



**Twenty-One Days of Fasting and Prayer  
Devotional**

**New Life Fellowship  
Sizzlin' Summer 2022**



## Twenty-One Days of Fasting and Prayer

### **What is a Christian Revival?**

*Revival* refers to a spiritual reawakening from a state of dormancy or stagnation in the life of a believer. It encompasses the resurfacing of a love for God, an appreciation of God's holiness, a passion for His Word and His church, a convicting awareness of personal and corporate sin, a spirit of humility, and a desire for repentance and growth in righteousness. Revival invigorates and sometimes deepens a believer's faith, opening his or her eyes to the truth in a fresh, new way. It generally involves the connotation of a fresh start with a clean slate, marking a new beginning of a life lived in obedience to God. Revival breaks the charm and power of the world, which blinds the eyes of men, and generates both the will and power to live in the world but not of the world.

The evidence of revival, a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers, is changed lives. Great movements toward righteousness, evangelism, and social justice occur. Believers are once again spending time in prayer and reading and obeying God's Word. Believers begin to powerfully use their spiritual gifts. There is confession of sin and repentance.

### **Why Fast?**

Fasting is a principle that God intended for everyone to be able to enjoy. It's not a punishment; it's a privilege! By making fasting a way of life, you can get closer to God and grow in your spiritual walk like never before. Fasting is one of the most powerful weapons God has given us for our daily lives. Through fasting, you can experience a release from the bondage of sin ... restoration in your relationships ... financial blessings ... spiritual renewal ... supernatural healing and so much more!

## **KEYS TO FASTING AND PRAYING!**

### **GRATITUDE – PSALMS 100:4**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

### **REMEMBER – PSALMS 143:5**

I remember the days of old. I ponder all your great works and think about what you have done.

### **REQUEST – PHILIPPIANS 4:6b**

...in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

### **EXPECTATION – HABAKKUK 3:2**

LORD, I have heard the report about you; LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these years.

## **WAYS TO FAST**

- Fast 1, 2, or 3 Meals a Day
- 21-Day Daniel Fast
- Liquids Only Fast
- Sunrise to Sunset
- In addition to Fasting Food: *Fast Media (TV, Movies, Social Media)*

## **PRAYER LIST**

- Spiritual awakening across our Valley, State and Country.
- Move of God in every New Life Fellowship Service.
- Prayer for boldness in each believer's life.
- That the Lord would heal, and signs and wonders are performed in His name.
- That New Life Fellowship will grow in the Lord and reaching the lost.
- Our schools, students, teachers, and administrators.

The following devotionals were used with permission from:  
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## **Day 1: Send Revival**

Today we begin 21 days of fasting and prayer. Today we begin to seek God for Him to start a revival in our hearts, our homes, our church, and our world. When thinking of the word “revival,” it brings to mind the famous evangelist, Billy Graham. His impact on the world was certainly a revival as he preached to over 215 million people through hundreds of crusades around the world resulting in countless thousands placing their faith in Jesus Christ.

One of the great stories from Graham’s early years centers on his visit to tour the home of John Wesley, the famous English preacher who played a significant role in the First Great Awakening. In Wesley’s bedroom, the group noticed actual indentions on the floor where he knelt to pray each day. After the tour, the tour guide noticed Graham was missing and found Billy kneeling in the imprints by Wesley’s bed praying, “Do it again, Lord, do it again!”

Little did Graham know what the Lord would do through him, but it is clear that he understood God’s work through him would begin with a personal desperation to see God move.

The prophet Habakkuk records the same kind of cry in Habakkuk 3:2, “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known...” The ESV says, “in the midst of the years revive it.”

As we ask the Lord to send revival, it is critical we realize that revival starts in us. Let’s make it our heart’s cry to ask the Lord to send revival, beginning in our own hearts and lives!

### **Scriptures**

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) — Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

## **Day 2: More Like Him**

The word revival stems from the root word revive. Revive means: to activate, set in motion, or take up again; renew; to return to a flourishing condition. God's desire for each of us, for our families, and our communities is just that – that we would flourish. Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

What we are praying for when we ask God to send revival is to begin reviving us – activating our hearts to desire more, renewing our desperation, and experiencing the flourishing life that He desires for us.

The Apostle Paul talks about what takes place when we pursue the presence of the Lord. He writes in 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, "For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

Therein lies a key to seeing revival...inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit into our lives in a greater degree that leads to greater transformation.

Recently there was a man who came into one of our campuses who had been in a relationship with both a witch and a Satan worshiper. He was experiencing evil activity in his home and came to church desperate to find freedom. After the service he prayed with a pastor, gave his life to Christ and was baptized! After he came out of the water his countenance was completely transformed and the first words he said were, "I'm free!"

