



20 MORE *23*
OF GOD

21 Day Devotional

*Draw near to God
and He will
draw near to you*

James 4:8

Journey Family,

I'm so proud of each of you for taking this step in your faith and joining us for 21 days of prayer, devotion, and fasting! We believe that you will experience MORE of God over these next days together: more of His Peace, more of His Power, and more of His Presence. It's my personal prayer for each of you that as you experience more of God, you are transformed to be more like Jesus and are empowered to live and love like Him. Don't forget, you get out what you put into this experience. So, commit to it! Each day, commit to your fast, engage with this devotional, take time to pray and seek God's face and prioritize Sunday services and our weekly Living Room Sessions. I love the fact that we get to do this TOGETHER! Remember, you are joining thousands of your fellow church family members as we start the year off right, seeking MORE OF GOD!

With Love and Prayer,

Pastor Scott

Day 1 | “Draw Near”

READ

“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 NIV

THINK

In the world we live in today, we are constantly on the go. Society pressures us to fill our lives with meetings, appointments, and activities, leaving little room for anything else. Only to crash into bed every night and do it again the next day.

Our time with God can quickly get lost in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We quickly rush through our quiet time and then wonder why God hasn't spoken to us. The problem is not that He didn't speak to us. We just couldn't be still long enough to listen. James is showing us how we must act towards our Father! God adores you. Are you making time for Him? Is there a sin in your life that prevents you from surrendering everything to God and letting Him take control of your life? Are you giving in to what your flesh desires instead of what we know God desires for us? God's amazing grace covers our sins if we want God to do it. He will give you the grace to overcome whatever prevents you from coming into His presence.

Creating time in our day for God is accepting God's invitation into His presence. He will reveal Himself to us as we draw near to Him, and we can experience His presence.

ACT

Are you taking time to slow down during your quiet time? Listen for His still, small voice. Let Him take control of your life and let go of your fleshly desires. Play some worship music before you pray or crack open that Bible. Feel His presence in your room or car as you unwind. Just slow down and make space.

PRAY

Father, thank you for Your amazing grace! Forgive me for letting the hustle and bustle of my day get in the way of really spending time with You in Your presence. Forgive me for allowing sin to get in between me and You. Help me surrender my fleshly desires to You. I want to draw near to You so I can be the person You've created me to be.

Day 2 | “The Heart Posture of Worship”

READ

“I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the Land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me” Judges 6:8-10 ESV

THINK:

Gideon was the leader of the Israelites, who were doing evil in the eyes of the Lord, so whenever the people of Israel planted their crops, God would let the Midianites sweep through and set up camp on their land, which would ruin all of their crops. They were crying out to the Lord for help, so He sent a prophet to deliver that message in Judges to the Israelites. The Lord continues to let Gideon know that he would be used to save Israel out of Midian’s hand with an army of only 300 hundred men against tens of thousands. So fast forward to right before battle, here’s the scenario: Gideon was feeling afraid, so the Lord told him to go down to the Midianite camp to listen to what they were saying. Gideon happens to hear one of the Midianites telling a dream of destruction at Gideon’s hand. “And as soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation he worshiped.” (Judges 7:15) And with no weapons, the Israelites go to the Midianite camp, sending them into such a terror that not only did they flee, but killed one another in the chaos. Gideon worshiped the Lord because of what He was doing, not what Gideon was able to do in his own strength. He found faith in God’s promise and worshiped because he knew that God was giving him evidence of salvation. God inflicted a response of worship by revealing himself and his plan to Gideon.

Worship is acknowledging God for WHO He is, and seeing him without doing anything for ourselves. Worship is not about us, but is a practical and emotional response to the faithfulness of God. Our worship is a response to what God revealed himself to be, not only in who He is, but also in what He has done, is doing, and will do in the future. True worship comes from a heart that desires only God and God alone. Scripture reveals to us that our words, actions, and attitudes are worship to God when they have been self-sacrificially devoted to him. The best way to worship God, is to give God all of you.

You can give anything to God because He has given everything to love you.

ACT:

When you don’t understand the plans the Lord has for your life, just worship Him. Simply sit at His feet, trust in His word, and be obedient to his call. His plans will always be far greater for our lives than we could ever imagine, and our whole world is in His hands. Remain in a posture of surrender before the Lord, and worship through the battle.

PRAY:

Lord, reveal to me that you are with me in the battle. That no matter what I am facing, you are the miracle-working, mountain-moving, powerful God who is fighting my battles for me. Help me find strength and hold steadfast to your promises. Show me what it looks like to walk in full surrender to you today. I love you, Lord. I desire to be in relationship with you. Fill me with your presence, as I sit at your feet today.

