mental conception of it. The correct concept is to think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts. Our blood flows and our breathing continues "without ceasing"; we are not even conscious of it, but it never stops. We are not always conscious of Jesus keeping us in perfect oneness with God, but if we're obeying Him, He always is. Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life of the saint. Beware of anything that stops the offering up of prayer. "Pray without ceasing"—maintain the childlike habit of offering up prayer in your heart to God all the time. Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer. He had the unlimited certainty of knowing that prayer is always answered. Do we have through the Spirit of God that inexpressible certainty that Jesus had about prayer, or do we think of the times when it seemed that God did not answer our prayer? Jesus said, "Everyone who asks receives." (Matthew 7:8) Yet we say, "But..., but..." God answers prayer in the best way—not just sometimes, but every time. However, the evidence of the answer in the area we want it may not always immediately follow. Do we expect God to answer prayer?

The present danger is that we want to water down what Jesus said to make it mean something that aligns with our common sense. But if it were only common sense, what He said would not even be worthwhile. The things Jesus taught about prayer are supernatural truths He reveals to us.

*Thinking of Prayer as Jesus Taught*  
*"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Ephesians 6:10-24

### Prayer

Lord, bring us into unity with You on what prayer is. Help us embrace prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts, to know it's our very life. Help us to be obedient as You speak, so that You can keep us in perfect oneness with You.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 05

Only having an emotional interest in prayer is the reason many of us stop praying and become hard toward God. It sounds good to say that we pray. We read books about prayer that tell us that prayer is beneficial—that our minds are quieted, and our souls are uplifted when we pray. But Isaiah implied in this verse that God is amazed at such thoughts about prayer.

Worship and intercession must go together; one is impossible without the other. Intercession means raising ourselves up to the point of getting the mind of Christ regarding the person for whom we are praying. (See Philippians 2:5) Instead of worshiping God, we recite speeches to God about how prayer is supposed to work. Are we worshiping God or disputing Him when we say, "But God, I just don't see how You are going to do this"? This is a sure sign that we are not worshiping. When we lose sight of God, we become hard and dogmatic. We throw our petitions at His throne and dictate to Him what we want Him to do. We don't worship God, nor do we seek to conform our minds to the mind of Christ. And if we are hard toward God, we will become hard toward other people.

Are we worshiping God in a way that will raise us up to where we can take hold of Him, having such intimate contact with Him that we know His mind about the ones for whom we pray? Are we living in a holy relationship with God, or have we become hard and dogmatic?

Do you find yourself thinking that there is no one interceding properly? Then be that person yourself. Be someone who worships God and lives in a holy relationship with Him. Get involved in the real work of intercession, remembering that it truly is work—work that demands all your energy, but work that has no hidden pitfalls. Preaching the gospel has its share of pitfalls, but intercessory prayer has none whatsoever.

## **Holiness or Hardness Toward God?**

*"He...wondered that there was no intercessor." Isaiah 59:16*

## **John 3:25-36**

### **Prayer**

Lord, give us Your heart toward everyone You place in our path. Deliver us from any desire that doesn't begin from Your heart and becomes the seed of Truth to our heart, soul, and mind. Help us to follow You into intercession and stand with You on behalf of others, to be those who worship and live in a holy relationship with You.

### **What is God saying to you?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 06

**Maintaining the Proper Relationship**  
*"the friend of the bridegroom..." John 3:29*

Attitude, whether good or bad, is what we produce with the choice Good has given us charge of. The characteristics of goodness and innocence in our lives should never draw attention to themselves but should simply be attractive enough to stir up a desire for Jesus Christ in others. If my holiness is not drawing others to Him, it is not the right kind of holiness; it is only an influence that awakens undue emotions and evil desires in people and hinders them from heading in the right direction. A person who is a beautiful saint can be a hindrance in leading people to the Lord by presenting only what Christ has done for him, instead of presenting Jesus Christ Himself. Others will be left with this thought—"What a fine person he or she is!" That is not being a true "friend of the bridegroom"—I am increasing all the time; Jesus is not. Not good!

To maintain the kind of friendship and faithfulness to the Bridegroom, we must be more intentional in our attitude development. The kind of attitude that supports our moral relationship with Jesus above everything else, including obedience. Sometimes there is nothing to obey and our only responsibility is to maintain our essential connection with Him, seeing that nothing interferes with it. As we mature in Christ, only occasionally is it a matter of obedience. His nature is naturally at work in us and through us because of a healthy developing covenant relationship. At those times when a crisis arises, our devotion to Him empowers us to find out what His will is. When we're devoted to Him, most of our life is not spent trying to be consciously obedient, but rather, our passion is to maintain this developing relationship of being "friend of the bridegroom." Most Christian work in our world is actually a means of diverting one's focus away from Jesus Christ. Instead of being friends "of the bridegroom," we ignorantly take God's place as a source of comfort for others, working against Him while personally utilizing His weapons.

