

Praying for Revitalization and Mobilization in Your Church

ENGAGE

21 Days of Prayer in Ephesians



By Dr. Gary Moritz and Kimber Huff



Foreword

New England was once the birthplace of the Great Awakening and led the nation in widespread revival. Today church attendance is declining and the number of Gospel-preaching churches is dwindling.

But hope isn't lost.

The Bible teaches us that nothing is impossible with God. When normal, everyday Christians seek the Lord, follow His leading and pray for revival, the stage is set for God to do great things.

That's why the Baptist Convention of New England is increasing our focus on church revitalization. Most churches go through a natural life cycle that includes a plateau and even a decline. But with guidance, support and an increased focus on prayer and being mobilized to share the Gospel, this trend can be reversed.

Do you want to see the Holy Spirit breathe new life into your church? Are you ready to see God move in your community?

Take the first step by setting aside the next 21 days. Pray. Read the Bible. Listen to how the Lord is directing you. Let your heart break for the lost people in your community – and then commit to joining God's work by shining the light of Jesus in your circle of influence.

Revitalization is possible. We're here to partner with, equip and encourage your church through the process.

Pastor Gary

Church Revitalization Director
Baptist Convention of New England



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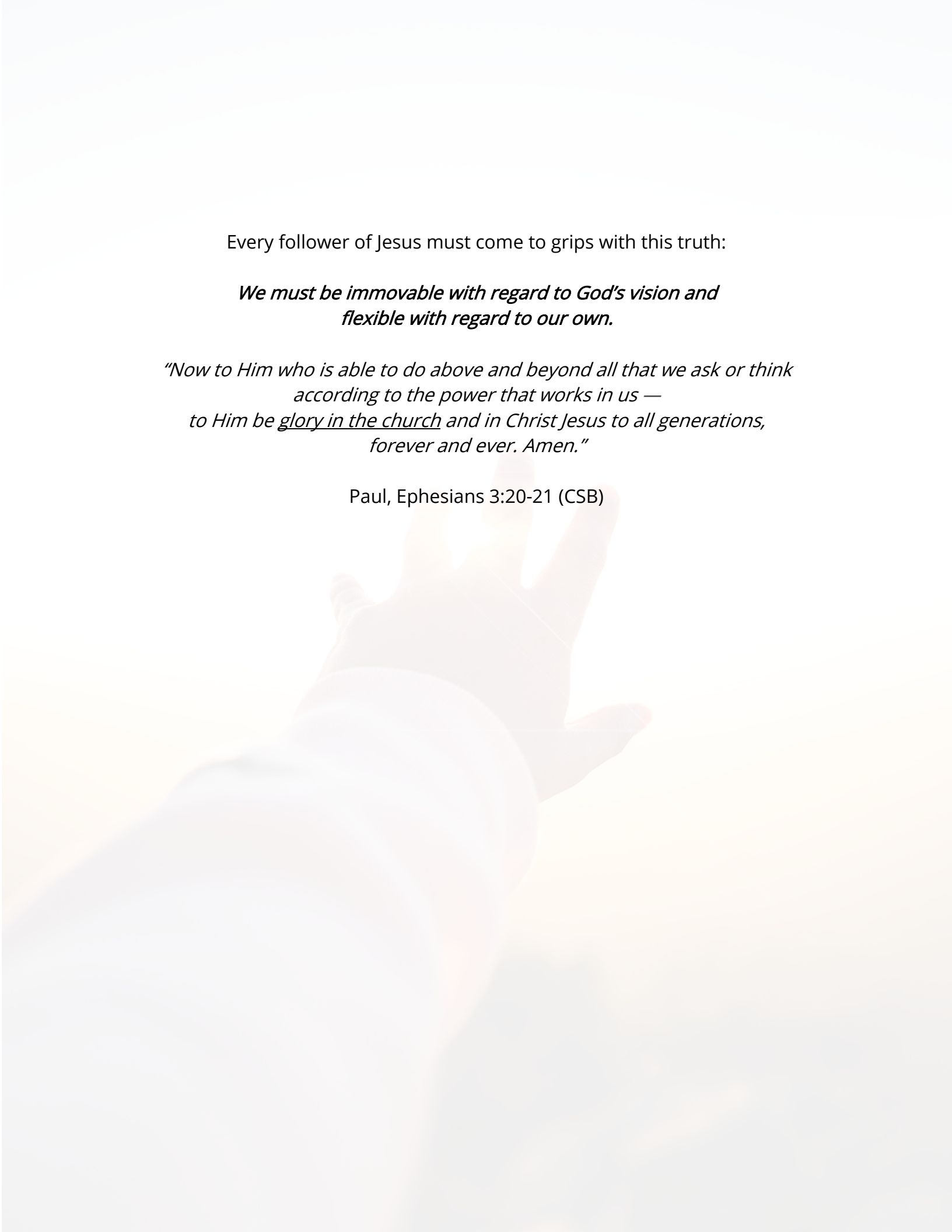
Cover Photo by Brennan Martinez