Day 3 | “Joy in His Presence”

READ

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” - Psalm 16:11 NIV

THINK

Modern society often sells the notion that we can find happiness in material success, popularity, or personal achievements. The relentless pursuit of these temporary pleasures can lead to exhaustion, dissatisfaction, and a nagging sense of emptiness. But, in this verse today, David redirects our quest for happiness. We learn joy is not fleeting or circumstantial - we can find it in God’s presence. Joy is what sustains us through trials and tribulations. It gives us strength in times of adversity (Nehemiah 8:10).

In an era dominated by instant gratification, where we feel pleasure in the next purchase, the next vacation, or the next “like” on social media, this verse provides a refreshing perspective: “At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” This suggests that we will never be satisfied in fleeting moments of worldly delight but in our relationship with God.

Are you investing your time and energy into cultivating a relationship with God that provides everlasting pleasure? Tap into the power of God’s presence that brings joy, supernatural peace, and wisdom. Strive to see things from His perspective and remember there is power and joy in His presence.

ACT

During these 21 days of prayer and fasting, even though giving up those fleshly desires is hard, remember that our joy comes from being in His presence. Take some extra time today to pursue His presence and reflect on His goodness.

PRAY

Lord, I stand in awe of You. I have often sought joy in the wrong places instead of seeking You. I’m so thankful for your unfailing love and faithfulness. Thank you for the promise of a fullness of joy in your presence. Fill me with your joy and help me seek your guidance in all my decisions. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 4 | “Life Ring”

READ

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23 NIV

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 NIV

THINK

Have you ever felt like you are drowning? Like you are just treading water, barely hanging on. Grasping at whatever you can to keep afloat? The word drowning has different meanings. Consider this definition: a feeling of despair or depression; nothing is going right, and you cannot keep up.

A lot of us can relate to that meaning. We have all felt this way at one point or another. Maybe you are stuck in a toxic relationship or have a painful past. Sometimes we pull ourselves up only to find we are stuck in our old ways of living and find ourselves treading water all over again, with waves crashing over us.

The Bible tells us that there is a good reason we feel that way: because we are sinners separated from God. Sin separates us from God; there is nothing we can do to rescue ourselves when we are drowning. If we got what we deserved for our sins, it would be death (Romans 6:23).

Jesus paid the ultimate price just for us. Just like a gift, it’s our decision whether or not to accept it. Someone can throw you a life ring, but it’s your decision whether or not to reach out for it. When we are faced with the Good News, we must choose to receive the gift of Jesus for ourselves.

ACT

Have you accepted the gift of Jesus Christ into your life? What is keeping you from making that decision today? You can pray the prayer below and invite Him into your life.

PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner. I need to be forgiven. I believe Jesus Christ, your Son, died for my sins and is alive. I turn away from my sin and confess Jesus Christ is my Lord and receive Him into my life. I ask you, Lord Jesus, to control my life, and I thank you for giving me eternal life.

Day 5 | “God’s Protection”

READ

“I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”
Psalm 91:2 NIV

“It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.”
2 Samuel 22:33 NIV

THINK

Have you ever sat on the porch and watched thunderstorms brewing on the horizon? You can hear the rumbling thunder, you can feel the strong winds, and you can see the sky tinted with various colors. But your place under the awning is safe, secure, and undisturbed, even though chaos is building all around. The roof doesn’t stop the storm; it just provides protection during the storm.

God’s protection doesn’t eradicate life’s storms from happening around us. However, the protection of God provides incredible strength and sustenance for every battle we may face. When emotions, thoughts, or unexpected bills come into the picture, call out to God. Don’t leave the porch. Seek a safe place of refuge. Surround yourself with His presence and protection. This does not mean hiding like a hermit in a shell. Instead, Jesus wants you to “dwell” with Him, to move with Him, as you walk through your day. You can be in constant contact with Christ, who will guard you and keep you.

ACT

Today take a few minutes and jot down times when you have seen God’s hand protecting you and those close to you. Memorize Psalm 91:2, “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” Notice the words “I will say” and declare them boldly!

Pray

Thank You for Your protection. Lord, help me remember that You are in control, and I will walk close to You. Lord, I ask for guidance and protection in every area of my life. I thank You that scripture reminds us that You are our strength and refuge. I know that You are a good God who I can put my trust in. Thank you for your provision and faithfulness even when I fall short. Help me to seek you first every day through Your Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 6 | “Our Guide”

READ

“The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and He provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.” Exodus 13:21 NLT

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever- the Spirit of truth.” John 14:16-17 NIV

THINK

Have you ever taken a wrong turn while driving and found yourself completely lost? Has your phone ever died, and you couldn't use GPS directions to get to your destination? Or maybe you have experienced a power outage at home and struggled to find your way around in the dark? Whether you have felt physically lost, or worse, emotionally, or spiritually lost, God wishes to be your guide. He wants to lead you.