This is a first-hand demonstration of the power of God! Anyone who looks to Him and invites His presence into their lives will experience the freedom and transformation only He can provide.

The exciting news is we have an opportunity to be continually transformed into the image of Christ! The more we are in God's presence, the more His presence will be in and will work through us. As we are pursuing a greater depth and love for the Lord through these 21 days of prayer and fasting, make it your prayer that

God would increase a passion and desire to become more like Him. Pray that the Holy Spirit would change you so you might reflect God's love and glory in a greater way to those around you.

### *Scriptures*

#### **2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NLT)**

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

#### **John 10:10 (NLT)**

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

### **Day 3: What's His, Is Mine**

The VIP all-access experience has always been a very intriguing concept. Putting on a VIP access badge can completely change your experience of a concert, an event, or amusement park. It is a physical sign that you have access to an even greater experience, and you reap all the benefits that come with it. Without it, your experience is simply not all that it could be.

In Ephesians 1 we see that the Holy Spirit is our seal of access that opens our lives up to the greater realities and experiences that God desires for us.

"It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life." Ephesians 1:13-14 MSG

God wants you to have full access to His goodness and power. He not only desires that for us, but He positions us in a way to truly experience it too!

As you fast and pray, you are reminding yourself that you have been granted full access to God's goodness and blessings, God's power and might. He has granted

you access to the “more” He has for you! This access is because the Holy Spirit has been given to you – your VIP spiritual seal to all that God has for you.

Today embrace the truth that God has so much more for you and for His Church. He has granted us full access to his unlimited and unending goodness and power over our lives by sealing us with the Holy Spirit. So pray big, faith-filled, audacious prayers today because you have the VIP all-access pass to the unlimited resources of Heaven. What’s His, is ours!

### Scriptures

Ephesians 1:13-14 (MSG)

It’s in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what’s coming, a reminder that we’ll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NLT)

It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

### **Day 4: There is More**

At this point in the fast, if you’ve been fasting food at any level, you’ve probably gotten hungry. Hunger is an interesting and complex thing. According to the APA Dictionary of Psychology, hunger was originally thought to be a process initiated by the body when our system detects nutritional imbalances. Our brain senses when our stomach is low on food and then signals to us that it is time to eat. Modern theories suggest that hunger is not something that is generated but is a sensation which is always present in our bodies. This desire is masked by the effects of our last meal, which block the sensation of hunger. But it’s not until we go without food that we can feel or understand this sensation of hunger.

The same is true spiritually. Deep inside every one of us is a desire for more of God, for more of His presence in our lives. However, too often we feed ourselves with so many other things that we never really feel that deep-seated desire for God. When we fast, we are taking time to set aside distractions and eliminate the things in our lives which may mask what our souls truly need.

In Matthew 5:6 Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” The term in the Greek used for hunger here means to strongly desire, to be starved for something. Jesus said that when we reach the point where we are starving for Him, when we desire His righteousness more than anything, He will always satisfy that craving. Fasting has a way of getting us to that point.

The wonderful thing about spiritual hunger is what Jesus promised in Matthew 5, those who desire more of God will be filled. And as we fast, both our spiritual hunger and our spiritual satisfaction increase.

As we fast and pray with the heart-felt cry for God to send revival, it first begins with a hunger for more of God in each one of us. When we hunger for more of God, we will be filled!

Scriptures

Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

### **Day 5: Passion and Perseverance**

Grit is something that has been talked about in many arenas of life, from sports to education to business. According to Angela Duckworth, a researcher and professor at the University of Pennsylvania, it is one of the key predictors of success in any endeavor. She defines grit as having passion and perseverance and goes on to say that grit is about “having a goal you care about so much that it organizes and gives meaning to almost everything you do.”



While this is a characteristic we don't often associate with spiritual matters, it has profound significance when it comes to prayer. This definition of grit is exactly how Jesus describes how we should pray. In Luke 18, Jesus told his disciples a parable of a widow who persistently brought her case to an unjust judge. Although this judge had no regard for God or man, he eventually granted the widow's request because of her persistence. Jesus finished the parable by saying, "So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!" Luke 18:7-8 NLT

Notice that Jesus says God will respond to those who cry out to him. That phrase is translated elsewhere in the Bible as a shout, a war cry, or a roar. When it comes to matters of prayer, passion makes a difference. The posture and tone of our prayers can have a lot to do with the answers we receive.

Jesus finished the parable by saying that the Father is looking for those who will call on Him day and night. We are talking about those who not only have a passion for the Kingdom of God, but people who are willing to seek God until they see His will done. It is one thing to feel a passing burden that causes you to whisper a quick prayer, but it is entirely another thing to persistently and passionately call on God for an answer.