## John 3:25-36 II Corinthians 5:1-10

### Prayer

Lord, thank you for empowering wisdom to make choices from the leading of Your Spirit rather than from our personal logic of good. Help us be sensitive to You being our only source of hope, peace, and joy personally and to the world around us. Thank You for an attitude and conviction that supports our moral relationship with You above everything else.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 07

"In that day you will ask in My name," that is, in My nature. Not —"You will use My name as some magic word," but—"You will be so intimate with Me that you will be one with Me." "That day" is not a day in the next life, but a day meant for here and now. "For the Father Himself loves you"—the Father's love is evidence that our union with Jesus is complete and absolute. Our Lord does not mean that our lives will be free from external difficulties and uncertainties, but that just as He knew the Father's heart and mind, we too can be lifted by Him into heavenly places through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, so that He can reveal the teachings of God to us.

"Whatever you ask the Father in My name..." (John 16:23) "That day" is a day of peace and an untroubled relationship between God and His saint. Just as Jesus stood unblemished and pure in the presence of His Father, we too by the mighty power and effectiveness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit can be lifted into that relationship—"that they may be one just as We are one." (John 17:22)

"...He will give you" (John 16:23) Jesus said that because of His name, God will recognize and respond to our prayers. What a great challenge and invitation— to pray in His name! Through the resurrection and ascension power of Jesus, and through His empowering Holy Spirit, we can be lifted into such a relationship. Once in that wonderful position, having been placed there by Jesus Christ, we can pray to our Father in Jesus name—in His nature. This is a gift granted to us through the Holy Spirit, and Jesus said, "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." The sovereign character of Jesus Christ is tested and proved by His own statements.

*The Warning Against Desiring Spiritual Success* "...Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you..." (Luke 10:20 NIV)

## John 16:19-28

### Prayer

Lord, help us to be so intimate with You that we become one with You. Help us to take advantage of our difficulties and challenges, to make stepping stones opportunities out of them while allowing You to lift us into heavenly places through the leading of Your Holy Spirit.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Day 08

Purity is not innocence; it is much more than that. Purity can only be the result of one's continued spiritual harmony with God. The true Spirit led life. We must grow in purity, free from being contaminated with religious and cultural lies. Our life with God may be right and our inner purity unblemished, yet occasionally our outer life may become spotted and stained. God intentionally does not protect us from this possibility, because this is the way we recognize the necessity of maintaining our devotion to spiritual vision through personal purity. If the outer level of our spiritual life with God is impaired to the slightest degree, we must put everything else aside until we make it right. Remember that spiritual vision depends on our attitude and character—it is "the pure in heart" who "see God."

God makes us pure by an act of His sovereign grace, but we still have something that we must carefully watch. It is through our bodily life coming in contact with other people and other points of view that we tend to become tarnished and unattractive spiritually. Not only must our "inner sanctuary" be kept right with God, but also the "outer courts" must be brought into perfect harmony with the purity God gives us through His grace. Our spiritual vision and understanding are immediately blurred when our "outer court" is stained. If we want to maintain personal intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will mean refusing to do or even think certain things. And some things that are acceptable for others will become unacceptable for us.

A practical help in keeping your personal purity unblemished in your relations with other people is to begin to see them as God does. Say to yourself, "That man, or that woman is perfect in Christ Jesus! That friend or that relative is perfect in Christ Jesus!"

**Spiritual Vision Through Personal Purity** "What bliss you experience when your heart is pure! For then your eyes will open to see more and more of God." Matthew 5:8 TPT

## Matthew 5:1-16

### Prayer

Lord, thank you for filling us with Your empowering Spirit and fire. We're committed to hosting Your heart, mind, and nature while serving your purpose. Thank You for loving us and prompting us with a healthy conviction to remain devoted to Your leading only. We want to see others as You see them.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 09

A higher state of mind and spiritual vision can only be achieved through the higher practice of personal character. If you live up to the highest and best that you know in the outer level of your life, God will continually say to you, "Friend, come up even higher." There is also a continuing rule in temptation that calls you to go higher; but when you do, you only encounter other temptations and character traits.

Both God and Satan use the strategy of elevation, but Satan uses it in temptation, and the effect is quite different. When the devil elevates you to a certain place, he causes you to fasten your idea of what holiness is far beyond what flesh and blood could ever bear or achieve. Your life becomes a spiritual acrobatic performance high atop a steeple. You cling to it, trying to maintain your balance and daring not to move. But when God elevates you by His grace into heavenly places, you find a vast plateau where you can move about with ease.