Every follower of Jesus must come to grips with this truth:

***We must be immovable with regard to God's vision and
flexible with regard to our own.***

*"Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think
according to the power that works in us —
to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen."*

Paul, Ephesians 3:20-21 (CSB)





The Church is the greatest institution in the world. Why? Because it is being built by Jesus Christ.

But too often our local churches are plateaued or declining. This prayer book is designed to help us revitalize our churches so that we can see them filled with fresh life, energy and passion. How? Through the prayer and mobilization of individuals just like you who are actively seeking to share the Gospel.

The Bible teaches that God works powerfully through the prayers of His people. So if we want our churches to be stronger and more effective, we must pray.

But it doesn't stop there.

In today's post-Christian world, we have a message that can bring hope, life and peace. That's why we need to engage our communities more than ever before by living on mission daily in the places where we eat, work, shop and play.

The Church is unstoppable when the people, not just the pastors, are focused on spreading the gospel. Are you ready to see churches multiplying and local missions thriving?

It starts with you.



Day 1

YOU ARE YOUR FATHER'S CHILD

Read: Ephesians 1:1-6

Key Verses: For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before Him. — Ephesians 1:4 (CSB)

Some people think that following Jesus is about going to church on the weekend or trying to be a good person. But Christianity is much more than just a religion. As a Christian, you have been adopted as a child of God through Jesus Christ! Your faith is now the core of who you are — and it should compel you to be mobilized as a representative of your Father everywhere you go.

Engage with God's Word:

- (1) Ask God to help you understand, believe and be transformed by His Word.
- (2) Summarize the main idea of the passage in one phrase or sentence.
- (3) Ask God to show you how this passage applies to your spiritual walk today and what needs to change in your life and your church.
- (4) How is God mobilizing you? Write down any action steps that God puts on your heart.
- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You that You have adopted me according to the good pleasure of Your will. Thank You for blessing me with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Help me to live in a way that brings You praise and shows others Your glorious grace.



Day 2

SHARING YOUR INHERITANCE

Read: Ephesians 1:7-14

Key Verses: He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He purposed in Christ as a plan for the right time — to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him. — Ephesians 1:9-10 (CSB)

God has a plan to unite all things in Christ and give His children an unimaginable inheritance — and the local church is His means of sharing this hope with the world. Jesus is able to transform every part of our community, and He desires to do this through His church. Let's seek revitalization in our churches so we can embrace this mission with eagerness!

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You that You have redeemed me, forgiven me, poured out Your grace on me and given me an inheritance. Thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit to remind me of all that You have for me. Help me long to see Christ lifted up, His work accomplished through my obedience — and to work toward that kingdom goal.



Day 3

MUCH PRAYER EQUALS MUCH POWER

Read: Ephesians 1:15-19

Key Verses: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of His strength. — Ephesians 1:18-19 (CSB)

Our culture stresses the importance of self-reliance. But the Bible teaches us that true strength and power come from Christ. We must shift our thinking about mobilization so that we rely on prayer and the power of Jesus to push back the darkness in our society. He is the only one who can do it!

