

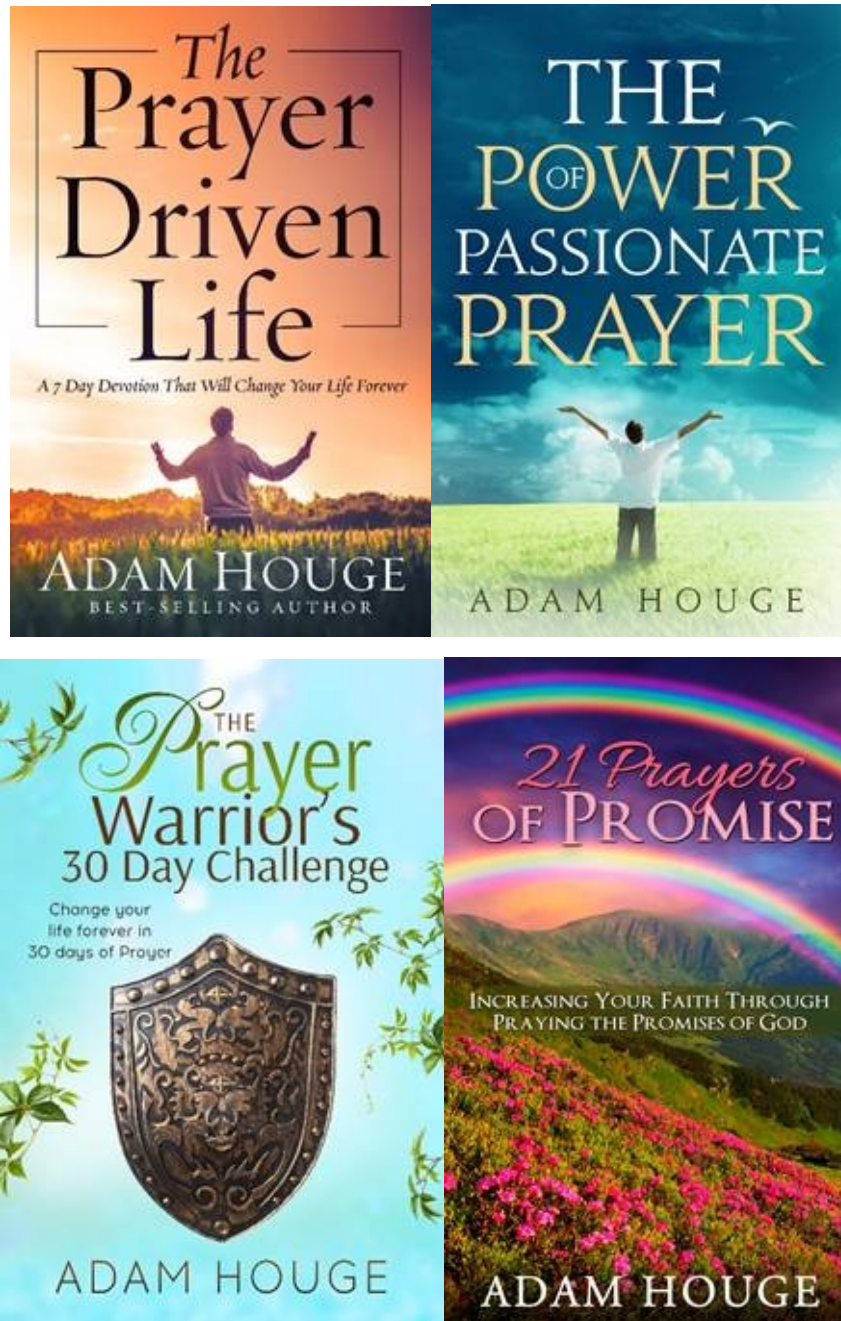
THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF HABITUAL PRAYER

ADAM
HOUGE



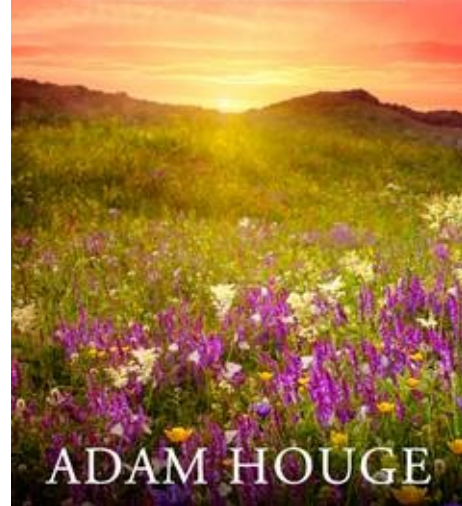
5 BOOKS FOR ONLY \$0.99!

The Collection



30 PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

SHOWING GOD A THANKFUL
HEART THROUGH PRAYER



ADAM HOUGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[The Prayer Driven Life](#)

[The Power Of Passionate Prayer](#)

[The 30 Prayer Warrior Challenge](#)

[21 Prayers Of Promise](#)

[30 Prayers Of Gratitude](#)

The Prayer-Driven Life-A 7-Day Devotion That Will Change Your Life
Forever™

Copyright © 2015 by Adam Houge

Published by Living Tree Publishing in Harrisonburg, VA

All rights reserved worldwide. Permission is granted for quotations in all manner
of religious assembly.

Portions of the text may be reprinted for use in small groups, church bulletins,
orders of service, Sunday school lessons, church newsletters, and similar works,
in the course of religious instruction, or services at a place of worship or other
religious assembly with the following notice:

The Prayer-Driven Life-A 7-Day Devotion That Will Change Your Life Forever
™ by Adam Houge

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by
Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright
© 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman
Foundation. Used by permission. All Scripture taken is labeled as ‘NASB’

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®,
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News
Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All Scripture taken labeled
as ‘ESV’

Want Free Books?

From time to time Adam gives away free copies of his new releases. But his promotions are highly temporary. If you'd like to be notified when he's giving his kindle books away for free, please consider signing up at the following link: [GET ADAM'S BOOKS FREE](#)

LIKE FREE BOOKS? Then Get A Free Full-Length Audio Book!

If you like audio books, and are not a member of Audible, you can get one of Adam's audio books for free by signing up at the following link: [GET ONE OF ADAM'S AUDIO BOOKS FREE](#)

This link is good for any Audio book of Adam's, of your choice, and valid for one title up to \$25 in value.

Also By Adam

[The 7 Most Powerful Prayers That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Spiritual Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[Slaying Your Giants: How to Have Massive Faith](#)

[How To Memorize the Bible Fast and Easy](#)

Table of Contents

The Power of Habitual Prayer

Day One

Continual Pursuit

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Day Two

Led by the Voice of God

The Prayer

Understanding the inward voice

Understanding the fruit of God

Understanding open and closed doors

How can this change your life?

Day Three

Change Your Words and It Will Transform Your Life!

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Day Four

Will of God

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Day Five

Pursuing the One and Only True Faith

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Day Six

Absorbing the Love of God

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Day Seven

Becoming the Face of Love

The Prayer

How can this change your life?

Final Thoughts

I'd Love to Hear from You!

Want Free Books?

Also By Adam Houge

About the Author

The Power of Habitual Prayer

God is an intimate and loving Person who is always looking for a way to draw nearer to you. But if you don't reach back, you will never experience the depths of a fulfilling relationship with Him.

So I challenge you to commit yourself to building a lifetime habit of continual prayer over the next seven days. By constant prayer you will be able to hear God's voice more clearly, and it will increase your faith. There is no better method to seek God than through prayer. For prayer enters you into His throne room, and by prayer you can come boldly before His throne and make requests, lay down burdens, and find rest.

Out of all the prayers we could pray, some are more significant than others. God doesn't always answer every prayer, but there are some He will always answer. In this book we will discuss seven of the most powerful and life-changing prayers you could ever pray. Each of these prayers the Lord will certainly answer, and He will transform your life as you practice the concepts. These concepts will set you on the right course in life and teach you how to please God.

So come and build a life of habitual prayer.

If you have already prayed these prayers and applied these principles, then you can attest to the power prayer has had to transform your life. If you have experienced this, then consider encouraging others to take the same steps you have taken so that God can transform their lives as He has transformed yours.

Day One

Continual Pursuit

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...”
Colossians 4:2

The Prayer

Lord, help me to realize the importance of constant and fervent prayer. Sometimes it doesn't feel practical because there are many activities that require my attention throughout the day. So I ask that You would be my strength in my weakness and that You would help me to obey You in this. I believe that You have the power to help me pray continually. So I will let my continuous prayer be done through a measure of faith as You help me to grow in my prayer life, that I will pray constantly by habit and not begrudgingly. Lord, you matter more to me than anything. So forgive me that I would choose to give other things and activities my attention while I continue to live out my day. Help me to remember that it isn't even my day to begin with because, when I gave my life to You, I gave you twenty-four hours a day, not one hour in a daily devotion. Rather than limiting You to a mere devotion, help me to continue to practice Your presence by carrying the secret place with me in my heart everywhere I go.

Have you been reading your Bible lately? God calls us to study daily and show ourselves approved. As it is written,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

How can you rightly divide the word unless you study it? How can you rightly discern the word unless the Spirit teaches you and guides your heart? As it is further written,

“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13

And as Jesus said,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

We must be taught by God regarding all things, especially the Scriptures. So the question is this: How have you been taught by God lately? Have you been surrendering to His voice, listening intently for it and obeying it? You cannot be taught by Him if you cannot hear Him. You cannot hear Him if you are not paying attention to Him.

It is easy to be distracted by the day-to-day activities of life—especially in the workplace. However, God calls us to pursue Him continually throughout the day. While it is not practical to study and read all day long, we certainly can pray and worship. As it is written,

“...pray without ceasing...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

And as the Scriptures also say,

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1

When we pray and when we worship, we naturally become more attentive to the Spirit’s voice because we are paying attention to Him. Prayer forces us to focus on God as we talk directly to Him. If you listen intently, you’ll find that the Spirit will attempt to guide your heart as you pray. If you pray with the words that He gives you, then you know that whatever you pray shall happen. Allowing the Holy Spirit to affect your heart will conform your heart to the Lord’s heart. And if you pray anything according to the Lord’s heart, you can have confidence that you have the things for which you pray. As it is written,

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1 John 5:14–15

If you know that God will answer you with power and authority if you pray, then why would you want to stop praying? Do you really want more of God in your life? Then pray and be intimate with Him every moment of the day and watch it transform your life!

You know that the Lord is intimate, so take it to heart to be more intimate with

Him. Let Him minister to your heart and guide your decisions daily. Submit to God in prayer, and you'll see Him working more powerfully in your life. It doesn't matter how much faith you have. If you do not ask God for something, you won't get it. If you don't think God will give you what you ask for, then you're placing Him in a box. You don't know with certainty what He will and won't give you.

A friend of mine once invited me to a bonfire with his church, which he held on his property. Halfway through the night, the bonfire grew so large it sent full sheets of flaming newspaper flying into the air and deposited them on the roof of his house, which then caught on fire. My friend couldn't reach the fire with the garden hose because his home was two or three stories high, and he couldn't wait for the fire department, either, because he lived too far out in the country; half his home would have burned down by the time they came. So one person in the group suggested that they pray and ask God for rain. My friend and the entire church group mocked this man and said with certainty, "God wouldn't do that!" Then my friend proceeded to try to scale his house with a bucket of water because he had no other way of getting water up there. When he failed, the man who had been mocked prayed out loud, "Lord, please save his home and send rain!" and immediately it rained, putting the entire fire out within moments.

For me this was a tremendous lesson on both the power of prayer and the uncertainty of the Lord's will. Are we God? How can we know what He will or won't deliver? Perhaps my friend chose not to pray because he didn't believe God would help him. Are you doing this in your own walk? Beloved, don't put God in a box. Remember that Jesus said,

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" Matthew 7:7-11

Increase your prayer life today by dedicating yourself to constant worship. Grow in your faith, not setting God any boundaries. For Jesus said that if you ask, you will receive as long as it's in the will of God. But who are we to say, "God's not willing"? Let Him speak for Himself. The worst that could happen is that God says "no." At least you gave Him the chance to speak for Himself.

How can this change your life?

When you're paying attention to God's presence through prayer, you can hear His voice more clearly to obey it more effectively. When you obey the voice of God in every little step you take, you're creating a true foundation and future for your life. Each time you obey is like adding a brick on a wall. Slowly over time, a whole temple of obedience is built. When you obey God and lead a life directed by the Holy Spirit, you will experience all the blessings God has had planned for you. But if you follow your own heart, you'll honor only yourself and miss out on the incredible gifts of God.

So I would like to exhort you to be faithful to obey God in every little step you take. And as Jesus said,

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10

The little steps you take matter to God. Remember that a temple is not built by the larger pillars alone but, rather, by every small brick as well. Consider the wisdom of drawing near to God to be sensitive for obedience, lest when you are judged, all that remains is the foundation and pillars. Beautify yourself as a building for God and seek to obey Him continually.

Day Two

Led by the Voice of God

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words.” Ecclesiastes 5:2–3

The Prayer

Lord, show me what it means to be led by You. Teach me also what it means to let my words be few. I read that You call me to pray without ceasing and that You also tell me to be silent before You. How can I possibly do both? I know You gave me two ears but only one mouth so that I can listen more than I speak. So help me to apply this concept. From this day forward, I dedicate myself to having a sober mind and listening intently to Your voice, that I may be led by it.

Every believer must be led by the Spirit because those who love the Lord must be completely surrendered to His will. And the Lord’s will is communicated to us through the voice of the Spirit. So the question is this: Do you know exactly what it means to be led by the Spirit? Being led by the Spirit is more than following His will in the big decisions of life; it is following Him in the little steps you take daily. Consider that in order to go up a flight of stairs, you have to take one step at a time. You can’t leap up the stairs in a single bound. Likewise, you can never truly live out the will of God, even in the big decisions of life, unless you first learn to follow Him in the smallest steps.

So what exactly does it look like to be led by the Lord? Every time you hear His voice and obey, no matter how small and still that voice is, you have been led by the Spirit. How, then, are you practicing this daily? Have you been focusing on the activities at hand, or are you giving the Spirit attention at the same time?

When we’re busy, it can be extremely difficult to focus on God’s presence. As a

result, sometimes we choose to focus on what needs to be done and decide to seek God at a later time. Then we excuse it in our hearts by saying, “I don’t think God cares,” or “God has grace.”

Yet there is no justifiable reason to ignore the Holy Spirit. What it really takes is practice as we learn to abide continually. God allows it to be difficult to abide and meditate on the Spirit’s voice so that you can decide if His voice really matters to you. If it does, then you will put forth the necessary effort to grow in the Lord. Then, as you grow, God will strengthen you and make it easier to keep idle thoughts at bay.

The real issue is not the necessities we focus on daily, such as our workplace jobs or taking care of the children. Rather, the weakness of the flesh is the problem because it would rather meditate on what entertains it or appeals to it most instead of focusing on the Spirit of God. So the struggle to keep a focus on God comes from temptation to think about something else and to justify this. When you pray and focus on the Spirit’s presence, Satan will try to distract you with idle thoughts or scenarios. Or he will bring back to mind a situation that really bothered you or that you enjoy dwelling on, just to keep your mind off of God.

If you allow your mind’s eye to stop focusing on the Lord, then you will be more likely to veer off course through an inability to hear His voice.

Conviction is the most widely known method the Spirit uses to speak to us. This is because conviction is the first thing we experience that leads us to receive Him as Lord and Savior. Conviction is always due to sin that is imminent or has already been committed. But God wants to lead us in more ways than avoidance of sin. Isn’t a relationship with Jesus about much more? Thus, the Spirit has many more things to say to you than conviction alone, and if you are not attentive, you will miss out entirely on the word of God.

Now one may ask, “Why is it important to listen to the Spirit? Do we really have to obey Him every time?” Every time we do not obey the Spirit, we sin. The mark we miss is the mark of obedience. Therefore, it is necessary to obey God always. As it is written,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

And as it is further written,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith...” Ephesians 2:8

We are saved through faith, and faith only comes when God speaks. Why? Because every time the Lord speaks, our natural response must be with faith. The word of God must always be obeyed through faith, whether it is written in your Bible or orally spoken to you through the Spirit. Only then are you living a truly just life. As the Scriptures also tell us,

“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.” Habakkuk 2:4

If you are not being led by the voice of God, then you are not living by faith. Just because you have faith doesn't mean you are practicing it through obedience. If you aren't listening, how can you obey? Take it to heart to be continually attentive to the Spirit and to grow in abiding in Him through continuous prayer and worship. Then, when He speaks, be faithful to obey immediately, for we also read,

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:22–25

What good is it to hear God if we choose to ignore His words? If we continuously ignore His voice, He will stop speaking until we repent. Have you ever gone through a moment in life when you really needed to hear God but He didn't speak? Then, after you have made drastic changes such as fasting from TV or other entertainment and remaining steadfastly in prayer, did He speak? Had you prayed continuously in the first place, it would not have been difficult to hear Him. But when we fill the flesh with its desires and starve our spirits of its need to abide in God's voice, it will become as clear as mud. Yet it doesn't have to be this way, for you can always hear God clearly if you choose to abide continually.

Someone may now ask, “How does God speak to us?” The Lord uses many methods to communicate His will, ranging from fruits to opened and closed doors to the inward voice of the Spirit, by which you must confirm everything. Fruits are good or bad circumstances that steer you into the direction of God's will while opened and closed doors are the circumstances God gives us to begin or end a new season of life.

The next three sections were written for your reference to help you understand the voice of God more effectively. However, they may be too long for your time of devotion today. If need be consider coming back to this section when you have time to absorb the details in depth.

Understanding the inward voice

Every other voice of God must be founded upon the inward voice of the Spirit. If the Lord doesn't confirm what we think He is telling us outwardly through the Spirit's voice inwardly, then whatever we think God is telling us is not what He is actually saying. Do nothing until the Holy Spirit confirms to you through His voice what you should and shouldn't do with every season of life.

God moves and directs us daily through the inward voice of the Holy Spirit. If we practice His presence, His voice will be easy to hear. However, there will be times when His inward voice may be difficult to discern, usually due to stress, weariness, idleness, sin, or a need for growth in understanding His voice. When we're tired or stressed out, sleep is the best medicine for hearing God more clearly. The various stresses on the body can make it hard to focus on the Spirit. If you can't meditate on His presence, then His voice will be hard to discern. This is especially true when you have a broken heart. If we spend too much time focusing on the hurt, it will be hard to hear Him. But if we focus on Him instead, releasing the pain to Him, we will experience both healing and clarity in hearing His voice.

Other stresses that can muffle His voice include being ill or hungry. On some occasions, fasting can be helpful for hearing the Lord's voice. It isn't by our religiosity that God is answering us. Rather, refraining from the various appetites of the flesh strengthens our spirit. Yet when the flesh is too weak, it can be difficult to focus on the Lord to hear Him. In such a case, it would be a better idea to eat. We aren't honoring God through fasting if we aren't doing it in a way that draws us nearer to Him. Fasting done any other way is really just self-imposed religion, for which God has no regard. When the Lord leads us to fast, it's the right thing to do. But if we're doing it of ourselves, for our own "religiousness," in the hopes that God will answer us, it would be better to eat while fasting from entertainment and idleness and sitting in the secret place instead.

When we obey the desires of the flesh, we begin to enter the realm of excess. Overindulging in the desires of the flesh strengthens the flesh, making it easier to obey its will and harder to obey or hear the will of God. Ask yourself, “Do I spend more time in my day watching TV, sitting on the internet, and playing games than I do in prayer, in meditation on the Holy Spirit, and in the word of God?” Take a pen and paper right now and add up your time spent in idle activities versus that spent with God. Which is more? What or whom are you worshipping with your time? Yes, we can worship God with our time! You gave twenty-four hours a day, and seven days a week of your life to Christ when you made Him your Lord. Therefore, your life is no longer your own but God’s, so don’t spend your life pleasing your flesh but, rather, seeking to please God by meditating on His inward voice constantly and obeying it always. For as we read,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Furthermore, as Jesus said,

“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” Luke 8:14

So now the question is, “What are you really serving?” Examine yourself. Are you being choked by the pleasures of life as you spend more time with them than abiding in the Holy Spirit? Excessive entertainment is an idol. Idol literally means “a thing of nothingness.” If you’re busy filling yourself with nothingness rather than with the things of Christ, then you have an idol. As it is written,

“And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’” 1 Corinthians 10:7

This is a common issue that plagues the church. By excessive entertainment, many have grown callous to the voice of the Lord. Then, when they need to hear something from Him, they can’t understand why it’s so difficult. The best remedy for this is to put away the idols and continuously feed the spiritual creation. There is a time and a place for fun and relaxation, but it should not consume every minute of every day. Too many Christians get lost in hours of TV and internet use and find themselves locked up in an idol. Being locked up by an idol keeps a Christian from being free to hear God’s voice.

It's easy to do in today's modern society, with so many entertaining activities abundantly available at our fingertips. Rather than being idle, we ought to spend our time with the Lord. When we feed the desire of the flesh to be entertained and starve the spiritual creation of its daily bread (time with Christ), the flesh grows stronger than the new creation. In this case, it grows increasingly more difficult to hear the Lord. Thus, we bear no fruit to maturity because the fruit of God is obedience to the Holy Spirit. How can you obey God and bear fruit if you cannot hear God?

The desire of the flesh can also be marked by impulsiveness—impulsive buying, impulsive decisions, not thinking before we speak, and choosing a life of continuous entertainment, among other activities of the flesh. Rather than continuously being entertained or making quick decisions without discernment, we ought to be sober in the Holy Spirit, being led by Him in everything we do. We should take the time to lay all things before God and let Him decide what He wants with our lives. As we pray, God will provide us the direction in which we should go, continuously and daily. As it is written,

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...” Philippians 4:6

Establish each of your steps through the voice of the Spirit. Know that the enemy will entice your heart and try to mimic God's voice. So learn to discern whether God is speaking or not. If the voice tells you something will happen and it doesn't, then it isn't God. Don't ever listen to it again. On the other hand, if you confirm that the voice is God, listen to it always. However, if that voice was right several times in a row but then wrong, know that it is the enemy tricking you. God's word is never wrong. So by this method, you will be able to learn and grow through time to understand His voice.

Also, His voice can be backed up by Scripture. The Holy Spirit will not tell you to do things contrary to the word. If you have misinterpreted the Scriptures and think them to be true, then He will tell you to do things contrary to what you believe is right because you have been misguided in your interpretation of Scripture but have not realized it. Therefore, it is best to grow in the Scriptures, that you may perfectly discern the voice of God.

In order to be righteous, you must learn to be led by Him in everything you do. Righteousness is faith in motion. Faith comes from hearing God because every time He speaks, you must believe what He says. So, then, true righteousness is constant obedience to the voice of the Spirit. If you can't discern the voice of

God, how can you walk righteously? Take this to heart and grow in understanding His voice.

While there are other methods by which God speaks to us, the inward voice is the only way to confirm His will. God does, however, use other methods to help steer us in the direction we ought to go. And if you know how to discern these other methods, you can determine prophetically what will happen next in your life—because God is telling you through the circumstances in your life.

Understanding the fruit of God

Fruit is a circumstance given to us by God, by which we can directly interpret His leading. Fruit is not God's direct voice but His indirect voice. We cannot walk by fruit alone but must wait for Him to speak inwardly. However, if God is leading you to any major decision in life, rest assured that there will be much fruit from Him. Fruit is generally easy to determine but can be difficult to discern at times, especially if there is much spiritual warfare and the enemy is trying to deceive you in regard to the meaning of the fruit. But if you remain patient through such moments and are attentive to the Spirit's voice, He will help you each step of the way, teaching you what each fruit means.

Fruit is always either a good circumstance that pulls you in the direction of God's will or a bad circumstance that pushes you in the direction of His will. Sometimes that bad fruit can come from a situation of life that God wants you to leave as you change seasons in life. Other times that bad fruit can come from a path in life you are not supposed to take, and by this method He shows you the right direction to go when you are trying to determine His will. Some examples of fruit are providence or the loss of it, open or closed doors, and a variety of negative or positive circumstances. By "fruit" we really mean to say the circumstances of life that are pushing or pulling you in a certain direction. Not all fruit is from God, however, and you are not meant to go in every direction toward which you are pushed or pulled.

We always must discern the fruits. Sometimes there are false fruits, and other times the enemy may be misinterpreting fruit to us. No matter how God's voice is conveyed to us, we must discern that it is God speaking so that our faith is in God's word and not anything else.

By fruit we can discern God's direction almost prophetically. Fruit appears before God gives you an open door to walk through. It appears sometimes days,

weeks, or months before the change of a season. So in the beginning there is a “first fruit,” which is usually a red flag to pay attention. These “first fruits” may fizzle out and become nothing. We cannot draw a conclusion until we have several fruits. Just because there’s an apple on the ground by a tree doesn’t make that tree an apple tree. That fruit may have rolled a distance from another tree. However, if fruit starts falling in clusters from that tree, it is evident what type of tree it is. Likewise, if God gives you clusters of fruit, then it is evident that a change of season is coming. The fruit falls in its greatest intensity right as you are on the brink of the season’s change.

There will always be several circumstances that will lead you to a proper conclusion. For example, a good job may begin having unfavorable circumstances that make you want to leave. These are merely the first fruits. This is the time to pray for God’s direction, not to act, because those circumstances may subside and you’ll find yourself being more firmly planted in your job. Just because persecution or hard work arises doesn’t mean it’s time to leave. You will gain many other fruits when it is time, and you will not be able to escape them because God will be trying to push you away from that workplace and into a new direction in life. If circumstances appear to be driving you out of your job, then God may be telling you that you’re about to leave.

But always wait for His voice before stepping forward. Always confirm everything you do through the voice of the Spirit before you commit to doing it. If you don’t have any fruit to leave, then chances are that God is not calling you to leave. Fruits make you aware of God’s direction and approximate timing—so don’t plan a career change if God isn’t showing you that you need one.

The fruits of God’s leading are also perceived in the Scriptures, such as when David was being persecuted by King Saul. On a couple of occasions, Saul tried to kill David at his own table. Before these circumstances happened, Saul sized him up and watched him carefully since the day people chanted, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” (1 Samuel 18:7) His negative reaction to the statement was a first fruit. Later, David was driven out by the spear. Then God’s will was finally confirmed when Saul tried to kill his own son Jonathan.

The story of David’s persecution and life in hiding is a perfect example of how a believer should walk daily in regard to fruit and inquiring of the Lord for direction. Ultimately, God will speak to you before it’s time to step out. Obviously, if you’re under a life-threatening situation as David eventually was, then God is already telling you to get out of harm’s way. However, be sober

when discerning God's fruit. There are exceptions to the rules. Ordinarily, we must wait for Him to speak and then step out in faith in His word.

Understanding open and closed doors

An open door from God is an invitation into a new season of life. Yet not every open door is from God, so we have to discern the door through the Spirit before we step into the room. A closed door is a sign from God that He will not permit you to go that direction in life. A closing door happens when God no longer wants you in a particular situation and is changing you from one season to another. When the door has closed by God's hand and you have successfully stepped into the proper door He intended for you, you will experience a sense of closure over the last season of life. A sense of closure is a good sign that God has closed the door.

An opening door is a budding opportunity, but it is not always from God. It may be a door flapping in the wind or a door from Satan to test you.

When we open our eyes to the leading of God and pray for understanding, we see how He is leading us through the circumstances of life. Much as with fruit, we must test every door. Also, not every closed door is permanently shut. Sometimes God reopens a door later in life, such as in relationships with friends who move away but come back.

But if a door is opened to you and God has not opened it, then know that if you step through it, you will enter a room where Satan resides. How will you feel when the door closes behind you and the lights turn off? God will do this to discipline you for not confirming His will but, rather, stepping out to obey a tempting circumstance. In the end, the experience will be a lesson to wait for God's word next time and to walk by that door.

A door, to be specific, is a direct invitation to move from one season of life to the next. An example would be if you think you're supposed to leave your job and you just received a new job offer that's guaranteed. That new job offer is an open door. However, you must test it first. How do you test it? Through prayer. Then, when the Holy Spirit confirms to you to go that direction in life, you can step through it.

Not every door is meant to be walked through, however. Some doors can be a test. Therefore, pray for direction before stepping from one open door to another. Know that God is leading you before you enter into a new room of life.

Remember that faith comes by hearing God's word, not by assuming it, so always wait for His direction and His word unless you know them already. Only step out in faith when you know *God* has spoken. That way you may live by *His* word.

Now, when God opens a door, no one can shut it; and when He shuts a door, no one can open it. As it is written,

“These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’: ‘I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.’”
Revelation 3:7–8

Open doors are opportunities for a change of seasons, and closing doors are the changes of a season. If you have ever followed God down a path of life, then through the course of time, when it ended, you probably felt closure, which is God closing the door behind you. God may close doors to certain relationships or circumstances of life. These closing doors are meant to press you in the direction of your new season of life. When life is transitioning and you're beginning to feel closure, the door is closing. When it's all over, then the door is closed. A closed door is the complete end of a season. Furthermore, closed doors ahead of you are doors through which you're not supposed to go.

You may have it in your heart to go a certain path in life, but no matter how hard you try, you can't gain any ground. That's because the path you're taking has a closed door at the end of the hallway and no one can open it because God closed it. By this you know you've gone a wrong way in your walk.

Sometimes doors are closed due to a matter of His timing. You may receive fruit that you'll go through that door, yet you have to wait for Him to open it. Sometimes doors are opened to test you and your heart, such as when God delivered Saul into the hand of David. It was an open door for David to become king and kill his enemy. Nevertheless, God laid it in David's heart not to kill his enemy but to spare his life according to the lovingkindness God had shown him. The door opened, but God spoke to his heart differently. These situations are tests to see if we will jump at desire or restrain our flesh to wait for God's word. You must always wait for the Holy Spirit to lead you.

How can this change your life?

Communication is the foundation of every relationship. With our mouths we express the heart. The better you are at understanding God's heart, the more intimate you will be with Him. So by listening and obeying continuously, you will become highly spiritual and please God in everything you do.

Do you think you can be spiritual or please God by ignoring or disobeying the Spirit of God? Who makes us spiritual beings in the first place? Obviously, the Spirit. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for everyone named a Christian to obey the voice of Christ's Spirit.

Day Three

Change Your Words and It Will Transform Your Life!

“By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone.”
Proverbs 25:15

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.” James 1:26

“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

“See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.” James 3:2–12

The Prayer

Lord, teach me how to honor You by listening to Your words and allowing them to bubble up in my heart and be the overflow of my mouth. Show me how to speak my words in love with wisdom. I know that words can crush and words can build up. Therefore, I choose to build up a heart by which I reflect Your love with each of my words.

When we speak negatively, it can discourage, break down, and destroy. But when we choose words that heal, they can edify, build up, and strengthen.

Be a person dedicated to healing words. Look for those who have downcast souls and lift them up in the love of God. Remember that Jesus is a healer and not a destroyer. Sometimes our words can break down an already broken person. There are times when we may speak hurtful words without even realizing it. However, if we are loving the other person as we should, then we will be attentive to his or her state of heart and choose words that heal.

Negative words can crush a spirit. Yet there are some times when something negative needs to be said, such as when someone is sinning.