Compare this week in your spiritual life with the same week last year to see how God has called you to a higher level. We have all been brought to see from a higher viewpoint. Never allow God to show you a truth that you do not instantly begin to live up to, applying it to your life. Always work through it, staying in its light. Your growth in grace is not measured by the fact that you haven't turned back, but that you have an insight and understanding into where you are spiritually. Have you heard God say, "Come up higher," not audibly on the outer level, but to the innermost part of your character? "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" (Genesis 18:17) God has to hide from us what He does, until, due to the growth of our personal character, we get to the level where He is then able to reveal it.

*Spiritual Vision Through Personal Character* "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place."  
*Revelation 4:1*

## Revelation 4:1-2; Genesis 18:16-22

### Prayer

Lord, we need Your inspiring fire to prompt our faithfulness to your leading. Thank you for helping us develop our sensitivity to your voice and unction so that we respond immediately when you prompt us. We desire to follow You higher as we grow in our relationship with You, Your purpose, and being able to embrace whatever You want to reveal to us.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 10

Just because I don't understand what Jesus Christ says, I have no right to determine that He must be mistaken in what He says. That is a dangerous view, and it is never right to think that my obedience to God's directive will bring dishonor to Jesus. The only thing that will bring dishonor is not obeying Him. To put my view of His honor ahead of what He is plainly guiding me to do is never right, even though it may come from a real desire to prevent Him from being put to open shame. I know when the instructions have come from God because of their quiet persistence. But when I begin to weigh the pros and cons, and doubt and debate enter into my mind, I am bringing in an element that is not of God. This will only result in my concluding that His instructions to me were not right. Many of us are faithful to our ideas about Jesus Christ, but how many of us are faithful to Jesus Himself? Faithfulness to Jesus means that I must step out even when and where I can't see anything. (See Matthew 14:29) But faithfulness to my own ideas means that I first clear the way mentally. Faith, however, is not intellectual understanding; faith is a deliberate commitment to the Person of Jesus Christ, even when I can't see the way ahead.

Are you debating whether you should take a step of faith in Jesus, or whether you should wait until you can clearly see how to do what He has asked? Simply obey Him with unrestrained joy. When He tells you something and you begin to debate, it is because you have a misunderstanding of what honors Him and what doesn't. Are you faithful to Jesus, or faithful to your ideas about Him? Are you faithful to what He says, or are you trying to compromise His words with thoughts that never came from Him? "Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5)

**Isn't There Some Misunderstanding?**  
*"Let us go to Judea again! The disciples said to Him, '...are You going there again?'" John 11:7-8*

## John 3:25-36

### Prayer

Lord, we want to be quick to take You at Your Word without questioning You. We want to honor You by being quick to obey. Help us to never question You. If we do, help us to identify the lie that we've opened our hearts to. Help us to be devoted to You alone and to remain faithful in this devotion. Deliver us from our ideas that make us unfaithful to You.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 11

*Are You Obsessed by Something?  
"Who is the man that fears the Lord?"  
Psalm 25:12*



## Acts 17:22-34

Are you consumed by something? You will probably say, "No, by nothing," but all of us are consumed by something—usually by ourselves, or, if we are Christians, by our own experience of the Christian life. But the psalmist says that we are to be consumed by God. The abiding awareness of the Christian life is God Himself, not just thoughts about Him. The total being of our life inside and out is to be absolutely consumed by the presence of God. A child's awareness is so absorbed in his mother that although he is not consciously thinking of her when a problem arises, the abiding relationship is with the mother. In that same way, we are to "live and move and have our being" in God (Acts 17:28), looking at everything in relation to Him, because our abiding awareness of Him continually pushes itself to the forefront of our lives.

### Prayer

Lord, thank You for delivering us from ourselves and revealing how freeing it is to make You our source and passion. Help us to see from your vantage point and to be acutely aware of everything in relation to You. Keep us covered and filled with Your passion and mission for your Kingdom. Keep us aware of the eternal value, the safety, and the revelation Your companionship provides us.

If we are consumed by God, nothing else can get into our lives—not concerns, nor tribulation, nor worries. And now we understand why our Lord so emphasized the sin of worrying. How can we dare to be so absolutely unbelieving when God totally surrounds us? To be consumed by God is to have an effective barricade against all the assaults of the enemy.

"He himself shall dwell in prosperity." (Psalm 25:13) God will cause us to "dwell in prosperity," keeping us at ease, even in the midst of tribulation, misunderstanding, and slander, if our "life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3) We rob ourselves of the miraculous, revealed truth of this abiding companionship with God. "God is our refuge." (Psalm 46:1) Nothing can break through His shelter of protection.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 12

*Our Lord's Surprise Visits "You also be ready." Luke 12:40*

A Christian worker's greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not easy, no matter what our experience has been. This battle is not against sin, difficulties, or circumstances, but against being so absorbed in our service to Jesus Christ that we are not ready to face Jesus Himself at every turn. The greatest need is not facing our beliefs or doctrines, or even the question of whether or not we are of any use to Him, but the need is to face Him.

Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him; He appears where we least expect Him, and always in the most illogical situations. The only way a servant can remain true to God is to be ready for the Lord's surprise visits. This readiness will not be brought about by service, but through intense spiritual reality, expecting Jesus Christ at every turn. This sense of expectation will give our life the attitude of childlike wonder He wants it to have. If we are going to be ready for Jesus Christ, we have to stop being religious. In other words, we must stop using religion as if it were some kind of a lofty lifestyle—we must be spiritually real.

If you are avoiding the call of the religious thinking of today's world, and instead are "looking unto Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), setting your heart on what He wants, and thinking His thoughts, you will be considered impractical and a daydreamer. But when He suddenly appears in the work of the heat of the day, you will be the only one who is ready. You should trust no one, and even ignore the finest saint on earth if he blocks your sight of Jesus Christ.

## John 3:25-36

### Prayer

Lord, help us be available for You in every present moment today. We want to develop in our expectancy for You at every step and turn. Make us spiritually real and yielding to our true identity in You. Help us be like You; and in every passing moment, to be the one who is ready!

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 13

God's commands to us are actually given to the life of His Son in us. Consequently, to our human nature in which God's Son has been formed (see Galatians 4:19), His commands are difficult. But they become divinely easy once we obey.

Conscience is that ability within me that attaches itself to the highest standard I know; and then continually reminds me of what that standard demands that I do. It is the eye of the soul that looks out, either toward God or toward what we regard as the highest standard. This explains why conscience is different in different people.

If I am in the habit of continually holding God's standard in front of me, my conscience will always direct me to God's perfect law and indicate what I should do. The question is, will I obey? I have to make an effort to keep my conscience so sensitive that I can live without any offense toward anyone. I should be living in such perfect harmony with God's Son that the spirit of my mind is being renewed through every circumstance of life and that I may be able to quickly "prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (See Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:23)

God always instructs us down to the last detail. Is my ear sensitive enough to hear even the softest whisper of the Spirit, so I know what I should do? "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." (Ephesians 4:30) He does not speak with a voice like thunder—His voice is so gentle that it is easy for us to ignore. And the only thing that keeps our conscience sensitive to Him is the habit of being open to God on the inside. When you begin to debate, stop immediately. Don't ask, "Why can't I do this?" You are on the wrong track. There is no debating possible once your conscience speaks. Whatever it is-drop it and see that you keep your inner vision clear.

**The Habit of Keeping a Clear Conscience** "Strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men."  
Acts 24:16

## Acts 24:16; Romans 12:1-6

### Prayer

Lord, we regard You as our highest standard and prize. It is our goal to glorify You today. To be sensitive to Your whisper, trusting and obeying Your in every prompting. Help us to keep our hearts and minds free from offense toward others. Help us to remain open to You on the inside, with a clear inner vision, without argument and debate distracting us. Thank you for a clear conscience led by Your Spirit.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Day 15

**The Habit of Recognizing God's Provision** "...you may be partakers of the divine nature..." 2 Peter 1:4

We are made "partakers of the divine nature," receiving and sharing God's own nature through His promises. Then we have to work that divine nature into our human nature by developing godly habits. The first habit to develop is recognizing God's provision for us. We say, however, "Oh, I can't afford it." One of the worst lies is wrapped up in that statement. We talk as if our heavenly Father has cut us off without a penny! We think it is a sign of true humility to say at the end of the day, "Well, I just barely got by today, but it was a severe struggle." And yet all of Almighty God is ours in the Lord Jesus! And He will reach to the last grain of sand and the remotest star to bless us if we will only obey Him. Does it really matter that our circumstances are difficult? Why shouldn't they be? If we give way to self-pity and indulge in the luxury of misery, we remove God's riches from our lives and hinder others from entering into His provision. No sin is worse than the sin of self-pity, because it removes God from the throne of our lives, replacing Him with our own self-interests. It causes us to open our mouths only to complain, and we simply become spiritual sponges—always absorbing, never giving, and never being satisfied. And there is nothing lovely or generous about our lives.

Before God becomes satisfied with us, He will take everything of our so-called wealth, until we learn that He is our Source; as the psalmist said, "All my springs are in You." (Psalm 87:7) If the majesty, grace, and power of God are not being exhibited in us, God holds us responsible. "God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you...may have an abundance" (2 Corinthians 9:8)— then learn to lavish the grace of God on others, generously giving of yourself. Be marked and identified with God's nature, and His blessing will flow through you all the time.