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- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, help me fully understand and embrace the hope of being a Christian. Help me recognize and rely on Your great power and Your mighty strength. Please move in my life, in my church and in my community.



Day 4

JESUS IS OUR ONLY HOPE

Read: Ephesians 1:20-23

Key Verses: He exercised this power in Christ by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens — far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. — Ephesians 1:20-21 (CSB)

The only power that the church needs is found in our leader, Jesus Christ. He has been raised from the dead and seated above all of His enemies — and He is completely able to transform lives. Pray that God will show you how to be on mission with Him. We must point people to Him so that He can change the world through His power.

Engage with God's Word:

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- (4) How is God mobilizing you? Write down any action steps that God puts on your heart.
- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Jesus, I praise You because You have been lifted up above everyone and everything. You have defeated death! Thank You that You are the head of my church. Please fill us and empower us to be Your witnesses in our community



Day 5

YOU ARE SAVED FROM SOMETHING AND FOR SOMETHING

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

Key Verses: But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! — Ephesians 2:4-5 (CSB)

You are not just saved *from* something — you are saved *for* something. God calls you His masterpiece, and He wants to mobilize you to do good works that will change the world. So when you volunteer at church, remember that you aren't simply stacking chairs or watching babies. You are functioning as a life-giving source of Jesus. Who has empowered you to be a blessing. When you go about your daily life, you have the opportunity to pray for souls and be a bridge for the message of the gospel. You were made for more!

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You for saving me. I acknowledge that my salvation is a gift from You, not based on anything I've done. I praise You for Your rich mercy and great love toward me! Thank You for designating good works for me. Help me to joyfully do what You ask of me. Please use my obedience to show others Your grace and kindness.



Day 6

THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

Read: Ephesians 2:11-16

Key Verse: For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. — Ephesians 2:14 (CSB)

You are on a mission. It's a life-giving mission to bring people to Jesus — both those who are near and those who are far — back to God. You have been reconciled to God. A curtain was torn, nails were hammered, and a tomb was opened all for you. Now you can show others how to find peace with God through the blood of Christ.

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You for bringing me near to You by the blood of Christ. Thank You for Your good plan to reconcile sinners to Yourself through the cross and to unite all believers in the Church. Help me to share this message of peace with people around me. Give me the courage to talk with someone about Jesus today.



Day 7

BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

Read: Ephesians 2:17-22

Key Verses: So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. — Ephesians 2:19-20 (CSB)

As much as we sometimes hate them, life is full of changes. But the changes that Christ makes in our lives are unbelievably wonderful. And they shouldn't stop with us. Jesus has transformed you so that you can be a conduit of transformation — a light to the darkness, a hope to the hopeless and one who speaks life into your community. Is your church growing and being transformed in the Lord? Are you inviting others to join you?

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Jesus, thank You that You have brought the good news of peace to everyone. I am so grateful that you've made me a member of Your household. Thank You that my church family is being built together as a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Please continue to transform me and my church. Bring others from my community into the family of God.



Day 8

A SMALL PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

Read: Ephesians 3:1-7

Key Verse: The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. — Ephesians 3:6 (CSB)

You are part of something bigger than you have ever dreamed. From the earliest chapters of Genesis, God promised to set apart a people for Himself, to be their God and to bless them. That promise is now being fulfilled in the Church. Just imagine: you and your churches are partners with thousands of other believers across the centuries — and even greater things are coming! So pray for God's work of revitalization in your church, obey His directions and rest in His promises.

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You for revealing Your mystery to us — that as Christians we are coheirs, members of the body of Christ and partners in the promise of the gospel. Help me to rejoice that I am part of Your Church, and help my church to joyfully be Your light in our community.



Day 9

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CHURCH?