We see this in the book of Exodus when the Israelites fled Egypt. God sent a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to protect and guide His people through the desert. What an incredible way to travel! The Israelites must have felt safe with God leading them in this visible manifestation.

In the busyness of life, it's easy to lose our sense of direction. There are daily decisions we must make that ultimately alter the path we are on. Even when we want to obey God and follow His will, we can feel unsure of where to go and what decision is the right one. Perhaps you wish you had an obvious sign- like a pillar of cloud and fire- to direct your steps.

The amazing news is that we have something better! We have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. God wants us to experience His will so much that He came to dwell within us to transform and direct our thoughts, our desires, our plans, and our decision-making. And no matter our circumstance- day or night, mountain or valley- the Lord has gifted us with daily access to His Spirit to be with us forever! What an enormous blessing and comforting reality.

ACT

Have you made Jesus the leader of your life? To follow Jesus, we have to not only know His Word, but also recognize the sound of His voice. Are you spending time in God's Word daily? How can you create structures that allow you to dive into His Word and set your eyes on Jesus? Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom to plan your daily rhythms!

PRAY

Lord, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your perfect will and desire for me to experience it. I am chosen! I am a child of God. Though I may stumble, I know I will never fall because you hold me up by the right hand. Thank you, God, that you have not forsaken me, that you generously offer me wisdom. You are my shelter! Your word is a lamp to my feet. Give me the strength to obey your commands and go where you are calling me. Jesus, make a home in my heart and lead me to green pastures. Thank you for how you shepherd me, Lord; thank you for how you pursue me. Teach me to walk in the full power and authority of the Holy Spirit through my faith in you. I praise you, Lord, for how you are going to move, for He who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world! In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Day 7 | “Finding Strength in Weakness”

READ

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

THINK

If you’ve ever written your resume or gone for an interview, typically, we emphasize our strengths over our weaknesses. We actually try to hide our weaknesses. With social media so prevalent in our lives, we hold ourselves to a high standard of perfection. We tend to brush our weaknesses right under the rug, but we can’t hide them forever.

Paul tells us to boast about our weaknesses. We were not created to be a source of strength. We were created to worship Him as our source of strength. He has all the power to help us overcome and press into life.

Our weakness is an opportunity to depend on Him and to grab hold of His peace, power, and presence. He will use situations to remind us that He is our source of strength. He promises to work all things together for good. That doesn’t necessarily mean every bad thing will be good, but good will come despite the bad.

ACT

Recognize and list what you believe are your weaknesses, and then write 2 Corinthians 12:9. Read your notes throughout the day, pray, and trust in God’s grace to sustain you in your weaknesses.

PRAY

God, I am so grateful you can use me despite my weaknesses. Help me to boast about my weaknesses and rely on you as a source of strength instead of my own.

Day 8 | “What Matters Most”

READ

“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:40-42 NIV

THINK

Are you distracted? Overwhelmed? Burnt out? We live in a world of countless distractions. Do you feel like you’re running from one project to the next? Are you stretched thin across all the people and places who need you? It’s almost impossible to keep up with life’s many demands.

Sometimes, our lives are so busy we miss opportunities that God places right in front of us. Sometimes, we are busy serving Him and His church but feel burnt out. We feel burnt out because we haven’t taken any time to sit at Jesus’s feet to learn more of his teaching.

Are you setting time aside to put Him first? Are you defending that time with Him? Our time with Him is precious, and He is our source of peace, wisdom, and strength. So, today, we can become people who choose to be still and sit at the feet of Jesus.

ACT

Spend some extra time during your quiet time to focus on Jesus. Open up YouTube or spotify and pull up the song “Miss a Moment” by Journey Worship. Instead of rushing through your quiet time, sit at His feet and let Him breathe life into all you do today.

PRAY

Father, I don’t want to miss a moment with you. Help me not to be so busy or distracted that I miss your still, small voice. Help me focus my attention on you to learn more of your teaching. Let these times become a source of peace and strength for me.

Day 9 | “A Longing for God’s Presence”

READ

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10 ESV

THINK

Not every love is so amazing to create a longing for, and not every longing is so amazing to create a fainting. It’s captivating to see the psalmist’s appreciation for God’s house because his appreciation is not rooted in its beauty. His appreciation is rooted in his soul longing for God’s house and even fainting when denied the privilege of meeting with God amongst other believers. This was a deep feeling. A desire that could only be satisfied by truly being in the presence of the Lord.