There are times when certain people we know choose to do the wrong thing and walk without regard for repentance. A negative word in this example would be a loving rebuke. Some people need a little rebuke to help them heal. When people are sinning, sometimes they don't even realize that they're broken. We can't speak positively about sin, as there is nothing positive about it. Rather, we should lovingly bring a sinner to repentance.

Now, a negative word shouldn't be spoken with harsh criticism. Instead, it should be constructive and loving. If not, it is sure to tear down a spirit. But if spoken in love, a negative yet constructive statement can heal.

However, there are some who don't want to say anything harsh, so they refrain from rebuking. Some claim, "I don't want to be a judge, lest I am judged." We aren't judging with a rebuke; we're discerning rightly and turning a brother back to the right course of life as we are commanded to do. God didn't call us to cast off discernment when He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). The original Greek says, "Do not condemn lest you be condemned." The form of judgment this Scripture is talking about is an unloving, condemning judgment. Sadly, even knowing this, there are some Christians who aren't afraid to condemn and gossip.

Yet we are called to rebuke lovingly. As we read,

"Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed." Proverbs 27:5

If you see brothers or sisters caught up in sin, then come alongside them lovingly, being careful not to condemn but, rather, to convict. Remember that the Spirit does not condemn you but convicts you when you sin. So pray for words, that the Spirit may give them to you. That way He may convict them through you. Rather than dividing a relationship, your seemingly negative words can

connect the relationship and cause it to prosper in the Lord.

All your words should be founded on Christ. If your words don't glorify God, then what are they doing? While there are idle topics that we need to discuss sometimes, we need to remember to keep them edifying. In everything you say and do from this point forward, try to speak in love and to keep your words founded on Christ's glory. If you cannot, then don't say anything at all. That our words should dwell upon and reflect Christ is evident, for it is written,

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:6

And even Jesus tells us,

"...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:34-36

Can Jesus lie? As Christians we must believe everything He says. If Jesus said that we can be condemned by our idle words, then we should take to heart to make each of our words, no matter how significant or idle, founded on Jesus in the love of God.

Also, since Jesus said we can be condemned for our speech, this should lead us to fear. As the Holy Spirit said through James,

"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

"See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell." James 3:5-6

You cannot take this lightly. Through these scriptures, it is evident that God commands you to have holy, loving, edifying speech. Jesus made it clear that your words reflect your heart because they come from your heart. So if indeed you have been born again and received a new heart from Jesus, then let your words reflect it. You are a new creation in Christ, so do not speak as the old nature would.

Anyone who pursues a righteous walk will also pursue holy speech that edifies not only himself or herself but others. If we love one another, we will want to edify one another.

If we seek to have a pure heart, then we also need to have pure words—words that heal and words that bring peace and truth. We need to have words that are devoted to goodness, spoken through the Spirit, and founded on love.

The hardest time to say something that turns another back to the Lord is during an argument. We become heated and are easily tempted to say something we don't mean. Perhaps in our momentary anger we mean what we say, but after the anger subsides and we begin to think more rationally, we realize that we didn't really mean it after all. So in the end, we find ourselves regretting our words.

In an argument we need to learn to back down and cool off. If we don't learn to meditate on the Lord continually to keep a sober heart, then in our anger we will say those regrettable words. So if you're angry, spend a few moments away from the person with whom you're angry so that you can release your thoughts to God and regain soberness in the Holy Spirit. Then, afterward, go back and speak the words the Spirit lays in your heart.

If you're angry, it's hard to hear His conviction. If you want words that are truly seasoned with salt, then you need to listen to the Spirit more closely and say what He lays in your heart. But if you aren't listening to Him, then you will be more likely to say something you will later regret.

In the drunkenness of anger, we become tempted to speak foolishly. By learning to temper our hearts and curb our anger, proper words of conviction will come out instead. In this we can lead one another to Christ, and thus we can find peace and unity through Him.

But we also need to remember to recognize when others are struggling. If they need to sit back, cool off, and be with God, then we need to stop pressing our side of the argument. Let them return to a proper and sober mind in Christ. If you push them, they'll explode. Whose fault is it if you press a person to the point of bursting? How can you possibly expect anything good to come from their mouths if you don't let them sober up in the Holy Spirit? Encourage them to spend some time with God, and agree together that you both need to cool off. Agree to come back immediately afterward and work the issue out through the Holy Spirit.

We need to temper our hearts to be holy and loving in everything. Satan loves to seize the moments of our wrath and bring in further division. Lost friendships and broken relationships are not worth the few costly words we speak. If we change our hearts and lips, those relationships would be built up rather than broken down.

Learning to back down and be meek is vital. If you or the other person is too angry or disagreeable, then you need to have a few moments with the Lord. Blow off some steam to God; pray with an upright heart. Ask the Lord, who sees everything, “Am I wrong in anything?” Then have an open heart to hear from Him. Time and time again when I have been angry, there has always been at least a little error God pointed out that I hadn’t realized I was committing. Then I have immediately gone to the other person and apologized.

Seeking unity, not expressing opinions, needs to be the priority when arguing. If we have a heart to seek unity, we will find it. Even Jesus said, “Seek and you shall find.”

Sometimes it’s good to say sorry right away. Even if you feel only a little wrong, apologize at once. It will break the tension and bring everyone back to a sober mind. Then, after you think about it, you may realize that you were more than a little wrong. By saying sorry, you avoided a bad fight turning into a worse one.

Don’t worry about what the other person is doing; always be the first to bring unity. Let the responsibility begin with us as we seek to grow in the Lord and please Him. If our hearts are right before God, our words will be right.

Ultimately, whether in arguments or in unholy speech, seeking mouths of grace must be our priority. By words we can build up and draw near to Christ, and by words we can break down and turn another away from the Lord. Like a bulldozer through a house, our words can ruin a home.

Take this time to devote yourself to wholesome speech—to words that turn others to Jesus. Seek sound, godly speech that cannot be condemned. As it is written,

“In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” Titus 2:7–8

Jesus said that our words come from our heart. Therefore, choosing healing words forces our hearts to grow and change as we learn to express the love of God rather than our own fleshly thoughts. And as it is also written,

“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.” James 3:2

Knowing this, we should make our aim to have holy mouths in everything we

say. Let's dedicate ourselves to building one another up. Let's have holy words that edify and heal. By changing our words, we will change our hearts. By changing our hearts and the way we act in and respond to life, we will change our lives and our relationships forever.

So take this time to ask yourself how your words have been founded in love and on Christ lately. Be honest with yourself: Have you been pointing others to Jesus? Let every moment other people spend with you be one that edifies them and points them to Christ. True fellowship is not idleness with fun and games. Properly defined, fellowship is meeting together with others who have common interests. As a Christian, you are declaring that your common interest is Jesus. So let the words of your mouth be found glorifying Him. However, if your common interests are games and idle chatter, then what are you really worshipping during your fellowship?

How can this change your life?

The center of every relationship begins with the heart. The tongue communicates the issues of the heart, thus keeping each relationship connected. If love is the mortar, then your words can be likened to the trowel. So take it to heart to let the words of your mouth be with kindness and grace.

Remember that if you want friends, then you must first be friendly. Every relationship grows and prospers with the foundation of love. If you want to experience deeper, more heartfelt relationships—the kind Jesus wants you to have—then you must learn how to communicate properly both in word and in deed, for all love begins with the mouth and finishes with the hands.

Day Four

Will of God

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

The Prayer

Lord, I know Your will is perfect. Please save me from self-willed decisions, that all my actions may honor You in truth. From this day forward, I fully dedicate myself to living out Your will. Show me Your will and help me to understand it.

The Lord has a plan for you. This is not just an eternal plan, for He in His wisdom has preordained the purpose your life shall serve here on this earth. Do you know what that purpose is? Do you know what He wants you to be doing daily? How can you know?

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit communicates the Father’s will on a moment-by-moment basis. His voice comes as still and small, so the only way to hear Him is to be intentional about listening throughout the day.

God always knows what’s best. Sometimes we desire to accomplish certain plans or goals, but God calls us to submit to Him. Perhaps we may want to further our education and grow in our careers, but if God hasn’t called us to it, then we will be walking contrary to His heart. He has established goals and plans for you that He wants you to live out. As it is written,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

The word ‘thoughts’ in the original Hebrew is *machăshâbâh*, which means “a plan, contrivance, purpose, or thought.” This is why some versions of the Bible translate the verse to say, “I know the plans I have for you.” Another popular translation, the New International Version, renders the verse as follows:

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you

and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeramiah 29:11 NIV

Before time began, God was thinking of you and planning your life. He has thoughts of how your life should look and what would be best for you. While you may think you know what's best for you, God truly knows, and you must submit to that.

The Lord also has things He wants you to be doing daily. If you listen to the Spirit, you will know what these plans are. Life is like a flight of stairs, and every little moment is a step that needs to be taken. If you ignore the steps God has for you, you will stumble and may even backslide. What happens if you backslide down a flight of stairs? The end result won't be good, so keep in step with the Lord's leading.

From this point forward, determine God's will for your life and wholly surrender to it.

Every Christian must live in total surrender to the Lord's will. When we gave our lives to Christ, we gave up our life in this world. Therefore, it is necessary for us to crucify the flesh and pick up the will of God. As it is written,

“...and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.” Deuteronomy 29:19

Even as a drunkard cannot be considered sober, so those who follow their own hearts cannot be included among the saved who follow the heart of God. If you truly love the Lord, then you will lay down your life and live for His will.

Take this time to examine your own heart. Have you been living every moment for His will? Or have some of your steps strayed? Do you know for certain that each of your steps has been founded in the Holy Spirit as He has led you? Do you know what His ultimate will is for your life on this earth? Do you know what your place is in the church so that you can take it up? If you don't know these answers, then pray without ceasing until He reveals them so that you can live according to His will.

But remember that living for His will doesn't mean it will be comfortable. Jesus followed the will of the Father to the cross. Was that comfortable? Even as Jesus bore His cross for you, so you must bear your cross for Him. Expect difficulties. But also expect victories for every difficulty you encounter, for the Lord allows you to suffer to teach you, not destroy you. Then, when you have learned from

the experience, He will grant you victory. That our sufferings are for growth is evident, for it is written,

“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3

Everything God does for you He does for your eternal good. It is all planned out, with divine ingenuity, that the circumstances of life would lead you to God’s will. This way, you may live for His purpose and fulfill His plan for you. You are the clay, and He is the potter. Let Him mold your life and bring it all together for good. Let Him shape who you are, what you will become, and what you should do.

If you search for the Lord’s will with all your heart, you will find it. It is a promise that God will lead you according to His will. Deliberately obey His will and humbly submit to it.

Knowing God’s will is half the battle; having the faith to apply it is the other half. Therefore, once you know the Lord’s will for your life, trust Him that He will not only bring it to pass but also take care of you every step of the way.

How can this change your life?

God transforms those who live by His will. To those who submit to His plans, He gives the right to inherit eternal life. But those who don’t submit are not granted this right. As it is written,

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15–17

Day Five

Pursuing the One and Only True Faith

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 4:1

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

The Prayer

God, I have always desired to know You for who You are. Teach me how You want me to apply Your word and how I should live it out. I know that I’m not living according to Your will unless you’re revealing it to me, as well as how You want me to live it out. So I pray that You would teach me likewise how to live out Your word.

The character and nature of God is thoroughly outlined in the Scriptures. If you want to understand Him better and become more familiar with the voice of the Spirit, then study your Bible diligently. For as it is written,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Those who study have no reason for shame. But all study must begin as a pursuit for truth.

“What difference does doctrine make? Why is it important?” one may ask. Doctrine determines how God wants you to apply your faith. If you don’t have accurate faith, it can do nothing to save or change your life.

Our personal opinions can’t save us because our interpretations are not the Lord’s truths. Rather than asking, “Brother, what does this scripture mean to you?” we must ask the Lord what the scripture really means. Those who ask for others’ opinions are really just trying to form their own. Then, if someone else’s opinion appeals to them, they embrace it and live it out. However, God doesn’t call us to live according to what appeals to us, for this would be living according to the dictates of our own hearts. Yet the Lord calls us to live for His one truth—the real meaning that He intended behind the Scriptures when His Spirit wrote

them into existence.

God's opinion is all that matters. Won't He be the one to judge us? Won't He be the one to determine whether we rightly applied His word or not? Knowing that God shall judge us according to His truth, we should be fervent to know His doctrine.

Jesus glorified His doctrine so highly that He denied it belonged to Him and accredited it to the Father instead. As we read,

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.’” John 7:16

Even our Lord didn't live based on what His flesh told Him but, rather, on what the Father confirmed truth to be. We likewise must not maintain our own interpretation of doctrine but hold to the truths of the Father as Jesus did.

But how do we know the Father's doctrine? How can we find it? Jesus informed us,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” John 16:13

By listening intently to the Spirit's voice as you read your Bible, you can discern the right doctrine. So take the time to pray before reading and ask Him to show you the truth. Ask Him to reveal if there is anything you believe that is contrary to the truth and if He would show you what the truth is, that you may live it out and please Him. For the word also says,

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 4:1

Let the Spirit lead you to the meaning He intended when He wrote the word, so that you can live it out accordingly. How can you obey God if you have no idea of what God wants you to do? Listen intently to Him, and He will make it plain what you must do and how to apply the Scriptures on a moment-by-moment basis. Don't form your own thoughts or opinions regarding how the Scriptures should be applied. As Jesus said,

“If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.” John 7:17–18

Those who form their own opinions of the Scriptures are also those who speak from themselves. If we speak from ourselves, we glorify ourselves and not the

Lord. Knowing this, we should take to heart to seek all truth.

It is mandatory for every believer to practice God's truth. As we mentioned, your doctrine dictates how your faith works. If you have false doctrine, no measure of faith will result in salvation. However, those who have faith in the truth find victory. As it is written,

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." 1 John 5:4

We cannot put our faith in falsely interpreted Scripture, or it will result in disaster. As it is written,

"For by grace you have been saved through faith..." Ephesians 2:8

If faith saves you, then how you apply your faith is just as important as the faith itself. Faith must be rightly placed in the words of truth and not in our personal interpretation of those truths. Because doctrine dictates how faith must be applied, it is evident that pure doctrine saves and false doctrine does not save. Hence, it is also written,

"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16

James also makes it clear that false doctrine cannot save but, instead, causes a believer to fall away. As it is written,

"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19–20

The first phrase to notice in this scripture is "if anyone among you." In the original Greek, the statement says "*adelphoi ean tis en umin*." *Aldephoi*, which is the nominative plural form of *adelphos*, means "brothers." The word can literally mean "if." The word *tis* literally means "any." And *en* means "of." Finally, *umin* or *humin* means "you."

So this sentence in its original Greek form would begin, "Brothers, if any of you..." Therefore, James is saying, "Christians, if any of you turns from the truth, his or her soul will abide in death. But if anyone is brought back, that person will be saved." While some preach otherwise, the way the Bible was originally written says we will fall away if we slip into false doctrine. We must put our faith in how the Bible was originally written and intended. Some teach today that if you have received Jesus, you can never fall away. Believing false

doctrine wouldn't make a difference to them because they think their soul doesn't abide in death if they do—which is contrary to what the Scriptures clearly say.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking "once saved, always saved." As it is written

"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:12–13 ESV

And as the Holy Spirit says,

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..." 1 Timothy 4:1

The original Greek word for 'depart' is *aphistēmi*, which means "to desert a belief, fall away, and become faithless." So if the Holy Spirit expressly says that people can and will fall away, why would you believe anything else? Those who do not obey the Holy Spirit are not saved. Therefore, we should fear the Lord and obey the truth of His word. And I would like to encourage you to embrace that truth.

Knowing, then, that we can fall away, if we don't remain circumspect in our walks and vigilant in obeying the truth, we're opening ourselves up to an extreme danger. For the Scriptures also say:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8

To be vigilant means "to be awake." So in other words, you must be circumspect toward the doctrine you're being taught.

Take this time right now to examine yourself. Be honest: Have you just been living day to day and not actively seeking the Lord's truth? Have you been studying your Bible as you should and learning the doctrine of the Father? If you haven't been doing the latter, then you must consider 1 Peter 5:8, which says the devil is prowling around to devour you.

How might he devour you? Through false doctrine. If we aren't awake to the teachings and doctrines around us, Satan will pull a fast one and slip in a lie we will believe. The devil uses ninety-nine-percent truth and one-percent lies to deceive us.

Many kings have been killed by ninety-nine-percent good food and one-percent

poison. All it takes is a gentle twist to throw off your entire doctrine. But if you listen to the Holy Spirit, He will help you and show you what you should believe. So let the Spirit tell you what direction to take and how to apply your Bible. Let Him show you the meaning behind the Scriptures.

However, rather than do this, there are some Christians have been led to believe that from the moment they are saved, following God is a personal journey that they have to try to figure out. But the Spirit doesn't leave your salvation up to us. He guides us down the paths we need to take and shows us what the Scriptures mean and how to apply them. If we sensitize ourselves to His voice while we study, He will teach us the Father's doctrine.

How can this change your life?

Doctrine dictates how your faith works. If you have good doctrine, then you will obey God the way He wants you to do. If you don't, then you will not obey the Lord. Is He pleased with those who disobey? Your salvation depends on the truth of the gospel, so seek the truth as if your life depends on it—because it does.

Day Six

Absorbing the Love of God

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’” Jeremiah 31:3

The Prayer

Lord, remind me of Your love today. Let me sit in it and absorb it. Refresh me and strengthen me through Your love. That way, as I meditate on how much You love me, I can go forward and share that same love You give me with others around me.

You are precious, loved, and treasured by God, who made you to love you. His love is the beginning of life. Since before time began, He has been dreaming of you. He has imagined you and your frame. He thought of what He would create you to look like, how you would react to life, and how life would react to you. Then, out of the fabric of love, He knit you in your mother’s womb.

Since the beginning of time, He has been thinking of you, and now that you are born, what passion He must have! Now He can finally have you! Now you can be His! If only you would extend your hand in return, to lay hold of this great love He has for you.

How have you been absorbing this love lately? You as a Christian work more like a glow-stick than a light bulb. You cannot shine the light of Christ unless you get recharged by spending time in His presence. Remember that Moses’ light would fade from his face when he spent time away from the mountain where God was. But when he climbed back up the mountain, his face would shine with the glory of God once more. So take this to heart and spend every waking moment meditating on the Spirit. Whether you’re washing dishes, taking

out trash, picking up after children, sitting at a desk, running a machine, driving down the road, working at home, or whatever you are doing wherever you are, be found meditating on the Spirit of God and basking in the light of His love.

A cold-blooded animal needs to sit in the light of the sun to warm up and function. Likewise, our souls need to bask in the light of the Son for us to be able to function properly as Christians. Practice meditating on the presence of God always and enjoy the love He has for you. True ministry is the overflow of the personal time we spend with the Lord. How can you express or minister Christ to others without constantly meditating on His presence? Before you can become the outpouring of God's love, first you must experience the infilling of that love.

So take this time to become refreshed in the love of God, that you may refresh others with it as well.

How can this change your life?

How can God's love *not* change your life? Meditate on it! Absorb it! Breathe it! That way you can become the love of God and portray it toward others.

Day Seven

Becoming the Face of Love

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35 ESV

The Prayer

Jesus, help me to portray Your love as I should. Make me the shining example of who you are. Show me what Your love looks like, that I may be filled with it and practice it daily.

How have you been showing the Lord’s love lately? Commit yourself from this day forward to becoming the ultimate example of God’s love. Look for the needy or the hurting and become a comfort to them. Pray for open eyes to see their need. Pray for them but remember that there is a point at which prayer must become action. Don’t merely pray for a person’s situation but also seek a way to relieve him or her from suffering.

If a brother in the Lord is struggling in homelessness, then do not merely feed him a meal. Further help them to get out of the shelter and into a home. If you were homeless, would you find a job and an apartment? Do to your neighbor as you would do to yourself; then your love will be perfect.

What would Jesus do if He saw a person in need? Would He pray for the person and hope the Father would take care of him or her? Does He say, “They trusted in the Father, so He will take care of them.” Or would Jesus help them?

“But Jesus is God! Of course He’d help them!” some may exclaim. Yet such a person forgets the saying, “What would Jesus do?”

Do as Jesus would do. If He would help someone who trusted in the Father, then why shouldn’t you?

Don’t say, “God will help them.” Rather, be willing to become the tool of God, that He may help them through you.

Now, some also say, “Brother, don’t rob me of a blessing!” when they’re trying to help a needy brother who resists their kindness. However, we shouldn’t be showing kindness for a reward. God will give you that reward regardless. Instead, your blessing should be to love your brother from a sincere heart, knowing that you’ll receive a blessing for your kindness. Retain the knowledge that you’ll be blessed, but don’t act in kindness for that reason. Do it for love.

What will bless your brothers and sisters more: to tell them, “Don’t rob me of the blessing God will give me for helping you,” or to say, “Don’t rob me of a blessing. And do you know what my blessing is? To love you.”

To bless someone else in order to receive a reward is like saying, “I’m really just giving to you to give to myself. It has nothing to do with you personally.”

What if giving to another didn’t render a blessing for you but God told you to do it anyway? What is your real motivation? Let true love motivate you to show love. Yet it is certain that God does help those who diligently practice His love. As it is written,

“Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; you will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; you will sustain him on his sickbed.” Psalm 41:1–3

God helps the righteous. A truly righteous person would look into the needs other have and try to figure out how to fill them as God leads, not merely scratch at the surface. Those who do scratch the surface have fear. They fear personal loss because they don’t have faith. They don’t believe that God will help them, and they are blinded by fear not to see the situation God has created to test their faithfulness.

If God has made you aware of a poor brother or sister, He is likely testing you. Be diligent to pass the test. Pray and ask Him how He would have you help. Let His Spirit show you how to practice love because only He know the best way to help such a person. Do not stop praying until God answers. Some have a habit of praying once or maybe twice, then saying, “I don’t hear God telling me to help them.” But in truth, they aren’t hearing God tell them not to help, either. They aren’t hearing anything at all and try to use God’s supposed silence as an excuse not to help. However, if they were to pray fervently until they hear the Lord, then they would know whether they should help or not.

Why would God tell you not to help? Because He is likely using the person's situation to grow him or her. If someone has been relying on money, God will give the person financial distress to teach him or her to rely on Him. But in some cases, such a person will come begging you for help because you have money rather than asking God through faith, and in such a case the Lord will likely tell you not to help. Not every case is like this, however. Most cases would require you to do something.

Yet there are some who use the excuse of a learning lesson not to help while hiding the fact that they are secretly being tempted to trust in their own money. If God tells you to give, don't question it. If you really believe that He takes care of you, then give happily through faith—because God loves a cheerful giver.

And know that the love of God judges thus: that if one died, all have died. Seeing, then, that Christ has died to this world, we also should be found doing the same, laying aside the materialism of this life to pick up the true and perfect love of Jesus Christ. Don't worry about tomorrow. If God tells you to give, then let go of the fear and give through faith. If you listen to fear, you will not help and thus are not perfected in love. As it is written,

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18

Don't fear the torment of loss, for God intends to save you from it, just as you have saved the poor brother through faith. As Psalm 41 says, “Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth...”

How can this change your life?

Love changes everything. How you express the love of Christ may determine how good your relationships will be. It will facilitate new friendships, kindle old ones, and result in an eternal blessing because true love not only acts as the mortar of our relationships here on earth but also cements our salvation. As it is written,

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1 John 4:17

But if anyone believes that they are saved regardless of whether they love or not this person deceives his or herself. For the Lord Jesus said,

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25:41–46

You know whether or not if you’ve been fervent to show the love of Jesus. It isn’t something we do without realizing it. If you don’t know, then you haven’t been practicing it. So take it to heart to be the image of Jesus’ love, and you will inherit the blessing. For Jesus also said,

“And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’” Matthew 25:33–36

Final Thoughts

Each of these steps should be prayed and practiced continuously. If you choose to be driven to pray, God's voice will become clearer. He will show you when to love and how to love. He will show you how to practice the Scriptures and His true doctrine. He will fill you with His love and bless you with His presence while directing your life according to His will.

If you practice these simple principles, Jesus will change your life as He conforms your heart to His. So be pliable in the hands of God and take it to heart to listen to His voice, obey, pray, and abide without ceasing.

I'd Love to Hear from You!

As an author I regard the feedback of my readers highly. When considering a book, many people weigh reviews in the balance.

If you enjoyed this book, please consider helping others make an informed decision. Leaving a review can help spread the message of the gospel and increase other's faith through these books, and it would be a great way to support this ministry for free!

Want Free Books?

From time to time Adam gives away free copies of his new releases. But his promotions are highly temporary. If you'd like to be notified when he's giving his kindle books away for free, please consider signing up at the following link: [GET ADAM'S BOOKS FREE](#)

LIKE FREE BOOKS? Then Get A Free Full-Length Audio Book!

If you like audio books, and are not a member of Audible, you can get one of Adam's audio books for free by signing up at the following link: [GET ONE OF ADAM'S AUDIO BOOKS FREE](#)

This link is good for any Audio book of Adam's, of your choice, and valid for one title up to \$25 in value.

Also By Adam Houge

Adam Houge has over 100 titles on the Christian faith. You can search through them on his Amazon author page, located on the following link:

[ADAM HOUGE'S AUTHOR PAGE](#)

The following is a list of his bestselling titles, which may interest you.

[The 7 Most Powerful Prayers That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Spiritual Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[Slaying Your Giants: How to Have Massive Faith](#)

[How to Memorize the Bible Fast and Easy](#)

About the Author

Adam is a preacher, teacher and #1 internationally bestselling author of over 100 books on the Christian faith. He is a devoted husband and father of three boys. Through his travels, he's seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: a revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!

The Power Of Passionate Prayer

The Power of Passionate Prayer™

Copyright © 2013 by Adam Houge

Published by Living Tree Publishing in Harrisonburg, VA

All rights reserved worldwide. Permission is granted for quotations in all manner of religious assembly.

Portions of the text may be reprinted for use in small groups, church bulletins, orders of service, Sunday school lessons, church newsletters, and similar works, in the course of religious instruction, or services at a place of worship or other religious assembly with the following notice:

The Power of Passionate Prayer™ by Adam Houge

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Chapter One

Understanding the Heart of God

Chapter Two

Intimately Attuned

Chapter Three

Fleeing from Sin and Temptation

Chapter Four

God Hears the Righteous

I'd Love to Hear from You!

Want Free Books?

Also By Adam Houge

About the Author

Introduction

Prayer is the ultimate method of communication between us and the Father. In prayer we share our hearts, and through prayer He communicates His with us. It is through prayer that we meet with the intimate heart of God, learning His voice, and responding to it with our intimate supplications. It's hard for most Christians to consider that they may need growth in prayer. Yet prayer is the line of communication between the heart of God and the heart of the believer.

When the lines of communication grow in a relationship the relationship itself flourishes and prospers. Therefore, we must consider that if we want to have a deep and flourishing relationship with the Lord, we must grow a heart for passionate prayer.

Chapter One

Understanding the Heart of God

God's heart is continually reflected to us through prayer. When we pray we do not merely send our messages up, but He sends His down as well. In this, prayer is more a moment of communication than supplication. But what exactly is God seeking to communicate through prayer? Both His answers as well as His heart.

When we understand the heart of God we can have a more effective prayer life. By praying according to the Father's heart, we will have a deeper connection with Him and experience more fulfilled answers from Him. So the question remains, "How is the heart of the Father communicated to us that we may pray according to it?" The Holy Spirit through His still small intimate whispers communicates the Father's heart to us daily. By being attentive to the Spirit and His voice, we can grow in discerning His heart. First we must learn how to accurately discern the Spirit's voice, then through knowing His voice we can accurately discern the Father's heart.

When we pray we ought not to speak only our heart lest we ignore the Spirit's voice. We must learn how to pray while listening to hear the Father's beating heart so that we may respond to it accordingly. Therefore we must learn to listen while we pray. As it is written,

"Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words." Ecclesiastes 5:1-3

When we go to the Lord we're called to be silent. That way we can hear from God and respond accordingly. Yes the Lord wants to hear our hearts; He is a loving and tender person who delicately crafted our hearts in the first place. Why wouldn't He want to experience and touch what He made?

Yet many Christians have a habit of spilling out their hearts without listening to God. Then after prayer they get up to walk away without giving God any room

to communicate His heart back. The Lord wants us to speak, but to speak with a spiritual heart. If we're too focused on ourselves, then we're only communicating our wishes, without caring about His. How is this walking in love toward the Lord? Shouldn't we love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength?

Why shouldn't we be silent before God? Isn't He wiser than us? Every person who sits in the council of the wise will become wise themselves. Therefore sit continually in the courts of God through prayer, listening to and respecting His heart. In this your heart will be transformed to be like His and by listening to Him, you will become wise.

Sit in the Spirit continually and learn to pray through Him. This is accomplished through listening to the Spirit then praying what He lays in our hearts. But that we should pray in the Spirit is evident, for it is written,

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26

When we pray through the Spirit we pray according to the heart of the Father naturally. When we pray according to His heart, He answers us. As it is written,

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1 John 5:14–15

God's heart is intimate and affectionate. He has been so zealous for us in His unrelenting love that He has passed through heaven and earth to die for us, overcome the grave, and forgive us our every sin. Never for a friend would any of us give the life of our child to save them. But God showed us His love in that while we were sinning against Him and breaking His heart, He sent His only Son to die so that we may know the measure of His love and be saved. While we were yet His *enemies* He gave the life of His beloved Child to overwhelm the grave through His love. If God gave His life for His enemies, how much more so will He give the fullness of life to His friends?

Now we see His zealous love continuing as He reaches for us daily. He requires that we should reach back, being filled with passion for Him just as He has for us. Love is evident through its manifestation. Love is not manifested with eloquent words, but through its affection and works.

Understanding this we must consider how to communicate with the Lord's heart. As we draw near to Him, we should share our hearts with loving passion. Not as ones making a religious show of self-righteous piety, but as intimate lovers sharing our heart with our Beloved.

God by nature is a loving and affectionate Person. We should become accustomed not only to receiving His affection, but also to giving Him affection. Ask yourself with a humble and objective heart. "How am I showing God affection through my prayers? How am I endearing Him?"

We all understand that we should show Him reverence, but how are we being affectionate? Affection takes the form of vocalization as we share a heart to heart. Afterward it takes the form of obedience to anything God has communicated. Heart to heart prayer should be full of more than God fearing reverence but God's deserved affection.

But during prayer we also hear God's heart. In hearing His heart we ought to be swift to obey. 'Love' as a word is an action, being a verb. By nature, love itself is truly an action. If, then, we love the Lord, we ought to be swift to hear His answers to our prayers and obey them.

Chapter Two

Intimately Attuned

One of the most impactful and powerful prayers known in the Bible (other than Jesus) was Elijah. God mightily answered his requests and tenderly led him. Seeing that he was considered a “father” among prophets an inside look at his life would be beneficial to any Christian. In fact, one ought to consider how Elijah’s prayer life differs from their own.

Elijah, with deep passion and faith laid his requests before the Lord. Consider for example how he prayed to end the drought. As we read,

“So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’

“So he went up and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘Go again.’

“Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, ‘There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!’ So he said, ‘Go up, say to Ahab, “Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.”’” 1 Kings 18:42–44

There are a few things to consider in this verse. When we examine the modern prayer life, some Christians have a habit of being “dignified” while they pray. They sit down, put their elbows on the table, fold their hands and begin praying with eloquence. “Oh dear Father, I pray that You would bless my day today, as I give it to You this morning. Amen.”

Sometimes we as Christians are more concerned about how we’re speaking our prayers, than intimately communicating our hearts. God already knows what we have to say before we pray. He already knows what we need and what we want. Why then would we speak as if to an acquaintance? He is our Father and knows everything about us. We ought to pray to Him as we talk to one we love from the heart.

The event of prayer is an offer from God. An offer to intimately approach the King, unconditionally. There are no conditions other than that you pray in the

Spirit and from your heart. Consider then that He is your Father. Come into the throne room and sit on your Daddy's lap. Remember His love for you and your love for Him. Express it during this time, and do not be afraid to pour out your heart.

God is a loving and intimate God, and desires a deeper more intimate connection with you daily. When we focus too hard on our prayers and how we pray them we're losing sight of the right heart. In Elijah's example, he had no dignity in his prayers. He bore down and put his face between his knees. By this it was quite obvious that he was pouring out his whole heart to God.

It's not the action of forcing out our prayers with passion that give them power, but faith as our heart intimately connects with God's. Yet remember that we don't come to Christ through the mind or logic or any such thing. God connects with the heart and not the mind. Even as it is written,

"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." 1 Corinthians 1:21-24

Our relationship comes from the heart through faith. Seeing then that your relationship began in the place of the heart, let it continue with the heart and remember to share it with God; for faith springs from it.

Jesus likewise prayed from His heart. When burdened with the thought of the cross, He also bore down, as we see in Gethsemane. As we read,

"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44

Jesus was so earnest in sharing His heart, and burdened with sorrow that He sweat blood while He prayed. Hematidrosis, which is the condition Jesus suffered from, only occurs to certain people when they're extremely stressed. In His stress, Jesus bore down and poured out His heart, at which time He sweat blood. It was while He was praying that this happened, which suggests that He cried out exceedingly. And when faced with death who wouldn't? Nevertheless Jesus set forth the example in His prayers, showing us what we should emulate.

In His prayer He was extremely intimate with the Father. We should follow this example and learn from it. As we read,

“He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’” Mark 14:35–36

Notice that He didn’t care about “dignity,” in that He threw Himself down? Notice also that He calls our Father “Abba.” This word means more than “Father.” It is the most intimate Greek word between a child and their Dad. In today’s society it would be like saying “Daddy” with an earnest heart. In every way that He expressed Himself, Jesus was intimate with the Father in His prayers and we should do likewise.

The ultimate point is to share our hearts as we conform them to His. We are called to become intimately attuned to God and let words of love, faith, and the Spirit erupt forth from our hearts. Yet sometimes for the sake of dignity we find ourselves focusing more on the eloquence of the moment, making it less intimate in the process.

Consider how a husband and wife speak to one another. If they were to speak like some Christians pray, their relationship would develop major issues. For a lack of “heart to heart” communication the woman would suffer with feelings of being unwanted, uncherished, and unloved while the man would likewise feel lonely and unloved. Understanding a person’s heart and communicating at the level of it is a key to a prospering relationship.

Likewise we are called to understand the Lord’s heart and pray according to it so that our relationship with Him may prosper. While we pray God is intimately reflecting His heart to us. Yet some believers are too focused on the prayer itself, rather than the heart of Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this we are called to turn ourselves back to the Spirit; for He is conveying the Father’s heart to us while we pray.

Ultimately, we need to stop praying and start listening to the Spirit. Then, when we’re filled with His heart and His words we must pray through the Spirit. Although God loves to hear our hearts, it isn’t until we pray according to His heart that He answers us. We need to stop being so attentive to our own state of heart and be more attentive to His. Perhaps it’s due to nature that we act so selfishly toward our Lord, in that by the flesh we naturally think of ourselves. But when will God’s heart matter to us?

We need to open up to His desires to and be more selfless. This life we live is His plan and not our own. Because He planned our lives, therefore He created us

and knit our sinews in our mother's wombs. We must submit to His plans and let His heart matter more to us in our prayers. God must lead our prayers and not we ourselves.

When Christians get together we often ask, "Who should lead today's prayer?" The appropriate answer should be "God."

If we want to live a more passionate and powerful prayer life, we need to drop the dignity, not be afraid to fall before the Lord, pray with an open heart and listen to the Holy Spirit. Let God's prayers be from God to God, as the Spirit inspires our hearts. When God steps in power goes forth. For there is power in His word. How much more so when our prayers are His words?

Notice in the Scriptures that those who pray for a miracle and receive it are those who pray earnestly from the heart? So it is today that miracles tend to happen to those who align their hearts with the Father's, then pray intimately in faith.

Think about it: How often have you seen miracles of faith in the Church? Especially during prayer meetings? Probably from time to time, but it should be a continual and constant thing if the Spirit is working in the Church. The Spirit should be working and His works should be evident to all. Yet we see His works less often due to an issue with faith, issues with doctrine that directs where and in what faith is placed, and issues with the heart in how believers act toward one another and toward the Lord.

Now, there are some churches that follow a disorderly pattern and claim God is working, but their miracles are false and misleading. When and how often have we seen true miracles that have been honestly performed by the hand of God? Generally we see them in our individual lives more so than in the midst of the fellowship itself. Now, it's not that we should gauge the success of the Church's prayer gatherings by the number of miracles it sees, but by how the Spirit clearly and evidently operates through the gatherings. There are many ways in which the Spirit's works are seen, with His fruits being the foremost. Besides the fruit, miracles are one of those evidences. As we read,

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17-18

It is not that we are unsaved if each of these signs don't follow us. But they are a partial list of the ways the Spirit manifests Himself through humanity. The first

manifestation when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit is through the creation of a new heart and new person followed by love and all the fruits of the Spirit. After that, as a believer walks in faith, the Spirit is also manifested by power in truth.

Imagine how the Church today would be transformed if the whole world saw God's power working through its prayers. Imagine what a difference it would make and how it would affect so many other people's lives—not only those who experience the miracles but also those who witness them and testify to them!

Again, it's not that we should seek the signs or miracles, but that we should desire the Holy Spirit to move among us in love and truth. Then, when He is moving among us, by the nature of it there will be manifestations. Now the question is: Should we really desire the power of God? Isn't His word enough? There is power in His word, and when the Spirit manifests Himself through the glory and power of God it testifies to the truth of the gospel. The truth that there is power in having faith in His word, which overturns the grave and resurrects the dead. The power of the Spirit testifies to His word that there will be a resurrection, thus increasing our faith. And that His power testifies to His word is evident, for it is written,

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:4–5

Our faith is not in mere words, but the power God has through them. As it is also written,

“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20

Therefore, it stands to reason that our faith is centered not in word only but also in the power of God to resurrect the dead through Jesus Christ. When the power of God is manifested through passionate prayer it encourages the believer to have faith. Knowing that we are saved through faith it is good for the believer to be encouraged in their faith by the hand of God.

Therefore, if you'd like to see more of God's power working in your life, then be faithful to ask for it. For it is written,

“Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:2

And also,

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock,

and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:9–13

Be diligent to ask God to move more in your life. Pray for it continuously and seek it appropriately. God doesn’t answer us in these things unless we commit ourselves to faith and faithfulness, honoring Him in our conduct. If we ask amiss, we will not receive. First our hearts need to be right.

It’s not that we should merely desire to see God’s hand moving and observe it. Rather, we should pray that He should be glorified in it, and that we and our brethren alike should be encouraged. Also we ought to pray that unbelieving men may put their faith in our Lord finding salvation through Him.

If our hearts are not set on His glory and our purity, He will not answer. It is of the utmost priority for us to live by God’s word and to abide in it even as He abides in us. By this we know that we shall ask and receive. For as it is also written,

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” John 15:7–8

We must abide in His word, seeking to love Him in all things. For when we operate in His love we are justified. When we love Him, it becomes our nature to diligently seek to love one another in conduct, purity, and truth. We will seek to live in His word and abide in it because we love Him. In this we are abiding in His love to live it out and practice it with all our hearts. Therefore, the Scriptures go on to say,

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for

his friends.” John 15:10–13

Beloved, we are called to lay down our lives for one another. Lay down your worldly goods, and give to your brethren in need. Honor God with your possessions by feeding the poor, nurturing orphans and widows, giving homes to the homeless, hope to the hopeless, healing to the sick and broken, and taking care of all the needs of the brethren.

God doesn’t call you to give yourself over to poverty. But He does call us to equality, that you should relieve other’s burdens and that they should relieve you of yours. That way we all may be found perfect in the love of the Lord to the glory of God our Savior. As we also read,

“For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality.

“As it is written, ‘He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.’” 2 Corinthians 8:13–15

God calls us to a loving equality. Question yourself in this! Have you ever done this? Have you ever sought to be equal, that the poor in the church may be eased? Or have you only sought to further yourself and your family? This is not loving your neighbor as yourself. We should seek to further every member of the church and step forward with joy and equality as one body. In this we ought to have conviction and obey God. The Lord calls us to first take care of the needy in our families in Christ, then to move on to the body of Christ, then from there to move on to the world.

That way, as one corporate body, we may minister the love of Jesus Christ to the world, having first been strengthened by one another in love and in the power of the Holy Spirit. But that we should be diligent to love one another with our goods according to their needs is evident. For it is written,

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.” 1 John 3:17–19

Now, God does call us to love one another. Then by the love we have for each other the world is able to see Christ in us. First we must minister to one another,

then the world. We cannot allow the brethren to lack and suffer while the world is satisfied and full. First those who are faithful in Christ should be eased, then those who are unbelieving should be led to Christ through good works. The Church needs to perfect the in-reach before it practices the outreach. And that the world sees Christ in us when we love one another is evident. For it is written,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35

God calls us to love each other, and by the fruit of the Spirit at work in us it will testify to the world. What good is it to have all God’s power working through our prayer lives if we don’t walk in love? The world will see the hypocrisy of the church and call it for what it is.

We must first seek God’s love, to walk in it, and be the image of it toward one another. Then after we have been justified by the love of God at work in us, the power of God will become more evident. When we focus on living out and growing in the fruits of the Spirit the works and power of the Spirit become more evident. We don’t grow in the Lord through living out power, but through living out His love by the Spirit in truth.

First we must grow in His fruits, among which His love is the most paramount; then we will see Him working through us more powerfully. But that love is above all is evident. For we read,

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

“Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.” 1 Corinthians 13:8–10

The manifestations of the Spirit will change when we’re made perfect before the Lord. Nevertheless, His love never fails but abounds forever! By His love God created all things. By His love He chose to be crucified and save us. Through His love He will finish what He began in us, by returning and redeeming us.

It’s because He loves us that we will be made white, having our sins wiped away and be made whole in His presence. His love shall never fail because it is by His love that we are set free in Jesus Christ and have the hope of redemption. Beloved, it therefore stands to reason that perfection is found through the love of

God in Jesus Christ as we practice it and live it out. As we also read,

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”
Colossians 3:14

Knowing this we are called to live out the fruits of Spirit. We are called to grow in them and practice them. Let us not merely read about the fruits of Christ. Let's study them, grow in them, and apply them. Even as the Bible is not meant for merely reading, but studying and applying, even so the fruits of God must be studied, applied, and grown in.

When we grow in the fruits of the Spirit, we grow in the Spirit Himself. As we grow in the Spirit we become more spiritual people. When we become highly spiritual Christians, the Holy Spirit is manifested more clearly through us. Although He is manifested in any believer's life, He is more clearly manifested in the lives of those who have practiced drawing near to Him. Indeed God is near to those who are near to Him. For it is written,

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” James 4:8

Therefore, it stands to reason that before people can see the full working power of God in their lives, first they must live out the loving passion of Jesus Christ.

Chapter Three

Fleeing from Sin and Temptation

As we discussed previously we need to walk in the love of God before we can expect to see Him working in us. In order to see the power of God working at full strength in prayer we must be living out our lives the way God truly calls us to. There are some Christians who have fallen into a rut in life. Not a rut of bondage in sin, but of complacency.

Rather than having a walk of passion, they have grown accustomed to this life. However it wouldn't appear to be the case when looking outwardly at their lives, seeing that they go to Bible studies, and to church every Sunday. But at home their lives have become less about God and more idle. They want to honor the Lord in their hearts, but have slowly grown idle through the course of life. Perhaps having the added responsibility of children, or other meaningful things they have slowly become burdened in them. In their walk their fire has slowly gone out, due to the mundane details and stresses of everyday life. It's not that any of these people desire for their fire to go out, but that they have been distracted by the tasks of this life and thus their fire has gone out.

Beloved, if you are one of these people, please devote yourself to the Lord now. Remember the passionate love He has had for you, and repay Him with the same. Life can drag us down, but it doesn't have to rule over us. Our God is more powerful than the things of this world, and can strengthen us to continue in Him. Approach His throne boldly in His love, and remember His faithfulness in your life.

Even for those who are in sin, there is still hope through repentance—hope not only to be redeemed but also to be an all-consuming fire for Jesus Christ in the Spirit of God. Only take this moment now to consider all He has done for you.

There is always hope in Christ for the repentant. Through His love He considered you worth suffering for. Before all things were made, He had you in His heart and in His mind. Before He created time, He was thinking of you and your life—who He would create you to be, how you would respond to life, and how life would respond to you. What kind of influence you'd be, and everything you'd do wrong.

He saw your sins before He made you and could count them by number. Not only the sins you know of and those that are hidden, but every other sin as well—every sin that you're not aware of, every sin that you have ever committed, and every sin you will commit from this time forward until you die. He has known them perfectly. Even as He knows the number of hairs on your head, so He has known before you were born the number of sins you'd commit and every way that you'd hurt Him. But because He loved you, He still counted you worth creating. So with deep joy in His heart, knowing the hurt you'd cause Him, He set out to create heaven and earth, a place to meet with His special friend: you.

Then in time He moved the hearts of kings and nations to prepare a place in this world for you, that you should desire Him, seek Him, and grope after Him. He counted you worth directing the hearts of millions of people since creation to prepare for your birth. He, knowing the sins of your heart before He made it, began to knit it in your mother's womb when it was time. Then He connected all the sinews, grew your bones, and brought you forth in life.

Before He made you, He knew that you'd need Him. So He chose to come down to this earth and suffer as a man. He knew that your sins would separate you from Him. But His love for you was so incredibly zealous that He chose to come down to this world and give everything up to give you a hope.

He is God and has need of nothing. Whatever He wants is at the tip of His fingers. There is nothing withheld from Him.

There is no one like God who is so glorious in all His majesty! His power is beyond comprehension and His riches beyond finding out. Yet in all His majestic glory, in all His riches, and in all He has, He didn't count life worth living without you. He couldn't stand the thought of it! He knew that your sins required either death or atonement, so He chose to atone you through dying for you. He counted you worth stepping down from His Lordly throne, where He knew no suffering, to be filled with the deepest anguish anyone could suffer—because He counted the anguish of losing you to be worse than the cross.

He has shown us by His love that He would rather step down from His throne where He knew no pain to suffer countless nights of hunger and thirst, being homeless, rejected, and unloved even by some of His family. He would rather have been hated and treated contemptibly, betrayed by His own friend, beaten, whipped, mocked by His own people, stripped naked and stripped of all dignity. He would rather have been spit on, punched in the face, have a crown of thorns twisted and crushed into His scalp, be clothed in a robe of mockery then

murdered on a cross than spend another moment in eternity without you. He has loved you so much! There is nothing that can compare to His love for you! You have meant so much to Him!

There is no love as zealous and romantic as the love of Jesus Christ. He has cared for you so compassionately, knowing that your sins would lead Him to the cross. He knew all these things before He made them, and still counted you worth creating and suffering for just so He can have you, hold you, cherish you, and love you.

Beloved, let His love revive you! Be strengthened by His Spirit and let a fire for Him return in you! Abstain from idleness and every form of sin. Remove complacency far from your heart and dive head first into the Lord. He is so worth it! He is worth every ounce of our devotion and so much more! So what are you waiting for?

Beloved, hate your sin! For on account of it Jesus Christ was crucified. Love your God and hate your sin! Press hard into the Spirit and be strengthened by Him to overcome all things.

When we overcome sin through Christ, we find our lives refreshed in Him. We find His strength and our prayers being answered. God hears the prayers of the righteous, and His eyes are on those who keep their ways pure. But God doesn't hear those who love sin, or choose to sit complacently in it.

Beloved, idleness is sin. It's a true saying that idle hands become the Devil's workshop. Whether a person is complacent in their walk, or in love with sin it makes no difference. Sin is sin no matter how it's manifested! If we aren't zealous for Him as we're called to be, then we're practicing a pattern of sin, by adhering to this life as we forget to be pilgrims and sojourners. We are sojourners not only in this world, but also in the place of our hearts as we learn to commit ourselves to a life for God and God alone.

Remember that we're called to take up our crosses and live for Jesus. We have been bought at a price, and this life is no longer our own but His. Jesus Christ did not die so we can live happy, fluffy, complacent Christian lives. He died for our salvation so that we could live for Him.

If we walk complacently in this world, then we're no longer living for Christ but the flesh and this present life. If, then, we live for the flesh we're living in sin and practicing it, even if we don't mean to. However sin may be manifested, when we choose to live in it, God doesn't hear our prayers. For it is written,

“Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.” John 9:31

Beloved, give up this life to live for His will. Become a true worshipper. God seeks those who worship Him in Spirit and truth. But if you want your prayers to be answered first you must draw nearer to God. For it is written,

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:8–10

God is calling all of us to be broken of our sin and repent of it so that we may live holy, godly lives that benefit His glory. First we must draw nearer to the Lord in all cleanliness and holiness then we will find our prayers being answered in His power.

Consider your own heart and examine it. Be honest with yourself. Is there anything that you’ve been sinning in? Have you been pressing into the kingdom to grow in Christ or not? Are you being as fervent as you should be in your walk?

If you haven’t been seeking to grow and haven’t been pressing into the Spirit, then you’ve been in sin. Change your heart and let His love renew you. Dedicate yourself to Him with an honest, loving, and upright heart. Remember how He has loved you, and repay Him with the same. Jesus was a dying sacrifice for you, but you are called to be a living sacrifice for Him. Sacrifice this life to your God while you’re yet living it. Put down your desires and stop seeking to further yourself. Seek first the kingdom of God and let Him further His kingdom through you. Live for Him and His purpose, not your own.

We aren’t living for Jesus if we’re seeking to live our own life. Just because we go to Bible study, pray and have devotions, go to Sunday service, and have fellowship doesn’t mean we’re living for His purpose. A Christian wholly devoted to His purpose will surrender all the things of this life, that Jesus Christ can truly have rule over them and be their Lord in *everything*. In every step, in every decision, in every goal, in every career, in every relationship, and in every possible thing, Jesus must have the final say! Beloved, become a true, living sacrifice for Jesus as you are called to. For it is written,

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable

service.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1–2

Submit to God and resist your own heart. Be pure in all things and live for the Lord. His will is *perfect*! Ours is not. Therefore we must live for His!

If we want to have powerful prayer lives, first we must have a powerful Christian walk. Prayer is a place of intimacy in which to meet with the Lord—where He is at. But if we aren’t walking in a way worthy of the calling, then it’s obvious that we have no desire to be truly intimate with Him.

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1–3

“...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...” Colossians 1:10

Knowing that we must walk in a way worthy of the Lord, one might now ask, “How do I overcome my sins?”

When we walk in the Spirit we’re strengthened by Him and thus overcome sin easily and naturally. Even as it is written,

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

“How then do we walk in the Spirit?” one may go on to ask at this point.

When we seek the Lord and focus on the Spirit we are walking and abiding in Him. When we worship, the Spirit comes upon us. When we pray in the Spirit, He comes upon us. When we focus on His presence to listen to Him and obey Him, we are “in the Spirit” so to speak. But we aren’t truly walking in Him until we listen to His inward voice, discern His leading, and obey Him. We walk in the Spirit by seeking His presence, focusing on it so we can hear Him, then hearing His voice to obey it.

By meditating on the Spirit’s presence He will empower you to overcome sin—as He did for Peter on the water. When Peter looked at Jesus, he walked on water, but when he looked away he fell in. Likewise when we focus on the Spirit we overcome sin, but when we look away we fall into temptation.

Focus on the Spirit, meditate on Him, and abide. Be faithful not only to listen to His words, but also to obey them. In order to obey God accurately, first you must discern His word accurately. Beloved, learn to discern His voice and be diligent to obey it. Discern when a “spiritual voice” is not the Lord but the enemy seeking to deceive you.

Discern between your own heart and God; then let go of your heart—even if it hurts—and embrace the Lord. Be diligent to obey Him and He will be well pleased. In this you will be strengthened by the Spirit to overcome sin and temptation. Do not forget to pray when you’re tempted. In your moment of truth in the hour of your temptation, turn to the Lord in prayer and worship. Do not focus on the tempting thought but flee it. Flee it even in your thoughts and focus on the Spirit instead.

And when we flee sin, the question remains: Where do we run to? What is the farthest thing from sin? God. Run to the Lord by focusing on the Spirit and He will strengthen you to overcome. Yet be aware that you will be tempted for a while and the temptation will not always go away immediately, but rather after a short while, when you’ve proven your heart to be faithful.

You’ll be tempted to stop focusing on the Spirit but think of the sin instead. Nevertheless do not give in. Reject the Devil and focus on the Spirit. Your tempting thought will keep coming back to mind from time to time. This is the enemy planting seeds in your mind to keep you from being strengthened by the Spirit.

When you turn your heart to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit it will suddenly get harder than ever to focus on Him. That’s because the enemy knows what you’re trying to do and is fighting hard to distract you from God so he can enslave you with sin. Nevertheless do not cave in but focus on the Spirit. Before long the Spirit will strengthen you and quench the fiery darts. Then it will be easy to focus on the Lord and reject temptation. Only pray in faith and seek His strength in faith or there will be no strength for you. For we overcome temptation and all things through faith in the power and love of God. We have faith in His love that He certainly will deliver us from temptation because He loves us, and we have faith that He has the power to overcome. Finally, we have faith that because of these things He will overcome our temptation even now, in the exact moment we pray for strength. But that we should have faith to overcome is evident. For it is written,

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that

has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 John 5:4

And as it is also written,

“...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” Ephesians 6:16

Beloved, take up the shield of faith. Pray in faith and watch the power of God work in your life to overcome sin. Then as He overcomes sin, He will hear your prayers more and more as your heart aligns with the Father’s.

Chapter Four

God Hears the Righteous

As we know, the Lord doesn't hear the prayers of sinners. This can literally mean an unbeliever or a believer who practices sin. Although we are all sinners there's a difference between those who practice sin and those who practice purity. Now, taking a step beyond repentance, we must further consider the things the Lord requires of us.

It is written,

“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12

By this scripture we know that if you'd like to lead a powerful prayer life, it is more than evident that you must strive toward righteousness. Now the question remains: What is true righteousness in God's eyes? True righteousness is not faith alone but faith in motion. God calls us to do something with our faith and not merely sit in it.

As it is written,

“Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? *And the Scripture was fulfilled* which says, ‘Abraham believed God, *and it was accounted to Him for righteousness.*’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

“Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:21–26

If we believe God, we should step forward to obey. This is not a “works mentality” but an “obedience mentality.” It's not that we do what we think is best and expect God to be more pleased with the more we do. Rather, it's a concept of waiting for the Lord's voice, then obeying Him when He speaks. Indeed God has

grace, but we are also required to obey the words of faith we claim to believe.

There is a difference between claiming to have faith and walking by faith. We are called to walk in the faith, and as we do so, God hears our prayers because of His righteousness at work in us. This is more than reading His word and trying to apply it in our walks. This is learning to listen to the Spirit's conviction and voice, and then applying what He says to do. The Spirit who wrote the Scriptures, interprets them to us. He explains how we should apply them on a day-to-day, moment-by-moment basis.

There are many believers who try hard to do good works. They focus on the things they feel are good deeds, but sadly are not listening to the inward direction of the Holy Spirit as they do them. It is more important to the Lord that we should obey His voice than try to work out righteousness ourselves. As it is written,

“So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

“‘For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you...’” 1 Samuel 15:22–23

Also we should be found in Him, having His righteousness, which comes by faith. As it is written,

“...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...” Philippians 3:9

So then are works required? Yes, but they are works of faith not the law. It's not that we are justified by what we do for God, but by how we obey Him. If we claim to have faith, we ought to do something with it. If we think that we can choose *not* to obey God yet still be saved, then we're no different than the world. For they never obey God, and we know His wrath abides on them.

Sin happens when we don't obey God. Jesus Christ didn't die to justify sin but to condemn it in the flesh. He didn't die so we could continue to disobey His Holy Spirit, but that we should be refreshed in His Spirit through obedience to the faith.

How then can we assume that we're any better than the world if we choose to

practice sin and justify ourselves by claiming that God has grace. Grace is for the repentant, not the unrepentant. If it were for the unrepentant, then the whole world would be saved. Yet it isn't only that men perish in unbelief. Some in the world claim to believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. But they, having heard the word of truth, did not obey the gospel from a heart of faith. The hearing of the ear was not mixed with an obedient heart to the faith they claim to have and thus they are not saved.

Again I will say, "How can we claim to be any better than the world if we do not obey the words of faith we claim to believe and walk in them?" Many in the world claim they believe the Bible, but none of them walk in it. Their faith is not mixed with obedience and hence they have not come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Therefore there is a difference between trying to be justified by works, and being justified by the faith we obey. For where there is grace, works have ceased. As it is written,

"Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt."
Romans 4:4

Yet we also read,

"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." James 2:24

Do these two scriptures contradict? No. The context of Romans is talking about working out the law, whereas the context of James is talking about obeying the word of faith. There is a difference between trying to be a good Christian and do good things, and being obedient to God. Don't just try to be a "good Christian," but be an obedient one.

If we're trying to be good in and of ourselves then we're no longer obeying the word of faith but working out the law in some manner or another. In trying to show kindness to merit favor from God we are no longer living according to grace but law. For in kindness we are seeking to work out the law that says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It is not that kindness is wrong (obviously), but the thought that our own works merit God's favor. Remember that the fruit of the Spirit is love. If then we are walking in obedience to the conviction of the Holy Spirit we will walk in love according to nature. Thus we naturally fulfill the law by obedience to the Spirit. But that the Lord favors an obedient servant is evident. For Jesus said,

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:14

It is not that we are His friends if we live by the “commandments” of the Bible, but that we are His friends if we are obedient to His voice and the conviction of His Spirit. Remember that faith comes by hearing His voice and if we walk in the Spirit we fulfill the law. As it is written,

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:18

Why may this be? Because love is the first fruit of the Spirit, and if we walk in the Spirit then His love will naturally be at work in us. Therefore we are justified by the love of God at work through us because love fulfills all the law.

Therefore it is imperative for every Christian to seek and obey the voice of God. For the Lord blesses those who obey His voice. As it is written,

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” Exodus 19:5

And also,

“And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God” Deuteronomy 28:2

But that God disapproves of those who do not obey the Holy Spirit is evident. For the Holy Spirit said through Stephen the martyr:

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.” Acts 7:51

And also,

“Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:29

Beloved, we must therefore take to heart the leading of the Spirit. For by His voice we are led. If a man is not led by the Holy Spirit’s conviction, then what is he led by? We must be led by the Spirit’s voice and His conviction! And that we should be led by the Spirit is evident. For we read,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

Those who are the sons of God, are those who seek to be led by God's Spirit. For what do we read?

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

Those who are born of the Spirit seek to be led by the Spirit, whom the world does not know. Therefore those born of the Spirit are as the wind. The world doesn't understand them, nor where they come from nor where they go. But from the Lord we came, and to Him we shall return. Now, that they do not know the Spirit or understand Him is evident. For it is written,

"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14

And as Jesus said,

"Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.'" John 8:19

Now, think about it for a moment: Is it so wrong to say that a man must always obey the Holy Spirit and His voice? Is the conviction of the Spirit wrong? Is His will flawed or is it perfect? For every holy man and woman of the Bible followed and obeyed the Holy Spirit. If you want to lead a Spirit-filled life as they did, then go and do likewise, obeying the voice of the Lord. By this you will be made righteous in God's eyes. Learn His voice and become sensitive to it. Walk by His leading, and follow after His conviction.

True righteousness is "faith in motion." Do something with what you believe and give yourself entirely to obedience. Dive head first into it and be passionate! For in this you will be living out the righteousness of God.

When we live in righteousness, which comes through obedience to the faith, then God hears our prayers. As we stated earlier,

"For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12

Beloved, be diligent to hear the Spirit and obey Him. Remember that a relationship requires two people to listen to one another—not only God listening to you, but also you listening to and obeying God. Draw near to the Lord in the Scriptures and grow more sensitive to His voice. He will show you how to apply

God's word on a day-to-day, moment-by-moment basis. Be faithful to follow Him in everything and you will see your prayer life being filled with power.

Remember that God draws near to those who draw near to Him. So draw near to Him, and let your heart be conformed to His. He will hear your prayers because He hears His own beating heart through you while you pray.

Be faithful to follow after Him and you will see the Spirit moving and working more powerfully in your life. Yet remember that the righteous are those who walk by faith. Therefore, pray with faith, believing that if God is willing, He is able to do what you pray. As it is written,

"...assuredly, I say to you, 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." Matthew 17:20

And also,

"So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea," and it would obey you.'" Luke 17:6

Although we should have all faith, we must also pray according to His will. If it is not in His will, He won't commit to it. But how will we know His will unless we pray and ask? Nevertheless we should always pray according to His will. For even Jesus said,

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'"

And also Jesus instructed us to pray thus,

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Likewise we should surrender all things to the will of the Father. If He permits, and considers our prayers are according to His heart, He will answer us with power. But we must learn to pray with surrender, allowing God to have His way and not our own. Always seek the Father's will and pray that His will should be done. Thus we have come to a full cycle. Not only should we pray that His will be done, but also we should obey the Lord, that His will may be done in us as it is before Him in heaven. If we do not obey, then our prayer "Your will be done" is a breath of hypocrisy! Let His will be done in us first, that our prayers may be

lined with humility in truth. Let us show our hearts to God so that we do indeed intend for His will to be done when we pray, by first living according to His will and not our own.

Yet we must also pray with all faith. We must also believe that nothing is impossible for Him. For if it is in your heart that it should rain, pray for rain, perhaps God will perform a miracle and give it, if it is His will and you have faith. If it's in your heart that a brother or sister should be miraculously healed, then pray for it. Who knows? Perhaps the Lord will give it.

However, remember that these miracles do not happen merely because of our faith or the measure of it. Rather they happen when they're truly in the Father's heart. You can force out your prayers with all faith, but that doesn't mean God will answer them. If it's not in His will, they won't happen. Know also that when you pray for another, if they don't have faith, then God may not commit to it. That's not your fault, but theirs. But that God answers according to their faith is evident. For Jesus said,

“...According to your faith let it be to you.” Matthew 9:29

And as we also read,

“This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked.” Acts 14:9–10

When they have faith God will answer and it will increase everyone else's faith. Do not worry if others don't have faith, however. Indeed this world needs another revival. Therefore, let this movement of faith begin with you! If they don't have faith, at least *you* do!