To really see revival take hold in our lives, our families, our church, and into the community around us, it will require passion and persistence in prayer!

### Scriptures

Luke 18:1-8 (NLT)

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his

chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man[a] returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

### **Day 6: Fervent Prayer**

If we are not careful, we can look at those mentioned in the pages of Scripture with an unrealistic standard for real world, day-to-day living. People like the prophet Elijah who performed many miracles, from raising the dead to calling fire down from Heaven can feel so far removed from the way we see ourselves and our walk with God. But, the New Testament writer, James, brings our perspective into check by simply pointing out that "Elijah was as human as we are". He was just like us. He knew what it was like to be disappointed, depressed, and discouraged. He had his own struggles and battles that he fought every single day. So, what is it that made Elijah's life so different from ours? How did he see such great miracles take place? The game changer was that he was a man who prayed fervently.

The reason that God did incredible miracles in Elijah's life and many other notable figures in the Bible is because those people sought Him through passionate prayer. S.D. Gordon wrote in his book *Quiet Talks on Prayer*, "The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who say they believe in prayer, nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray."

As we embrace the call to fervent prayer, there is no doubt that God will do great things through us like he did through Elijah. Elijah fervently prayed, and it did not rain for three and a half years. Then he prayed again, and it began to pour down rain from Heaven. If God answered the prayer of an ordinary person like Elijah's because he prayed earnestly, we can have confidence He will also answer us as we call on Him!

#### **Scriptures**

James 5:16-18 (NLT)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces

wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

### **Day 7: Draw Near**

Have you ever experienced what it is like to be lost? Maybe when you were a child you wandered too far from your family at the store or were separated from your group at a school outing. Perhaps it was driving to a new destination and ending up in the backwoods of nowheresville with no clue about which direction to go. Being lost is never fun. It is scary and uncertain. But in life all of us can find ourselves feeling lost spiritually.

We know who God is, that He has saved us, that He loves us, and has a plan for our lives, but sometimes we can't seem to find Him. We have this overwhelming feeling of being alone. The problem here lies within our perspective. It feels as though God has left us when the truth is He promised to never leave or forsake us. So, why does He feel so distant? Often the issue is simply that we have allowed things to create distance in our relationship with Him. We have slowly made room for distractions to fill our lives and separate us from our Heavenly Father.

One of the key benefits of fasting and prayer is that we are able to draw close to God. We set aside everything fighting for our attention and set our affection solely on Him. The amazing promise of Scripture is that as we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. If you are feeling a bit lost and alone, what you need is for God to reawaken your heart to His nearness as you draw near to Him!

#### **Scriptures**

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

## **Day 8: Overflow**

When the word “overflow” is used, it’s often not in reference to a positive experience. Maybe you have been in the unenviable position of having to frantically fix an overflowing toilet. If something has overflowed, it’s typically bad news. But, God’s desire is for us to experience the overflow of His goodness. In fact, Jesus made a significant promise in the middle of John’s gospel, and it is really good news!

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:37-39

What’s interesting about the time and location of this teaching is that it’s on the last day of the Festival of Shelters/Tabernacles. This was a celebration that, in part, memorialized God’s holy dwelling place in both the Tabernacle built by Moses and the Temple built by Solomon. At the height of this celebration, Jesus announced something amazing – a day is coming when God’s presence will no longer reside in the temple, but the Holy Spirit is coming and will live in anyone who desires His presence.

The result of this event will be rivers of living water flowing from our lives. And notice, Jesus says rivers of living water, not lakes of living water. This is intentional because rivers are always moving. What God is doing in you will eventually be something He uses to impact others. The Holy Spirit is designed to flow through you, where it transforms you and it blesses those around you!

Rivers have a big impact on the areas they flow through. They remove dead debris, water the areas around them, and leave their surroundings changed. This is a picture of what the Holy Spirit wants to do through us. By His power, He wants our surroundings to look different as a result of His presence flowing through our lives. Our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces will be different because of what is happening in us.

Today let's ask God's presence to flow through us that we might leave places, people, and circumstances looking different as a result of the Holy Spirit's power flowing through us.

Scriptures

John 7:37-39 (ESV)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### **Day 9: United in Christ**

The ancient city of Corinth was a melting pot of different people groups, religious ideals, and socioeconomic levels. Corinth was also a wealthy seaport city filled with idolatry because of the vast diversity of its population that came and went. Things were always changing in Corinth!