This needs to be our heart cry as we come to the house of God. We are to come WITHOUT a primary focus on programs, social connections, entertainment, excitement, or self-improvement. We must come WITH the primary focus and expectation of meeting with the LIVING GOD.

The psalmist desire to be a doorkeeper is another expression of love and longing for the house of God. Living an extravagant life in the fancy ‘tents of the wickedness’ meant nothing to him; he would rather humbly serve in God’s house. Spending time at God’s house is better and more valuable than time spent elsewhere. After reading Psalm 84, do you feel like your heart has the same posture and longing for the Lord’s presence as the psalmist?

“There was no superstition in this love. He loved the house of God because he loved the God of the house. His heart and flesh cried out, not for the altar and the candlestick, but for his God.” - Charles Spurgeon

ACT

Take a couple of minutes to quiet your mind and ask God to search your heart. Write down 3 things that may be distracting you from your undivided attention to God’s presence.

PRAY

Lord, I come humbly before you. You are great and mighty. You are the creator of the universe. My soul longs for you. God, I ask that you grow in me a hunger for more of your presence. Please reveal yourself to me in my day-to-day routines. I want more of you God. I know that you are always with me, so continue to show me how lovely your house is, Lord. You are holy and worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. I love you. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Day 10 | “Ask, Seek, Knock”

READ

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7 NIV

THINK

Do you ever get frustrated or annoyed when someone doesn't return your call or answer your text? Sometimes, God is quick to answer a prayer, but sometimes, He doesn't answer them in the way we want or when we want, and it feels like God isn't listening, and we begin to wonder where He is. We've probably heard or read this scripture before, but people don't always use it as Jesus intended. They think, “Okay, God, I've prayed for that new car, where is it?” or, “God, I asked for more money, but I'm still broke.” This scripture mentions three different actions: Ask, Seek, and Knock.

Ask: Verbalizing our prayer. Prayer is how we communicate our needs and desires to God. The more time we spend praying, the more we depend on God for needs that could not be met any other way.

Seek: Using your mind, setting priorities, and focusing of the heart. Jesus went on to say, “Seek, and you will find.” What is it we should be seeking? It is God Himself! Seeking is a matter of paying attention and staying aware and engaged. Seeking God's kingdom means putting God's plan before our own.

Knock: Physical movement. Take action. Jesus said, “Knock, and the door will be opened to you.” If a person needs something from someone behind a door, the most natural thing to do is knock—and keep knocking until the door is opened and the need is met. In the same way, a believer should pray in faith for God's provision and be persistent in prayer. God wants our trust and our faith. He wants to answer our prayers, but we must also grow our faith. Our faith and confidence increase when we look back at His provision and see His consistency and care in our lives. We can't be sure of God's will for our lives and don't always know what is best for us in the long run, but we can trust Him to meet our needs at the right time.

ACT

Continue to pray big prayers and set big goals for yourself. Remember, we can't do it all on our own strength, and Jesus enables us to succeed with His help. Write your goals down for tangible evidence that you trust Him, even during difficult times. Remember to seek Him and focus your attention on Him. Lastly, remember to knock. Don't stop praying. Continue to put your faith and trust in Him to meet your needs.

PRAY

Jesus, thank you so much for meeting our needs and giving us the desires of our hearts. Thank you for reminding us today that we can ask, seek, and knock and that you are not ignoring us when we pray to you. Thank you that you will comfort us in the waiting. Thank you for your help as we place our trust in your perfect timing.

Day 11 | “Peace”

READ

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.” John 14:27 NIV

THINK

So much is happening in the world that is constantly trying to steal our peace. If we always focus on what is happening, it’s easy to become overwhelmed and upset. However, this verse tells us to respond differently.

This verse tells us not to let our hearts be troubled and not be afraid. It tells us to have peace. This type of peace is not an absence of difficulties. It doesn’t mean that our problems will disappear. However, the gift of God’s presence, the gift of Jesus’ guidance, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit mean that we can have peace through the midst of our storms and struggles.

What is stealing your peace right now? What anxious thoughts are you facing? No matter the circumstance or situation, God has promised to be your peace. Take that to rest because He is here. His peace and His presence are here.

ACT

Take time to be still today and speak to God. Slow down a few moments and read scripture, listen to worship music, and talk to God.

