

Monday January 4, Day 1 Prayer Intention:

That we may use these 21 days to be effective for the Lord's Kingdom in prayer. That we would have the grace not only to accomplish the work in this time of consecration but to finish it well, as we set apart ourselves to God in this critical but amazing time in history.

Scripture:

*“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land **or send a plague among my people**, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.”*

2 Chronicles 7:13-15 (NIV)

As we move forward in these 21 days, pray against the COVID-19 virus that it would not move into our school, church and community around us. Pray for God to give Margo Dickson, our new principal, wisdom in these precarious times. For direction for a new Pastor and to preserve Crosswalk in this time of transition.

Things we are praying for during our time of prayer together
(*you can pray for all of these or choose a few to pray for*):

- We pray against Covid 19
- Protection for SCS and Crosswalk
- Pray against the fear of COVID and trust God is more powerful than COVID 19
- For a greater measure of wisdom and revelation in moving forward with this virus for SCS and Crosswalk

Scripture:

*Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, **but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword.** The Lord brought about a great victory that day...*

2 Samuel 23:11a (NIV)

Reflection:

I remember reading this story many times growing up and not thinking much about it. But my mom reminded me of this story in a time where I felt weak, I was tired of fighting, I was battle weary with ministry, my marriage, being a mom. I didn't want to fight anymore. But I was reminded of those mighty men who stood their ground. When everyone else decided to run, they stood and said "You are not taking any more land from us."

We are in a time where everything is a fight, a fight to protect ourselves and our family. How do we use wisdom in this time but not operate in fear? How does this virus affect our livelihood and what should we do to make ends meet? There is so much uncertainty and fear in this season, it would be easy to just run away and hide. Many have even decided to stay indoors for an undetermined time until this pandemic ends, and many have valid reasons to do so.

But even in our seclusion, we can be like these mighty men and stand our ground. We can make a stand over our homes, our school and church and

say “ COVID No More!” “You cannot take our lives, our freedom, our livelihood, and most importantly our joy!”

Like Eleazar, who even in his weariness, battled until his hand froze to his sword. He could have fled, but he made a choice to stand his ground and battle until that sword was firmly frozen to his hand. Eleazer stopped focusing on the grip of the sword because the sword became the extension of his arm, it became him.

Even though we may be tired and weary from this pandemic, we can choose to stand our ground against this virus and battle on our knees. We can fight until the *Sword of the Spirit...* is firmly (frozen) in our hearts *which is the word of God, Ephesians 6:17b.*

I encourage you to write in your prayer journal today:

1. What you would like to accomplish in these 21 days through prayer.
2. Prayers that you are asking God to answer.

Prayer

Father we pray to have the heart and stamina like David’s mighty men. To fight with the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. And we know *the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.* Let us use Your word to accomplish Your purposes on the earth. Give us a steadfast spirit for these next 21 days, grant us the grace to fast, to set ourselves apart, and to do it with a willing heart. In your name we pray, amen.