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul addresses a big change in the church's former life of idolatry to its new life empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is here that he points not just to the diversity of gifts that all believers have been given but emphasizes the strength that comes when those gifts are united together.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Though we have all been given unique and individually assigned gifts, the reality is our gifts are a part of a much bigger purpose. So, it should be that our prayers go beyond our individual needs to also pray for and focus on what God would have for His Church.

As theologian and author Richard Foster wrote, "The power of Christ in a gathered community can be an awesome thing. A quickening presence somehow

breaks down the isolation of our individual lives and unites us together in ways we could never imagine nor create on our own.”

To be gathered or united means to look beyond our own agendas and recognize that God has brought us together for a far greater impact; that there is a miraculous power that comes from a unity of faith and spirit.

Like never before, we are living in a time where the world needs to see and encounter this power. So many people are experiencing defeat, suffering from hopelessness, divided by politics, race, and religious beliefs. And what the world needs is a praying and united people who are filled with the Spirit and demonstrating the love of God in a powerful way!

### Scriptures

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may

have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Ephesians 4:1-4 (ESV)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

### **Day 10: Welcome to the Family!**

There is nothing quite like going to a large family gathering or family reunion. You get together and reconnect with cousins, aunts, uncles, and other family members that you may not have seen for years. There is also the occasional moment of not knowing who certain individuals are, but you still know that they are family. No matter who is there, you know that because of relationship or bloodline each person is family – gathered from different locations, with different physical traits, different names – yet all part of the same family.

The same can be said for your spiritual life. Because of relationship through Jesus, each and every believer is grafted into the amazing family of God. Romans 8:14 puts it like this, “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

What an amazing reminder! When we surrender our lives to Christ, it’s as if God says, “Welcome to the Family!” and His Spirit comes to live in us and unite us with the body of Christ.

This family we are part of, just like your physical family, is filled with different personalities, perspectives, and giftings, but what we all have in common is the fact that we are all led by the same Spirit. The Spirit who is at work in us and through us to do more through us united than we could ever accomplish on our own.

As you continue in this fast, pray that your hunger to be led by the Holy Spirit outpaces your physical appetite. Be reminded today that many others in your spiritual family – your brothers and sisters in Christ – are right there with you, desiring and pursuing the same. As we are seeking God together, He is going to work powerfully in our lives and in His church to change the world around us!

Take some time today in your fasting and prayer to remember those that are a part of your spiritual family. Let them know that you are praying for them and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in what to pray for them.

#### Scriptures

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

John 1:12 (ESV)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

### **Day 11: Beginning with Gratitude**

Studies consistently demonstrate that some of the happiest people on earth are those who excel in showing gratitude. The more a person is thankful and can show their gratefulness to others, the happier they become! Throughout Scripture, we see this truth as more than a result in a scientific study; it is in the very fabric of who God created and desires us to be. Psalm 100:4 calls us to, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”



One of the keys to prayer and fasting is gratitude. Before we ask God for a single thing, we should start by thanking Him for what He has already done! Psalm 143:5 says, “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.”

Looking back at what God has done in our lives serves as a powerful practice as we remind ourselves of all the ways God has been faithful. What are a few things you need to thank God for today? Ways He has provided, healed, restored, or helped you through a situation when you did not know what would happen. Times when He has protected and sustained you in circumstances that you know you could not get through on your own. Or, simply acknowledging His overwhelming goodness to you, your family, and friends in the simple everyday things that we so often overlook.

When we enter into God’s presence with thanksgiving and gratitude, we bring honor and glory to the Lord while simultaneously building our faith and confidence that if He did it in the past, He will do it again!

Scriptures

Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Psalm 107:1 (ESV)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 143:5 (ESV)

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

Psalm 77:11 (NLT)

But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.

## **Day 12: All About Appetite**

We live in a fast-food, microwave driven society. We want things easier, quicker, and less expensive. This message pervades today's marketing efforts through commercials and online advertising. And while there is nothing inherently wrong about wanting things faster and cheaper, if we aren't careful, we can allow that spirit to leak into our spiritual lives which can have devastating effects. God does not work on the premise of faster and cheaper; it's often the opposite – mostly, He works on timetables that don't line up with our human understanding and He rarely takes the path of least resistance when working out His divine solutions.

In Genesis 25, we read a powerful story that relates directly to this very issue. Eldest son Esau came home famished from hunting. His brother Jacob was conspiring with their mother to take advantage of Esau's weakened position, knowing he would come in exhausted and desire a quick solution. As you would expect, Esau asked for some of the food and Jacob saw his opportunity. He offered a trade – he would give Esau his stew if Esau gave Jacob his birthright (A birthright was the right to the inheritance and spiritual leadership of the family). This was a major, one-way advantage trade. You would think Esau would never consider such a trade, but exhaustion and short-cut thinking can cause you to make very poor decisions.