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-13; Psalms 87:5-7

### Prayer

Lord, our goal today is to pursue identity in You and partake of Your divine nature. Help us to recognize the provision You have already invested in us by trusting and obeying You. Keep us from being consumed by our self-interest. Help us truly embrace You as our Source. Mark us with Your nature and help us generously give of ourselves.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Day 16

*Readiness "God called to him...And he said, 'Here I am!'" Exodus 3:4*

When God speaks, many of us are like people in a fog, and we give no answer. Moses' reply to God revealed that he knew where he was and that he was ready. Readiness means having a right relationship with God and having the knowledge of where we are. We are so busy telling God where we would like to go. Yet the man or woman who is ready for God and His work is the one who receives the prize when the summons comes. We wait with the idea that some great opportunity or something sensational will be coming our way, and when it does come we are quick to cry out, "Here I am." Whenever we sense that Jesus Christ is rising up to take authority over some great task, we are there, but we are not ready for some obscure duty.

Readiness for God means that we are prepared to do the smallest thing or the largest thing—it makes no difference. It means we have no choice in what we want to do, but whatever God's plans may be, we are there and ready. Whenever any duty presents itself, we hear God's voice as our Lord heard His Father's voice, and we are ready for it with the total readiness of our love for Him. Jesus Christ expects to do with us just as His Father did with Him. He can put us wherever He wants, in pleasant duties or in menial ones, because our union with Him is the same as His union with the Father. ". that they may be one just as We are one." (John 17:22)

Be ready for the sudden surprise visits of God. A ready person never needs to get ready—he is ready. Think of the time we waste trying to get ready once God has called! The burning bush is a symbol of everything that surrounds the person who is ready, and it is on fire with the presence of God Himself.

## Exodus 3:1-10; John 17:20-23

### Prayer

Lord, when You call, help us to respond immediately. We want to be alert and ready for You; instant in season and out of season. Help us to know where we are with You. We pray for a healthy growing relationship with and in You. Help us be ready to serve Your will regardless of our personal view of its significance or insignificance. We want to be on fire with Your presence in the lead.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 17

When we look at these words of Jesus, we immediately find them to be the most revolutionary that human ears have ever heard. "Seek first the kingdom of God." Even the most spiritually-minded of us argue the exact opposite, saying, "But I must live; I must make a certain amount of money; I must be clothed; I must be fed." The great concern of our lives is not the kingdom of God but how we are going to take care of ourselves to live. Jesus reversed the order by telling us to get the right relationship with God first, maintaining it as the primary concern of our lives, and never to place our concern on taking care of the other things of life.

"Do not worry about your life." (Matthew 6:25) Our Lord pointed out that from His standpoint it is absolutely unreasonable for us to be anxious and worrying about how we will live. Jesus did not say that the person who takes no thought for anything in his life is blessed—no, that person is a fool. But Jesus did teach that His disciple must make his relationship with God the dominating focus of his life, and to be cautiously carefree about everything else in comparison to that. In essence, Jesus was saying, "Don't make food and drink the controlling factor of your life, but be focused absolutely on God." Some people are careless about what they eat and drink, and they suffer for it; they are careless about what they wear, having no business looking the way they do; they are careless with their earthly matters, and God holds them responsible. Jesus is saying that the greatest concern of life is to place our relationship with God first, and everything else second.

It is one of the most difficult, yet critical, disciplines of the Christian life to allow the Holy Spirit to bring us into absolute harmony with the teaching of Jesus in these verses.

*Having God's "Unreasonable" Faith  
"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33*

## Matthew 6:24-34

### Prayer

Lord, we need You to empower us to first seek Your Kingdom and righteousness so that You can provide our personal needs according to Your riches in glory. Deliver us from worrying about our lives. Help us make our relationship with You the dominating focus of our lives and everything else second. Thank you for bringing us into harmony with Your Ways.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 18

If we are not heedful and pay no attention to the way the Spirit of God works in us, we will become spiritual hypocrites. We see where other people are failing, and then we take our discernment and turn it into comments of ridicule and criticism, instead of turning it into intercession on their behalf. God reveals this truth about others to us, not through the sharpness of our minds, but through the direct penetration of His Spirit. If we are not attentive, we will be completely unaware of the source of the discernment God has given us; becoming critical of others and forgetting that God says, "he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death." Be careful that you don't become a hypocrite by spending all your time trying to get others right with God before you worship Him yourself.

One of the most subtle and illusive burdens God ever places on us as saints is this burden of discernment concerning others. He gives us discernment so that we may accept the responsibility for those souls before Him and form the mind of Christ about them. (See Philippians 2:5) We should intercede in accordance with what God says He will give us, namely, "life for those who commit sin not leading to death." It is not that we are able to bring God into contact with our minds, but that we awaken ourselves to the point where God is able to convey His mind to us regarding the people for whom we intercede.

Can Jesus Christ see the agony of His soul in us? He can't unless we are so closely identified with Him that we have His view concerning the people for whom we pray. May we learn to intercede so wholeheartedly that Jesus Christ will be completely and overwhelmingly satisfied with us as intercessors.