So increase your faith and seek God praying for His miracles and power on your life. Ask continually and you will see the Lord working continually. Although He may not give you everything you ask for, He will give you more than if you never asked in the first place. For it is written,

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” Matthew 7:7–8

We are called to ask, but asking alone isn't truly seeking. We ought also to pursue the Lord's hand, and to ask repeatedly through time. For if we knock the door will be opened. Remember that a knock is more than a single tap on a door.

For if you tap once on a door, the owner of the house may ask, “What’s that noise?” only to shrug it off and ignore it. Yet if you rap repeatedly they will understand that someone is at the door.

Likewise, be faithful to ask God repeatedly—in faith. I’m not saying that we should have vain prayers of repetition, but that when it’s in your heart to pray, you should ask for it. As often as it’s in your heart to pray commit yourself to prayer. Then through the course of time, in pouring out your heart with sincerity God will answer if it is in His will.

For Elijah prayed seven times that the rain should return, and it did. As we read, “So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’

“So he went up and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘Go again.’

“Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, ‘There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!’ So he said, ‘Go up, say to Ahab, “Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.”” 1 Kings 18:42–44

What would happen if he had only prayed once? What would have happened if he had stopped at the sixth prayer? We likewise should fervently seek the Lord, and in this we will see His works more abundantly in our lives. Even as Jesus said,

“And He said to them, ‘Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within and say, “Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you”?’

“I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, *yet because of his **persistence** he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:5–9

Also how does James exhort us? What do we read?

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” James 5:16–18

Be earnest in your prayers, having all faith. Submit also to the will of God, and if He is willing, He shall answer you. Yet it is of utmost importance to have faith. “I believe that if You’re willing, it shall come to pass!”

If you’re suffering, then commit prayer. Turn to God in faith and be comforted by Him. Yet sometimes in order to be healed or refreshed we must pray with a fervent heart as we mentioned in James. A knock is more than a single tap now and then, it’s a constant rapping at the door.

There was once a woman who had cancer. One day out of the blue she felt very ill and couldn’t walk. Seeing that she lived in an apartment complex and couldn’t stand to reach the phone, she tried to crawl to a nearby door to get help from a neighbor. When she made it to the door, she could hardly bring herself to knock because she was so weak from crawling there. So she gently tapped on the door once every minute or so with what little strength she had.

The man in the house heard the sound but didn’t know where it was coming from. He continued to sit at his computer, but after a half hour the noise started to get on his nerves. He got up and tried to figure out where it was coming from. Then, after a total of forty-five minutes, he found her at his front door and she received help.

If she were able to knock quickly, he would have answered quickly. With one knock per minute, that took forty-five knocks to get help. If she were able to knock repeatedly, he would have answered before she could have drummed out twenty. But the moral of the story is this: What if she had given up after ten minutes of trying? She was dying, but because this man found her, she received the medical attention she needed and survived. If she had stopped, he may have found her too late.

Now, our situations may not be nearly as severe as this. But similar to this situation, if we have any needs we have to be willing to knock on God’s door for it. Remember that God is a relational God. He requires us to pursue Him with all our hearts, that we also may be relational with Him. Although He knows our needs, sometimes He waits for us to seek Him before He fills them. In this He is fulfilling His desire for a relationship with you. Although He knows your heart, He loves you so much that He wants to hear you share it.

Be faithful to seek Him and He will grant you your prayers. Seek Him fervently with faith and watch His power work more abundantly in your life. Share your heart with Him, and He will cherish it.

By being committed to a life of holiness and purity, obedience in righteousness, and by praying in faith you will see God's power more abundantly in your life. Lead the life of a highly spiritual Christian and you will receive the power of passionate prayer. Pray for the power of prayer, having faith that the Lord will give it to you. Be intimate with God and He will be intimate with you.

I'd Love to Hear from You!

As an author I regard the feedback of my readers highly. When considering a book, many people weigh reviews in the balance.

If you enjoyed this book, please consider helping others make an informed decision. Leaving a review can help spread the message of the gospel and increase other's faith through these books, and it would be a great way to support this ministry for free!

Want Free Books?

From time to time Adam gives away free copies of his new releases. But his promotions are highly temporary. If you'd like to be notified when he's giving his kindle books away for free, please consider signing up at the following link: [GET ADAM'S BOOKS FREE](#)

LIKE FREE BOOKS? Then Get A Free Full-Length Audio Book!

If you like audio books, and are not a member of Audible, you can get one of Adam's audio books for free by signing up at the following link: [GET ONE OF ADAM'S AUDIO BOOKS FREE](#)

This link is good for any audio book of Adam's, of your choice, and valid for one title up to \$25 in value.

Also By Adam Houge

Adam Houge has over 100 titles on the Christian faith. You can search through them on his Amazon author page, located on the following link:

[ADAM HOUGE'S AUTHOR PAGE](#)

The following is a list of his bestselling titles, which may interest you.

[The 7 Most Powerful Prayers That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Spiritual Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[The 7 Habits That Will Change Your Life Forever](#)

[Slaying Your Giants: How to Have Massive Faith](#)

[How to Memorize the Bible Fast and Easy](#)

About the Author

Adam is a preacher, teacher and #1 internationally bestselling author of over 100 books on the Christian faith. He is a devoted husband and father of three boys. Through his travels, he's seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: a revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!

*The Prayer Warrior's 30 day Challenge: Change Your
Life Forever Through 30 Days of Prayer*

The Prayer Warrior's 30 day Challenge: change your life forever through 30 days
of prayer™

Copyright © 2014 by Adam Houge

Published by Living Tree Publishing in Harrisonburg, VA

All rights reserved worldwide. Permission is granted for quotations in all manner
of religious assembly.

Portions of the text may be reprinted for use in small groups, church bulletins,
orders of service, Sunday school lessons, church newsletters, and similar works,
in the course of religious instruction, or services at a place of worship or other
religious assembly with the following notice:

The Prayer Warrior's 30 day Challenge: change your life forever through 30 days
of prayer™ by Adam Houge

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by
Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Prepare for War!

Prepare Your Armor!

Understanding Your Implements

Day One

The Helmet of Salvation

Day Two

The Belt of Truth

Day Three

Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

Day Four

Shield of Faith

Day Five

Breastplate of Righteousness

Day Six

Sword of the Spirit

Enter the Battle

Day Seven

Dedicated to a Life of Prayer

Day Eight

Dedicated to a Life of Praise

Day Nine

Becoming a Love Warrior

Day Ten

Dedicate to Praying for Others

Day Eleven

Praying Through the Scriptures

Day Twelve

Praying for Wisdom and Interpretation of Scripture

Day Thirteen

Praying for Growth and Applying It

Day Fourteen

Day Fifteen

Wholly Devoted to the Will of God

Day Sixteen

Living Sacrifice

Day Seventeen

Fight the Good Fight

Day Eighteen

The Battle Is the Lord's

Day Nineteen

Becoming Love

Day Twenty

Showing Mercy

Day Twenty-One

Being Faithful

Day Twenty-Two

Taking Up a Servant's Heart

Day Twenty-Three

Finding Strength in Your Own Battles

Day Twenty-Four

Finding Strength Through His Promises

Day Twenty-Five

Becoming a Praise Warrior

Day Twenty-Six

Choosing Words That Heal

Day Twenty-Seven

Abiding in the Spirit

Day Twenty-Eight

Being Led by the Spirit in Everything

Scripture for Thought

Day Twenty-Nine

Praying for Spiritual Gifts

Day Thirty

The Power of a Thankful Heart

Prepare for War!

There is a spiritual war going on, and we are called to enter the battle. Without total surrender to Christ, there is no way for victory. Therefore, we must cast aside our cares for this life and take up our crosses. Even as it is written,

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:4

So prepare yourself for war! If you take the next thirty days seriously, it will radically change your life. But expect to be challenged. You have a real enemy who will stop at nothing to stop you.

You have no power in yourself to stop him. But your God has all the power to do all things, and because He loves you, He will grant you victory. So the only way to defeat the innumerable forces of invisible enemies is through persistent faith in Jesus. As it is written,

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 John 5:4

So keep the faith, march on, and enter God’s war for love!

Prepare Your Armor!

No warrior can survive the constant onslaught of an enemy’s attacks without a proper defense. You need your armor as thick and durable as possible and your sword as sharp as you can make it. Over the next six days, you must dedicate your energies to wearing your armor properly and increasing the skill of your blade.

But do not expect to be a master of the art of war after this period. The next six days will teach you a formula you must follow and practice for the rest of your life. Then, after much practice with your implements, and much study of the martial art of the sword, you will become a true master—able to repel any attack swiftly.

Understanding Your Implements

It is written,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...” Ephesians 6:10–18

The equipment of a Roman soldier consisted of several components. For instance, soldiers carried a shield for blocking arrows and putting out flaming missiles. They also carried a sword, which was used to parry another sword while heading off an attack. Additionally, in a day and age when people normally wore sandals, the soldiers wore shoes. Their shoes were tightly fastened around their feet and ankles so that they could run unhindered into battle and cross terrain with ease. The meaning of the scripture here is to carry the gospel far and wide. Soldiers also wore a helmet to protect against blows to the head and a breastplate to protect their vital organs. Finally, they wore a belt. The belt bound everything together, served as the foundation of the breastplate, held the dagger, and protected against slashing attacks.

Lastly, in spiritual warfare, we are called not only to wear the armor of God but also to pray always in the Spirit. Hence, we see the biblical call in Ephesians 6:18 for every believer to become a prayer warrior.

Day One

The Helmet of Salvation

Remember that all your strength is from the Lord. No measure of striving will help you obtain any victories. But through Jesus all things are possible for you. Meditate today on the foundation of your salvation—which is faith in Christ. Build trust upon trust in the Lord, and let Him accomplish all things through you. When a battle arises, never fear, for the love God has for you will compel Him to save you.

Truly strong believers have the ability, through humility, to admit their weaknesses and allow the Spirit to empower them into victory. Thus, strong Christians aren't strong at all. Rather, they are weak. But because they have God as their strength, they appear to be strong.

Remember this, and do not charge out into the battle. Instead, plant your mind firmly in faith in your Savior, as you would place your head in a helmet. Let God show you the way to victory; simply be patient as you wait for Him to reveal it.

Today, take up the challenge of having a life completely sold out to faith. Resolve to rely on God for everything—for every victory, for your finances, and for every path you take in life. Let your General lead the charge while you follow your Master from the rear. Be obedient to the voice of the Commander, who is the Holy Spirit, and He shall obtain the victory for you.

The Prayer

Lord, I dedicate myself to a life of faith. From this day forward, I will trust in You for everything, and I will surrender to Your headship. Take me by the hand and lead me to victory. Conquer my battles for me and save me from all harm. I choose to strive, not according to my works, but according to Your works as Your Spirit leads me.

Scripture for Thought

“To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” Colossians 1:29

“Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and

spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." 1 Samuel 17:47

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." 1 John 5:4

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5–6

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:31–33

Day Two

The Belt of Truth

It is written,

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.” Ephesians 6:13–14

The original Greek word for ‘girding your waist’ is *perizōnnumi*, which can literally mean “to put a belt on.”

This armor belt in Roman tradition was used for three primary reasons: The first was that it held a dagger, whereas the sword was sheathed in a scabbard slung around the shoulder. The dagger could be used to protect the soldier if the sword were lost. Thus, the belt (of truth) complemented the sword (which is the word of God). Hence, the truth complements the word of God. To sum it up, if you’re in any situation in which you can’t hear God to know His word, then you have the biblical truths to lean on. Remember that the sword isn’t merely the Bible but the “sword of the Spirit” or, that is to say, the word of God—both the Bible and the inwardly spoken voice of the Spirit.

The second reason for the belt was that the belt was a symbol of the soldier’s honor. Roman soldiers wore decorative metal plates of brass, bronze, or silver around the belt with other decorative metal plates that hung down at the groin. The plates on the belt protected it from slashing, thus keeping the soldier from losing his dagger. Furthermore, the various plates served as symbols of the soldier’s wealth.

The soldiers kept these decorations on their belt to serve as symbols of both societal status and honor. When a soldier finished his service to his country, he would pass the belt down to a youth who was training for the military, thus perpetuating the honor.

The third reason the belt was used was for supporting the breastplate. The belt itself served as the foundation for the breastplate, without which the breastplate would be too heavy of a burden to bear. The belt fastened the breastplate to the hips so that the weight was evenly distributed on the hips and the shoulders, thus making it easier to carry and maneuver in battle.

The breastplate was righteousness, and the belt was truth. By this we learn that the foundation of righteousness is the truth in doctrine, and without the truth, we cannot carry righteousness. Thus, if we do not walk in the truth of the gospel, we will not walk in righteousness. For God's word is in truth and must be practiced according to the original meaning that God intended when He spoke it.

Also, the truth of the gospel—the true doctrine found in Jesus Christ—should be the wealth and honor of the church. It should always be on full display, like the Roman's decorations.

In Roman tradition, when an officer wanted to discipline a soldier, he would force him to wear a scarf around his belt to hide his honor. It was a greatly humiliating act in that the soldier was forced to stand before all men without honor.

Likewise, we should be humiliated when the truth is not present with us. If we don't know whether we have the truth or not, we should be humiliated and seek it lest we walk in a lie and not in the heart of Jesus, whom we love.

We should rightly display the truth in doctrine while contending for the faith. The truth is our high honor and should be searched out by the believer until it is fully realized in his or her life. But the scarf that wraps it is false doctrine. For when the truth is shrouded in a lie, it is to the humiliation of both the believer and the entire church.

But can a believer truly come to the full knowledge of the truth? What do we read, and from where does truth come?

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” John 16:13

The Holy Spirit and His leading are the center of all our truth. For when we are led by Him, He leads us into *all* truth—not partial truth, not half-truths, but all the truth in its entirety.

It doesn't take a lifetime to find truth, nor is truth granted to us little by little, generation after generation, until the church fully realizes it. Rather, the Spirit of God leads each individual to the truth in his or her lifetime, reasonably, for salvation. Therefore, we should take His voice seriously, for God cannot lie. Whenever He opens His mouth, all His words are truth, life, and perfection.

If, then, we seek to honor the Lord, we ought to pursue the truth in our doctrine with our whole heart by the leading of the Holy Spirit. And how are we led by

the Spirit? By His voice. When He speaks, He guides us with His words. God cannot lie. When He speaks, therefore, He leads us into all truth. The more sensitive to His voice you become and the more you obey Him, the more you'll walk in truth.

Also, it is by His truth that we are purified, and through the truth we are set free. As it is written,

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” John 8:31–32

And again,

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart...” 1 Peter 1:22

If, then, you want to be pure in Christ, you must seek the truth. For what does the word say? “You have purified your souls through obeying the truth.” So obey the truth and walk in it, for by the truth you will purify your soul. Seek it with all your heart. Make it your habit to live by pure doctrine and not your own opinion or that of others. In order to know the true doctrine of God, you must surrender your life to follow the will of God. Even as it is written,

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.’” John 7:16–17

If you live for His will, you will know through hearing and submitting to the Holy Spirit's voice what doctrine is from God and what doctrine isn't. So be careful not to pursue opinions, because God's opinion is all that matters. Let the Lord speak for Himself and let Him communicate His truth to you. Every relationship requires a solid foundation of good communication. Therefore, grow as a listener so that God can communicate His heart with you more effectively.

In today's challenge, you must sensitize yourself to the Holy Spirit's voice and let Him lead you to all truth. Seek His opinion and no one else's regarding Scripture and the direction you should take in life. Grow in understanding His voice. For a true teacher of the word has no one else but the Holy Spirit to rely on. A teacher is commanded to be the ultimate example of what a Christian must become and do. So whether or not you are a teacher of the word doesn't matter. As a child of God, you must learn to be led by God. As it is written,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

This is a challenge not only for today, but also for every day from this time forward.

The Prayer

Lord, establish me in Your truth. I thank You that You give me a way to understand it fully, here and now. Help me to become more sensitive to Your voice as Your Spirit leads me to all truth. I dedicate my life from this day forward to pursuing Your true doctrine, that I can live Your word out the way You intended me to.

Scripture for Thought

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart...” 1 Peter 1:22

Day Three

Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

In an era when most people wore sandals, the Roman soldiers wore shoes to allow them greater agility during a fight and to run unhindered into a battle over uneven terrain. Paul uses this analogy to remind us of the need to carry the gospel speedily, far and wide. One must share the gospel with tactile Christian agility. That is to say, we must share the gospel with the unbeliever through the wisdom of the Spirit of God. Let God guide your mouth when it comes time to witness.

In order to take up the whole armor of God, you must join the battle for lost souls. Every Christian is commanded to evangelize. Some may have more of an evangelical gift than others do, but everyone must possess the same skill level. The gift of evangelism is really just the Lord bringing unbelievers who are prepared to receive the gospel more frequently to those with the gift. It is not that they craft words more magically than others do. Rather, it is that the Lord has prepared a heart and appointed the time, place, and person to share the gospel. If you turn down an opportunity to witness, then you have turned down a divine appointment from God.

The Lord has works prepared for you, and you must be diligent to live them out—not the works of the law but the works God has planned as a part of your walk in Christ since before time began. If you do not obey the Lord, then you'll be rejecting His plan for you.

So charge into the battle. Satan is trying to steal away the seeds of the gospel. He's sending the whole world to hell in a hand-basket, and the Lord commands you not to sit idly by but to make a difference through sharing the love of God and preaching the gospel to make new disciples. As it is written,

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Matthew 28:18–20

And as it is also written,

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how

shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” Romans 10:14

Let the love of God compel you to fight for souls. Become the image of Jesus’ love toward the unbeliever both in your words and in your conduct. Don’t just tell them about Jesus but show them Jesus, that they may be convicted by your conduct.

The Prayer

From this day forward, I will spread Your gospel, Jesus. Show me how to do so through Your love and with the guidance of Your Spirit. I choose to ready my feet and make myself available for Your work. Please send me out to the harvest.

Scripture for Thought

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...” 1 Peter 3:15

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’” Romans 10:14–15

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’” Mark 16:15–16

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:5

Day Four

Shield of Faith

The shield was used to stop the fiery arrows of the enemy. Likewise, we are called to resist Satan through faith in God's power. The fiery arrows or darts the devil uses take the form of temptation. Now, some may say, "I don't struggle with temptation! I don't commit any of the big sins." But those same people say, when witnessing to an unbeliever, "Even the smallest sin separates you from the Lord because all sin is the same in His eyes."

Remember your foundation. The smallest things you do God sees as big issues. If your little sins were not a serious issue, then Jesus would never have had to die. But because He did, it is obvious that those offenses that seem minor to us are a big deal to the Lord.

So take it to heart never to stop growing. There should be no plateaus in your walk. God is infinite, and seeing that you are called to be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect, you should be growing until you are indeed perfect. So when you hit a plateau, all it means is that you've stopped growing. Don't allow the complacency of life to take hold of you at that time but, rather, press forward to grow in your walk.

The Lord will always put you through seasons of growth and testing of your faith. He desires to perfect and purify your faith. As it is written,

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ..." 1 Peter 1:6-7

Expect trials when you seek to walk in a godly manner, for we all must suffer them. As it is also written,

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12

God will use these situations for good, to grow you and teach you. He allows you to suffer need so that you can learn to obey His voice. As it is further written,

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you

did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3

And as Jesus learned obedience through suffering, so must we:

“...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” Hebrews 5:8

Ask the Lord to increase your faith. When you do, expect both good and bad things to happen as God lovingly and gently breaks you of all that is unnecessary in life. Sometimes we put our trust in things we oughtn’t, and we don’t even realize it. This may be a secure job, a person we love, or the money in the bank. Each of these things can make us feel safe, and God sees when our hearts have grown to trust them more than Him. So He will shake up our world to remove the chaff. But when our world falls apart, God will come to the threshing floor and pick up each of the pieces of wheat to gather them into His home. Even though trials may abound, in due time God will pick up the pieces and make something beautiful from them in the end.

Yet we shouldn’t always assume trials are on their way. Sometimes God gives us extended seasons of peace after we have passed the test and grown in faith. The end result of faith will always be a blessing, even though it won’t come right away. Sometimes the first thing to greet you at the door of faith is a trial, but after passing through the cold, dark, narrow corridors, you’ll find a warm, open room with a table set for a king. There God will call you to feast on His faithfulness with gladness of heart.

But before we can grow in faith, first we must understand where it comes from. It is written,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

Every time we hear God’s voice, the natural response must be with faith. We also know that the written word was spoken into existence by the Holy Spirit. So in order to grow in understanding the voice of God, first we must grow in understanding the nature of God. We cannot begin to understand His nature apart from the Scriptures.

And this leads us into tomorrow’s discussion, regarding the need for diligent study of your sword.

The Prayer

Lord, increase my faith. Help me to rely on Your word and Your voice as You taught Israel to do through their desert experience. Give me what I need for growth and strip me of all the things that don't glorify You. I know it may be hard to be stripped of these things, but I love You more than them. So I give them willingly to You now. Simply cherish me, God, and deliver me from every evil thing that may come my way. I choose not to lean on my own understanding, but to follow You and Your voice every step of the way.

Scripture for Thought

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” Exodus 19:5

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God...” Deuteronomy 28:1–2

Day Five

Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate was used to protect the vital organs and was held up by the belt so that the weight of the plate could be distributed evenly across the hips. This made it easier to move with agility in battle, instead of the plate proving an encumbrance to the soldier.

Likewise, the first thing a prayer warrior must realize is that all righteousness is founded on the belt of truth. Without truth, righteousness is weighty and difficult to bear. Yet remember that Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. In order to experience the light-weight nature of righteousness, we must fulfill it according to the leading of Jesus.

Righteousness in itself is faith in motion. Faith comes by the word of God. The truth applies to this in that your faith must be in God's interpretation of His own word and you must obey the word the way He intended you to do. So be diligent to understand the Lord both in His written word and in the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Do not interpret the Scriptures but allow the Spirit to communicate their meaning and how to apply them daily. True righteousness is obtained through obedience to the voice of God. As it is written,

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Romans 6:16

Obedience leads to righteousness. If we claim to believe, then we must act on our faith. True faith isn't a concept that is portrayed inwardly, but outwardly through obedience. Without obedient faith, a man cannot even be justified. As it is written,

“Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” James 2:22–24

These works are not the works of the law but the works of faith, which is obedience to the voice of God. How the works of the law are practiced in the

church is by reading the Bible and applying it how the readers think God wants them to. This legal application of the word is not accomplished through the inward direction of the Holy Spirit but through works of unintended self-righteousness. Such people may not realize that they are doing this, but by deciding on their own how the word should be applied, they are becoming God's voice for themselves and trying to obtain righteousness by their own efforts.

This needs to change in that they must learn to become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice. He will explain to them on a moment-by-moment basis how to apply the word. Then, by obeying the Spirit, who interprets the Father's will, they will be found righteous. True righteousness is faith in motion, which is actually obedience to the Spirit's voice. By the works of the law, no one is justified; yet in being obedient to the Lord by faith through love, a man is saved. As we read,

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." Galatians 5:6

And that we must obey God is evident. For it is also written,

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine." Exodus 19:5

Likewise, as Jesus Himself taught us,

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24–27

The law is nothing, but faith working through love is everything. For when faith operates through love, the law is naturally fulfilled.

From this point forward, resolve to obey the Holy Spirit's voice every time you hear Him, no matter how loud or how softly spoken that voice may be. Let your faith be the outward expression of obedience. But let your obedience be according to truth. If you think God has told you to do something but He hasn't

directly confirmed it, then pray for clarity. As the Scriptures also tell us,
“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...” Philippians 4:6

The Prayer

Lord, I choose to bring my faith to life. I will step forward to Your call for an obedient heart. I do love You and want to show You love by practicing the righteousness You require of me.

I also understand that righteousness does not come through legalism. So I pray that You will teach me how to apply your word on a moment-by-moment basis, that I may please You in all my decisions. For I know that obedience must be according to truth—not according to how I interpret Your will, lest I become my own god, but according to how You truly intend for me to obey You.

Scripture for Thought

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions...” Hebrews 11:32–33

Day Six

Sword of the Spirit

“...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” Ephesians 6:17

Some contend that the word of God is the Bible and only the Bible. But whatever comes from God’s mouth is His word. This is why we believe the Scriptures are His word—because they are spoken by God.

If the Spirit didn’t speak the Scriptures into existence, they would never have been written. If the Holy Spirit’s voice is not valid for everyday life, then neither are the Scriptures. But seeing that the Scriptures are valid and are the authoritative word of God, the Holy Spirit’s voice is equally as valid for everyday life.

Knowing this fact, you must become more familiar with the Spirit’s voice and with your Bible together. You cannot put one above the other, but you must come to understand them both. For the Spirit interprets the Scriptures to us, and whatever He may tell you to do will never contradict the Bible. So the more you understand your Bible, the more you will understand the voice of God.

Do not only read the Scriptures but, rather, study them diligently, that you may understand them to apply them. By ‘diligent study’ we mean to say that you must set aside time daily to grow in the knowledge of the written word. As it is written,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

How can you rightly divide the truth? By studying the Scriptures in the Spirit. How does one study in the Spirit? By listening to the Holy Spirit while you read. Then, whichever scripture seems to come alive and pop out from the pages is what the Holy Spirit is sharing with you during that moment. When you find a part that speaks to you, meditate on it, and memorize it if necessary, that you may later practice it.

If the Spirit compares one scripture with another, write down what He has said. If He is teaching you anything from the word or comparing His word to your life, record the lesson—but only write His words and not your own thoughts. If you do this, it trains your spiritual ears to listen only to His voice and not to your own heart. In this way, by nature you will be able to discern the Spirit’s voice

more accurately.

When you study Scripture in the Spirit, you are studying both forms of the word: You're learning how to discern the Spirit's voice, and you are growing in understanding of the Scriptures. But is it truly necessary to listen to the Spirit while you read? Yes, for it is He who teaches you the true doctrine.

2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to "rightly divide the word of truth." You cannot right divide unless the Lord shows you how He intended for His word to be divided. Thus, we must all be taught by God, even as Jesus said:

"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." John 6:45

And as He furthermore stated,

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is our teacher, and if we don't listen to Him, we cannot walk in the true righteousness God intended for us. But if we do listen to His voice and obey His convictions, we fulfill the law by nature. For those who love the Lord will most assuredly listen to and obey His voice.

Also, that the Holy Spirit leads us to the true doctrine is evident. For it is written, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13

The Spirit guides each of us into the truth. If you want to have a righteous walk, then do not try to apply the Scriptures how you think is best. Rather, sensitize yourself to the Spirit's voice, that He may show you on a moment-by-moment basis how and when to apply them. By listening to God, you are justified. For we also read,

"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:18

We walk in the Spirit when we hear His voice and obey. And Jesus also taught us,

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

Those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind, which is carried around the

world. In this Jesus is making it clear that we have a spiritual walk the unbeliever cannot understand. The sound they cannot comprehend is the spiritual wisdom of the world of God, for as we also read,

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

In order to have the spiritual understanding of the Bible, you must have the Holy Spirit open your understanding of the Scriptures even as Jesus did for the Apostles. As we read,

“And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45

God must teach you the word. Therefore, you must sensitize yourself to His voice. For those who are God’s are led by the Spirit, even as the wind comes and goes around the world. And as it is also written,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. But what are those who are not led by the Spirit? Examine yourself in this. Are you being led by the Spirit in everything you do? Are you laying your desires down before God prior to fulfilling them? Are you letting Him have the final say as to what you should or shouldn’t do?

Commit yourself to Him in this and allow Him to refresh you in a daily walk that honors Him. A true walk with God is not reading and applying Scriptures how we see fit. This is really just legalism. We must not interpret His word but, rather, allow Him to explain the Scriptures as His Spirit teaches us from the pages. But does the Spirit teach us? What has been written on this matter?

“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to apply the word on a moment-by-moment basis, and He teaches us from the word by comparing particular spiritual lessons with other spiritual lessons in our life or from the Scriptures. But is it wrong to have our own opinions? Yes. Only God’s opinion matters, for He is the Judge:

“For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing,

whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14

And Jesus also said,

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36–37

Fear may be the first feeling one experiences when reading the last two scriptures I’ve shared. But what have you to fear if everything you say and do is said and done through the Holy Spirit? Will you not be justified? Take it to heart to do so. For truly, Jesus shall judge us all:

“For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice...” John 5:26–28

Knowing these facts, be diligent to be found approved in the sight of God as one who rightly divides His word, having been taught by the Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit has taught you, you shall have total confidence, even as Paul exhorted Timothy to have:

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:14–15

If you have learned from God, do not allow anyone to sway you from what He has taught you. But if you have not been taught by the Holy Spirit, whether inwardly or through men, you’ll be at risk of living according to opinions.

Would this really be so wrong? Doesn’t God have grace? Certainly He does, but grace is no excuse for complacency. True love is not complacent, but diligent. If you love the Lord, then let it show by growing in His word in His own way. But if you live by opinions, you’ll be adding to His word, the end result of which is a rebuke. As it is written,

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” Proverbs 30:5–6

Trust in His word and what He speaks to you—not in what you interpret but, rather, in what the Spirit teaches. If you interpret the word, you will be adding to

it. But if God opens your understanding, you will walk in the word of truth the way He intended you to do.

A true walk is diligently studying of the word through the Spirit, listening to His voice and discerning it from our own heart and the deceit of Satan, and then choosing to obey God's voice alone. When we have heard His voice, had faith in His voice, and acted on that faith through obedience, we have found the true meaning of righteousness. Hence, the full armor of God comes full circle, with every concept working and functioning together in harmony. That harmony is only found through the Spirit of God.

So take the time to sharpen your sword. Have you been studying your Bible lately? Take it seriously and grow in it. Listen carefully for His voice while you read, that you make rightly divide His word and be grounded in the one and only truth, which the Holy Spirit teaches us.

The Prayer

Lord, I choose to obey You. Teach me Your word and how to apply it. Help me to hear You more clearly, that I can obey You with sincerity. I know that when I struggle to understand Your voice, it isn't because You aren't speaking clearly—as if there were any fault with you! But I know, rather, that it is an issue with how I understand You. Give me wisdom, that I can understand your voice; help me to discern it, that I can live by it.

From this day forward, I will listen carefully for Your voice as You speak to me throughout the day, and I will apply what Your Spirit is telling me to do. I will study Your Scriptures daily and fervently until I come to understand them perfectly. I believe that You can give me this perfect understanding, and I pray that You will, that I can walk in all wisdom before You.

Scripture for Thought

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

“For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and

every good path.” Proverbs 2:6–9

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” Proverbs 30:5–6

Enter the Battle

Do not be complacent but, rather, circumspect to the wiles of the enemy: division in church, relationships, and marriage; false doctrine; discouragement; and disbelief. Satan always manifests his intentions as appealing while hiding his hidden motive. But God calls us to be of a sober mind, and if we are being distracted by the activities of life, likely the enemy will tear us down anytime the Spirit of the Lord begins to move in our life.

When God begins to move, the enemy rises up to hinder His work in us. While we can be hindered, God cannot. But He allows the devil to do so in order to test you. By this He will see whether you will fold in fear or join the fight of faith and continue boldly in the Spirit of God. So the question is: Will you join the fight? Come pray with boldness of faith, and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus' plan for your life. If you don't stay on His course, you'll never be fully dedicated to Him. 'Christian' literally means "follower of Jesus." Following suggests that we will get behind Him and let Him charge the way. We cannot carve our own path, for the Lord has determined the best one for us. So surrender to His daily will and the daily works He has planned for you, that you may live them out.