Esau accepted the deal. It seems absurd that Esau would sacrifice something so valuable for something so small, but the truth is, it happens to all of us. We can find ourselves settling for less for the sake of satisfying short-term appetites. There is no short-cut to daily living in God's blessing and promise in our life. Growing in our relationship with Him and experiencing His best never happens in a microwave, it happens through our daily consistent walk and pursuit of knowing Him more.

That is why the writer of Hebrews says, "Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite."  
Hebrews 12:16 MSG

God did not take the short-cut in bringing about our salvation. He provided the ultimate sacrifice for our sin – His own Son. God is not interested in the easy way out, but the best way through.

In his book, *A Hunger for God*, John Piper writes, “God rewards fasting because fasting expresses the cry of the heart that nothing on the earth can satisfy our souls besides God. God must reward this cry because God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.”

You can be sure God will respond to your fasting – because like Piper writes, you are demonstrating your heart’s cry and God loves to reward those who diligently seek him!

### Scriptures

Genesis 25:19-34 (ESV)

These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham fathered Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?”

Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hebrews 12:16 (MSG)

Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you’ll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God’s generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time. Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God’s lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God’s blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

### **Day 13: More Than We Can Ask or Imagine**

We serve a God who always desires to do more. One of the results of prayer and fasting is an awakened desire within us to experience more of God’s love and power, both in our own lives and in the lives of those around us – the people we know personally, but also those in the neighborhoods and cities where we live. This is what we are praying for as a church – revival to sweep across our land. We are asking to see more!

In Ephesians 3:20, the Apostle Paul writes one of the most compelling and inspiring verses to stir our expectation of what God wants to do through us, “Now all glory to God who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

That is a massive statement. Paul calls us to imagine all God could accomplish through us – now multiply that by infinity, and that is the expectation we should live with every single day. It is that kind of faith and expectation that causes us to believe God for big things. We can pray for revival to cover our land because we

know that is not only the heart of God, but also because we know He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we ask or even think!

And notice how Paul says God will accomplish this – through His mighty power at work within us. God’s desire is to do amazing things through all of us! Revival begins with us. Each of us personally desiring and asking for God for more. Then through His power working within us, He uses us to change the world around us.

Today, let’s pray big prayers. Pray that God would accomplish infinitely more than we can ask or imagine in our own lives, in our families, and in our church!

Scriptures

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

### **Day 14: Greater Things**

The pages of Scripture are filled with the miraculous. God used men and women to demonstrate His wonder-working power – people like Moses who parted the Red Sea, Joshua who prayed that the sun would stand still, Elijah called down fire from Heaven, Peter’s shadow healed people, and Paul raised the dead! Then there is Jesus, who did more miracles than could ever be recorded according to John 21:25.

All of these stories of miraculous intervention are designed to build our faith; that the same God who has worked in days past, will continue to work powerfully today through His people. In fact, Jesus stated exactly what is possible for those who follow Him. John 14:12-14 says this, “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it! “

That is an amazing promise! Jesus promises that not only will we do the same works He had done, but ever greater works. Then He points to the critical purpose

of Him doing these greater works through us – that we might bring glory to the Father. Miracles taking place around us and through us have everything to do with pointing people to the Father, to bring Him glory.

Jesus then provides another promise, “If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.” John 14:15-17

Jesus already gave us the source of power that will result in supernatural miracles – the Holy Spirit who resides in us. He is our advocate. As we ask God to do the miraculous through us, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that makes it a reality.

We stand with faith on what Jesus said. The same God who parted the Red Sea is the same God who desires to work miracles through our lives today. The same God who made the sun stand still, who brought fire from heaven, who made the lame walk, and the dead come back to life lives in us. And not only can God do for us what He did for them, He promised to do more!

As we set ourselves to fast and pray for revival in our world, we can be confident that not only is He going to send us into the world to do miracles like we see on the pages of Scripture, but even greater things!

Scriptures

John 21:25 (NLT)

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

### **Day 15: A Different Spirit**

There are currently over 7.7 billion people in the world today – each created by God with their own unique set of DNA which holds the information that makes each person individually unique. Just a single gram of DNA can hold up to 455 exabytes of data! And even more mind blowing, if you were to stretch out all of just one person’s DNA, the length of it would be about twice the diameter of our solar system! God has created each person completely different from another,

but all with the same ability to know and respond to their Creator. Although our DNA is responsible for so much of our lives, the reality is we have been given a free will and the ability to respond and pursue God wholeheartedly.