**Heedfulness or Hypocrisy in Ourselves?** "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death." 1 John 5:16



## 1 John 5: 13-17

### Prayer

Lord, deliver us from hypocrisy and help us to pay closer attention to how You are working in our immediate lives. We want to honor You by making You first and focusing our worship solely on You. We want You to see Yourself in us, passionately reaching for those You have placed in our path.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 19

Do we need any more arguments than these to become intercessors that Christ "always lives to make intercession" (Hebrews 7:25), and that the Holy Spirit "makes intercession for the saints"? Are we living in such a relationship with others that we do the work of intercession as a result of being the children of God who are taught by His Spirit? We should take a look at our current circumstances. Do the crises that affect us or others in our home, business, country, or elsewhere, seem to be crushing in on us? Are we being pushed out of the presence of God and left with no time for worship? If so, we must put a stop to such distractions and get into such a living relationship with God that our relationship with others is maintained through the work of intercession, where God works His miracles.

Beware of getting ahead of God by your desire to do His will. We run ahead of Him in a thousand and one activities, becoming so burdened with people and problems that we don't worship God; and we fail to intercede. If a burden and its resulting pressure come upon us while we are not in an attitude of worship, it will only produce a hardness toward God and despair in our own souls. God continually introduces us to people in whom we have no interest, and unless we are worshipping God, the natural tendency is to be heartless toward them. We give them a quick verse of Scripture, like jabbing them with a spear, or leave them with a hurried, uncaring word of counsel before we go. A heartless Christian must be a terrible grief to our Lord.

Are our lives in the proper place so that we may participate in the intercession of our Lord and His Spirit?

***Helpful or Heartless Toward Others?***  
*"It is Christ...who also makes intercession for us...the Spirit. makes intercession for the saints." Romans 8:34, 27*

## Romans 8:26-39

### Prayer

Lord, we want to worship You without distractions manipulating our choice to serve You and Your will. Help us pursue a living relationship with You so that our relationship with others is maintained through Your work of intercession in us—so that from us, You work Your miracles. Help us see others from Your eyes so that we don't grieve You. Empower us today to participate in Your intercession with You.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 20

When Paul received his sight, he also received spiritual insight into the Person of Jesus Christ. His entire life and preaching from that point on were totally consumed with nothing but Jesus Christ—“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:2) Paul never again allowed anything to attract and hold the attention of his mind and soul except the face of Jesus Christ.

We must learn to maintain a strong degree of character in our lives, to the level revealed in our vision of Jesus Christ.

The lasting characteristic of a spiritual man is the ability to correctly understand the meaning of the Lord Jesus Christ in his life; and the ability to explain the purposes of God to others. The overruling passion of his life is Jesus Christ. Whenever you see this quality in a person, you get the feeling that he is truly a man after God's own heart. (See Acts 13:22)

Never allow anything to divert you from your insight into Jesus Christ. It is the true test of whether you are spiritual or not. To be unspiritual means that other things have a growing fascination for you. Since my eyes have looked on Jesus, I've lost sight of all beside. So enchained my spirit's vision, gazing on the Crucified.

*The Glory That's Unsurpassed* "The Lord Jesus...has sent me that you may receive your sight." Acts 9:17

## Acts 9:10-19

### Prayer

Lord, increase our vision of You in our lives. Help us steward the true meaning of Your character in our hearts and lives so that as we encourage others, they too can step into Your purpose and identity in You. Have Your way in us so others will want to go after Your heart. Deliver us from things that have a growing fascination in us apart from You.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 21

Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly and the city was stirred to its very foundations, but a strange god was present, the pride of the Pharisees. It was a god that seemed religious and upright, but Jesus compared it to "white-washed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." (Matthew 23:27)

What is it that blinds you to the peace of God "in this your day"? Do you have a strange god—not a disgusting monster but perhaps an unholy nature that controls your life? More than once God has brought me face-to-face with a strange god in my life, and I knew that I should have given it up, but I didn't do it. I got through the crisis "by the skin of my teeth," only to find myself still under the control of that strange god. I am blind to the very things that make for my own peace. It is a shocking thing that we can be in the exact place where the Spirit of God should be having His completely unhindered way with us, and yet we only make matters worse, increasing our blame in God's eyes.

"If you had known..." God's words here cut directly to the heart, with the tears of Jesus behind them. These words imply responsibility for our own faults. God holds us accountable for what we refuse to see, or are unable to see because of our sin. And "now they are hidden from your eyes" because you have never completely yielded your nature to Him. Oh, the deep, unending sadness for what might have been! God never again opens the doors that have been closed. He opens other doors, but He reminds us that there are doors that we have shut—doors that did not need to be shut. Never be afraid when God brings back your past. Let your memory have its way with you. It is a minister of God bringing its rebuke and sorrow to you. God will turn what might have been into a wonderful lesson of growth for the future.