Now that you know and understand your armaments, prepare to use them! There is a battle going on all around you, and whether you want to join it or not, you're in the midst of it. Daily the enemy fights for your attention to distract you from the Lord. He attacks the weak, younger Christians to make them wander into sin. He creates division in the church, between friends, and in marriages. He attacks those who are coming to Christ but have not yet been saved, that they may flee from God. With all his strength, he tries to steal away the seeds and trample those you have planted.

But God has given you a weapon to defeat Satan. It is a weapon of weapons to overcome the trials and warfare Satan produces: prayer. Prayer enters you straight into the throne room of God and gives you complete access to His Majesty at any time. Then, if He wills to answer your prayers, the infinite power of the Almighty will completely overwhelm the situation with victory.

Day Seven

Dedicated to a Life of Prayer

Knowing that victory is found in prayer, we must take it to heart to pray always. Spend the entire day today in prayer. Whether you're at work sitting at a desk, working on a machine, or at home with the kids, keep on praying as the Spirit guides your heart. Stay sensitive to Him in prayer, that He may guide the conversation you're having with the Father.

But know that Satan will attack you. He will battle for your attention because your prayers will defeat him and overthrow all of his intentions. Expect to be distracted inwardly with idle thoughts that may bombard you while you pray. Each of these irrelevant and unnecessary thoughts is a seed from the devil. He hopes that your mind would carry the thought and continue to think idly about it, rather than pray.

Also, expect others around you, especially the unbelievers, to distract you. Unbelievers are easily used by Satan, being sons of Satan. Pay close attention as you pray. You may find that the neighbor suddenly has to make noise. If you're at work, a coworker may come up to you and talk idly as soon as you begin to pray.

Even your believing family members will be targeted by the devil. He will stop at nothing just to hinder your prayers, that he may have the victory. At home, your kids may suddenly fight or otherwise make noise, or the young ones may need to be held for no reason at all.

Perhaps your spouse may get tempted, without realizing it, to come and talk idly when you're trying to pray silently. But give a gentle reminder that you are praying, and your spouse should obey God's conviction thereafter. Regarding the children, give them the necessary discipline to respect your prayer time. Perhaps it would be best to inform them of what you are doing in order to give them a better chance to obey God's conviction. If your baby starts crying, allow your spouse to take over for you so that you can go be alone with God.

No matter what happens, keep in the fight and don't stop praying. Let this not only be your challenge for today, but also seek to practice it each and every day as the Scriptures command you.

The Prayer

Today, God, I dedicate myself to an unending conversation with You. I will listen carefully for Your replies, spoken by the Holy Spirit, while I pray, knowing that prayer itself is a conversation. I will take your words seriously and believe and apply them.

Help me to keep a steadfast heart and a sober mind. For I know that Satan will distract me. But remind me when my thoughts trail off of You, that I may wrangle them back in and continue praying.

Scripture for Thought

“...pray without ceasing...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...”
Colossians 4:2

Day Eight

Dedicated to a Life of Praise

No matter what happens in life, God deserves your praise. Is He the cause of our suffering? Certainly not! He's the cause of our healing. Why, then, does He allow us to suffer? In most cases, it's for growth—especially when we suffer need. So, through pain, God intends peace. Shouldn't we worship Him for that?

But what about trials from which God may not have a direct lesson, such as the loss of a loved one? We certainly can learn and grow from those circumstances, but we know the Lord has not brought them on us for that reason. So for what, then, can we praise Him during those times? For His love and for His comfort, out of faith that He's good no matter what happens. And for the things He teaches us, that we may be nearer to the One who holds us through it all.

Job suffered these things, and we should keep the same heart as he had. After hearing that he had lost his wealth and children in a day, his first reaction was to worship God out of faith that He's good no matter what. As we read,

“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”
Job 1:20–22

So if your life is good right now, then praise Him from a joyful heart. But if not, then worship Him in the pain, and He'll be a source of comfort. Regardless of your circumstances, you should be lifting up an unending song of praise to your God.

Whether you're at work in between phone calls or picking and packing in an industry, you should worship Him with a joyful heart inwardly. If you continually praise and pray, rather than being torn down by the stresses of the week, you'll feel recharged and energized by the Spirit.

Some Christians struggle with a cycle of spiritual exhaustion. They go to church on Sunday and feel recharged. Then they start work on Monday full of the Spirit, but get dragged down through the stress of the day. Tuesday morning they read a devotion, and they try to apply it at work but end up burned out at the end of the day. This process repeats itself until Friday rolls around, when they're ready for

Sunday again.

But God desires much more for you. Every day can be as energizing and blessed as Sunday or as Wednesday night Bible study. All you have to do is continually pray and worship. By focusing on God's presence and being quietly intimate with Him throughout the day, you will find that His presence refreshes you continually. So rather than feeling refreshed for thirty minutes during a devotion, you'll feel refreshed all day. You may come home mentally or physically drained, but spiritually and emotionally, you'll be blessed and energized.

Yet be aware that Satan will do everything he can to distract you. If you are not intentional about continually praying and praising, he will be successful. But if you learn to recognize quickly the devil's working, you can resist him steadfastly in the faith by ignoring him and continuing your worship or prayer.

However, do not merely sing about God. Sing to His face, toward His presence. You will feel the presence of God more powerfully by singing, "Lord, You're holy—You are holy!" versus singing, "God is holy, He is holy."

Worship is a conversation. During worship you express your heart to the Lord, and He answers by sending down His presence. Listen to the Spirit while you worship, and He'll guide your heart to the proper words with which the Father wants to be worshipped. And as it is written,

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23–24

Worship in the Spirit by being sensitive to Him while you praise. Keep an open ear for His replies and sing directly to Him; then you'll be blessed with the feeling and power of His presence. Focus on His presence, that the Spirit may be upon you continually.

Yet while you may have the Spirit continually, He is not always upon you for victory. Notice in the Scriptures that the Spirit came upon Samson when victory was needed. There is a difference between having the Spirit and having Him overtake you. Abide in that overflow, and you'll be empowered with continual victory.

Take the challenge today to worship the Lord throughout the day. While it may not be practical during moments that require extreme thought and attention to detail, it is possible to pray during those moments. Ask God to help you with the

task at hand, for example. But you can easily worship in between those mentally trying moments. So keep worshiping and spend your whole day, rather than thirty minutes a day, with the Lord. It will strengthen you for greater battles and bless you every moment in between.

The Prayer

Today I make my heart fully Yours. While I will enjoy my temporary devotions with You, from this day forward I will worship You throughout the day and pray every moment in between. Help me to focus on Your presence while I do so, that I may become more sensitive to Your voice. For I know that righteousness comes through obedience, but how can I obey if I can't hear You because I'm distracted by the stress of the day? Help me to find continual rest in Your presence by keeping my heart near to Yours through constant worship.

Scripture for Thought

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Hebrews 13:15

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1

Day Nine

Becoming a Love Warrior

Look for the needy or the hurting and practice the love of God today. Pray for open eyes and take this challenge seriously. Meet that need and do not merely brush it. Give others all they need to get out of their trial and back on their feet again. If you ask yourself what Jesus would do, you know that He would do the same for you. So go and do likewise, walking in the full love of God.

I challenge you not only to walk in God's love today but also to do this daily through faith. It can be difficult because it may put you in need as well, but if you soak everything in prayer, God will lead you to the perfect works that will keep you safe and deliver your brother as well. So don't just do what you think is right but, rather, lay it all before God, and He will show you what is perfect and how to do it. As it is written,

"Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:5-7

You'll have peace because you'll know that the Lord is taking care of you as He leads you. And He also takes care of those who diligently practice His love. As we read,

"Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed." Psalm 41:1-3

The Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see those around me who need Your touch. Make me sensitive to their situations, that I can be the example of Your love. Please guide my hands in this as I commit life to be the image of Your love always, in everything I say and do.

Scripture for Thought

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9–10

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” John 15:9–10

Day Ten

Dedicate to Praying for Others

Be sensitive to others' needs for prayer today. Depending on a person's situation, he or she may need prayer more than direct help. If, for example, another person is struggling with making a decision and needs the Lord to speak, or if he or she is struggling with warfare, prayer would be a more effective way to help. Ask the Lord to give the person clarity and to incline your heart constantly to pray.

Ask the Lord to give you open eyes, that He may show you who needs prayer, and ask that He would show you what to pray. A true prayer warrior looks for others' needs and lovingly brings them before the Lord.

Keep a piece of paper with you and write down others' prayer requests. Then set aside time each day or night to pray through each one. If you don't write them down, you may forget. But if you do record prayer requests, it shows the people you're praying for that you care and that you actually will pray for them. There are many of the brethren who say, "Yeah, I'll pray for you, brother!" Then they pat the other's back, walk away, and completely forget. Wouldn't a brother or sister feel more loved by your sincerity?

The Prayer

God, I desire a sincere heart in my prayer life. I will be sensitive to others' needs for prayer and will lift them up to You. Please make me the shining example of Your love in my prayer life.

Scripture for Thought

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." James 5:16–18

Day Eleven

Praying Through the Scriptures

When we pray according to the Scriptures, it keeps our hearts in line with the Lord's. All you need to do is pray over a book or particular passage and then read it. If there is any scripture that speaks out to you about current situations in your life, then take the time to pray through each verse. Pray over every concept and ask the Lord to bless your own walk accordingly.

One of the major benefits of praying the Scriptures is that it forces you to read. Diligent study is always necessary for every Christian. So it can be helpful to read and pray at the same time.

But don't just pray anything. First be certain that you understand the verses, so that you can pray according to their meaning, as well as how they apply to your life. The Spirit will reveal to you which ones are best and will teach you from the word during this time of devotion.

Today's challenge requires you to study your Bible. Find a place in the Scriptures where God is speaking to you. These are not necessarily the portions that you feel apply to your life but, rather, the pages that come alive and speak to you. These are the passages the Holy Spirit wants you to reflect on, memorize, and maybe even pray, for the purpose of life application. But reflect on them first, before you pray.

The Prayer

Today, Lord, I dedicate myself to Your word—both to read it and to pray it. Show me the passages on which You want me to meditate. Teach me from Your word and guide my mouth in prayer according to your word.

Scripture for Thought

“I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.” Psalm 119:15–16

“My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word.” Psalm 119:148

Day Twelve

Praying for Wisdom and Interpretation of Scripture

The Lord desires that all believers would have their swords as sharp as possible. When you pray for wisdom, you can expect an answer. It is not a gift for the few, but it is God's desire for everyone to have it. His word is the light by which we walk. As we read,

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

If we don't know it well, then we will stumble and not even know what made us stumble.

Therefore, stand in the light and be edified by it. Let His word minister to your heart, and grow in the wisdom of God. Today's challenge is not merely a call to grow in knowledge of the word. Rather, it is a call to grow in wisdom. Knowledge is stored information whereas wisdom is the ability to apply it accurately. That accuracy comes from perfect doctrine and the leading of the Spirit.

So how do we gain this accuracy? Through the Holy Spirit's voice. And as it is written,

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding..." Proverbs 2:6

And it is further written,

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

Pray for wisdom and expect God to give it to you. Then study your Bible diligently and listen to the Spirit's voice as you do. If there is any scripture that speaks out to you, consider memorizing it for daily application. If the word is not locked in your heart, how can you recall it to mind when you need to apply it?

The Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom. I have all faith that You will give it to me as I pursue it. Help me to memorize Your word and to understand it. Enlighten me and open

my understanding. Your word is my light, and without Your voice, how can I walk by it? Bless me by teaching me. I commit myself to the pursuit of Your wisdom, that I may walk accordingly from this day forward and forever.

Scripture for Thought

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5–8

“My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding...” Proverbs 2:1–6

Day Thirteen

Praying for Growth and Applying It

A plant that doesn't bear fruit doesn't serve the purpose for which it was created. A plant that doesn't grow isn't useful to the farmer. As Christians, we are the plants of God. We must always be growing and bearing fruit, that our conduct may please the Lord.

Sometimes life can distract us from needful growth. If you feel as if you've hit a plateau in your walk, remember that you are called to be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect. So if you are not perfect, you should still be growing.

Needless to say, no one is perfect, so whether you're a pastor or a new believer, you should be experiencing seasonal growth. God leads you season by season in life. A season may be a particular workplace, or it could be a financial situation. But every season of life has its end. At the end of the season, there should have been several lessons you learned from it. So growth doesn't just occur at the end of a season but, rather, it can happen daily as you learn new things about your walk with God.

Examine yourself today to see if you've been growing constantly. If you haven't, then take it to heart to draw nearer to the Lord starting today.

The Prayer

Lord, I dedicate myself to daily growth in You. Open my eyes to see the things You're teaching me. I know that daily growth begins with diligent study of Your word and that seasonal growth happens through Your voice. Help me to understand these lessons with clarity and wisdom.

Please give me what I need in this season of my life to grow and to bear the fruit You desire from me.

Scripture for Thought

"...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

“...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...” Ephesians 4:14–15

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...” 1 Peter 2:2

Day Fourteen

No soldier engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life.

Growth can be difficult to experience due to the distractions we experience in life. Yet God does not call us to be distracted but, rather, to walk soberly in the Spirit of God. Distractions from God are really just idols in a hidden package. All idols must be eradicated.

It's not that any of us intend to have an idol, but they do tend to sneak up on us. They can take the form of overindulgence in entertainment—games, TV, movies, and the like. They can be overindulgence in food or even hobbies.

But one of the last places people consider looking for idols in their own life is among their friends and family. While God calls us to love our families and be devoted to them, He never calls us to place them above Him. If God tells you to do one thing and your family tells you to do another, to whom should you listen? If you struggle with the right decision, then you may very well have an idol. Pray about what the Lord would have you do.

If you put God first and that damages your relationship with your family, then you have been persecuted. They should accept you for the decisions you make to honor the Lord. If they can't, then how are they honoring God at all? If they aren't saved, then why would you listen to their counsel? It will always be contrary to God because they don't have the Holy Spirit to bear God's wisdom.

But can playing or eating be an idol? What do the Scriptures say?

“And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’” 1 Corinthians 10:7

Notice that Paul doesn't bring up engraven images when he mentions idols. Rather, he only mentions the activities the people chose to do rather than honor God with their time.

Examine your heart today. Determine if you have anything in your life that is distracting you from God. Those distractions may not be as villainous as I've made them sound. However, they may, without you realizing it, be getting in the way of your growth and needful time with the Lord. The word 'idol' literally means “thing of nothingness.” Remember that Paul said,

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count

them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...” Philippians 3:8

If you’re spending more time with an activity, or any other thing of nothingness, than you spend with the Lord, then you have an idol. How much time do you spend praying each day? Now compare that to the time you spend watching TV, surfing the internet, playing games, or being with that special someone. If God isn’t the direct center of these activities, then they should be counted as rubbish. If that special someone has Christ, then edify him or her with your words and change any idle time you have together into fellowship. True fellowship isn’t playing games and talking about nothingness. Rather, it is time spent discussing the goodness of the Lord.

Show God your affection by giving Him your time. When you came to Christ, you gave 24/7 of your life to Him—not thirty minutes a day during a daily devotion. So honor the Lord by meditating on Him in prayer and worship throughout the day. Incorporate Him into your day by focusing on the presence of the Spirit, listening to His voice, and honoring Him in all you do.

You must seek the Lord daily to grow in Him. If you have the opportunity to do so but find yourself desiring to do other things, then Satan is tempting you, that you may not bear fruit. Eradicate those idols and do not be entangled with the affairs of this life. If God toured your heart right now, would He be pleased with what He would find? If not, then consider how you must make changes to please Him.

God has a better life for you than this world can offer, and His plan for that life begins now. All you have to do is submit.

The Prayer

Lord, search my heart. Tour it right now, Jesus. If there is anything contrary to You or entangling my walk, please save me from it. Free me from the captivity that distractions bring. Save me from trying to live life my way! I surrender to Your plan and Your design. I give up the idle activities that my flesh enjoys to embrace a deeper and more intimate relationship with You. You mean more to me than any earthly thing does. So I pray that You would clean my heart and make it Your throne room as You rule over my life.

Scripture for Thought

“And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’” 1 Corinthians 10:7

“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’” 2 Corinthians 6:16

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” 1 John 5:21

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:4

Day Fifteen

Wholly Devoted to the Will of God

The Lord has a plan for you. This is not just an eternal plan, but He in His wisdom has preordained the purpose your life shall serve here on this earth. Do you know what that purpose is? Do you know what He wants you doing daily? How can you know?

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit communicates the Father's will on a moment-by-moment basis. His voice comes as still and small, so the only way to hear Him is to be intentional about listening throughout the day.

God always knows what's best. Sometimes we have desires to fulfill certain plans and goals in life. Such goals may be further education for a higher-paying job. So we go to college and apply for our new careers without hearing from God as to whether it is His will for us or not. But some may say,

"Why wouldn't God want me to get that job? It's a good thing, and it will provide for my family. Not only that, but with the money I'll make, I can also make larger donations to help the church have a bigger impact."

People say this while forgetting that the Lord intends to take care of them if only they'd follow Him and obey His voice. But does the Lord really have plans for you? What do the Scriptures say?

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

The original Hebrew word for 'thoughts' literally means "thoughts, intentions, or plans," which is why some versions of the Bible translate the verse to say, "I know the plans I have for you." Before time began, God was thinking of you. He has thought of how your life should look and what would be best for you. While you may think you know what's best for you, God truly knows, and you must submit to that.

In today's challenge, you need to reflect on yourself to determine how you've been conforming to God's plan for your life. If you don't know what His plan is for you, then don't stop praying until He reveals it. It can take days, months, or even years to understand your place in the church. But if you don't search for it, you may never know. Instead, complacency will take its hold on your life, and the only way out is to repent and to search for, and submit to, the Lord's plan.

The Lord also has a daily will for you. At every moment of the day, there is something He wants you to do. If you listen to the Spirit, you will know what it is. Life is like a flight of stairs, and every little moment is a step that needs to be taken. If you ignore the steps God has for you, you will stumble and may even backslide.

From this point forward, determine God's will for your life and wholly surrender to it.

The Prayer

Lord, I know You have a plan for my life. Show me what it is, that I can happily submit to live it out. You are my Lord, after all, and since You are my Master, I will obey You; since You are the Potter, I will submit to Your design. Shape my life and use me for whatever pleases You most. I gave You my life, so it's Yours to do with as You wish.

Scripture for Thought

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1–2

Day Sixteen

Living Sacrifice

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

Jesus gave Himself as a dying sacrifice, but we are called to live a sacrificial life for Him. If we are to embrace His will daily, then we also need to be prepared to embrace our crosses.

Bad things happen to those who trust in Jesus. Why? Because there is a real enemy. But do not despair, for the Lord is with you. He will prepare a future for you and deliver you from your enemy. However, He will permit negative circumstances to develop your character.

Be prepared to make changes to conform to His design. The Lord will allow certain circumstances to strip you of everything that is not of Him. He will strip your emotions, desires, plans, sins, possessions, and anything else that is contrary to Him or that you may be leaning upon. Sometimes we like to prop our faith up with things that bring us comfort, but Jesus requires that we trust in Him alone.

So when He sees that we have created a crutch for ourselves, He will draw near to change that. Then, as we lean comfortably on that certain thing for support, He will walk over to us and, lovingly and gently, kick it out from under us. Then, during those moments in which we are fallen to the ground, humbled, and are looking up at Him, we'll see our need for Him alone.

The Lord has always desired a servant who gives up everything to love Him. Consider the wisdom and spiritual value of living with such abandon. Take the challenge to have a life that relies completely on the Lord!

A living sacrifice must be holy and acceptable. The law commanded that an animal being offered for sacrifice be consecrated unto the Lord. It also needed to be without blemish. We likewise must live a life unspotted from this world if we are going to be living sacrifices for Him. As Romans goes on to say,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

God's will is perfect. The Scripture doesn't say His will is a "good suggestion" but that it is "good, acceptable, and perfect." If you believe God's will for your life is perfect, then flee from your plans for this life. Let God plan your way and let Him determine where you shall work, where you shall live, and what you should or shouldn't do daily. Lay all things before Him in prayer before you do anything so that He can have the final say.

Many of the things He will call you to do will be contrary to anything you want or anything you think is logical. But living a sacrificial life requires you not to depend on these things, anyway. God is above your logic and has plans that are better than what you can imagine. If you can't even imagine what He has in store for you, then what good is it to live by desire? Besides, all sin begins with desire, but if you conform your heart to Christ's, your desires will be purified and in line with His will. Then you will have the things you pray for, even as He promises.

With today's challenge, determine to rely solely on God for everything. If you are sold out to Jesus, then let your life reflect it. Ask yourself how He has been guiding your plans and making the decisions for your life. If you can't be one hundred percent certain how He has made the decisions, then perhaps He hasn't and you have. In this case, you are no longer living a God-controlled life but are leaning instead on the crutch of your logic. Beware, lest the Lord soon comes over and kicks it out from under you so that you may live by faith.

The Prayer

Jesus, You offered Yourself to save me. Is it, then, too much for You to ask that I should offer myself? I believe it is right and proper to give my life up to live for You. Lay hold on my life and do with me as it pleases You. Help me to live my life with abandon as I learn to be wholly dedicated to You.

From this day forward, I will live my life completely dependent on You and Your provision.

Scripture for Thought

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought

at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Day Seventeen

Fight the Good Fight

A true prayer warrior never loses hope. It can seem like a battle to keep faith sometimes, especially when all your senses are telling you your situation is hopeless. But we trust in a God whom we do not see, although we see Him working and moving in our lives. We have faith in a God whom we cannot feel with our fingers, yet we experience the joy of His loving touch in our lives. While we cannot experience Him with flesh, our spirits are sensitive to His presence.

God has commanded us to trust neither in the things of this life nor in our understanding of life. For God is above all of these things, having created them. You cannot make it day or night, nor can you send forth rain to water your garden. If God makes a drought, what can you possibly do to resist Him? Everything you have is from God, and without His providence, you have nothing. Trust therefore in the living God, who is able to make light from darkness and substance from nothing.

If your life takes a turn for the worse and there is no hope, God can yet create hope from nothing. When you sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to you. Keep the faith, knowing that the Lord will bring everything together for good.

If you have lost a loved one, there is nothing good about that. But God can create substance from nothing. You'll experience a deeper, richer, and more fulfilling relationship with Him as He tenderly comforts you. All you have to do is run into the arms that are outstretched and willing to embrace you.

Not only this, but also the Lord will reunite you with the one you lost and lead you to dwell forever in His presence, where no form of evil can taint your life again. While you know these things, when you're suffering it can be hard to remember or to believe that God will make your life good again.

No matter what happens to you, resolve to keep faith. But true faith comes from God's voice. If everything around you is telling you hope is lost, ignore it and focus on the voice of the Holy Spirit. Whatever He tells you, believe Him instead, and by faith in His word you'll be refreshed again.

Following God doesn't always lead to victory immediately. Sometimes victory never happens the way you'd expect it. Remember that Jesus was led to the

cross, and through the cross He was victorious. You likewise may be led to circumstances of crucifying defeat, but through your circumstances, God will raise you up, making the impossible possible. All that's required from you is to continue to obey His voice and believe. If you know you've been obeying the voice of the Lord, and you have entered a difficult circumstance in life, God will redeem you from it.

The Prayer

Lord, I resolve to trust You through every circumstance of life. I know that being a living sacrifice will cause me to experience loss sometimes. I know that Satan will tempt me to believe I must have done something wrong and that I should trust in and follow my own logic. But I refuse to obey him. For I also know that if I've followed Your voice and obeyed you, You will give me victory—because victory is something that only You provide.

Scripture for Thought

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:12

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” Psalm 34:4–8

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57

Day Eighteen

The Battle Is the Lord's

No matter what you go through in life, know that you do not fight alone. God is there, fighting the battle for you, and will deliver you from every evil thing that come your way. While He may allow trials to abound, He only does so for your growth.

God does not tarry. For He is never early or late, but He works in your life exactly when He intends to. He may work sooner than you could imagine or later than you had hoped, but His timing is still perfect because He knows what you need. You see the physical needs, but God sees the greater—and more important—spiritual needs. First He will tend to your soul and its growth; then He will deliver you from your circumstances.

God must first have victory in the spiritual things, and then He will step forward to claim victory in the physical. Remember that sin was destroyed at the cross and it was a spiritual destruction that killed it. Then, afterward, Jesus had physical victory when He was raised from the dead. Thus, we read,

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:55–57

If trials abound, God will deliver you. You’ll never have to deliver yourself; all you’ll have to do is step out in faith when God tells you to step. Then you will walk out of your situation just as Jesus walked away from the crowd who sought to kill Him.

If you desire to live a godly life, expect war to come, for the devil will see you as a big, red bull’s-eye and target you from that day forward. He’ll attack you inwardly with warfare and temptations and outwardly with persecutions. Therefore, keep the faith as you wait for the Lord to grant you victory, but that the godly suffer is evident. For we read,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12

“As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’” Romans 8:36

Some expect to have peace when God leads them. If the Lord compels them powerfully, they seem to think that victory is right around the corner. However, they forget that after they have been flogged like Jesus, they must also go to the cross as He did.

Consider that Paul was given an awesome mission from God, through a vision, to meet a man in Macedonia and preach to him. So he went forward in faith. Some who experience similar callings in their walk expect total victory. After all, God sends them forward with a grand christening of their ship. He offers them an amazing vision for hope and change. But when they arrive, everything falls apart as it did for Paul.

Paul walked through the town, waiting for the will of God to be revealed. He knew what he was supposed to do, but he was waiting for God to tell him the next step. Then a demon-possessed girl followed them and cried out behind them. As we read,

“This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.” Acts 16:17–19

You’d think that the men would have had fear at seeing the power of God with Paul to rebuke the spirit. But instead they laid hands on Paul and Silas to punish them:

“Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.” Acts 16:22–24

The word ‘stripe’ in the original Greek is *plēgē* (pronounced: play-gay), the word from which we obtain the English word ‘plague.’ A person is beaten with stripes when they receive bruises or welts from rods or whips.

Many would wonder if they had made a mistake after being beaten so harshly and thrown into prison. But neither Paul nor Silas lost faith. Instead, they worshipped the Lord in chains, and God shook the prison and released everyone.

Like Jesus, first they were beaten. Then they had to take up their cross and go to prison in innocence. Afterward, the Lord worked and shook open the doors to raise the two men up from their situation. The guard, having seen the power of God, was compelled to receive Jesus as Savior. This was the man who had begged Paul to preach the gospel to him in his vision. Notice that Paul needed to carry his cross not for himself but, rather, for the man who was going to receive the Lord.

As a prayer warrior, you may likewise suffer for another person's salvation. But rejoice that you partake in the cross of Jesus. For if you partake in His cross, you will share in His resurrection. If you pray for others and try to enter their situation to help them, you may suffer for it. Satan will stop at nothing to stop you from operating in the power and love of God. But do not fear,

"...because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

While the last two prayers may or may not pertain to your current situation in life, know that if you desire to live as a true prayer warrior, you'll experience suffering eventually. You can refer back to these prayers when that happens.

Life may seem more peaceful when you're in control. It's like sitting in a boat when God calls you to walk on water. A person may be inclined to reply kindly, "Um ... no, God, I think I'm fine right here in the boat! Why should I walk to shore on water when my boat can take me there safely?" All will seem well for you—until God sinks your boat.

Have no idols and cast away all crutches, for the Lord your God has healed your walk in Him today. According to the measure of your faith, so your peace will be. Paul had peace in a sinking ship on a raging sea. Can you do likewise? Take up the challenge to grow in the faith until you can.

The Prayer

Come fight for me, Jesus! I will never stop chasing after You, Lord. I will obey Your voice and believe. May I not have to raise a finger against my enemies. Those who hate me I pray would experience Your love from me.

And when spiritual warfare arises, I trust You'll overwhelm it with victory. When Satan arises, I pray You will hammer him down. When he rears his ugly head, I pray Your heel would crush him. Raise me up, Lord, and glorify Your name in my life.

I pray that everything I go through, whether good or bad, You will use for the glory You deserve. Here I am, Lord. I surrender to Your will. Send me, whether to the cross or to the mountains of life, and I will follow you. Simply have mercy and give me peace in the end.

Scripture for Thought

“The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:14

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31–39

Day Nineteen

Becoming Love

There is a point at which prayer must become action. Don't merely pray for a person's situation but, rather, also ask the Lord how you can enter it. If a brother or sister in the Lord is struggling in poverty, perhaps God has a work for you that will accomplish the love of God. What would Jesus do if He saw a person in need? Would He pray for the person and go along His way, or would He show the person the love necessary to take care of his or her needs?

Take this time to pray for open eyes and an open heart. But let the Spirit guide you in how you will help. He knows best what others need and what will encourage them the most.

The Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see others' needs. Open my heart also to love them with perfect love. Show me how to help them, and if You require much from me, I pray that You will help my faith.

Scripture for Thought

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." 1 John 3:18–19

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works..." Hebrews 10:24

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:7–11

Day Twenty

Showing Mercy

Mercy is having forgiveness and compassion on someone who has wronged you. Remember the Lord's mercy toward you daily. When others wrong you, be swift to forgive them. How quickly does God forgive you when you sin? Go and do likewise, that you can be the example of Jesus in all you do.

Our enemy loves to cast division. He is the author of it, having been the first to divide himself from God. Yet a true warrior would fight back against the wiles of the devil and love his neighbor with unrelenting compassion.

Resolve from this day forward to be one who unifies. If you have wronged anyone, go to the person quickly and make amends. Even as Jesus said,

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”
Matthew 5:23–24

The gift at the altar was for forgiveness from God. Jesus was stating that if you are sincere about desiring the Lord's forgiveness for your offenses, you should go and make amends with the person you have offended.

Be the first to step up to the responsibility of forgiveness. If you need to be forgiven, then go and apologize quickly. But if another has sinned against you, go to the person quickly and try to make amends. If he or she refuses to come to you, then remember that Jesus didn't wait for you to reach out for forgiveness. He reached to you first and touched your life in such a way that you'd be convicted by your sin and desire His forgiveness. Go and do likewise with your brethren. Lovingly convict them through the kindness of Christ. In time God will turn them around for repentance. If they still refuse, then at least you made every effort to honor God.

But if you cannot forgive them, then remember what Jesus said:

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:25–26

And He also said,

“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ‘So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.’” Matthew 18:32–35

Forgive and be forgiven. Be merciful, and mercy will be granted to you. As Jesus also said,

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7

Today and forever, resolve to forgive first and ask questions later. Be meek and be merciful. Seek to establish lasting relationships with your brethren.

The Prayer

Lord, make me the example of Your mercy. I know that as I forgive others, so You will forgive me. Give me strength to battle against Satan, who would love to tempt me to have a bitter root in my heart. I pray that You would reveal to me and convict me of any such bitterness I may have, or will one day be tempted to have, that I can walk in the fullness of Your love.

Scripture for Thought

“Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” Luke 6:36

“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” James 2:13

Day Twenty-One

Being Faithful

A warrior must be disciplined in all things, especially in faithfulness. We must always be faithful to obey both in the great things and in the little ones as well.