Read: Ephesians 3:8-13

Key Verse: This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. — Ephesians 3:10 (CSB)

Your church was never meant to be about committees and clubs or, even worse, to uphold man-made traditions that promote fighting and arguing. It has an eternal purpose: to display God's wisdom. It also has an urgent purpose for today: to show people how to have access to God through faith in Jesus Christ. Don't let yourself be distracted from God's purposes for your church. You have Good News that your community needs to hear.

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Pray:

God, thank You that You have great plans and purposes for Your Church. Help my church to follow Your plans and designs. Thank You that I can boldly and confidently approach You through faith in Jesus. Help me to remember what an incredible gift this is and to share it with others.



Day 10

YOU SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

Key Verses: I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. — Ephesians 3:17-19 (CSB)

God's love is greater than we can understand or imagine. And this incredible love is our motive for both following Jesus and sharing Jesus. Guilt is a poor motive that will result in false conversions and a lack of response. The first church changed its community, nation and world through Christ's love. We can follow their example by being filled with God's love, then letting that love overflow from our lives and engage a hurting world. That is what mobilization is all about.

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Lord, help my church be rooted and firmly established in love. Help us to more fully understand how deep Your love is for us and for the world. Fill us with Your love and help us to engage others with Your love. Show me specific ways I can share Your love with people outside the church walls.



Day 11

YOUR PRIVATE LIFE AFFECTS YOUR PUBLIC LIFE

Read: Ephesians 4:1-6

Key Verse: Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to live worthy of the calling you have received... Ephesians 4:1 (CSB)

Your walk with God is a calling. How can you live worthy of this calling? By investing in it. A musician performs well on stage because he or she has been practicing diligently behind the scenes. In the same way, what we do privately affects everything else. You and I need to be alone with God and let Him shape our hearts and minds through spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible and praying so that we are found worthy before our Creator and also in the public eye.

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Pray:

God, help me to take my walk with You seriously. Help me to remember that being a Christian is an incredible privilege and to live worthy of my calling. Use your Word to change me and make me more like Jesus. Help me to be humble, gentle, patient and loving. Help me to not seek my own way but to seek unity and revitalization in my church through the Holy Spirit.



Day 12

EVERYBODY HAS A PART IN THE BODY

Read: Ephesians 4:7-16

Key Verse: But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head — Christ. — Ephesians 4:15 (CSB)

God has gifted pastors and teachers to equip the church for the work of ministry. Read that again. Did you notice who is doing the work of ministry? For too long many people have believed that the pastor should do all the ministry in a church. But that isn't what the Bible teaches. Each church member must play his or her part in helping the church body grow and in speaking the truth in love to a lost world. Mobilization of the church body will lead to revitalization of the church.

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Pray:

God, use our pastors and teachers to equip the members of my church for the work of ministry. Help us to grow in unity, knowledge and spiritual maturity. Help all of us — including me — to speak the truth in love to people who aren't yet believers. Show me how I can promote the growth of the Body and help build the church in love.



Day 13

LEAVE THE DARKNESS BEHIND

Read: Ephesians 4:17-24

Key Verses: ...to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth. — Ephesians 4:22-24 (CSB)

The Bible's description of an unbelieving life is not a pretty one. Thankfully this former way of life is not your path anymore. A hardened heart and selfish desires no longer define you. Because of Jesus you can have a renewed spirit and put on a new self that is made in God's likeness. This kind of deep-down new life leads us in a new direction — one where we are mobilized for a bigger purpose and are ready to give 100% to see the name of Jesus known in our communities. Let's stop waiting for a change — in Christ, we can be the change!

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Lord, thank You that You have rescued me from futility, callousness, a hard heart and a life of sin. You are so good to me! Help me to show others that they can experience this same goodness. Please remove any trace of my old self and deceitful desires. Renew my mind. Help me to be more like Christ in righteousness, purity and truth.