There is a story in the Old Testament about a man named Caleb, who served under Moses' leadership. Scripture records something very interesting about what God saw in Caleb. After twelve spies were sent into the Promised Land to survey the new land and gather a report for Israel, ten of the twelve spies returned with a negative report. Only Joshua and Caleb believed God could bring them victoriously into the land and spoke with faith to the people. Numbers 14:24 records for us God's response to Caleb's wholehearted commitment to him:

"But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it."

Caleb had the same amount of DNA as each of the other spies, but what set him apart was a different spirit. That different spirit led to a different response from God. Where most of the spies saw only opposition, Caleb saw opportunity. This kind of spirit is not automatic but is forged in the personal pursuit of the presence of God. The confidence Caleb displayed was the result of His commitment to being with the Lord.

A holy confidence and faith come to those who seek the Lord with all of their heart. This is why Jesus tells us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The result will be an ability to believe God will come through even when others can't see a way. Prayer and fasting conditions our hearts to both hear from God and then respond with an increased level of faith to believe.

So, when God's people experience trials, they don't simply see the challenges in front of them, but they face those challenges differently. They see possibility beyond their problems, opportunity instead of just obstacles. They approach life and its circumstances with a different spirit.

What area of your life do you need to approach with a different spirit? Pray that God would allow you see beyond the physical problem and into the spiritual reality so you can watch Him bring the supernatural outcome He desires.

## Scriptures

### Numbers 13 (NLT)

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zakkur;  
from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori;  
from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;  
from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph;  
from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;  
from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu;  
from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi;  
from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;  
from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;  
from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;  
from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;  
from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. That



place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Numbers 14:24 (ESV)

But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

Luke 10:25-28 (NLT)

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

## **Day 16: God is Good!**

Yesterday, we looked at the story of Caleb in the Old Testament. There is another fascinating story about Caleb found in two separate places in the Bible, both in Joshua 15:13-19 and Judges 1:9-15. In this story we find Caleb at the latter part of his life where he has just received his portion of the Promised Land from Joshua. His daughter, Acsah, has just married one of the mighty warriors of Israel, Othniel – a man of integrity and honor. In this story, Acsah wants Othniel to ask her father for a field. But after they have been given the land, Acsah decides to ask for even more.

Joshua 15:18-19 says, “When Acsah married Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. As she got down off her donkey, Caleb asked her, ‘What’s the matter?’ She said, ‘Give me another gift. You have already given me land in the Negev; now please give me springs of water, too.’ So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.”

In those days, fields and springs would have been incredibly valuable property which would ensure great wealth for whoever owned it. This was a BIG gift she was asking for!

On the surface, it could look like Acsah is simply asking for more land, but the reality is she understood something very important about her father’s nature. Acsah knew that she had a good father who desired to give her good things. She recognized that she was incredibly blessed, but also knew that her father would be happy to bless her with even more.

When it comes to prayer, this is the same posture we should have with God. God is our perfect heavenly Father who desires to give good gifts to His children. We can have a confidence that as we go to Him in prayer, He is not bothered when we ask for more...He is excited about it!

What is amazing about this story is that Caleb not only gave her the field, but gladly provided her with an upper spring and a lower spring! Acsah got a great husband, a field, AND two springs – double what she asked for!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:7-8, “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

We can approach God with confidence because we know God loves to provide generously for His people. As we continue to seek God during this fast, let’s pray and ask God for more! Let us realign our perspective about God to realize that He is a good God and He desires to pour out His blessing in abundance.

### Scriptures

Joshua 15:13-19 (NLT)

The Lord commanded Joshua to assign some of Judah’s territory to Caleb son of Jephunneh. So Caleb was given the town of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), which had been named after Anak’s ancestor. Caleb drove out the three groups of Anakites—the descendants of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the sons of Anak. From there he went to fight against the people living in the town of Debir (formerly called Kiriath-sepher). Caleb said, “I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the one who attacks and captures Kiriath-sepher.” Othniel, the son of Caleb’s brother Kenaz, was the one who conquered it, so Acsah became Othniel’s wife.

When Acsah married Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. As she got down off her donkey, Caleb asked her, “What’s the matter?”

She said, “Give me another gift. You have already given me land in the Negev; now please give me springs of water, too.” So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT)

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

James 1:17 (NLT)

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

### **Day 17: Nothing is Impossible!**

Have you ever heard something that you thought was absolutely impossible? Maybe it was a story on the news of a heroic rescue from a near tragedy or the unimaginable survival of an individual during a dangerous situation. Through this season of prayer and fasting you have heard testimonies of God moving in supernatural ways and you have thought it sounded impossible, even unbelievable.