For even the Lord uses the little things to amount to the greater. Consider His creation, for example.

The sun is so large that it could fit 1.3 million Earths in it. Look up at the sky. Can you even count how many stars there are? Many of these stars are millions of times larger than our sun. VY Canis Major is the largest known star in the universe and is estimated to be 9.3 billion times the size of the sun.

That would make it over twelve quadrillion times the size of the earth! For those who are having difficulty wrapping their minds around it, a quadrillion is a million billions.

Creation in all its complexities is too wonderful to be understood. There are too many objects, concepts, and forms of life to be explored. The stars are so far away that no one can even hope to travel to them. But where there is a star, it tells us, "The Lord has been here."

God is always where we could never be, and His understanding is unsearchable. How much more should we mirror our conduct to be like His?

When He created the universe, He made objects in the heavens beyond comprehension in size, yet He has made particles so small that science can only theorize about them.

To observe these small particles requires the help of the Large Hadron Collider. Being 27 kilometers in circumference, it is the largest particle accelerator in the world. So just to get a millisecond glimpse at some of the smallest particles in creation requires a device that is 27 kilometers in size!

And yet these small building blocks God uses to create life, worlds, and stars that are too tremendous to be fathomed. God makes objects so large and so bright, from the smallest things to those that can be seen from billions of light-years away. The greatest and largest things are always made from the smallest. The invisible always amounts to the visible.

Even so, our smallest acts of faith must always amount to the greatest. Our

invisible faith should lead to visible works of loving obedience as evidence of our faith. Allow your faith to illuminate others as you shine your works of faith through obedience. It is certain that if we are not faithful with the little things, neither will we be faithful in the greatest things.

Some of the littlest things are the small, soft whispers of the Holy Spirit, which are spoken to you all day throughout the day. If you aren't circumspect, you may not hear His voice. Pay more thoughtful heed to the voice of God.

Take up the challenge to listen carefully for, and faithfully obey, the whispers of the Spirit. Every moment of the day God is speaking to you, but are you listening? There is always something He wants you to be doing. Do you know whether or not you've been doing all of those little things? You cannot make assumptions in this; you must know perfectly. If you haven't been listening to the Spirit, then you will not know the answer.

Take it to heart, then, to incline your ear to the Spirit all day today. Praise and pray all day and keep your focus on His presence, that you can hear Him more clearly. This is a virtue that must be practiced every day. Then, when you have learned to practice the smallest steps, you'll be given the greater tasks, having proven yourself faithful. Our Lord has taught us this in a parable:

“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” Matthew 25:20–21

And in another parable He said,

“Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’” Luke 19:16–17

Be faithful in everything, the lesser as well as the greater. Let God lead each of your steps—not just the big decisions but also all of the small ones in between.

The Prayer

Lord, help me to hear You more clearly, that I can follow You in all the little steps. From this day forward, I choose to obey You in everything. Lead each of my steps and each of my decisions. Show me what I should do, and illuminate

the way. That way, my little steps of faith will grow my heart to take the larger leaps.

Scripture for Thought

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

Day Twenty-Two

Taking Up a Servant's Heart

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. If He is the King of kings and the eternal Lord of heaven, yet He would serve us, how much more should we as His servants be found loving and serving one another?

Pray for open eyes to see others' needs around you. With every opportunity God provides you, portray a servant's heart today. Do not do this for today only, but always, that you may be the example of Jesus daily.

The Prayer

Jesus, please make me more like You. Open my eyes to see others' needs and help me to serve them diligently. Open the door for me to serve more, both the church and my brethren. Simply lead me as I serve in each way, that I may know what will have the greatest impact for Your glory.

Scripture for Thought

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3–4

Day Twenty-Three

Finding Strength in Your Own Battles

There are times when the battle seems to take a turn for the worse. But do not lose heart: God never loses. While Satan may be able to hinder us and our actions, he can never hinder God. The Lord will work and act exactly when He intends to; then you will be delivered by the hand of God, and nothing shall stop the Lord from saving you.

Have faith and let your heart rest in it. When all hope seems lost, reflect on all the ways God has been faithful to you before. Remember each situation and meditate on it. Then worship the Lord, thanking Him for His faithfulness. Proceed to worship Him in thanksgiving that He will overcome your current struggles in life.

The Prayer

Lord, strengthen me today. Overwhelm my losses with Your victories. I cannot fight the battles. The battle is Yours and always has been. So help me to rest in You while I wait for Your mighty hand to save me. If there is anything You want me to learn from this season of my life, I pray that You'd open my eyes to it, that I can learn it sooner.

Scripture for Thought

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth...” Psalm 105:1–5

“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” Psalm 27:13

Day Twenty-Four

Finding Strength Through His Promises

The Lord cannot lie, and is always true. Why, then, would God need to promise us anything? His words are perfect! If He says it will come to pass, will it not come to pass?

When we promise something, it helps us hold to integrity. When we swear an oath, it makes us feel a greater obligation to uphold what we've promised. Therefore, we as flawed humans promise things not only for the sake of those to whom we promise but also for our own sake. We promise for their comfort, that they may have greater faith that we will uphold our word. Yet we also promise for our own sakes, that we would have greater conviction to put forth extra effort to finish what we began. By making a promise, we feel more obligated to uphold our word.

But the Lord is perfect in all He is and all He does. Since He is perfect, it stands to reason that He doesn't make promises to have conviction or to feel obligated. God, unlike mankind, is not obligated by promises but by love, and through love He upholds His word and saves.

Then why does God make promises? For our comfort, no doubt—that we who trust in His word should believe that He will be faithful to finish what He began.

Knowing, then, that the promises were made for our faith, we ought to take them to heart. By reflecting on the promises of God, we aren't reminding Him to be faithful, for God is always faithful. Rather, reflecting on His promises reminds us of God's love that obligates Him to be faithful. Read your Bible today and reflect on His promises, including biblical promises as well as personal reassurances the Lord may have given you.

Pray according to those promises and let it increase your faith as you reflect on His faithfulness and love.

The Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for each of Your promises. Thank You for power to overcome the enemy. Thank You that my name is written in heaven. Thank You that You promise to provide for my needs always.

Help me to reflect on each of Your promises today. Show me which ones I should meditate on as I read Your word. Please encourage me and strengthen my faith.

Scripture for Thought

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:2–4

“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:39

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

Day Twenty-Five

Becoming a Praise Warrior

Worship the Lord in every situation of life, whether life is good or trials abound. Isn't He worthy of this? Not only should our mouths glorify Him in the joyous moments of life, but during hardships as well we should be found singing of His faithfulness.

Whatever your situation may be today, resolve to worship the Lord throughout the day. Let His praise continually be on your lips and in your heart. When we reflect on the joy of the Lord, we ourselves become joyous.

If you're at work and are constantly full of the Lord's joy, how might that affect unbelievers who hate their job? "Why are you always so happy being here?" they'll ask you. But do you see how it gives you an opportunity to witness? Thus, the praise of God will be on your lips even more as you describe the wonderful love of God.

The Prayer

Lord, I dedicate my day today to Your praises. Help me to keep a constant heart of worship and to honor You with all the things I say. I commit my life to being a living worship for You. Help me to keep this heart always, from this day forward.

Scripture for Thought

"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." Psalm 9:1-2

"Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy." Psalm 33:1-3

"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:2

Day Twenty-Six

Choosing Words That Heal

There are times when a prayer warrior will have to step into the shoes of a medic. Satan beleaguers the brethren, and our words can have a profound impact on their healing. But if we aren't careful with the things we say, our words could tear down rather than build up.

Words can bless, and words can crush, but if they're not founded in love, they'll always be harmful in one way or another. There are times when we let certain words slip that we don't really mean to say: Some may be hurtful words, due to frustration or anger, and some may be crude or ungodly words. When battling our own hearts to speak uprightly, surrounding ourselves with godliness is key.

If we surround ourselves with people or activities that don't edify, they will influence us to speak or act inappropriately. If you watch inappropriate movies or shows, play inappropriate games, or spend quality time with ungodly people, it will influence you to do wrongly. Even as it is written,

“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.” 1 Corinthians 15:33–34

What we choose to spend our time with dictates what manner of person we'll become. If we choose to surround ourselves with godliness, it will assist us in our efforts to become godlier people. But if we surround ourselves with negative influences, negativity will come from our mouths. You reap what you sow. If you sow to the flesh, you will reap the corruption of the flesh. As we read,

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” Galatians 6:7

Knowing this, we should sow incorruptible seeds of love into the hearts of others through the words we use. And we should sow godliness in our own hearts, that we may produce those words. For every word we speak begins with the heart. As Jesus said,

“...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your

words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
Matthew 12:34–37

Knowing that we are judged by our words, we should be careful to speak each of them in the love and purity of Jesus. Love justifies, but the flesh brings forth corruption. If we sow to the flesh, our words will reflect it. Fleshly words do not heal but, rather, can assist the enemy in his efforts. Yet words founded in the grace and love of Jesus, which are laid on our heart through the Spirit, will certainly create victory. As the Lord said,

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10–11

Everything comes full circle when we realize that our words must be spoken with regard to the love and conviction of the voice of the Holy Spirit. Everything we say and do must be a reflection of His heart. The only way to speak His words is to listen carefully to His voice and speak accordingly. For the Lord also said,

“...I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” Exodus 4:12

God has works for us to accomplish and healing words for us to share. If we listen intently to Him and apply His love toward others through our speech, it will edify, build up, strengthen, and empower a fellow warrior to rise up in faith again and seize his or her own victories through Christ.

But if we surround ourselves with ungodly activities and unholy people, we will act like them, walk like them, and talk like them. As it is written,

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.” Proverbs 12:26

The way of the wicked doesn’t lead the wicked astray. They are already astray! In order to be led astray, you must be walking in the paths of good first and then be tempted to stray from them. The wicked influence the righteous to do as they do.

You’ve always known about peer pressure, and that is one of the methods a group of ungodly people would use to turn you astray. If they are your friends, then by nature you’ll want to make them happy. If everything contrary to God

makes them happy and everything holy makes them unhappy, what manner of words and actions will you use to appease those friends? Hence it is written,

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’” 2 Corinthians 6:14–17

Some preach that we should become like the world to let the world in, but this verse testifies otherwise. We must show them through loving conviction how far away from God they are, that they may see their need to repent and receive Jesus. If an unbeliever needs healing words, then preach Christ to him or her. What good is it to heal the heart but allow the soul to remain condemned and corrupted? Even though we must be loving to them, we should never be friends with those who do not love Jesus or have Him as Savior. As it is also written,

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” James 4:4

Yes, we should attempt to be a light to ungodly people, but spending too much time with them can stomp out our own light. We need to focus on the things that benefit our walks in Christ—the first being the time we spend with the Lord.

The more you sit in the light of Jesus, the more like Jesus you’ll become. The Apostles were the ultimate example of the Lord in everything they said and did, but they also walked with the Lord. If you abide constantly in the Spirit of Christ, then you likewise will have words that empower, edify, save, build in faith, and make a difference.

Examine yourself today. How have your words been healing others? How have they been reflecting the heart of the Lord? Dedicate your mouth to the Lord from this day forward to expressing the love of God through everything you say.

The Prayer

Lord, I dedicate my mouth to You from this day forward, that all my words would be spoken through Your Spirit and in Your love. Help me to achieve this.

Keep me convicted to keep a holy, loving mouth. I want to reflect Your image not only in my actions but in my words as well. May Your words be with my mouth, and please teach me what to say. That way, everything I speak will not return void but, rather, will be filled with Your blessings, love, and praise.

Scripture for Thought

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.” Psalm 51:15

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1

“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

“See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.

“My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.” James 3:2–13

Day Twenty-Seven

Abiding in the Spirit

It is written,

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” John 15:4

The original Greek word for ‘abide’ in this verse is *meno*, which means to “abide, or continue in.” It is a word that is generally used in reference to places or time, and it can pertain to traveling or sojourning. To abide in Christ, therefore, doesn’t merely mean “to continue to be Christian” or “to dwell in Jesus.” Jesus is calling the believer to dwell in the path of light or to continue along its course by remaining in the light.

So in essence, He is calling you to remain in the light of His presence. This concept was discussed earlier in the Old Testament, by Job, and was revisited in this passage. As it is written,

“There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its paths.” Job 24:13

Knowing this, we must all abide in the light. But now the question remains, “If God is always with us, then how can we *not* abide in His light?” Jesus answered this in John 15:4 when He said, “Abide in Me, and I in you.” By this statement He made clear that He abides in us always but we need to “abide back,” so to speak.

When you abide in Christ, you bear the fruit of Christ. If you always abide in Him, then why do you sin? Is that His fruit? Certainly not. Thus, it is easy to determine that we don’t always reflect on Him as we ought.

While His mind is always on us, our minds are not always dwelling upon Him. But if we continually reflect on His presence, and speak to Him constantly through the day, we will be more sensitive to His Spirit’s voice—and that is how you abide. If you aren’t doing this, then you haven’t been abiding in Christ the way He calls you to do.

You must sensitize yourself to the Holy Spirit by reflecting continually on His presence. If you don’t incline your ear to Him, it may be difficult to discern His words when He speaks softly. The Spirit is always speaking to you. If you don’t

pay attention, you won't know what the Lord is calling you to do.

If you don't know what God is telling you to do, how can you obey and bear the fruit of Christ? Instead, you will be left trying to interpret the Scriptures for yourself, and trying to figure out when and how to apply them as you personally think God may want you to do. This, however, is a legalistic approach to applying the Scriptures.

But if you listen to the Holy Spirit, He will tell you continually throughout the day how to apply the word and what the Father wants you to be doing. If you don't abide, His voice will be hard to hear and you won't know these things. True victory comes through the Lord's strength. If you want God to be your strength, then you must abide in His constantly.

In the course of this book, we have mentioned many times two of the greatest ways to abide: continual prayer and worship. Because abiding in the Spirit is the cornerstone of walking in Christ, it is essential for us to revisit this concept continually.

When you worship, go to church or Bible study, or read a devotion, you may feel a sense of strength and rejuvenation in the Spirit. This is what it feels like to abide. Some people may try to convince you that those "high moments" are rare and that it is typical to experience them once a week or less. But God wants you to experience this invigorating enlightenment every moment of the day.

Practice abiding in His presence today. Make it your life's goal to abide all day and every day. Worship, pray, and reflect on His presence. When you do, you'll be sensitized to His voice and will be able to obey Him more effectively, have greater conviction, be more emotionally sound in trials, and even get more from reading your Bible. The Spirit will speak to you constantly, both inwardly and when you read the word. He will teach you, strengthen you, and edify you.

So make it your goal to rely more on the Spirit and to lean completely on Him for every decision you make, path you take, action you choose, and word you use. By abiding, you'll overcome every trial, obstacle, sin, and bondage with ease. Nothing will be too difficult for you because the Lord will be doing it through you.

The Prayer

Lord, teach me to abide continually. Help me to do this, and deliver me from Satan, who will rise up to distract me through other people or circumstances so

that I may forget to abide. I commit myself to abiding in your Holy Spirit continually from this day forward.

Scripture for Thought

“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.” 1 John 2:27–29

“Whoever abides in Him does not sin...” 1 John 3:6

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:6

Day Twenty-Eight

Being Led by the Spirit in Everything

Abiding and being led by the Spirit are two different concepts. Abiding sensitizes us to His voice, and when we are led by the Spirit, we are obeying His voice. Just because we hear Him doesn't mean we always listen—consider sin, for example. The Spirit convicts us, and if we don't obey, we sin.

Any time we don't obey God, we sin. If we can't hear Him because we don't pay attention, we're sinning through complacency. God's voice must matter to us, and we must walk in the Spirit. Those who walk in the Spirit perform every righteous act, and there is no judgment against them because the Spirit is above the law, having written it. Hence we read,

“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:27

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:18

When we are led by the Spirit, we fulfill every work of righteousness God desires from us. But that abiding and walking in the Spirit are two different concepts is evident, for it is written,

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

Just because we live in the Spirit doesn't mean we are walking in the Spirit. Therefore, we must be exhorted to do so. We must conform our heart to the Lord's, that we can be led by Him in everything. If we truly desire His will, then we'll obey His voice.

If you struggle with understanding His voice, pay even more thoughtful heed to what you believe to be His voice. Then, if the voice tells you to do something but it turns out that it isn't of God, remember that voice and never obey it again. If, however, it turns out to be God, remember how it felt and sounded, and never question it again but, rather, obey through blind faith.

If any do not walk in the Spirit, they will walk in the flesh. If we walk in the flesh, we sin. Knowing this, we must not be self-willed but, rather, die to self to obey the Lord's conviction.

Now, some may argue, “I know what God wants of me. I read it in the Bible. When I do what the Bible says, I walk in the Spirit naturally.”

However, this isn’t true. The Holy Spirit will tell you how and when to apply the word. If you obey the Scriptures how you assume God wants you to, rather than waiting to be led by the Spirit, then you’ll act presumptuously. The word ‘presumption’ literally means, “a belief that something is truth without evidence to prove it” and “a desire to act on a belief without having the authority to do so.”

The Holy Spirit’s voice is your evidence. In what way has He ever lied? In what has He ever been wrong? How have His ideas been less than our own? In what way has the Holy Spirit ever led you in an imperfect way? If His ways are perfect, then why should we act without Him, knowing that our own are not?

But if any say the Bible is above the Spirit, they neglect the fact that the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible through men, for which reason it is called the word of God. Assuredly, if He wrote it, He would know it better than anyone else. But if we say the Holy Spirit is not necessary, then we risk blaspheming Him by claiming that our own interpretations of the Bible are wiser than His perfect truth.

This is why presumption is a sin. As we read,

“But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.” Numbers 15:30

And as David said,

“Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.” Psalm 19:13

Notice that the scripture finishes by calling it a great transgression. While it may seem like a small thing to us to brush off the faint whispers of the Spirit, or to form our own opinions about the Bible and live by them, God makes clear that it is one of the most grievous sins to Him.

So take it to heart to obey the Spirit in everything. Commit yourself to walking in the Spirit and being led by Him always. A true prayer warrior obeys the voice of his or her general and does not question Him.

So submit as a warrior ought to the General’s voice, no matter how small, that

you may please Him who enlisted you.

The Prayer

Lord, I understand the importance of not being presumptuous. I want to be a person after Your own heart. So lead me by the hand as I humbly submit to Your Holy Spirit.

Scripture for Thought

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Galatians 5:18

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

Day Twenty-Nine

Praying for Spiritual Gifts

Prayer is a powerful weapon, but God has many more He wants to add to that arsenal. Pray for spiritual gifts, and by them He will build and edify the church through you. Through gifts the Lord also shows you a great sense of intimacy.

If you want to be more intimate with Him, then gifts are one of the many ways. If you're going through a trial and God gives you an encouraging dream or vision, wouldn't that draw you nearer to Him? Wouldn't that encourage you to have more faith? Certainly it would, and when your faith increases, so does your sense of victory—because faith is your victory.

Sometimes He doesn't give you these things, however, unless you ask for them. He is always reaching for you, but being relational, sometimes He waits for you to reach back.

Take the time to pray in faith for each of the gifts. You never know which one God may grant you. Do this always, and in time He will give you many of them if it is in His will.

The Prayer

Lord, I want to take the time to ask You for a greater intimacy with You. I believe that if You're willing, You can grant the gifts to me. Not knowing which one You desire for me, I pray for each of them—beginning with prophecy: I pray that You would show me the unseen for the edification of the Church. Or maybe the gift of tongues to edify my own heart.

If it is in Your will, I ask for spiritual dreams and visions. Teach me what will happen next in my life through them. I ask for the ability to discern spirits, and that You would sharpen this ability constantly so I can walk with Your eyes in my head, discerning what is happening behind the veil at all times.

Lord, I ask for miracles to Your glory, that my faith and the faith of my brethren may be increased. I pray especially for words of wisdom, for knowledge, and for extraordinary faith. Distribute to me as you will, and grant me the gifts that are best for me and for Your body.

I don't know what Your will is, but I will ask You for these things daily because

I want more of You. Jesus, will You be more intimate with me?

Scripture for Thought

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” 1 Corinthians 14:1

Day Thirty

The Power of a Thankful Heart

With all that God does for us, it's good to remember to have a heart of gratitude. Everything He does is done out of love to create a future for us—even the hardships He permits. When we choose to have a thankful heart regardless of our circumstances, we humble ourselves to remember His faithfulness daily. When we remember His faithfulness, it increases our faith to overcome the obstacles we experience.

Whether you need an extra boost of faith or have experienced a tremendous victory, you should be found praising the Lord. As it is written,

“...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18

A prayer warrior's greatest battle is against his or her own heart. It can be difficult to flee temptations, keep a focus on the Spirit, have hope when there is none, find good in evil circumstances, and praise God through all the pain. But as you learn to surrender your thoughts and feelings and just thank Jesus, it washes away the difficulties in the refreshing peace of the Spirit's presence.

It is not that we should thank Him for the evil in our life but, rather, that we should find reason to thank Him during those experiences. I have heard some teach that you should thank God not only *in* your circumstance but also *for* your circumstance. But this isn't what the Scriptures are telling us to do.

As if God would require a person to say, “Thank You, God, that my nine-year-old daughter suffered terribly from cancer before I finally lost her. Thank You that she died and I am full of grief now. I am grateful for that.”

How abominable! God requires such a person to find comfort in His arms. And during those moments, the person can be grateful that his or her daughter is at peace and that the parent can find comfort in the Lord. Those who are of the world have nothing when they lose a loved one. But we have comfort from the most compassionate Person to exist. Being able to be sincerely comforted is always a good reason to be gracious.

Look into your own circumstances and find something to be grateful for today. Let the Spirit guide your heart as you find the things for which to praise God in prayer. While you may not be suffering now, one day you will be, and if you

commit yourself to developing a habit of praise, you will find strength in your darkest moments. Even when it seems impossible to smile, God will reach down into your empty heart and create joy from the nothingness that consumes it.

Dedicate yourself from this time forward to give thanks in every situation, every day. Find reason to adore your God and build a habit of praise.

The Prayer

Lord, I see the wisdom in developing a habit of praise. May You remind me of all Your goodness and all the ways You've loved me as I reflect on the works You've done in my life. Increase my faith as I remember Your faithfulness.

Show me also how to have joy and gratitude when I can't see a reason for it. I know that You are always doing something good in my life. So please open my eyes to it, that I can praise You for it. From this day forward, I dedicate myself to building a habitual life of praise.

Scripture for Thought

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth..." 1 Chronicles 16:8–12

"...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Ephesians 5:18–20

"...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

21 Prayers Of Promise

Increasing Your Faith Through Praying The Promises Of
God

21 Prayers Of Promise: Increasing Your Faith Through Praying The Promises Of
God™

Copyright © 2013 by Adam Houge

Published by Living Tree Publishing in Harrisonburg, VA

All rights reserved worldwide. Permission is granted for quotations in all manner
of religious assembly.

Portions of the text may be reprinted for use in small groups, church bulletins,
orders of service, Sunday school lessons, church newsletters, and similar works,
in the course of religious instruction, or services at a place of worship or other
religious assembly with the following notice:

21 Prayers Of Promise: Increasing Your Faith Through Praying The Promises Of
God™ by Adam Houge

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by
Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Day One

Love

Day Two

Hope

Day Three

Eternal Life

Day Four

Peace

Day Five

Protection

Day Six

Healing

Day Seven

A New Body

Day Eight

Rest

Day Nine

Strength

Day Ten

Deliverance From Temptation

Day Eleven

Power Over The Enemy

Day Twelve

Freedom From Sin And Bondage

Day Thirteen

Forgiveness

Day Fourteen

Righteousness

Day Fifteen

Wisdom

Day Sixteen

Providence

Day Seventeen

Prospering In Christ

Day Eighteen

Holy Spirit

Day Nineteen

Spiritual Gifts

Day Twenty

Truth

Day Twenty One

His Return

Introduction

God is perfect. He cannot lie, and is always true. Why then would God need to promise us anything? His word is perfect! If then He says it will come to pass, will it not come to pass?

When we promise something it helps us hold to integrity. When we swear an oath, it makes us feel a greater obligation to uphold what we've promised. Therefore we as flawed humans promise things not only for the sake of those to whom we promise, but also for our own sake. We promise for their comfort, that they may have greater faith that we will uphold our word. Yet we also promise for our own sakes, that we would have greater conviction to put forth extra effort to finish what we began. By making a promise we feel more obligated to uphold our word.

Yet the Lord is perfect in all He is and all He does. Seeing that He is perfect it stands to reason that He doesn't make promises to have conviction nor to feel obligated. God, unlike mankind, is not obligated by promises but is obligated by love, and through love He upholds His word and saves.

Why then did God make a promise? For our comfort no doubt. That we who trust in His word should believe that God is faithful to finish what He began.

Knowing then that the promises were made for our faith, we ought to take them to heart. By reflecting on the promises of God it doesn't remind Him to be faithful, for God is always faithful. By reflecting on His promises it reminds us of God's love which obligates Him to be faithful. We pray the promises of God to remind ourselves that God is faithful, and to increase our faith in His word.

Take these next 21 days to increase your faith in the word of God. Sit in the secret place alone with Him and seek Him in the word, in prayer, and in worship. Sit in His presence and be refreshed in the Holy Spirit.

Make your secret place in a quiet, distraction free corner of your home. Whether an attic, basement, closet, quiet room, or even a familiar place outdoors. Come out from the distractions around you and embrace the Lord's presence as He embraces you.

Be recharge by the Lord and let His whispers quietly comfort you. Be attentive to His Spirit and become sensitive to His voice. Sit in His love and pray in faith as you hold onto His promises.

Day One

Love

Lord thank You for everything You've done for me. Thank You for suffering such a horrible undeserving fate for my sake. I'm not worthy of You, nor the least of Your kindnesses!

I have failed You in so many ways, and yet You love me? Father, I'm not worthy of Your love nor even to be called Your child! Who am I that You would love me so much? Thank You Jesus for everything You've done and thank You for everything You're doing in me now.

Thank You for the ways You lift my heart up daily. Thank You for the comfort You give me in brokenness. Thank You for the compassion You have on me daily. Thank You that your mercy is new, and thank You that You provide. Not only do You provide me with my basic necessities but You abundantly supply my heart with Your joy!

Lord I pray the promise of Your love. I know that You remember all things, yet I pray that You would remember Your love over me. Cover me in Your feathers, and wrap me up in Your love. Hide me in the shadow of Your wings as I find comfort in Your arms.

Remember Your promise of love over me today. Show me how cared for I am by You. Open my heart to perceive Your love, that I may understand how I should rightly respond to it.

Bless me in your Spirit, and bless me in the peace of your love.

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom 8:37

Take this time to rest in His love. Meditate on His Spirit and pour your heart out to Him. Then sit quietly and let Him respond, let Him pour His heart out to you also. Let Him show you His affection through His Holy Spirit.

Day Two

Hope

Lord I'm choosing to seek You today. With all my heart I want You! Be here with me Jesus, and fulfill the promise of Your hope.

You know what my future holds, and what my past has held. Forgive me the things of my past. Lord I hate my sins! I repent! Give me a future and a hope in Your love. Remember me and the hope You have promised to lay up for me.

When trials overcome me and fear surrounds me I will turn my eyes to You my God. Remember me in my afflictions. I will hope in You Lord, and wait patiently for Your deliverance. Even as You have saved me from my sin so I pray that you would also give me hope and save me from every affliction that comes my way.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jer 29:11-13

If there is anything burdening your heart release it to God now. Rest in His hope and remember what He has laid up for you. Not only will He deliver you at Judgment, but He will deliver you now –in this life-from every affliction that comes your way. Rest in His promise and stand fast in His love. God is mighty to save and will deliver you from every form of evil that comes your way.

Day Three

Eternal Life

Lord remember Your love over me in Your judgment. If there is any way that I have not been made right with You I pray that You would clean my heart now. Teach me Your ways O God, and make me more like You. In all I am and in all I do I want to be pleasing to You.

Purify my heart in the beauty of Your holiness. Create in me a clean and new heart. I surrender to Your purpose and Your design. For You alone Jesus know the way to eternal life. I surrender to Your leading that I may walk along the path closely behind You.

Remember Your promise over me. Write my name in Your book, and remember me for eternal life.

“And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.” 1Jn 2:25

“He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” 1Jn 5:10-13

***Take this time to meditate on the Lord. Consider His love for you and everything He’s given for you. Consider everything He’s doing for you now and meditate on His faithfulness.

If ever you have found yourself questioning where you stand with God, or if you’ve never given your life to Christ: Take this time to dedicate, or rededicate your life to Him. Take some time to reflect on your sins. Remember that God doesn’t have to forgive you, it’s not His obligation. He chooses to do so out of love. Be convicted by His love and take this time now to respond rightly to it. Then pray this simple prayer,

“Lord I know I’ve sinned and I’m sorry. I’m sorry for every way I’ve ever hurt You or anyone else. God I repent! I want to change my life! I want to be better for You. Please forgive me. Please give me a new chance.

God I can't do this myself. I failed at this life you gave me the first time I tried. Please help me God. Please help me to do this right. Please give me your Holy Spirit now that I may be alive in you. Give me Your Spirit Lord that I can have strength to please you in all things. Create in me a new heart. I devote my life to you now and forever. Strengthen me now that I may do rightly from this day forward. Please Jesus, be my Lord and Savior. Amen.”

Repent from your heart and walk in His love. True repentance suggests that we are not only sorry for the things we’ve done but want to make a life altering change to make it right again. Yet this life altering change is not something that we do, but something that He does. God gives us forgiveness and salvation, but leads us in the path of salvation daily.

Whether you’re new to the Lord or not, following Him is a priority for every Christian. Christian literally means, “Follower of Christ.” In order to follow Him you must be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him. It is He who leads us in the paths of Christ Jesus.

Remember that we are saved by faith and that faith comes from hearing God. Be sensitive to His voice and quick to obey Him that you may continually walk by faith. Surrender your life, your goals, and your ambitions into His hands. Surrender your ambitions to please Him and let Him work through you. It’s not about what you can do for God, but what He’s doing for you.

Let Him work through you. Let His Spirit guide you into the exact works He has for you. Let Him determine what pleases Him most. He knows better than we do as to what would please Him. He is God after all!

So surrender to Him, walk in purity, and be rejuvenated by His Holy Spirit. If you’ve never asked for the Holy Spirit, ask for Him now, with a sincere heart. You will never receive Him if you haven’t repented of your sins. Also, you cannot have what you don’t seek. So ask for the Spirit and you will receive Him.

Yet if you have repented from your heart and ask for Him with a sincere heart He will enter you immediately. You will feel as if you’ve taken your first breath, like a new born baby out of the womb, and it’ll feel as if before that moment you’ve never breathed at all. You’ll feel alive for the first time, and everything around you will feel alive. It’ll be a feeling of life like you’ve never experienced before. From that moment you will stop believing there is a God, and start knowing there is a God; because you’ve experienced Him firsthand.

Whether you are a new Christian or an old Christian, be refreshed by the Spirit

of God. Sit in His presence today and listen carefully to His voice. Sensitize yourself to His voice in the secret place, then carry that sensitivity with you for the rest of the day.