PRAY

Jesus, quiet my soul. Lord, I know I will face troubles in this world, but I also know that you’re in control. Help me to remember your promise of peace and to find rest in You. Help me to listen to Your voice and trust Your direction. I am so grateful that I can come to You with any situation, and You will hear my prayers and answer me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 12 | “Joy in the Trials”

READ

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 NIV

THINK

When we are in the middle of a storm, whether literal or metaphorical, joy is not typically our first emotional response. We aren't thinking of perseverance when we are disappointed at the outcome of a situation. When a good relationship ends unexpectedly, we don't typically respond to God by thanking Him. Joy is far from our minds during those times.

Today's verse tells us that “when,” not “if,” we face trials, we will be tested in our faith. We will all face trials in our lifetime. We've all endured trials. But we've been set on a challenging road of trials and reminded that He is with us, helping us through these trials so we can produce perseverance. Perseverance produces maturity in faith, and mature faith draws us closer to God, which produces pure joy.

Unlike happiness, joy is not a temporary emotion. It's a deep confidence that God is in control, regardless of the outcome. It's okay to feel other emotions and still feel a joy that only comes from trusting Him through the trial.

God will often use our trials to reach others and teach us something. There is always a purpose for our pain. We should look for ways to demonstrate our faith, regardless of our circumstances. We are lights for Jesus, and there is testimony in our trials.

ACT

If you are not currently in a trial, you've probably just been through one, or one is around the corner. How will you choose to respond? Take some time to write down today's verse, memorize it, and remember to choose joy the next time you're in the midst of a storm.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for your gift of joy. Thank you for working everything according to your good, even during a trial. I pray to experience your peace and joy that surpasses all understanding, even in the hardest and darkest of days. I thank you for always being with me in my time of need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 13 | “Crashing Waves”

READ

“For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight.’”
Jonah 2:3 ESV

THINK

The waves of life can drown out any sense of comfort, peace, or clarity. The constant crashing of relationships failing, people betraying, and emotions and doubts wavering feels as if we are tangled in the weeds of the deep, driven away from God’s sight. In the story of Jonah, we see a man who saw the call of God on His life and out of confusion and fear chose to let his understanding drive him to isolation and self-preservation. He ran from what was right to what he believed was better and, as a result, was driven into the sea.

Fear and anguish swirl within us as we try to make sense of where our circumstances have come from and why they are happening. These same questions arose in the disciples just before Jesus calmed the storm that surrounding them. But while their faith wavered, He was not shaken by turbulence or uncertainty, his reign over the waters did not waver. He perfectly sustained and reigned over the deep.

In the storm, we are stripped of any sense of control. It is where any prior sense of belief that we, through logic and self-discipline, can overcome on our own is removed. Instead, in the storm, we are left with nothing, stripped of everything with only the hope of salvation from something or someone outside of ourselves. It is in the crushing, “in the waters closing in to take our life; the deep completely surrounding us and weeds wrapping about our heads, when our life feels like it is fainting away” that we remember the LORD, and “[our] prayer comes to the Lord, into his holy temple (Jonah 2:5-7).

We must recognize that when He speaks, His words move in power. Creation bows to his authority, and his will goes forth. Mark 4:39 “‘Peace! Be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm” Jonah 2:10 “And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land”. In this knowledge, we see Jesus, the word in flesh, absorb our depths of depravity. He takes upon himself our inability to remain faithful in the face of fear or anxiety and choose our own way instead of trusting in His path. He declares ultimate and final authority over all things and reconciles His people and His creation back to Himself. He calls out to His children and declares over the enemy, “‘It is finished!’ and bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” (John 19:30). He exchanged His own righteousness for our brokenness. In darkness, in the depths of our pain and confusion, He pulls us close to His heart. He is faithful when we are faithless.

ACT

What areas of your life feel like they are crashing around you? Could fixating on these areas be the very thing robbing you of the hope and steadfast love that you were meant to experience? Press into the Lord today and ask Him for eyes to see your circumstance from His perspective. Take courage knowing that He promises to never leave you or forsake you. Take some time to journal and cry out to the one who is able to “strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (Hebrews 12:11-13).

PRAY

Father, thank you that I am secure in you (Deut. 33:12). Thank you that even when I feel afraid, I remain hidden within the shadow of your wing (Psalm 17:8) and held by your steadfast love (Romans 8:38-39). Be merciful to me, show me what I cannot see, humble me in my pride. Reveal to me where your hand is leading, and teach me to walk with you again. Forgive me for hiding; forgive me for blaming you for my own mistakes. Forgive me for seeing you as the enemy when really, I feel deep inside that it is me. Give me eyes to see like you Father! Give me a heart like yours of compassion and perseverance to follow you no matter the cost! Give me wisdom to comfort and guide me, and may it be the light unto my feet and the light unto my path! Strengthen my faith, oh God. Amen.