In Luke 1, we read about the moment Mary, as an unmarried virgin, receives news from an angel that she would bear and give birth to the Son of God. Talk about hearing something that sounded impossible! Unsurprisingly, her initial reaction would be like ours today, “How can this be?” A legitimate question! And in short response, this messenger of God answers, “...nothing will be impossible with God.”

Mary chose to believe God despite what her mind knew to be possible, and it set the stage for the greatest event in history. The reality is that God wants us to believe Him for the impossible because by working supernaturally in our lives He sets the stage to show His power and glory to a watching world.

God will often speak things to our hearts that our minds cannot yet comprehend. Mary did not know how everything would take place; she simply knew it would work out because nothing is impossible with God. Mary did not feel worthy of such a calling, but God is more interested in using people who are willing than those who feel worthy.

First, we need a willingness to hear God speak. Prayer and fasting is an opportunity for us to hear God more clearly. The question is never “Is God speaking?” but always, “What is He saying?” Secondly, we need a willingness to obey what God says. When God speaks to us about what He wants to do, He rarely, if ever, provides the complete plan, but often only gives us the next step. It

is our responsibility to take that step He has provided. This is the path to living a life sensing and seeing God work powerfully.

Let's pray today for God to speak big things into our lives and for faith to believe and obey whatever it is He calls us to. May our response to what the Lord speaks be the same as Mary's, despite her lack of understanding, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."

#### Scriptures

Luke 1:35-38 (NLT)

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail.

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Matthew 19:26 (NLT)

Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."

### **Day 18: Extraordinary Love**

It is absolutely stunning to think about all that God has done for us! His goodness, patience, sacrifice, forgiveness, generosity, and promise of heaven are just a few of the things that are a part of His kindness to His children. Yet behind all He has given, there is an underlying reality we must understand first and foremost. We find this truth in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world..." Everything God does is motivated by His love for people.

One of the most shocking stories of God's extraordinary love is found in the book of Jonah. God instructs Jonah to go and preach to the large city of Nineveh. The people of this city were far from God and were involved in all kinds of evil practices. The evil had increased greatly, and now God's judgment was coming. But we soon find out from this story that God's loving grace always provides a way out, a second chance. After disobeying God's original direction and heading

in the opposite direction of Nineveh, Jonah is thrown overboard into the sea, swallowed and in the belly of a fish for three days, and then spat onto dry ground. It is then that Jonah chooses to obey and travels to Nineveh to proclaim God's Word to the city.

The response of the people is astounding. Jonah 3:5-9 tells us:

The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us."

This is truly a shocking response – the people of Nineveh, all the way up to the king, listened to Jonah and began praying and fasting for forgiveness. This is true repentance that launched a city into a full revival! And as a result, the Lord honored their response and spared the city.

Never discount how one person's obedience can lead to God's power sweeping over an entire city to lead the people to repentance and into revival! It is God's extraordinary love that drives His desire for all people to be saved. Regardless of how far gone a person, a city, a nation, or the world can seem from God – a revival can spark in a moment when the Lord is in it. He uses our obedience and love for people to proclaim His truth that invades the darkness, that we might see our cities turn to Jesus!

What is God asking you to do today? How does God want to increase your love for the lost around you? Your obedience today will lead to seeing God do more than you can begin to imagine in the days to come.

## Scriptures

### John 3:16-17 (ESV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### 1 John 4:7-9 (NIV)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

### Jonah 3:5-9

The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: “No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.”

## **Day 19: The Spirit & The Wilderness**

If you want to learn a specific skill or ability, it is important who you talk to and learn from. If you want to become a better communicator, talk to great communicators and study their habits. If you want to lead more effectively, read the books of leaders you admire and listen to their wisdom. If you want to become a better father or mother, look to others who have parented well for years ahead of you. Who we look to for our example is a critical component to what we can learn and who we become. This is true spiritually. When it comes to walking close to the Lord, Jesus’ life on earth sets the perfect model for us.

Following Jesus' baptism, something very interesting happens – Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. This leading was not just a gentle suggestion of where He should go next. Mark's gospel says the Spirit compelled Him to go. The Greek word for compel means to send out with force. What was so urgent that Jesus would need to spend the next forty days praying and fasting in the wilderness? We often flee places that look like the wilderness, but what we see in this story is not only that the wilderness is a part of God's plan, but a part of His preparation for the season to come.

It was in the wilderness that Jesus was able to escape the distractions and set His attention fully on His Father. It was in the wilderness where He found Himself completely dependent upon God. And although God the Father was with Him, the enemy showed up too. Satan arrived and began testing Jesus, attempting to once again subvert worship from the Father to himself. Jesus responded quickly and strategically with the Scripture that he had hidden in his heart.