Continue to meditate on His presence for the rest of the day, where ever you are. Whether at work, or at home, meditate on His presence listening carefully to His voice. True servants of God are ones that makes themselves ready for His service at all times. We as His servants, are on call 24/7 to do the works of God.

Be listening for His voice that you may truly be on call. Then when He speaks do whatever He says as a faithful servant. Never delay in obedience but be faithful. If you truly surrender to God, abide in His presence, and obey His Spirit, you'll have no reason for doubt. If ever you've questioned your salvation, do these things and you'll feel the peace of God through faith.***

Day Four

Peace

Jesus give me the peace You promise between me and the Father. Please bless me in it and establish me forever. Give me spiritual peace and peace on every side.

Please remember your peace in my life, in my family, in my church, in my struggles, in my home and everywhere I am. Hedge me in with your perfect peace. Surround me in your love and deliver me from turmoil and spiritual warfare.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Php 4:6-7

***Let your thoughts be established in the peace of God through prayer. Lay everything at His feet. If there are any plans or desires in your heart release them to God. Lay them at His feet and give Him the control over the situation.

When God leads you, your life will have peace. Saturate your desires in prayer and let God’s answers quench your thirst. By giving God control, He’ll give you perfect peace. Take this time to seek Him in prayer. Lay your desires before Him and let them go, that He may show you His desires.

Sit in His presence and be satisfied by His love. Everything God wants for you is perfect. Whatever you desire is tainted by your sinful heart. Hence temptation begins with our desire. Therefore, let God establish you by conforming your desires to His.***

Day Five

Protection

Lord establish my heart before you. Deliver me in my times of need. Deliver me from those who rise against me and do not deliver to the will of my adversaries. Remember Your love over me and protect Your servant. Am I not Your baby? Remember Your promise to protect me. Save me from my adversaries and give me hope in You.

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands...” Isa 49:15-16

“A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me. Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!” Psa 27:1-14

***Beloved, God cannot forget the child He nurses in the milk of His word. He will have tender compassion on you and save you from all things. He will protect you with His feathers under the shadow of His wings. Only remember His love now and be edified by Him. Take this time to sit in His presence. The chicks are best protected under the wing of their mother. As it is written,

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Psa 91:1

Beloved sit in the secret place now and find His protection. God is faithful to finish what He began in you, only have faith now that He will.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” Php 1:6***

Day Six

Healing

Lord remember Your promise of healing over me. Heal my heart, heal my body, and heal my soul by cleansing me of sin. Physician heal me! Bless me with my daily needs. Keep me from sickness and infirmities. Keep me also from sin, which is the infirmity of my heart and soul.

“Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.” Jer 33:6

***The Lord heals us in more than one way. We have infirmities of flesh, of heart, and soul. In the grief of your heart God will comfort and heal your brokenness.

In the illness of the flesh He heals the body and keeps us from harm. Sometimes we are left with an infirmity but only for the sake of Spiritual growth, or for going home to Jesus. If it is not necessary to be ill, then why would He allow it?

Seeing then that there is nothing that can slip through His hands, we understand that there's a reason for everything. If He gives you an illness and doesn't immediately heal you, first ask Him to see if there is anything He wants to teach you through the situation. Learn to praise God in your afflictions, and grow from them. Is this not having an upright heart?

But God also heals our soul of the sickness of sin. The Old Testament many times used as a symbol for sin. Jesus bore the infirmities not only of the flesh but also of the soul. Indeed the sin of mankind was laid on His shoulders.

Now it is important to note that sin can bring infirmity. In the Old Testament we read that there are repercussions for an unrepentant believer. Paul discusses this concept briefly in First Corinthians. As we read,

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.” 1Co 11:28-30

In this passage Paul is talking about “eating and drinking” the bread and wine of

communion. Communion, as we know, symbolizes the Lord's death for the sake of our forgiveness. Simply put, if you're not walking in repentance then your trampling the body and blood of Christ. Likewise the Corinthians were not treating the sacrifice of Christ with dignity.

By being unrepentant a believer is no different than the Corinthians in that they're approaching the Sacrifice of Christ in an unworthy manner. If you're taking the grace and forgiveness of God for granted you're "eating and drinking" judgment on yourself. Therefore it is easy to understand that if a believer has unrepentant sin they will be contended with so they may repent. As we read,

"For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep." 1Co 11:30

If you're sick and aren't getting healed, pray and ask God if you did anything to merit discipline. If so then repent and press forward in your walk to do rightly. Not everyone gets sick because they did something wrong, but it doesn't hurt to ask God if it is the case or not.

If you are being contended with for sin, you won't always be healed immediately after repenting; although it can happen. So expect to be found faithful while suffering.

For in this God is testing your heart. But in due and in proper time He may heal you. Although I have seen some left with traces of a major illnesses to daily remind them to never walk in unrepentance. But those situations were for gravely serious and deep sins.

Be grateful for grace, and walk in the Spirit. Abstain from sin and God will continuously protect you from the trials of flesh. When you're found faithful there will be less suffering, but it doesn't mean you won't get sick. You will be sick less because you're no longer being contended with. Also God will withhold what is not necessary by placing His protective hand on you. However if it is necessary for our growth or that of others, He may give it.

But what we consider necessary is not always what God considers necessary. Sometimes people may become sick for someone else's conviction, repentance, or salvation. Jesus bore His cross for our sakes, and sometimes we have to bear a cross for someone else.

Take this time to seek His healing. If you've committed any sin confess it to Him now in quietness. If there is anything burdening you, sit in His love and be comforted. If you're sick, pray for healing. Pray for His protection from all

infirmities. Take this time to abide in the Spirit and meditate on His presence. Continue to seek Him as He leads in prayer.***

Day Seven

A New Body

Jesus I'm so excited to see You at Your return! How magnificent and AWESOME it'll be! I'm already awestruck by how wonderful You are, how much more so in the day I see You dazzling in all Your glory and power!

Who am I that You would consider me in these things, that I should have a body like Yours? I'm so deeply humble and yet infinitely grateful. Thank You Jesus! Thank You for a body without weakness. Thank You for a body without sickness or sin. Thank you Lord! I'm unworthy, but You're so good to love.

I believe that Your thoughts really are higher than mine. I can't even imagine the shape of Your face, the glory and beauty of Your frame, and yet You've determined to conform me to Your image.

Please remember me in the day of salvation. Take me up and give me that body! Remember Your promise to me, and make me more like You, that I can have hope in an eternal relationship with You.

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1Jn 3:2

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory?" 1Co 15:51-55

***God's image will be your image. He will recreate a new body for you which will be the image of His glory. Take this time to meditate on His graciousness.

What manner of gift is this that He gives us? How undeserving we are! Yet the love of God knows no bounds. Sit in His presence and reflect on His promise for you.***

Day Eight

Rest

Jesus give me rest in You. Fill me with Your Spirit and bless me with Your comfort. Work in me and through me that I may rest from the works of the flesh. Give me rest both now from the works of the flesh and before You when I come home.

Remember Your promise over me and give me strength to persist in Your Spirit. I know that I'm called to no longer work, because I am saved through faith. Yet I know that faith means nothing unless I do something with it and walk in love.

Satisfy me in Your Spirit and work through me. Remember me in judgment that I may enter Your rest.

"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: 'So I swore in My wrath, 'they shall not enter My rest,' although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works;' and again in this place: 'They shall not enter my rest.' Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." Heb 4:1-11

***There are many forms of rest. Our flesh rests at night when we sleep, or when we rest after a long day of work. We rest spiritually when we die, have a Sabbath rest, and when we rest in God's Spirit that He may work through us. There are very many forms of rest, and God calls us to each work individually.

We rest in His Spirit during the day, and we meditate on His Spirit at night. We rest on a Sabbath, while not forgetting to rest daily from the works of the flesh. That way God may operate through us through our surrender.

By works of the flesh we mean to say not only sin but also our personal ambitions. Which can be another form of sin. When we follow our own heart we aren't following Christ. When we surrender our works and our strivings to follow the plan God has for us, we lay our flesh to rest to work and operate in the Spirit. And even as Jesus said,

“But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” John 5:17

Jesus was proclaiming that He was not working in the flesh, but rather that the Father was working through Him. The works He did on the Sabbath were acceptable because God is above the Sabbath. Jesus healed the sick, and was accused of evil. God is not ruled by the Sabbath, but is Lord of the Sabbath, having created it. Through this Jesus was introducing the concept of having the Spirit work through you. If the Holy Spirit is working through you, it is no longer you who works but God. Therefore you are justified even on the Sabbath because it is God who works and not you. In this you're practicing a continual Sabbath, because God is working through you as you rest from the works of the flesh.

Indeed we are called to rest from all our fleshly works. Both the works of sin, and the works of trying to please God. Let God please Himself through you. Obey His word and God will work through you. Faith comes by His word, and when we obey we are walking by faith. As we walk in faith, it is no longer we who work but God in us. Yet remember that faith comes from His word. If the Holy Spirit hasn't directly told you to do something, then you're not walking by faith. Thus you are working and not God. You are operating in the flesh if you don't follow the daily leading of the Holy Spirit.

Although we are called to rest like Jesus, we are called to always be operating in the Spirit. Hence He worked even on the Sabbath. We rest while we continue to operate in the Spirit. We rest while the Father leads us and works in us through the Holy Spirit.

Take this time to rest in the Spirit. Listen carefully to the voice of the Spirit throughout the day and do everything He says. In this you have laid your works to rest, that you can pick up His. And as Jesus said,

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Mat 11:28-30

Beloved, labor no more, and let the Spirit operate through you. Be attentive to His voice and obey all that He gives you to do.***

Day Nine

Strength

Lord be my strength in my weakness. When I'm tempted give me strength as I lift my prayers to You. Thank You for the strength You give me. Thank You for the hope You give me through that strength. I know that it is You who works in me for holiness. Please remember my needs and deliver me from the will of the flesh.

Be my strength to overcome. And when I can't stand give me strength to walk in You. When my heart is broken, be my comfort. Help me to carry on and continue in your Spirit as You command me.

"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom 5:5-6

When you're broken, He's your comfort. When you're tempted He's your refuge. When you've sinned He's your restoration. When you have need He's your providence. Anytime you feel weak abide in His Spirit and He will give you strength. He will deliver you and save you from everything that comes your way. Take this time to abide in His Spirit and meditate on His presence.

Day Ten

Deliverance From Temptation

Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from Satan. Be my strength in my weakness and help me to overcome. Lord I desire Your will, and Your holiness. Remember me now in the times of my temptation and deliver me. Be my strength and deliver me from desire.

Remember Your promise of strength to overcome sin. I pursue it now that I may be holy before You.

“And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Mat 6:13

“...My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness...” 2Co 12:9

***Any time that you’re tempted run from the situation, and sit in the secret place with God. Pray for strength and to be delivered from Satan. If you allow your thoughts to dwell on your desire for sin, you will fall! But if you flee the sin even in your thoughts, you’ll have a chance to be free. As it is written,

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2Ti 2:22

But where do you run to when you flee from sin? The farthest possible place. And where is the farthest possible place from sin? The Lord.

If you’re tempted it’s probably because you’re allowing your thoughts to drift in idleness. But run to the Lord when you’re tempted. Sit down and pray immediately and get in the Spirit. Keep your mind on Christ, meditating on the Holy Spirit, and so love the Lord with all your mind.

Abide in the Spirit and you’ll find strength to overcome. Stop thinking about what’s tempting you and talk to the Lord instead. Let your thoughts meditate on His presence, and spend some time praying and worshipping, while completely ignoring the thoughts that tempt you.

After some time the temptation will leave you altogether. Satan will give up because Christ in you has overcome. But be aware that the enemy will wait to tempt you at a more opportune time. If you’re properly prepared to resist the devil, then you will overcome at that time as well.

If you allow your thoughts drift back to the tempting thought, you will fail. Flee the evil thoughts, both in mind and in body. Beloved, don't give room for the devil! If you sit and meditate on the Spirit, worshipping God and praying for strength with faith you'll overcome temptation every time. If you do not have faith, it will not happen. But according to the measure of your faith so will your strength be.***

Day Eleven

Power Over The Enemy

Lord deliver me from the enemy. Save me from His workings. Save me from everything he does to divide me from family, from friends, from church, and from you. Save me from his fiery darts, be my strength against his temptations.

Thank You for the power You give me against the devil. But I don't rejoice in this! I rejoice that I'm Yours, and Your mine. Thank You that You write my name in Your book, and give me authority for my own sake and Your glory.

Remember Your promise of authority and teach me the depths of it that I may see the glory of God. Overcome Satan for me and deliver me from the devices of the enemy. Save my family, friends, church and everyone in my life from the works of demons.

Deliver us from the devil and be glorified by Your works in our lives. Unify us in the Spirit and your peace. Save us from the lies of Satan, especially the subtle ones which enter our doctrine. Lord I want to live according to Your truth.

“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Luk 10:19-20

***When you fall under spiritual warfare, and when you have afflictions God gives you authority to rebuke the enemy. Yet this is not the final answer to the workings of Satan. Who does the devil fear most? You or God? The Lord no doubt! He only fears you because of God at work in you.

The best way to resist Satan is not merely to rebuke him, but to run into the arms of Jesus. Abide in the Spirit and meditate on His presence. God will give you strength to continue in the Lord. He will give you strength to overcome both temptation and spiritual warfare.

If ever there is a time warfare doesn't seem to go away there are two reasons for this. The first is fear. If you're fearing the enemy you're giving him power over you. Whatever you fear has power over you. Where there is fear there is no faith. Therefore fear the Lord that He may have the authority over you. Have faith in the promises of God and His peace will be established in you.

The second reason the enemy may not leave after a rebuke is because of sin. If

you're not heading down the right path in life, if you're not following the Lord, if you're not surrendering your plans, if you're not abiding in the Spirit, or if you're committing any sin of any kind Satan won't leave. Why? Because you're welcoming him there through fulfilling sinful desire.

You can't rebuke Satan and welcome him at the same time. Either you make the whole lump leavened or unleavened. Either the water will be salty or fresh. There is no place between light and darkness. There is no grey area in Christ. Either you're for Him or against Him. You cannot both rebuke the devil and obey him at the same time.

Change your heart and repent, then resist the devil and he will flee from you. Obey Christ and you'll be empowered by Him to overcome the enemy. Beloved always draw near to God. Resist the devil through the Spirit. If the enemy won't leave inquire of God to find out what's wrong. How are you sinning? Are you going the wrong way in your plans of life? Are you committing any blatantly obvious sin? Beloved, first submit to God, repent of sin, and draw near to the Lord then you'll be strengthened to overcome the devices of the enemy. Abide in the Spirit, then resist Satan steadfast in the faith. For what do we read?

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Jas 4:7-8

Beloved these two go hand in hand. Remember that resisting Satan is more than shouting rebukes. It also requires you to draw near to God. Satan can't fight God. Darkness flees from the light and sin can't dwell where the Lord is. Therefore abide in the Spirit and the devil will leave you alone. But if He does come to attack or tempt you, because your abiding in the Spirit you'll have strength to stand.***

Day Twelve

Freedom From Sin And Bondage

Thank You Jesus that You set me free! Deliver me from my own heart and purify it. Be my strength in my weakness that I may walk worthy of You. Give me strength in temptation –to overcome it.

Help me to abide in You that I may truly have freedom. Save me in the heat of the moment –when desire is ruling over me. Strengthen me and remember Your promise to free me from sin and bondage.

“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” Rom 6:10-18

***Press forward in the race and abstain from every form of evil. When we sit in the light, darkness cannot reign over us. When you're worshipping in the Spirit are you sinning? No, but you have to stop worshipping and take your eyes off the Spirit to sin.

Similar to Peter who looked away from Christ and fell in the water, if you turn from the Spirit you'll fall into temptation. Take this time to sit in the Spirit and abide in Him. Be filled with the light and let holiness reign in your heart.

If you continue in the Spirit all day every day, you'll continue in victory over sin and bondage all day every day. Therefore let that be your goal –to continue in

the Spirit continuously.***

Day Thirteen

Forgiveness

Who am I that You would choose to go through so much suffering for me? I'm wicked and You're perfect! Yet You would choose to suffer for me? I've done so many things contrary to You, why would You love me?

Lord Your love is perfect and I couldn't understand it until I received You. God You're so good! I'm not worthy of the least of Your kindnesses. Thank You that You forgive me, thank You that You love me.

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."
Rom 5:7-10

***Jesus has been through so much to love you. He was beaten whipped, and torn apart. He was scourged for your sin, and killed for your transgressions.

He loved you and wanted to set you free from the bondage of sin and the slavery of death. He counted you worth suffering for. He chose to suffer the cross for the joy set before Him. His joy was not only to sit at the right hand of the Father, but to have an enduring relationship with you.

Beloved you are His joy and His treasure! Remember His love for you, and everything He's gone through. Keep from sin and remain holy. And what does it mean to be "holy?" Holy simply put means "Complete" or "Set Apart."

The English word "Holy" according to Merriam Webster comes from the Old English word "Halig" akin to "Hal" which means "Whole." Hence "Holy" in the truest sense means "Whole" or "Complete."

Therefore it is easy to understand that the Holy Spirit makes us complete in Christ. When we're complete in Christ then we are made perfect. Hence we are made "Holy," and are set apart for His purpose.

But how are we made complete on a daily basis? Through abiding and walking in the Holy Spirit daily. When we abide in the Holy Spirit we are made whole, and overcome sin. Darkness cannot abide where the light is. Meditate on His presence. Pray often and worship Him. If you do this continually in your heart throughout the day temptation will deplete and mostly disappear in your life.

We know that Jesus was perfect and holy at all times. He always was "abiding" in the Father because He is God. Yet He also was tempted in all things.

Similar to Jesus when we abide in the Spirit it doesn't mean we won't be tempted, but that we'll have strength to stand when we are. However when your abiding and meditating on Him you'll be tempted less. If you focus on the desires of the flesh you'll be tempted more. Therefore Beloved, abide in the Spirit and do away with the works of the flesh.***

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal 5:16

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal 5:25

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Rom 8:12-13

"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. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." Rom 8:5-9

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Rom 8:14

Day Fourteen

Righteousness

Create in me a clean heart, Jesus. Give me Your word daily, through the leading of Your Spirit. I know that righteousness is obedience to Your word. So help me to open my ears that I may hear You and obey.

I know that faith comes by Your word, and I will obey it. I also know that obedience to Your word is righteousness. For faith in motion is righteousness.

Remember Your promise of righteousness over me. Grow me in Your righteousness and help me to understand how to walk in it perfectly, daily. Help me to practice Your word and to obey Your voice.

I don't want to be found having my own "righteousness," which comes from my own works. I want to be found in Yours which comes through faith in Your word and Your leading.

"He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday." Psa 37:6

***Anything the Holy Spirit speaks is the word of God. He is God and His words are His "word." We call the Bible the word of God because it is God spoken and was written by the Holy Spirit through men.

Likewise when the Lord speaks to you through the Holy Spirit this also is the word of God and must be obeyed. Both the Bible and the active leading of the Spirit are the "word of God." You cannot choose one above the other, but both must be obeyed equally. The Holy Spirit isn't less important than the Bible that He wrote. The Bible isn't less than the leading of the Spirit either. For on the Bible all the teachings and leadings of the Spirit can be founded. Therefore, it is good to perfectly understand the Scriptures. I'd like to encourage you to memorize them and know them well.

However, when the Lord speaks, or when you think the Lord has spoken, you must confirm that it is God, unless you know for certain that it is God already. If you're not certain He has spoken to you then your faith is not in the Lord if you act on the word. Rather you are "Hoping" that God spoke, and acting out of the unknown. We aren't called to have faith that God spoke but to have faith in what God speaks.

Faith comes by hearing God's word, and not anything else. Although we are

called to have blind faith, this doesn't mean that we need to blindly hope that God has spoken, while not actually knowing His word. We have blind faith when God's word doesn't make sense to us. We are trusting Him blindly, because we can't figure out the outcome. But faith in unknown words is foolishness and folly.

If you're having faith in words and don't know where they're from, then how do you know that your faith is in God and not Satan or your own flesh? Beloved, confirm the word of God and so walk in the Spirit. Walk by true faith and you'll overcome all things through the power of God.

When you have confirmed that God has spoken, obey Him. For faith comes by hearing God's word and righteousness comes by obeying it. Remember that righteousness is faith in motion. Do something with what you believe then you'll be found righteous.***

Day Fifteen

Wisdom

Lord I want to be like Solomon. I'm asking You for wisdom. Remember Your promise of wisdom over me Lord. Bless me in it, and make me abound in it. Give me spiritual wisdom that I may have understanding. Give me discernment that I may know when You're speaking, when I should speak, and how to act on faith.

Teach me, and increase me in wisdom. I know this is Your promise for everyone, so remember me in it and bless me with it.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Jas 1:5

"For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly" Pro 2:6-7

***Seek the Lord's wisdom today. Whenever you read the word pray that He'll give you wisdom. Whenever you're trying to memorize pray that He would help you remember the Scriptures, and have faith that He will. He will give it to you according to your faith, so have all faith and you will receive it.

Be taught by the Holy Spirit, for He is your source of wisdom. Listen to His voice daily, believe Him and obey Him continually. Take this time to seek the Lord's wisdom.

Spend this time reading the word. Pray for wisdom, and that He would make the pages come alive. Pray that He would read them to you, speak them to you, and teach you their meaning. Pray for wisdom, and seek the Lord in it. He will give to you according to your faith.***

Day Sixteen

Providence

Lord provide for my needs. Take care of me. I make You my hiding place and my refuge. You're my strong tower in time of need.

You've called me to seek first Your kingdom and promised that You would take care of the rest. I believe You! Don't leave me with needs. Remember Your servant and take care of me daily. Please give me my daily bread, both that which feeds my spirit, and that which fills my stomach. I will rely on You for everything.

I know that this means that I may abase before I abound. I know that You test my heart through having needs. Now let me be found faithful in Your sight as I choose to be provided for by You. Guide me Lord as I lean on You. I believe that if You guide me You'll provide for me.

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Php 4:19

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Mat 6:33

***Remember that the Lord loves you. He cares about your needs, and He will not cast them to the side. He will provide! For our God is mighty to save!

There is nothing about you that isn't important to Him. He tenderly and affectionately nurses your spirit as a mother nurses her baby. Beloved, you are God's baby and He cannot forget you nor can He forget your needs. He will take care of you. Therefore seek Him and walk according to His Spirit and He will provide.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Pro 3:5-6***

Day Seventeen

Prospering In Christ

Lord I know that I may not always prosper on this earth. Yet I know that You promised me prosperity before your throne. Therefore Lord I do not pray that I should prosper in this life, but that You would supply my needs.

I do however pray that the prospering You would give me would be a prospering relationship with You. I want to grow more deeply and intimately in love with You. Stretch me in my faith, and prosper me in the Holy Spirit that I should abound in the love of God.

Make me also to abound in the gifts of the Spirit, for in these things You are intimate with me. Therefore Lord I pray that my relationship with You should prosper more and more, and that you would make me to abound in the Holy Spirit.

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3Jn 1:2

***Notice that the Scripture says, “just as your soul prospers.” God does intend to bless us with many blessings. He says that the riches of the nation’s shall flow into the city (the New Jerusalem).

God intends to bless us with His prosperity when we are responsible enough to handle it. Because we are sinful we can’t handle these gifts until we have our new bodies. When all things are complete we will prosper. We will know no suffering, pain, fear, brokenness, or anything negative. All things will be blessed in Christ Jesus who has redeemed us from the curse which has caused the sufferings of this present life.

Knowing this we should not be seeking to prosper in this life. But we read the Scripture, “just as your soul prospers.” Beloved do you not realize what this is saying? It tells us that first thing to prosper is what’s inside of you.

Your soul should prosper before your flesh. God will provide all of our needs, but not all of our wants. Not all of our wants are godly. If they were godly then why do we still have sin?

He does give a promise for prospering, however. But that promises not for this life but that which is to come. Therefore we should store up the true riches which are found in Christ.

Although there will be seasons of abounding financially, be prepared for seasons of abasing as well. Not everyone will be rich in this life. Although there are a few who have blessings, not everyone is called to that life. But for those who are they are commanded by the Lord not to trust in uncertain riches.

Therefore Beloved, I would like to encourage you to seek the prospering Christ gives you. Prosper in a blessed and intimately deep relationship with Him. Prosper in the Holy Spirit, and the things of Christ. Seek to gain heavenly wealth, and lay aside the desires and pleasures of this life. Serve God in truth, and be blessed in a relationship with Him forever.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1Jn 2:15-17

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Mat 6:33***

Day Eighteen

Holy Spirit

Thank You Lord for Your Spirit! Thank You for the promise of Your deposit, that I should have hope. Lord I put my faith in Him and will obey His voice as He tenderly whispers to me. Continue to pour Your Spirit out on me. May I be blessed by Your continual outpouring for I know that You do not give Him by measure.

Bless me in Your Spirit, and continually fill me. Fill me that I may worship you in the Spirit. Yes Lord! As I breathe in Your Spirit, I will breathe out Your praise!

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” Joe 2:28-29

“Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” 1Sa 10:6

***God has promised His Holy Spirit. When you abide in Him He continues to pour upon you. For God does not give the Spirit by measure, but continually pours as we pursue Him.

“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.” John 3:34

Therefore Beloved remember the promise of the Spirit. Pursue Him, and portray all His fruits. Remember that His first fruit is love. If you’re walking in the Spirit then you’ll be walking in love. His greatest power is His love, for the love of God overturns the grave. Therefore walk in love and you’ll walk in the full power of God.***

Day Nineteen

Spiritual Gifts

Thank You Lord for the gifts You give me. I know that every good thing and every perfect thing is from You. Give me Your heart and Your hands and work in me. Bless me in Your Spirit as I pursue Your gifts. Grow me in them, and help me to understand my place in the church. Remember Your promise of spiritual gifts over me and give to me as you see fit.

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
1Co 14:1

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” 1Co 12:11

***Seek the gifts of the Spirit! For through them we experience the intimacy of God. Yet remember that His greatest gift is love.

Therefore Beloved pursue love, especially that you may work it out by faith. Pray also for the gifts of the Spirit. Pray for prophecy, dreams, visions, and all the things of the Lord. He will give to you as He wills.

Each gift determines which member of the body we'll be. Knowing this, God will give you the gifts most suitable for your part in the church. Yet pray for them all, for who knows what the Lord has willed and what He has planned? But know this: it is God's desire to be intimate with you and share His Spirit with you. He will give you gifts and be more intimate with you if you fervently seek Him for it. So Seek His Spirit and walk in love.***

Day Twenty

Truth

Lead me to the truth in all things. Jesus, give me wisdom that I should know the truth of Your doctrine. For I know that there is only one way to heaven. Thus there is only one truth and one doctrine to live by.

Lead me to the truth that I should know the scriptures perfectly and rightly divide them.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3Jn 1:3-4

***God desires to lead you into ALL truth. There is no reason for doubt when it comes to doctrine. You should know Christ’s doctrine perfectly. If you don’t then seek the Holy Spirit and He will lead you to it as He teaches you.

Seek the Lord and pray for understanding as you read the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit will interpret them to you, and show you how to apply them rightly on a day to day moment by moment basis. Memorize as much as you can and then all things will begin to make more sense.

Always pursue the truth. Have a passion for it. Jesus tells us that He is the way, truth, and life. To seek the truth of His doctrine is to seek Jesus, for He is the truth. If then you’re passionate for the Lord, be zealous for the truth and live by it.***

Day Twenty One

His Return

Come Lord Jesus, come! Hasten the day of Your return and redeem me from this world! It grows more and more corrupt every day and it only makes me long for You more. Return Lord and establish love, truth, and Your kingdom.

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2Pe 3:11-13

***Pray for the Lord’s return. Until He comes, be found faithful in love, in faith, in your conduct, and in purity; dwelling in the Spirit of God unto the salvation of your soul.

Continue in the Spirit and in the works that benefit a relationship with Him. Continue to pursue Him and continue to meet with Him in the secret place. Let go of this world and the things of it. Let go of this present life and carry your cross to honor God in everything you do. Conduct yourself in godliness, not forsaking the needs of others but filling them perfectly. Walk in love and honor God through obedience.***

30 Prayers Of Gratitude

Showing God A thankful Heart Through Prayer

30 Prayers Of Gratitude: Showing God A thankful Heart Through Prayer™

Copyright © 2013 by Adam Houge

Published by Living Tree Publishing in Harrisonburg, VA

All rights reserved worldwide. Permission is granted for quotations in all manner of religious assembly.

Portions of the text may be reprinted for use in small groups, church bulletins, orders of service, Sunday school lessons, church newsletters, and similar works, in the course of religious instruction, or services at a place of worship or other religious assembly with the following notice:

30 Prayers Of Gratitude: Showing God A thankful Heart Through Prayer™ by
Adam Houge

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by
Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Day One

Love

Day Two

Goodness

Day Three

Joy

Day Four

Peace

Day Five

Patience

Day Six

Kindness

Day Seven

Gentleness

Day Eight

Self-Control

Day Nine

Forgiveness

Day Ten

Grace

Day Eleven

Strength

Day Twelve

Conviction

Day Thirteen

Holy Spirit

Day Fourteen

Leading

Day Fifteen

Blessings

Day Sixteen

Trials

Day Seventeen

Comfort

Day Eighteen

Promises

Day Nineteen

Truth

Day Twenty

Purity

Day Twenty One

Praise

Day Twenty Two

Purpose

Day Twenty Three

Gifts

Day Twenty Four

Nearness

Day Twenty Five

Hope

Day Twenty Six

Humility

Day Twenty Seven

Selflessness

Day Twenty Eight

Faithfulness

Day Twenty Nine

Integrity

Day Thirty

Works

Introduction

Despite our sins God has always loved us. Even though we were evil, He chose to give everything for us just to cherish us. We're so undeserving of His love!

Even after having given Him our lives we still struggle with our evil hearts. But rather than casting us away He still treasures us. He never gives up on us but always works hard to draw us back to His side.

His love compels Him to work kindness toward us. Every day He tends to our needs and never forgets them. He gently leads us and tenderly cares for us, while His Spirit embraces us filling us up in His love.

But in all His kindness we tend to forget to have a heart of gratitude. As we busy ourselves about our days we come to expect His goodness, while forgetting to praise Him for it. It's not that we're ungrateful, but life distracts us from having the right heart.

Therefore we should dedicate ourselves to having a heart of gratitude. Over these next 30 days devote yourself to having a heart of gratitude. Remember God's love over your life and praise Him for it. Meet with Him daily in the secret place, and so create a habit of gratitude and effectual praise.

Day One

Love

You love me! I believe it, but sometimes I can't believe it! How can You love me, with all that I do? I sin and yet You love me!

God I love You, thank you for Your love. Your love changes my heart, and it changes my life. I'm not worthy of it, nor have I ever been, but You're still so good to love me anyway.

Because of this my heart will praise You, and my tongue shall rejoice! You're always so good to me, and no matter what, You always love me. Thank You for Your love. Help me to grow in it. Teach me how to rightly respond to it daily, that I can love You the way You deserve.

When things are hard I believe You love me. I believe You work everything together for my good because You love me. Please rebuild my heart before You. Satisfy me in your love. Your love satisfies and I believe that Your love is better than life!