Day 14 | “God will Provide”

READ

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19 NIV

THINK

How do we find contentment? We should all focus on it, but it takes a lot of work to do. Shopping and spending have never been so easy than in the consumerist world we live in today. We can buy a new pair of shoes with just a click of a button, have them delivered to our doorstep in less than 48 hours, and charge it on a credit card to pay later. It's easy for our wants and needs to get mixed up. We live in a culture that tells us that if we want something, we need to get it now at all costs. Yet, God's wisdom teaches us otherwise.

God promises to supply our every need, not necessarily all our wants. He doesn't offer us a life of wealth or even an easy life. If we don't have something right now, it's because God knows we don't need it now. It's human nature not to be fully satisfied with what we have, but we have all we need in Christ.

Rather than focusing on our wants and needs, it's better to focus on the needs of others and let God tend to our worries and concerns. We must stop looking at people to supply our needs and instead direct our prayer and worship to God. The Bible tells us to place our trust in the Lord. His supply is limitless.

ACT

Choose to look at your present circumstances with eyes of faith. We know He will be faithful and provide what we need today. Take a step back. Write down all the ways He has pulled through for you in the past. Be reminded that God can be trusted.

PRAY

Jesus, you are worthy of our all our trust. You have given us everything we need. Lord, as long as you're leading me and I'm following you, you will provide and care for me. I ask for your wisdom and guidance in my life. I know you will supply my every need as you said you would. Help me not to lean on my understanding but to trust in you because you love me and care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 15 | “It’s About that Walk”

READ

“Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose.”
Psalm 25:12 NIV

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”
Acts 4:13 NIV

THINK

Have you ever heard the phrase “Monkey see, monkey do?” It describes the ability to imitate another person — good or bad — by merely watching. It could be a skill like juggling or simply picking up unique characteristics after spending considerable time with someone. For example, if you spent every day with someone for a year, you would begin to pick up common phrases and mannerisms. Without consciously trying, you would be imitating them.

Similarly, the more time we spend with God, the more we imitate Him. We grow more in awe of Him as He grows as we recognize the depths of His wisdom and power. Over time, our walk and how we do life become more reminiscent of His. We begin to see and do things from His perspective, allowing us to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

In Acts 4:13, the Jewish leaders were astonished by Peter and John’s knowledge and courage as “they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” The two disciples were untrained, ordinary men with wisdom and understanding that could only come from having a relationship with God.

Can the same be said of those of us who follow Him today? Does your walk reflect that you’ve been with Jesus? Remember, it’s all about that walk — His walk, His ways. Cling to this and watch others take note of it!

ACT

What’s a quality of Jesus that you would like to emulate? Today, look for opportunities to imitate this characteristic and ask God to make it a permanent part of your character over time.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for EVERYTHING! I see the control and guidance You have had in my life. Keep me close to You so that it’s apparent that I have spent time with You. I praise You, Lord! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 16 | “Known”

READ

“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”
Matthew 7:21-23 NIV

THINK

One of the scariest verses growing up was this one. There was always an ambiguity of whether Jesus was going to recognize me or not and how do I make sure He does? I’ve served God in the church, I pray, read the Scriptures, and have even led people to Jesus. According to this verse though, I can do all these things yet still miss the mark. This led me into looking deeper into what Jesus wanted His listeners to truly grasp.

A verse that seemed to strike fear into me ended up becoming the most faith building verses. You see, when Jesus used the word “knew”, it was the word *ginōskō* which means to become acquainted with or to have intimacy with. Jesus’ goal when saying this was to express how the will of the Father is to simply be close with us. Yes, Jesus wants us to know Him, but He equally wants us to allow him to know us. Are we letting Him in on the deep parts of our hearts? Do we listen as much as we ask? Are we asking Him to purify us & to give us the mind of Christ? Or are we giving him checklists & demands to cater to us?

If you could sum up the entire Gospel; it’s that God wants to be with us. That’s it. Jesus’ end goal in everything that he does is Intimacy. So yes, go & do great things for God, serve, lead worship, preach, share the gospel with people. But just remember that those things should be because you’ve had an intimate time allowing the lord to get close to you. Jesus has only ever wanted your heart, not your work.

ACT

Ask the lord to reveal where you’ve been blocking him out. What area’s are you trying to control yourself? Are there hurts or secrets that you’re too ashamed to let him in on? Is there something you need to trust him with? Then invite him into those places. Here’s what I know about God; that He is unlike anyone you’ve ever trusted. He is so good & kind when he finds the ugly parts of us. He does not rub it in our face, he doesn’t hold it against us...
If we are willing to allow him to find it, He is always willing to heal it.