*If You Had Known! "If you had known...in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." Luke 19:42*

## Luke 19:28-44

### Prayer

Lord, we thank You for Your mercy and grace at work in our lives and we want to see clearly what is responsible for our continual stumbling, failure, and sin. Thank You for your faithfulness to reprove and rebuke us lovingly so we can learn our lesson and grow into obedient children.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 22

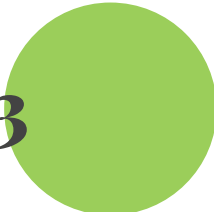
*The Way to Permanent Faith "Indeed the hour is coming...that you will be scattered." John 16:32*

Jesus was not rebuking the disciples in this passage. Their faith was real, but it was disordered, unfocused, and not at work in the important realities of life. The disciples were scattered to their own concerns and they had interests apart from Jesus Christ. After we have the perfect relationship with God, through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, our faith must be exercised in the realities of everyday life. We will be scattered, not into service but into the emptiness of our lives where we will see ruin and barrenness, to know what internal death to God's blessings means. Are we prepared for this? It is certainly not of our own choosing, but God engineers our circumstances to take us there. Until we have been through that experience, our faith is sustained only by feelings and by blessings. But once we get there, no matter where God may place us or what inner emptiness we experience, we can praise God that all is well. That is what is meant by faith being exercised in the realities of life.

"You...will leave Me alone." Have we been scattered and have we left Jesus alone by not seeing His providential care for us? Do we not see God at work in our circumstances? Dark times are allowed and come to us through the sovereignty of God. Are we prepared to let God do what He wants with us? Are we prepared to be separated from the outward, evident blessings of God? Until Jesus Christ is truly our Lord, we each have goals of our own which we serve. Our faith is real, but it is not yet permanent. And God is never in a hurry. If we are willing to wait, we will see God pointing out that we have been interested only in His blessings, instead of in God Himself. The sense of God's blessings is fundamental.

"Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."  
(John 16:33) Unyielding spiritual fortitude is what we need.

## John 16:1-33



### Prayer

Lord, direct our paths today and purge us of the unfocused and disordered faith we are presently demonstrating in our relationship with You. Reveal where we're focused on our personal interests and concerns apart from You. Make us ready and willing in the moment to relate to Your sacrifice and Cross. Help us to be thankful regardless of the circumstances. Keep us as we press through the hard times and develop our value of You as Lord. Establish in us an unyielding spiritual fortitude that glorifies You.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 23

We can never fully comprehend Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, but at least we don't have to misunderstand it. It is the agony of God and man in one Person, coming face-to-face with sin. We cannot learn about Gethsemane through personal experience. Gethsemane and Calvary represent something totally unique—they are the gateway into life for us. It was not death on the cross that Jesus agonized over in Gethsemane. In fact, He stated very emphatically that He came with the purpose of dying. His concern here was that He might not get through this struggle as the Son of Man. He was confident of getting through it as the Son of God—Satan could not touch Him there. But Satan's assault was that our Lord would come through for us on His own solely as the Son of Man. If Jesus had done that, He could not have been our Savior. (See Hebrews 9:11-15) Read the record of His agony in Gethsemane in light of His earlier wilderness temptation—"the devil...departed from Him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:13) In Gethsemane, Satan came back and was overthrown again. Satan's final assault against our Lord as the Son of Man was in Gethsemane.

The agony in Gethsemane was the agony of the Son of God in fulfilling His destiny as the Savior of the world. The veil is pulled back here to reveal all that it cost Him to make it possible for us to become sons of God. His agony was the basis for the simplicity of our salvation. The Cross of Christ was a triumph for the Son of Man. It was not only a sign that our Lord had triumphed, but that He had triumphed to save the human race. Because of what the Son of Man went through, every human being has been provided with a way of accessing the very presence of God.

**His Agony and Our Access** "Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples...'Stay here and watch with Me!" Matthew 26:36, 38



## Matthew 26:36-46

### Prayer

Lord, develop our passion for Your Cross so that we're taking advantage of the Life and sonship it reveals, as You work in us. Reveal the power of Your Cross to us and help us overthrow every assault Satan has purposed. Finish Your work of salvation in us as Your sons and help us appreciate the way You've provided for us in Your presence.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Day 24

*The Collision of God and Sin "...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree." 1 Peter 2:24*

The Cross of Christ is the revealed truth of God's judgment on sin. Never associate the idea of martyrdom with the Cross of Christ. It was the supreme triumph, and it shook the very foundations of hell. There is nothing in time or eternity more absolutely certain and irrefutable than what Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross. He made it possible for the entire human race to be brought back into a right-standing relationship with God. He made redemption the foundation of human life; that is, He made a way for every person to have fellowship with God.