Day 14

CHRIST FORGAVE ME, SO I MUST FORGIVE OTHERS

Read: Ephesians 4:25-32

Key Verses: Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. — Ephesians 4:31-32 (CSB)

The Church is meant to be a safe haven where people can begin a relationship with God. But if anger, bitterness, deceit and malice poison our churches, how can nonbelievers discover God's love? We must repent from sinful attitudes so that God can use us. Revitalization involves a new commitment to holiness and love. When we display true compassion and forgiveness, the world around us will take notice — and they're more likely to listen when we tell them about God's forgiveness.

Engage with God's Word:

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Pray:

God, help me to recognize and repent of any sin in my heart. Help me to speak words that build others up and give grace. Remove any bitterness, anger, wrath, slander and malice from my life. Help me to demonstrate your kindness, compassion and forgiveness to others.



Day 15

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT JUST FOR SUNDAYS

Read: Ephesians 5:1-5

Key Verse: Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children... — Ephesians 5:1 (CSB)

You were made to imitate God. This command is not just for ministers or especially holy people — it is for every Christian. What you do, what you say, even what you post, matters. The Christian life is not for Sundays only. Your words and actions are being measured. Do they reflect the light of Christ? Revitalization starts with individuals. We must each grow in Christ and embrace the mission field right outside the walls of our church.

Engage with God's Word:

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Pray:

God, help me to imitate You. Show me how to walk in love as Christ did. Purify me from sin and help me be an example of Your love to others. I want to see people around me become Your children and share an inheritance in Your kingdom.



Day 16

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Read: Ephesians 5:6-14

Key Verse: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light — Ephesians 5:8 (CSB)

We want to love the people in our communities, but we must never get drawn into worldly mentalities or lifestyles. Christianity has always been countercultural. You were not meant to float through the streams of life. Dead fish are the only fish that float! Keep swimming, keep striving and keep going against the current of culture for the kingdom of Christ. You are a child of light.

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- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, thank You that You have taken me out of darkness and made me a child of light. Show me if there is any area in my life where I am compromising Your truth or clinging to sinful desires. Help me to avoid the fruitless works of darkness. Fill my life with Your goodness, righteousness and truth so that my life can be pleasing to You.



Day 17

MAKE YOUR MARK FOR CHRIST

Read: Ephesians 5:15-21

Key Verses: Pay careful attention, then, to how you live — not as unwise people but as wise — making the most of the time, because the days are evil. — Ephesians 5:15-16 (CSB)

We sometimes act like we have all the time in the world, but in reality, we have only a few years on this earth. Are you making the most of your time by being mobilized for the kingdom, or are you spending your days focused on things that won't matter in eternity? Imagine all the needs and problems in your community. Now remember that your church has the answer — Jesus. We only have a short amount of time to make an impact on the world. Let's live wisely.

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Pray:

Lord, it's easy to be foolish and get distracted by things that don't really matter. Please help me to pay careful attention to how I live each day. Show me how to make the most of my life. Help me be filled with the Spirit and live wisely.



Day 18

A HOLY BRIDE

Key Verse: He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. —Ephesians 5:27 (CSB)

Christ's love for His Church is incredible. He gave His life for the Church, in order to make it holy and presentable. In fact, the Bible describes the Church as the beautiful bride of Jesus waiting for her groom to return. Your local church is Christ's representative in your community. Are you showing people a beautiful picture of holiness? Are you submitting to Jesus by following His command to go and make disciples (Matt. 28:19)?

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Pray:

Jesus, thank You for being my Savior. Thank You for loving me enough to die for me in order to make me holy. Help me to respond to Your love by submitting to You. Thank You that You continue to care for and provide for Your Church. Help my church to show Your love to our community.



Day 19

TRANSFORMATION BRINGS MOBILIZATION

Read: Ephesians 6:1-9

Key Verse: Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, do God's will from your heart. — Ephesians 6:6 (CSB)

What's your motivation? Do you work for praise, for rewards or even for likes on social media? The Christian life is meant to be lived for an audience of One. It's hard to follow God when you're working to please people. But when your focus is on serving the Lord, your other priorities will fall into place. Commit to devoting your entire life to working for His glory, and watch how He mobilizes you to reach people with the gospel.