After forty days spent in the wilderness praying and fasting, Luke includes a critical piece of information, "Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power."

Prior to entering the wilderness Luke says Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, but now he says Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Jesus left the wilderness different than when He walked in. And, the Spirit's power would be essential for the ministry Jesus would engage in. Therefore, even when it did not feel like it, the wilderness was a time of blessing as it prepared Jesus for what He would soon come to accomplish.

The beauty found in a wilderness season and times of prayer and fasting is that we leave differently than when we came. We leave with more of the Holy Spirit's power.

God's desire for every person is that through this time of fasting we leave with more of His presence and more of His power, not for ourselves, but for the people He wants us to reach in the days ahead.

The power Jesus gained from that wilderness experience led to teaching God's Word with boldness, healing the sick, setting captives free, giving hope to the



hopeless, making the lame walk, restoring the sight of the blind, and so much more. God's will is that we too would walk in a boldness that comes from being in His presence and that out of this time of prayer and fasting we would be filled with the Holy Spirit's power!

#### Scriptures

Luke 4:1-14 (NLT)

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.

Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.

Mark 1:12 (NLT)

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness,

## **Day 20: Asking for Help**

A recent study was conducted by a car insurance company revealing that the average person drives over 250 extra miles every year due to being lost. This is primarily the result of being too stubborn to ask for help and instead, attempting to figure out the way ourselves. The reality is when we refuse to ask for help, 10 miles in the wrong direction results in a 20-mile misstep once we backtrack and return to the right route. Not only can we get lost while on a journey physically, but the truth is we can often be unsure where we are to go spiritually. Whether it is navigating problems in life, needing wisdom in a situation, or activating our faith to believe God for more, if we are not careful, we can find ourselves stubbornly depending on our own strength and limited knowledge instead of asking for guidance.

In Mark 9:14-29 we find the disciples in a similar situation. Jesus had sent the disciples with His authority to cast out demons, heal the sick, and preach the message of repentance. The disciples were successful at the outset of their mission but then encounter a demon they are unable to remove from its control on a young boy. They had commanded demons to leave before, so why was this child different?

The disciples did not lack the authority; the object of their dependence had shifted. They began to operate in their own limited power instead of God's supernatural power. An increase of God's power, His presence, and His authority in our lives is not a one-and-done event. It is a daily filling. Each day we need to stop and ask for supernatural direction from God and be re-filled with His presence.

One of the primary benefits of fasting and prayer is that it increases our dependence on God. It boosts our faith to believe that anything is possible and gives us the power to activate the authority that God has promised us. Be encouraged that God's empowering presence is available to you and He is able to overcome any situation when we depend on Him!

## Scriptures

### Mark 6:6b-13 (NLT)

Then Jesus went from village to village, teaching the people. And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. He told them to take nothing for their journey except a walking stick—no food, no traveler's bag, no money. He allowed them to wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes.

"Wherever you go," he said, "stay in the same house until you leave town. But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate."

So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.

### Mark 9:14-29 (NLT)

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him.

"What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked.

One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

"How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father.

He replied, "Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes."

The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!"

Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

### **Day 21: Lord, Send Revival**

Over these past 21 days of Prayer and Fasting, we have set aside some things in order to fill our lives with something better. It is not possible to spend time seeking the Lord, asking Him to send revival, and something not happen, because God is faithful, and His Word promises that He responds to the prayers of His people.

The prophet Joel records a promise of what was to come for God's people:

"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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth." Joel 2:28-30a

He goes on to say in verse 32, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

The book of Acts records what happened in the upper room as people were fervently calling on God. In Acts 2, Peter addresses a crowd and quotes the prophetic words of Joel declaring its fulfillment as the Spirit was being poured out on people.

This powerful promise from Scripture is available to every believer today. How encouraging to know that the God of the universe want to use us in such a dynamic way! His desire is to speak through us that His presence might be displayed to those around us.

Notice this happens as the Spirit is poured out. One of the most powerful prayers we can pray is for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives, in our cities, on our nation, and throughout the world. God’s desire is always to answer that prayer, but it begins with His people crying out for more!

Charles Finney says this about revival:

“A revival may be expected when Christians have a spirit of prayer for a revival. That is, when they pray as if their hearts were set upon it. When Christians have the spirit of prayer for a revival. When they go about groaning out their hearts desire. When they have real travail of soul.”

Finney says a revival may be expected as we desperately call on God. As we have committed ourselves to prayer and fasting these past 21 days, God has moved and is moving and responding to our prayers, and we can believe with all of our hearts that revival is upon us!

## Scriptures

Joel 2:28-30 (ESV)

“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, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

Joel 2:32 (ESV)

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.