The Cross was not something that happened to Jesus— He came to die; the Cross was His purpose in coming. He is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8) The incarnation of Christ would have no meaning without the Cross. Beware of separating "God was manifested in the flesh" from "He made Him. . . to be sin for us." (1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21) The purpose of the incarnation was redemption. God came in the flesh to take sin away, not to accomplish something for Himself. The Cross is the central event in time and eternity, and the answer to all the problems of both.

The Cross is not the cross of a man, but the Cross of God, and it can never be fully comprehended through human experience. The Cross is God exhibiting His nature. It is the gate through which any and every individual can enter into oneness with God. But it is not a gate we pass right through; it is one where we abide in the life that is found there.

The heart of salvation is the Cross of Christ. The reason salvation is so easy to obtain is that it cost God so much. The Cross was the place where God and sinful man merged in a tremendous collision and where the way to life was opened. But all the cost and pain of the collision was absorbed by the heart of God.

## II Corinthians

### 5:16-21

#### Prayer

Lord, we can't thank You enough for the right-standing that Your righteous sacrifice has afforded us. You made a way for us to have fellowship with You now, in every passing moment. Thank you for revealing Your nature from Your Cross and inviting us to enter into oneness with You. Your love is past finding out!

#### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 25

As the disciples were commanded, you should also say nothing until the Son of Man has risen in you—until the life of the risen Christ so dominates you that you truly understand what He taught while here on earth. When you grow and develop the right condition inwardly, the words Jesus spoke become so clear that you are amazed you did not grasp them before. In fact, you were not able to understand them before because you had not yet developed the proper spiritual condition to deal with them.

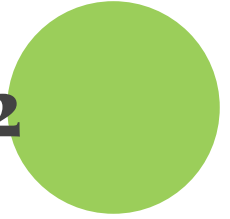
Our Lord doesn't hide these things from us, but we are not prepared to receive them until we are in the right condition in our spiritual life. Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." (John 16:12) We must have a oneness with His risen life before we are prepared to bear any particular truth from Him. Do we really know anything about the indwelling of the risen life of Jesus? The evidence that we do is that His Word is becoming understandable to us. God cannot reveal anything to us if we don't have His Spirit. And our own unyielding and headstrong opinions will effectively prevent God from revealing anything to us. But our insensible thinking will end immediately once His resurrection life has its way with us.

"Tell no one." But so many people do tell what they saw on the Mount of Transfiguration—their mountain top experience. They have seen a vision and they testify to it, but there is no connection between what they say and how they live. Their lives don't add up because the Son of Man has not yet risen in them. How long will it be before His resurrection life is formed and evident in you and in me?

## **Why We Lack Understanding**

*"He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead." Mark 9:9*

## **Mark 9:1-12**



### **Prayer**

Lord, we want to be like You. We only want to say what we hear You say, as the risen Savior, in us. Help us to grow in You and give You complete access to our lives. Help us to step into our identities as true sons. Make us one with Your risen Life. Help us to put our unyielding and headstrong opinions under our feet and follow only You. Rise in us and live through us, is our prayer.

### **What is God saying to you?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Day 26

Our Lord's Cross is the gateway into His life. His resurrection means that He has the power to convey His life to me. When I was born again, I received the very life of the risen Lord from Jesus Himself.

Christ's resurrection destiny—His foreordained purpose— was to bring "many sons to glory." (Hebrews 2:10) The fulfillment of His destiny gives Him the right to make us sons and daughters of God. We never have exactly the same relationship to God that the Son of God has, but we are brought by the Son into sonship. When our Lord rose from the dead, He rose to an absolutely new life—a life He had never lived before He was God Incarnate. He rose to a life that had never been before. And what His resurrection means for us is that we are raised to His risen life, not our old life. One day we will have a body like His glorious body, but we can know here and now the power and effectiveness of His resurrection and can "walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) Paul's determined purpose was to "know Him and the power of His resurrection." (Philippians 3:10)

Jesus prayed, ". as You have given Him authority over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him." (John 17:2) The term Holy Spirit is actually another name for the experience of eternal life working in human beings here and now. The Holy Spirit is the deity of God who continues to apply the power of the atonement by the Cross of Christ to our lives. Thank God for the glorious and majestic truth that His Spirit can work the very nature of Jesus into us if we will only obey Him.

*His Resurrection Destiny* "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" Luke 24:26

## Luke 24:13-32

### Prayer

Lord, establish Your Life and finish Your work of sonship in us. Help us to realize our need for connection with the mature members of Your body; to surrender to the correction, rebuke, and reproof of Your Spirit, and to receive the admonition of the guardians, tutors, and ministers You've given us as gifts. Fulfill Your destiny by making us sons and daughters for Your glory.

### What is God saying to you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---