PRAY

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalms 139:23-24 NIV

Day 17 | “Enter His Gates”

READ

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.” Psalm 100:4 NIV

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”
Matthew 5:8 NIV

THINK

In a Western culture that values personal success and stresses self-worth, we tend to view life through an individualistic lens: What’s in it for me? Are my needs being met? The problem is, that when we carry this thinking into our prayer time with the Lord, we focus on ourselves and our circumstances instead of Yahweh.

Have you caught yourself presenting to God a list of things you want from Him instead of first praising his name and character? Although God invites you to come to Him with your burdens [Matthew 11:28], it can be challenging to hear His voice when we are more focused on our own beginning our prayers with words of praise and thanking Him for what He has already done it forces us to place God at the forefront. It reminds us to acknowledge that His ways are higher than our ways, His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9).

We can enter His gates with thanksgiving, to come to the Father humbly and say, “Lord, I am choosing to trust you and lean not on my own understanding,” (Proverbs 3:5). When we do this and seek God with a pure heart, completely set on Him, we will experience God’s presence.

ACT

Write a list of seven things you are grateful for, directing your praise on God’s character. Take that list and find a quiet area to seek the Lord. Begin to read off what you wrote and sincerely thank Him. Do not ask for anything, but simply use this time to be still in His presence.

PRAY

Lord, you are so good. Thank you for your grace and mercy. Thank you for your steadfast love and sending your son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. Thank you for being a God who is close, and never forsakes His children. Thank you for your faithfulness and how you care for me. Thank you for your plans that are good, pleasing, and perfect. Father, you are creative. You are wise- I trust you with my tomorrows. You are Jehovah Jireh, my provider. Lord, please forgive me when I have come to you with an ungrateful heart and my own selfish ambitions. Help me to surrender my burdens to you and not lean on my own strength. Thank you for being an everlasting source of refreshment for my soul. Lord, I give you my whole heart. I receive your yoke that is easy and your burden that is light. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Day 18 | “A Quick Word on Obedience”

READ

“I will hurry, without delay, to obey your commands.” Psalm 119:60 NIV

THINK

Take a few minutes and think about what you are in a hurry to do. You may rush to get home to greet your family after a long day or get to the gym and squeeze in that 30 minute of cardio. We hurry to do the things that are important to us.

Now, consider the activities you put off completing. They could be simple chores around the house or mundane tasks at work. Essentially, we put off doing what we don't want to do. This same habit can easily creep in when it comes to obeying God. However, when we quickly respond to His commands, it reveals our heart for God.

The Message translation of today's verse says, “I was up at once, didn't drag my feet, was quick to follow your orders.” When God tells you to do something, don't procrastinate. Don't make excuses. Don't drag your feet. Just do it. Is he the Lord of your life, or not? Are you relying on his wisdom and guidance or your own?

Obedience is faith put into practice. Without action, James 2 reminds us that our faith is not real. So without arguing, let's quickly obey, even when we don't fully understand why because we've seen God's love demonstrated in Jesus. We've seen the protection that his will has for us when we obey him. When we delay obedience, we're questioning God. We're asking, “God, do you really know what's best?” What if God responded to your needs as quickly as you obeyed Him? When you get in trouble, you want God's help immediately. He wants you to be obedient as soon as He tells you to do something.

ACT

During this time of prayer and fasting, take some time to ask God to bring to mind something that you have been putting off. Have you been asking God “why” instead of quickly obeying one of his commands? Spend a few minutes praying. Tell God that you will start obeying that command today. Commit that today, and you will stop delaying and just do it.

It could be taking the next step in your faith by being baptized, extending forgiveness to someone, joining a serving team or group, etc. Take your action step, stop delaying, and do it.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for giving me new opportunities to be obedient to you today. I'm so grateful that I can count on you to lead me in every area of my life. Help me to be quick in my obedience to you because you are the leader of my life! Amen.

Day 19 | “Living on a Prayer”

READ

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.” Philippians 4:6 NLT

THINK

Worry and anxiety are words that we hear a lot. Studies have shown that worry and anxiety are the root cause of many illnesses. Just that thought creates more worry, which could produce more illness! Although we know worry is unproductive and damaging, we still can’t seem to prevent it from consuming us. We often give our list of worries to God but then pick it back up when we don’t see any results. It’s a vicious cycle, so how do we stop it?

In today’s scripture, Paul tells us to pray with gratitude. Prayer is one of God’s greatest gifts. It is our opportunity to dialogue with Him. It’s a way of bringing our worries to Him and thanking Him for all He has done, all He is doing, and all He will do.