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- (2) Summarize the main idea of the passage in one phrase or sentence.
- (3) Ask God to show you how this passage applies to your spiritual walk today and what needs to change in your life and your church.
- (4) How is God mobilizing you? Write down any action steps that God puts on your heart.
- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Lord, help me devote my life completely to You. Make my greatest desire to obey Your will from my heart. Help me to stop worrying about impressing or pleasing people and to serve You with a joyful attitude and a heart full of love.



Day 20

WHEN SATAN REMINDS YOU OF YOUR PAST, REMIND HIM OF HIS FUTURE

Read: Ephesians 6:10-17

Key Verses: Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. — Ephesians 6:11-12 (CSB)

Opposition exists in any mission, and ours is no different. The church will face opposition from Satan when we begin to mobilize God's people for greater impact. Thankfully, God has given us everything we need to resist the devil and stand against him. Satan has already been defeated, and the vast strength of the Lord is yours. What are you waiting for? Prepare yourself to share the gospel of peace with everyone who needs to hear it.

Engage with God's Word:

- (1) Ask God to help you understand, believe and be transformed by His Word.
- (2) Summarize the main idea of the passage in one phrase or sentence.
- (3) Ask God to show you how this passage applies to your spiritual walk today and what needs to change in your life and your church.
- (4) How is God mobilizing you? Write down any action steps that God puts on your heart.
- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

God, help us not to be caught by surprise when Satan attacks our church. Protect us with Your truth and Your righteousness. Help us to resist, to stand and to fight back with faith and Your Word. Empower us with Your vast strength in this spiritual battle.



Day 21

REVITALIZED PRAYER LEADS TO REVITALIZED CHURCHES

Read: Ephesians 6:18-24

Key Verse: Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel. — Ephesians 6:19 (CSB)

Did you notice that Paul addressed prayer immediately after teaching about the weapons we have to fight spiritual battles? That's because prayer is one of our most important weapons. Even when we feel surrounded, victory is in the Lord's hands. Nothing can destroy Him or stop His plans. So be alert and pray! Pray for other believers and pray for boldness to share the Gospel. Revitalized prayer lives will lead to revitalized churches.

Engage with God's Word:

- (1) Ask God to help you understand, believe and be transformed by His Word.
- (2) Summarize the main idea of the passage in one phrase or sentence.
- (3) Ask God to show you how this passage applies to your spiritual walk today and what needs to change in your life and your church.
- (4) How is God mobilizing you? Write down any action steps that God puts on your heart.
- (5) Pray for revitalization and for God's help in obeying His instructions.
- (6) Make concrete plans to do anything God leads you to do.

Pray:

Holy Spirit, guide my prayer life. Forgive me for acting as if prayer isn't important. Help me be alert and pray faithfully and fervently for my church. Give me the words to share the gospel with people around me, and help me be bold enough to speak about it as I should.

Final Thoughts

"If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child's ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of His sweet love.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor. Recollect that. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love Him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about Him ... [the] man who says, 'I believe in Jesus,' but does not think enough of Jesus ever to tell another about Him, by mouth, or pen, or tract, is an impostor."

— Charles Spurgeon, "A Sermon and a Reminiscence" (1873)

Friends, let's be missionaries, not imposters. Let's pray earnestly and be mobilized to share the gospel so that our churches will be revitalized and the name of Jesus will be known everywhere.

What Next?

After finishing this book, we encourage you to embrace the following statements and make them your personal goals in the coming year.

1. I will remember that I am a missionary in my church and in my community.
2. I will pray for and look for opportunities to have conversations about Jesus where I eat, work, shop and play.
3. I will become involved in a discipleship program at my church.
4. I will form and lead a group of people to help them grow closer to Jesus.
5. I will pray that my group/gatherings will become a launching pad for new churches and missionaries.



About the Authors

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