Help me today. Help me to love those who don't love me. Show me what to do, that those who hate me can perceive your love through me and be convicted. Even when I sin You still love me.

Your love inspires me! Please teach me how to love those who sin against me, even as you have loved me. Show me how to love those who I'm at odds with, and help me to do it Your way. Bless me in this that I can bless them. Then when they have seen Your love at work in me, may they bless you God so that You'd be glorified!

Stretch me in Your love. Help me to rightly love You. There are times during the day which I confess I don't meditate on You as I should. Please convict me of this, and restore me in You. Your love is better to me than anything else. I want to be wrapped up in it. So please God wrap me up in Your presence now. Wrap me in Your arms and love me. Fill me, that I can go forward and be the light of Your love toward others. Both those who love me, and those who don't love me.

Help me to fulfill perfect love. Taking care of the needs of others. Open my eyes to see those who need Your love. Then I pray that You will love them through me.

"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an

everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt..." Jer 31:3-4

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 8:38-39

"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." Luk 6:35-36

Day Two

Goodness

Lord, thank You for Your goodness You show me every day! Thank You for everything You do for me! Thank You for Your saving grace, and thank You for everything You bless me with.

Thank You for Your goodness in trials. Thank You that You bring them together for good. Thank You for the goodness You give me through hardship judging the outcome to be greater than the means to get there. Forgive me my heart. Forgive me when I'm impatient with You in trials, and strengthen me Lord to understand Your goodness through them.

Please bless me in Your Spirit today. Let me see Your goodness again! Lead me God to show others Your goodness as well. I prepare my heart today to share Your goodness with someone else. Please do this work and show me how to love like You.

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!” Psa 107:8

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.

Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.” Psa 33:1-5

Day Three

Joy

Thank You God for the Joy Your goodness brings! Your love stretches to the heavens and Your lovingkindness to the ends of the earth! Your tender mercies fill the valleys and Your goodness the hills!

The hills have rejoiced before You and the tongues of men ordain your praise. Yes Lord! I will sing of the goodness of my God and remember all His mighty works in my life. For Your love O Lord is better than life. A single day in Your courts is better than a lifetime elsewhere. Yes, Your love is better than all the joys of this world.

Therefore my heart rejoices exceedingly in You O Lord my God! For great is Your mercy every morning and great is Your mighty Name which saves me! I will sing a new song before You and make melody in my heart. For You're worthy of my praise and Your love compels me to sing.

You have filled my heart with a new theme, and with my mouth I will glorify You daily. Remind me of Your joy Jesus. For Your joy is my strength. And in the strength of my joy my heart shall dance mightily before You. Yes I will rejoice because of the great goodness which You show me.

Fill me Lord with Your Spirit today. Give me Your Holy Spirit and bless me with Your grace. Any sins that I committed I repent of. Cleanse me and let Your mercies be new every morning for me.

In this I shall praise You, and my heart shall overflow with joy! For Your Holy Spirit shall overtake me and Your life shall rest upon me forever. Thank You God. Thank You Jesus for everything You've done.

Fill me with Your joy today. Let Your light shine in me, that others may see Your joy and be drawn to it. Let the unbelievers see Your all-consuming, fulfilling joy in my heart, and may they find You through my conduct. May my brethren be encouraged by Your joy in me.

Help me to rest in Your love when the burdens of this life overtake me. Help me to rest in You and fill my heart again. Help me to abide in Your Spirit's joy through the day and to remember all You've done for me.

In this I do rejoice, but the burdens of the day take my mind off of You, and this I confess. Forgive me of this Lord and help me to meditate on Your presence

throughout the day. Increase Your joy in me. Help me to continue in it both now and always.

“Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.’” Neh 8:10

“And Hannah prayed and said: ‘My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.’” 1Sa 2:1

“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm, With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,” Psa 98:4-5

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth” Psa 105:1-5

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” Php 4:4

Day Four

Peace

God thank You for the peace a life with You brings. Thank You for the peace I have physically around me, and thank You for Your perfect peace which fills me through Your Spirit. Life can be stressful and I need Your peace God. Help me to grow in Your peace that I can portray it always and every day. Help me to be a peaceable person today, not being to rash in my actions or my words.

Please help me to meditate on the peace of Your presence throughout the busyness and stress of today. Help me to meditate on Your Spirit and Your presence always that I may have Your perfect peace.

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.” Isa 26:3

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.” Col 3:15

Day Five

Patience

Thank You for all Your patience with me! I really need it! Please bless me in Your Spirit and cover me with Your grace. I ask for Your presence, help me to feel You around me now. Wrap me up in Your arms and comfort me in Your love.

Teach me Your patience God. I don't pray for harmful situations in my life, nor do I ask for an opportunity to have patience. Life supplies me with enough of those! But God I ask that You would strengthen me in Your Spirit to be a continually patient person, seeing that it is a fruit of Your Spirit.

Help me to have patience with everyone. Especially those who like to test me. Help me to be the example of your patience with them, that they may see the fruit of Your Spirit and Your love in me. That way they may be encouraged for holiness sake that they also may walk in love.

I pray that those who don't have You will see Your patient love at work in me and wonder what I have different. Please give me opportunity to share Your Gospel and Your love with them. Yes God I believe that love and patience go hand in hand. A person can't be patient unless they love, and a person isn't showing love if they're not being patient.

Please help me to grow in this and strengthen me through the daily abiding of Your Spirit. I choose to lean on You for more patience in my life. Help me to be good to others as You have been good to me.

Day Six

Kindness

Thank You Jesus for all the kindness You show me. I don't deserve it, but I need it. I need Your kindness. Help me to see the kindness You show me. Open my eyes to see You working around me. Open my eyes to see Your kindness in my life. Please encourage me in Your kindness and refresh me. Open my eyes to see Your answers to my prayers.

Help me also to be a kind person. Help me to show others kindness, even those who may not deserve it. Show me the needs of others and open my eyes to see them. Then I pray that you will open my heart to be kind to them and take care of their needs.

No matter how much need they have, help me to show real kindness and deliver them from their circumstances. God if I don't have what I need to help them then I pray that you will lead me to it and give to me that I can give to them.

Help me to maintain the heart that everything I have is Yours. I believe that You lay people at my feet to love them. I believe that You show me their needs to fill them. I don't always have what I need to do it, so please give it to me so I can. I believe that You test me by showing me other's needs to see if I will be faithful to love them as You have loved me.

Help me to portray Your heart God. Help me to remember that all I have is Yours. Help me to maintain the heart that from You it came to You it shall return. You give to me so I can be faithful and give to them. From You it came to You and Your cause I will give it.

Help me with my worry. Help me to not worry about giving and what could happen to me if I do. I know that You will take care of me and are merely testing me, to see if I will be found faithful.

Be my strength as I seek to show kindness to all. With the unbeliever, with those who hurt me, and with my brothers and sisters in you. Yet I pray that You would continue to show me Your kindness and to provide for all my needs as well.

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Gal 6:9-10

“What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.” Pro

19:22

“The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me— A prayer to the God of my life.” Psa 42:8

“Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.” Psa 63:3-4

Day Seven

Gentleness

Lord thank You that You gently lead me like a lamb. I need more of Your gentleness in my life. Help me to be a gentle person also. Help me to have a meek heart and to portray Your nature.

Meditate on God's gentleness today, and consider how you can be showing it to others as well. Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit. If you grow in gentleness You'll be portraying the Spirit in all you do.

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.” Isa 40:11

“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.” Php 4:5

Day Eight

Self-Control

Lord teach me to have an upright heart. Help me to grow in self-control. I hate my sin and I hate the works of my flesh. I pray that Your Spirit would work me, that you would be glorified in all my conduct. Remember Your love, and cover me in it. Help me to be more self-disciplined for You.

Thank You thank You give me opportunity for growth. That I could be a more self-disciplined person for You. Make me fully pleasing to You.

Help me to remain self-discipline in seeking you daily, and meditating on Your Spirit.

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things you will never stumble**; for so an entrance will be supplied to you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2Pe 1:5-11

Day Nine

Forgiveness

Jesus thank You for what You did for me on the cross. Thank You for everything that You endured to love me! I'm not worthy of Your forgiveness, but thank You for it!

I need all the forgiveness I can get, day after day. Knowing this I pray Lord that You will teach me to forgive others as You've me. Help me to love as You have loved me, and help me to forgive unconditionally.

Help me to express Your perfect forgiveness. Keep me from having a root of bitterness in my heart. I want to love as You have loved me, I want to forgive even as You have forgiven me.

Yes Lord, please forgive me my sins even as I forgive others.

***Reflect on yourself at this time and confess your sins to God. Let Him cleanse you, and purify your heart. If there is anyone who has sinned against you, seek unity and peace with them. Choose love and choose forgiveness. ***

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1Jn 1:9

"And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors." Mat 6:12

"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Mat 6:15

Day Ten

Grace

Thank You Jesus for Your daily abounding grace! Thank You that your mercies are new every morning! You're always so good to give me more than I deserve.

Help me to be the example of Your grace. I commit myself to having a gracious heart, full of love, and abounding in mercy. I want to be like You, and share Your love with others in the way I conduct myself.

Day Eleven

Strength

Jesus Thank You for the strength You give me to overcome sin through You. I need Your strength. Be my strength in my weakness when I'm caught in the heat of temptation. Help me Lord to temper my heart. I believe that in order to have a will of iron, first I must be tempered like steel. I want to live for Your will and not the will of the flesh.

Teach me to lean on You in times of temptation. Help me to reflect on Your presence in the heat of the moment that I may walk by conviction. Please Lord, temper my heart and make me more like You.

“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2Co 12:9

Day Twelve

Conviction

Thank You for Your conviction! I pray that You would increase conviction and help me to hear it clearly always. I want to be more appreciative of Your conviction by obeying it more.

I love you Jesus and I only want to please you. I want to obey Your voice, so please help me to hear it. Please make me more like You.

Help me to portray more conviction in my life. Convict me to love those around me as I dedicate myself today to obeying Your conviction in everything; no matter how great or how small the conviction may be.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” Joh 16:7-8

Day Thirteen

Holy Spirit

Father thank You for Your Holy Spirit! Thank You for His conviction, for His strength, for His leading and for His power! Thank You Lord for all you do in my life.

Thank you that I can see Your miracles and be close to Your heart. And thank You most of all for eternal life! Thank You that You give me Your Spirit to guarantee me this promise.

I choose to lean on Him more for strength, wisdom, and counsel. I choose to obey His voice knowing that He is Your very beating heart, and I love Your heart daddy!

Fill me with Your Spirit today and help me to meditate on His presence. I know that the more I focus on Him the more I will walk in Him. I know that when I walk in Him I please You. Daddy I want to please You because I love You, so edify me in Your Spirit as I learn to be led by Him throughout the day every day.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jud 1:20-21

Day Fourteen

Leading

Thank You that You don't leave me blind. Lord thank You for leading me in the way I should go. Thank You that You show me Your will that I should understand it and know it that I may walk worthy of Your calling. Thank You that You give me what I need to please You. Thank You that You lead me not only in the big things of life but in the day to day activities as well.

Thank You that you take me by the hand. I need Your leading. Without You I'm blind. I need you to show me the way I should go.

Give me wisdom God, and bless me in Your Spirit. I submit to Your daily leading. Show me how to apply the Scriptures every moment of the day through Your Spirit. Show me what You want me to be doing that I can live according to Your heart. Help me to meditate on You, and on Your presence as You show me the way I should go daily.

Help me to understand the meaning of that Scriptures being led in a daily walk by Your Spirit. Open my eyes to see Your way and to perceive Your path before me. Lord grant me wisdom to understand Your will. Yes God I pray that You will take me by the hand as one leads the blind for You are my eyes.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Rom 8:14

“For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.” Psa 31:3

“I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.” Isa 42:16

Day Fifteen

Blessings

Lord I'm gracious for all the blessings You give me. Thank You for every way that You bless me. For my family and friends, for your salvation. Thank you for Your friendship, and that You bless me with more of You every day.

God please help me draw near to You today. Thank You for providing for my needs, and for everything you do to lift my heart up. Help me to remember Your goodness, especially in the hard moments of life. Help me to remember everything that You do to show me Your love that I may have faith in hardship - faith that you'll work it together for good.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" Eph 1:3-4

Day Sixteen

Trials

Lord remind me to have gratitude in all things that I may reflect the right heart. I know that You work everything together for my benefit, that I may be blessed in You. Remind me of Your goodness when I'm suffering. I choose to praise You in my storms of life. Even though life can be hard that doesn't change the fact that You're good.

Thank You for the trials You bring my way for my growth. I understand that not everything that happens to me is Your desire. So I thank You that You work evil things together for good. Thank You that You bring it all together for a purpose that glorifies You and in the end blesses me because You love me.

When I'm in a trial help me to focus on You rather than my circumstances. I understand that Peter walked on the waves but only fell in when he stopped looking at You. I understand that he fell in when he was distracted by the boisterous wind.

Lord help me to maintain my focus on You, lest I fall into grief when hard things fall upon me. Let not the waves and wind of the situation overtake me. But raise me up in the power of Your Spirit to overcome all things.

Lord remember Your servant. Remember Your love over me, and please deliver me. I commit my way to You, please commit to saving me as You promised.

Teach me to have patience with You, as I wait for your Salvation.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Jas 1:2-3

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" 1Pe 1:6-7

Day Seventeen

Comfort

Jesus please wrap Your arms around me. I need Your comfort. Remember me in Your love and comfort me in it.

Thank You for Your comfort, especially during hard times. Thank You that when no one else cares about my situation, and when it feels like no one else loves me You are there for me.

Thank You that You treasure me, hold me, and cherish me. I need more cherishing in life. I need more of You. Please remember me, and comfort me today.

Help me to be a comfort toward others also as You are toward me. I want to share the same love with them as You have shown me that I may be the example of You in everything I do.

“My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, “When will You comfort me?”” Psa 119:82

“Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.” Psa 119:76

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2Co 1:3-4

Day Eighteen

Promises

Thank You for Your precious promises! Who am I that you'd care about my future? Who am I that You'd consider my wellbeing? Thank you for the hope You give me through Your promises.

I know that Your word is truth and that there is no reason for You to promise anything. Yet You give me a promise that I may have faith that You will uphold Your word. Thank You that You increase my faith for my salvation!

Yes Lord, I choose faith. I choose to believe the words You speak. I will follow Your voice and obey it. Lord speak life and remember the redemption of Your servant.

Redeem me from this life and all the pains of it. Save me from myself and all my sins. Save me from trials, brokenness, sickness, poverty, and death. Remember me in Your love according to Your promises and save me from everything that comes my way.

When trials fall on me, and tribulation overtakes me, I choose faith. I choose to believe Your promise of redemption. I believe you have the hope of salvation stored up for, me beginning here in this life. Save me from my trials and lift up my face again. Yes I believe that you are my salvation in everything.

Therefore I will seek You Lord and glorify Your mighty Name!

“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2Pe 1:4

Day Nineteen

Truth

Lord I love Your truth. I love Your word, and the purity of it. I love Your doctrine, and choose to lay aside my heart to pick up Your truth.

Thank You that you lead me to the truth of Your doctrine. Thank You that you keep me in my ways, and grant me wisdom that I may understand the Scriptures. Thank You Lord that there is only one way of salvation and that You are that way.

Help me to understand Your doctrine. Help me to understand Your one truth which Your Holy Spirit gives. I want to live according to it even as You have called me to be a child of Your truth.

I pray that Your Spirit would interpret the Scriptures to me, and endow me with wisdom, that I may walk in the way which you want me to walk. Deliver me from the opinions of men. Save me also from forming my own opinions about Your word, and from interpreting the Scriptures for myself. I know that Your opinion is all that matters.

God I want to please you, so I choose to follow You Your way. I believe when You spoke the Scriptures into existence You only meant it one way. I believe that it cannot be interpreted many ways, but that there is only one thing which You meant.

God I choose to cling to that one true meaning. I choose to cling to Your word, to Your heart, to Your truth, and to Your Holy Spirit. Please lead me in these things and deliver me from subtle false doctrine according to Your goodness. I know that it's Your commandment to walk in truth. Therefore I will seek it with my whole heart because I know that You Jesus are the truth. To seek Your truth is to seek You.

Lord I submit to the Spirit's leading. I pray that You will interpret the meaning of Scriptures to me through Him that I may live according to Your one true Word. Help me to understand the Scriptures that I may walk in wisdom, as I accurately apply the word of God according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” Joh 16:13

“I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as

we received commandment from the Father.” 2Jn 1:4

“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3Jn 1:3-4

Day Twenty

Purity

Thank You that You call me to purity. I love what You're creating in me! I surrender to Your inner working and pray that You would continue to cleanse me through and through.

I want a pure heart. I want to walk in purity before You and be pleasing to You in all my conduct. Help me to portray the purity of Your love and the Holy Spirit in my life. Be my strength in my weakness, and show me what it means to live my life a sacrifice for You.

By ridding myself of a worldly nature, I know that I can pick up the pure heart of Christ. So God I ask that You would cleanse my heart, and make me pure before You, that I could see Your face.

I want to show You my gratitude by choosing to walk with a pure heart. Therefore I ask that You'd purify me in Your love. I know that love purifies the heart so please perfect me in it that I may be more like You.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God." Mat 5:8

"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
1Jn 3:3

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Rom 13:14

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 2Ti 2:22

Day Twenty One

Praise

Lord You're so wonderful! Thank You that Your mercy is new every morning! Thank You that I can praise You with every new day!

Lord today I dedicate myself to continually worshiping You. Help me to meditate on Your presence as I worship You sweetly and softly throughout the day. Help me to fulfill my duties while I praise you.

Help me to maintain my focus on both You and the necessities at hand. I pray that You will give me a joyous heart as I worship You today, and that You'll cause all those around me to see Your light in me. In this I pray that You'll open a door for me to share You with others.

Take sometime this morning to focus on His presence and worship Him. Then continually worship Him throughout the day. Keep a heart of praise all day every day from this day forward.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” Psa 29:2

Day Twenty Two

Purpose

Lord please show me my place in the church. Show me the purpose You have for me and help me to understand Your design. Please open my eyes to see Your leading. Show me my place that I can humbly take it up.

Thank You that You created me for purpose. Thank You that You have a use for me and a place in Your family. Help me to understand my place in the church as I seek to fulfill it daily.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Eph 2:10

Day Twenty Three

Gifts

Lord I believe that every good thing is from Your hands. Thank You for the good gifts You give me. Thank You especially for the gifts of your Spirit. I need to show You more gratitude for Your nearness through them.

I ask that You would increase me in Your Spirit and give me more gifts. Please give me dreams and visions, and even prophecy if You permit. Lord whatever Your gifts are for me I desire them! Whether tongues or teaching I pray that You will grow me in the gifts that You deem best for me. I want to portray Your Holy Spirit in everything I do.

I understand that there is a difference between fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. But I ask for both. I pray that you will make me more like You in all things, and that I should walk in love. Yet I believe that You will draw me intimately closer through gifts. Remind me to practice love as You bless me with gifts. I know that Your love is the greatest gift of all, so lead me in it as I seek to walk in You continually.

Lord please give me more spiritual gifts so I can be more intimate with You.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” Jas 1:17

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
1Co 14:1

Day Twenty Four

Nearness

You're always so good to hold me close! I want to rest my head on Your chest like John did. Thank You that I can have this nearness with You. I love You Lord, You're always so good to me!

Please meet me in the secret place, I want to be more intimate with You, now and always. I choose to press into You that I can be closer to You. Help me to meditate on You more. Let me feel Your presence continually. Jesus wrap me up in Your Spirit!

“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” Heb 10:22

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” Jas 4:8

Day Twenty Five

Hope

Thank You Jesus for the hope You give me! Help me to reflect upon it daily, especially during a trial. Thank You for Your faithfulness in every circumstance of life.

Thank You that I can know You as Savior and have a hope laid up for me. Thank You for everything You do daily to save me. I surrender to Your daily leading that You can deliver me from every circumstance of life.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1Pe 1:3

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Heb 10:23

“But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more.” Psa 71:14

Day Twenty Six

Humility

Jesus thank You for humbling Yourself for my sake. I'm not worthy of this kind of love! Who am I that the Lord of all would humble Himself for my sake? What manner of humility is this that the King would die for a condemned criminal? I've sinned against You and I deserved hell, but You loved me and died for me!?

Teach me to be like You Jesus! Help me to carry my cross daily, as I seek to honor You. Remind me to walk in humility in everything I do.

I don't pray to be humiliated, but to be strengthen in Your Spirit to have a humble heart. I want to arm myself with the same mind You had, and be humble in all my conduct. I know You love me, so I put my trust in Your faithfulness as I learn to walk humbly before You always.

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1Pe 5:6-7

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Php 2:3-11

Day Twenty Seven

Selflessness

Lord teach me to have a selfless heart like You. You sacrificed everything, laying down Your life to love me. Help me, Lord, to portray your love through my conduct. Help me to be more like You.

Thank You for all the ways You love. Thank You that You chose to be so selfless and gave me a hope through Your cross. Remind me to be selfless like You, carrying my cross in this life.

Open my eyes also, to the needs of those around me. Help me to have a continually giving heart. I believe that those who want friends must first be friendly, and that everyone is nearer to a giver.

Above all I pray that You'll give me an opportunity to show Your love today as I commit to growing in selfless acts daily.

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1Jn 3:16

Day Twenty Eight

Faithfulness

Thank You Jesus for Your faithfulness! Thank You for everything You give me. Thank You for delivering me out of all my troubles! Thank You for coming through for me every time, and for providing for my needs daily.

Thank You that You put the needs of my soul above the needs of my flesh, that I should have everlasting life. Thank You that You restore the things that have been taken away. Grow me in patience as I wait for Your restoration during times a need.

I put my faith in Your faithfulness, and I will not let my heart waver. Help me to be faithful like You daily. I want to portray Your faithfulness to everyone around me that I may walk in Godly Christian integrity.

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” 1Co 4:1-2

Day Twenty Nine

Integrity

Thank You for all the ways You work around me to provide even when I don't see it. Thank You Lord for everything you do to lead me safely and tenderly even when I'm not aware. Thank You God for Your perfect loving integrity.

Help me to portray Your integrity today. I want to walk in it by putting on a good Christian ethic. Let me be found faithful by You even when no one is looking. May Your conviction be stronger for me that I can walk uprightly today.

Likewise may others find me faithful both at work and with the things that belong to someone else. That way they may see Your integrity at work in me, and be lead to You through it. Help me also to see all Your faithfulness as well.

Open my eyes to Your works around me, that I may always see what You doing for me and praise You. Show me those things I don't normally see that I may be more grateful for Your goodness. Help me always to have good integrity that I may show You how grateful I am through my conduct.

“And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?” Luk 16:12

Day Thirty

Works

Open my eyes to see You working all around me. You said the Father is always working. Show me Your daily goodness that I can praise You for the things I don't see. Open my eyes to perceive Your works.

The works of Your hands are so wondrous! As I look at all Your creation I stand in awe of You! The height of the heavens is immeasurable. The stars are innumerable. The sea in its surging tiding power is a small work for You. The innumerable living things teaming in the ocean are beyond my comprehension. There are so many grains of sand in a single beach and their too many beaches in the world for me to count them.

All these things You've created in all their vast glory, and yet You would consider me!? Who am I that You would think of me? Who am I that You'd love me? And what am I that you would care? You're always so compassionate and abounding with mercy. You built me to love me and created me for Your love.

Teach me Your ways O God that I can walk in them. For Your works and Your ways are too wonderful for me. How can I call myself wise? Compared to you I know nothing.

Yes Lord you created my head that it could contain wisdom in the first place. You're the one who puts the knowledge in it! Like a glass being filled with water so You Lord fill us with wisdom. What then can I know compared to you? What knowledge is there to be found that You haven't already known?

Lord teach me what it means to rest from my works as You work in me and through me by Your wisdom. My works cannot attain to Yours, so I pray that You will be glorified in me by working through me. Let my faith be set in motion as I work according to leading. Let Your righteousness work in me as I walk by faith. I surrender to Your hands. Please put Yours in mine and work through me.

I believe that You have ordained works for me since before time as You tell me in the Bible. I am willing to walk in them as I seek to live according to Your heart daily. I love You Lord and only want to please You. Work in me and through me to Your glory, as I submit to You daily.

"Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" Jas 2:22

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” Jas 2:24

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
Jas 2:26

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Eph 2:10

***There are two types of Christian works: The works we try to do to please God and works of faith. So what then are works of righteousness? They boil down to faith in motion, or the works of faith. Where does faith come from? God’s voice and God’s word. Obey Him and You’ll be led by Him, walking in faith.

God requires works of faith from us, and desires us to grow in them. It is through these works that we are justified, where as by our own works we are not justified. For we know that the just shall live by faith.

God isn’t pleased by the thing we try to do for Him. Our works cannot attain to His. We shouldn’t hope God is please with us. A servant who does what they’re told knows that they’re pleasing their master. Likewise He is pleased by our surrender. He is pleased by the work He works through us when we obey His voice through his daily leading.

Faith in motion justifies a man. For when we walk by faith God works in us and through us. It is no longer we who work but God. In this He is glorified, and by this we are justified. As it is written,

“But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.’” Gal 3:11

The works of the law are our own works, whereas works of faith are the things God is calling us to do. For faith comes by His word,

“...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom 10:17

God calls us to obey and not do our own thing. That way he can work through us and be glorified. When we works through us He is manifested and thus glorified. Just as Jesus commanded Peter to come out on the water. Peter couldn’t walk on water of Himself, but Christ was working through him. Notice also that God worked through him after he was called to go out on the waves. Peter did step out of himself saying, “I trust God that I won’t fall in.” First he was told what to do, then by faith he obeyed and God worked through Him to perform a miraculous walk.

Likewise our walk with Christ should be a daily, miraculous walk, as God works through us. A work of faith is merely obedience to the word of God spoken by the daily active leading of the Holy Spirit. If you want to have a miraculous walk in Christ then submit to God, be led by His Spirit, and walk by obedience.

Beloved I'd like to encourage You to practice Your faith, as You continue in a heart of gratitude.***

“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”
Php 2:13

Table of Contents

[The Prayer Driven Life](#)

[The Power Of Passionate Prayer](#)

[The 30 Prayer Warrior Challenge](#)

[21 Prayers Of Promise](#)

[30 Prayers Of Gratitude](#)

[The Power of Habitual Prayer](#)

[Day One](#)

[Continual Pursuit](#)

[The Prayer](#)

[How can this change your life?](#)

[Day Two](#)

[Led by the Voice of God](#)

[Understanding the inward voice](#)

[Understanding the fruit of God](#)

[Understanding open and closed doors](#)

[Day Three](#)

[Change Your Words and It Will Transform Your Life!](#)

[Day Four](#)

[Will of God](#)

[Day Five](#)

[Pursuing the One and Only True Faith](#)

[Day Six](#)

[Absorbing the Love of God](#)

[Day Seven](#)

[Becoming the Face of Love](#)

[Final Thoughts](#)

[I'd Love to Hear from You!](#)

[Want Free Books?](#)

[Also By Adam Houge](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter One](#)

[Understanding the Heart of God](#)

[Chapter Two](#)

[Intimately Attuned](#)

[Chapter Three](#)

[Fleeing from Sin and Temptation](#)

[Chapter Four](#)

[God Hears the Righteous](#)

[I'd Love to Hear from You!](#)

[Also By Adam Houge](#)

[Prepare for War!](#)

[Prepare Your Armor!](#)

[Understanding Your Implements](#)

[The Helmet of Salvation](#)

[The Belt of Truth](#)

[Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace](#)

[Shield of Faith](#)

[Breastplate of Righteousness](#)

[Sword of the Spirit](#)

[Enter the Battle](#)

[Dedicated to a Life of Prayer](#)

[Day Eight](#)

[Dedicated to a Life of Praise](#)

[Day Nine](#)

[Becoming a Love Warrior](#)

[Day Ten](#)

[Dedicate to Praying for Others](#)

[Day Eleven](#)

[Praying Through the Scriptures](#)

[Day Twelve](#)

[Praying for Wisdom and Interpretation of Scripture](#)

[Day Thirteen](#)

[Praying for Growth and Applying It](#)

[Day Fourteen](#)

[Day Fifteen](#)

[Wholly Devoted to the Will of God](#)

[Day Sixteen](#)

[Living Sacrifice](#)

[Day Seventeen](#)

[Fight the Good Fight](#)

[Day Eighteen](#)

[The Battle Is the Lord's](#)

[Day Nineteen](#)

[Becoming Love](#)
[Day Twenty](#)
[Showing Mercy](#)
[Day Twenty-One](#)
[Being Faithful](#)
[Day Twenty-Two](#)
[Taking Up a Servant's Heart](#)
[Day Twenty-Three](#)
[Finding Strength in Your Own Battles](#)
[Day Twenty-Four](#)
[Finding Strength Through His Promises](#)
[Day Twenty-Five](#)
[Becoming a Praise Warrior](#)
[Day Twenty-Six](#)
[Choosing Words That Heal](#)
[Day Twenty-Seven](#)
[Abiding in the Spirit](#)
[Day Twenty-Eight](#)
[Being Led by the Spirit in Everything](#)
[Scripture for Thought](#)
[Day Twenty-Nine](#)
[Praying for Spiritual Gifts](#)
[Day Thirty](#)
[The Power of a Thankful Heart](#)
[Introduction.](#)
[Day One.](#)
[Love](#)
[Day Two.](#)
[Hope](#)
[Day Three.](#)
[Eternal Life](#)
[Day Four.](#)
[Peace](#)
[Day Five.](#)
[Protection.](#)
[Day Six.](#)
[Healing.](#)
[Day Seven.](#)
[A New Body.](#)

[Day Eight.](#)
[Rest](#)
[Day Nine.](#)
[Strength.](#)
[Day Ten.](#)
[Deliverance From Temptation.](#)
[Day Eleven.](#)
[Power Over The Enemy.](#)
[Day Twelve.](#)
[Freedom From Sin And Bondage](#)
[Day Thirteen.](#)
[Forgiveness](#)
[Day Fourteen.](#)
[Righteousness](#)
[Day Fifteen.](#)
[Wisdom..](#)
[Day Sixteen.](#)
[Providence](#)
[Day Seventeen.](#)
[Prospering In Christ](#)
[Day Eighteen.](#)
[Holy Spirit](#)
[Day Nineteen.](#)
[Spiritual Gifts](#)
[Day Twenty.](#)
[Truth.](#)
[Day Twenty One.](#)
[His Return.](#)
[Goodness](#)
[Joy](#)
[Patience](#)
[Kindness](#)
[Gentleness](#)
[Self-Control](#)
[Grace](#)
[Conviction.](#)
[Leading](#)
[Blessings](#)
[Trials](#)

[Comfort](#)
[Promises](#)
[Purity](#)
[Praise](#)
[Day Twenty Two.](#)
[Purpose](#)
[Day Twenty Three.](#)
[Gifts](#)
[Day Twenty Four](#)
[Nearness](#)
[Day Twenty Five.](#)
[Day Twenty Six.](#)
[Humility](#)
[Day Twenty Seven.](#)
[Selflessness](#)
[Day Twenty Eight](#)
[Faithfulness](#)
[Day Twenty Nine.](#)
[Integrity](#)
[Day Thirty.](#)
[Works](#)