Gratitude enables us to be still and remember that He is God (Psalm 46:10). We can then truly leave those worries to Him. That’s when our worry list becomes a prayer list. Take comfort and give thanks that He’s got this. Breathe in, exhale gratitude, and stop worrying.

ACT

Pick the number one thing on your worry list & move it to your prayer list. Write it down somewhere you will constantly see it. Each time you see it, take a moment to be still and ask God to remind you that He is in control as you thank Him for all He has done, is doing, and will do.

PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for everything You have done in my life. I have brought my worries to You too many times with expectations of how You should care for them, only to pick them back up when I don’t see the results, I want to see in the time I expect. Help me to leave my worries for You to handle. I know that You are God, and I am not, and that You are in control. Thank You for a peace that surpasses my understanding and that only You can bring as I give my worries to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Day 20 | “Excuses Excuses”

READ

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8 NIV

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months until the harvest?’ I tell you, lift your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35 NIV

THINK

People make all kinds of ridiculous excuses to skip school or work. But let’s flip the script. How ridiculous do we look before God when we make excuses for not doing the work He’s called us to do?

Isaiah was in a tight spot. The king of Judah had just died, and the nation was on the verge of an attack. Overcome with fear, Isaiah caught a glimpse of God’s glory and heard Him say, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah immediately committed to God without making excuses and said, “Send me!” He was bent on carrying out God’s will, delivering God’s Word, and doing His work. He was God’s man on the scene, and we, too, have been given the same calling.

Are you stepping up to the challenge, or are you making excuses? Choose today to make this same commitment. Experience the joy, blessing, and contagious enthusiasm that only comes from saying, “I’m here! Send me!”

ACT

God is more concerned with our availability than our ability. Assess your availability when it comes to living out the will of God, sharing the Word of God, and doing the work of God. Are you making yourself available, or are you making excuses?

PRAY

Dear Lord, Thank You for giving me an important calling. Today, I choose to make Isaiah’s commitment to making Your name known to a world so lost without You. Convict my heart when I make excuses because I’m ready to do what You’ve called me to do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 21 | “Walk in Faith”

READ

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. Hebrews 11:1-2 ESV

THINK

What is the definition of faith? Is it a belief system? Is it trusting a person or object? If you were to ask around, you would probably find many different definitions of the word faith. However, have you taken the time to seek God on His definition of faith?

If you look at the ingredient lists of some of your household items, you would most likely see an active ingredient found in a product that helps accomplish the purpose of that product. In our relationship with God, faith is the active ingredient. By faith, we receive our salvation; by faith we continue to work out our salvation. By faith, we worship God, pray to God, and trust in the written word of God. By faith, we move and obey what God calls us to do. Faith is crucial to a relationship with Jesus; and without faith, we would not have a relationship with God. Because faith is this important, our definition of faith is equally as important because what we believe about faith impacts our relationship with God.

God defines faith within Hebrews 11:1 as two things: **assurance** and **conviction**.

Assurance is confidence rooted within a promise given.

Conviction is a strongly held belief or value.

In other words, God’s definition of faith is a confidence within the promises He gives. And an unwavering belief God gives us for the future. This is the faith that God wants for you! A faith that confidently trusts Jesus for all of the promises within scripture. Also, the type of faith that strongly believes that Jesus is in your future and one day will be with you for eternity. The coolest part about this type of faith is Hebrews 11:2, which tells us that this kind of faith is the faith that the ancients (Think Moses, David, the prophets, etc.) were praised for!

ACT

Do you want to learn how this definition of faith practically plays out in your life? Ask Jesus today to teach you this definition of faith. Are you lacking faith in an area of your life? Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus is the “author and perfecter of faith” which means He can help you in your moments of unbelief. Have you been praying for someone to know God? Ask Jesus to allow that person to have faith in Him.

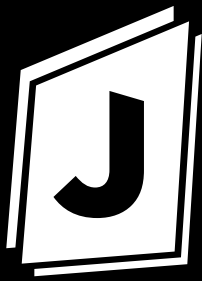
Do you fail to see God in your future? Write down all the ways Jesus has been faithful in your past, and let that fuel faith for your future.

In your reflection time, also take the time to read all of Hebrews 11-12. The faith stories in these chapters will propel you to have the faith you need for today.

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith. It is by faith that I can receive everything you have for me in life, and I am grateful for the faith you have given me. I pray that you increase my faith today. Continue to teach me more about how to walk by faith and not by the ways of this world. Finally, please reveal the areas I have not trusted you and would you grant me a greater measure of faith to trust you in those areas as well. Lead me in what you would have for me today. In Jesus name, Amen.





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