



THE CORNERSTONE

“A Firm Foundation For Every Generation”

2026

21 DAYS OF FASTING AND PRAYER

January 5 – January 26

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FASTING INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A FAMILY OF FAITH

Happy New Year Cornerstone Community! As we begin the year as a Family of Faith, Our Vision is for GOD to be glorified in every aspect of our lives. Our Faith, Our Calling, Our Focus, Our Marriages, Our Families and Relationships, Our Leadership and Our Ministries. How do we get started? Let us commit together as a family of faith to a 21 Day Fast starting, Monday, Jan 5th.

What is Fasting?

- Fasting is a temporary, intentional refusal of something that we find ourselves dependent on, in order to intensify our expression of our need for GOD and His work in our lives.

Why Fast? (It is Biblical: Acts 14:23, Dan 10:3, Esther 4:16, Exod 34:28, Joel 2:12, Luke 2:37, Luke 4:2-4)

- It draws us closer to HIM
- To humble ourselves, to recommit our lives, to discover our first love in HIM again
- It gives us clarity and direction for our lives
- It changes our perspective and outlook on what is most important
- It intensifies our passion for HIS word, prayer, increases our compassion for those who are lost
- It is a time where GOD displays HIS revelation and power in our lives because of our readiness

TYPES OF FASTING

(NOTE: It is honorable to NOT let everyone know what you are fasting, it's between you and GOD)

- “Complete Fast” – In this type of fast, you drink only liquids, typically water with light juices as an option. This is only recommended for the experienced faster and someone without health restrictions (consult your physician)
- “Selective Fast” – This type of fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. Some fast specific time of the day, a specific meal, a particular food/activity that would be hard to give up (meat, carbs, sugar and sweets, coffee, etc)
- “Partial Fast” – This fast, sometimes called the “Jewish Fast”, involves abstaining from eating any type of food in the morning and afternoon. This can either correlate to specific times, such as 6:00 am to 3:00 pm, or from sunup to sundown.
- “Soul Fast” – This fast is a great option if you do not have much experience fasting food, have health issues that prevent you from fasting food, or if you wish to refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance. For example, you might choose to stop using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast and then carefully bring that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast.(examples: movies, tv, social media, sitcoms, video games, hobbies, etc.)

**Now, being people of integrity we are not to fast things that are vital, that which is necessity or in your direct responsibility: Health, Medications, Work, School, Being responsible, daily duties/chores, relationships, parenting, ministry, etc.*

What do I do during my times of Fasting? (Note: Use your time of fasting to do things that glorify GOD)

- Follow our 21 day fast daily devotional and prayer guide
- Read GOD's WORD and Pray
- Praise and Worship, Listen to Godly music
- Share GOD with others, serve the community
- Gather with other believers in fellowship and share the goodness of GOD
- Listen to sermons online, radio, etc
- Support the ministry, volunteer, ask how you can help

BEGIN, CONTINUE AND END THE FAST WELL

If you have any health concerns, consult your physician before beginning a food fast. If you are fasting food, begin and end the fast gradually by slowly removing/returning regular foods back into your diet. It is important to know your body and make smart, healthy decisions when fasting. If you happen to feel like you lost track or failed to honor what you fasted. Ask GOD for forgiveness and pickup where you left off. Don't get down on yourself. Get back on track. We are not perfect but we can do our best to be obedient.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We don't have to follow a specific formula to talk with God, but practicing different ways to pray can help us find deeper purpose and connection to Him through our prayer time. The goal of using this guide is not to add pressure or overwhelm you. The goal is simply to get comfortable with prayer and for your prayer life to become more natural, effective, and enjoyable. To make your prayer time even more meaningful, you can write notes and prayer requests and play worship music. The important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer. The heart of this guide is to help you find a new level of purpose, effectiveness, and enjoyment in your prayer life. While prayer does take commitment and can require discipline to develop into a daily habit, we also want to remember that it's a "get to" not a "got to." It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer.

Over the next twenty-one days, we encourage you to:

1. Start with "Prayer Focus" - Pray for the situations/people in your life
2. Pray with The Cornerstone on our 21 Day Prayer Guide
3. Read and meditate on the Daily Scripture / Devotion.
4. Be consistent with attending Church / Meeting with the Brethren

The Word of God is one of the most valuable tools we have to build a dynamic daily prayer life. It brings power, truth, and encouragement to our prayer time. To help you get started, each daily devotion includes scripture and a written prayer for you to use as a way to begin your conversation with God. Let God speak to you in a way that ONLY GOD can!

PERSONAL PRAYER FOCUS

God has put us on the earth at this specific time for a reason. He says in Acts 17:26 that He determined when and where we would live. Knowing this, we can look at those around us at this specific time in history, and take personal responsibility to pray. Throughout the 21 Days, pray for your current situations, community, those in authority and those under your authority. Pray for those in your family and your circle of influence (anyone you're connected to). To help you with this, use this page to write down the names of specific people you will be praying for during the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting.

MY FAMILY: Spouse, Children, Parents, Siblings, Extended Family

MY CHURCH: Pastors, Church leaders, Brethren

MY LIFE: Friends, Bosses, Co-workers, Classmates, Clients

PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE YOU ARE PRAYING FOR TO KNOW GOD:

SPECIFIC SITUATIONS / PRAYER REQUESTS / PEOPLE WHO NEED HEALING:

MY GOVERNMENT: President, National Leaders, State Leaders, City/Community Leaders

DAILY PRAYER / BIBLE READING GUIDE

21 DAY PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE GUIDE - WEEK ONE (DAY 1-7)

DAY 1 - January 5 : (Is 53:5)

Today, I want to thank You that by "Your Stripes we are healed." The most important aspect is that we are healed spiritually and no longer stricken by sin. I pray for the **HEALTH** of my family and myself. I pray for mental, physical and spiritual well-being. I pray against any illness that may come against us. I pray for healing over those who are sick in JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 2 - January 6: (2 Cor. 9:10)

Thank You GOD for the **RESOURCES** that You have given to us. Help me to honor You with the first and best portion of my resources by giving me the wisdom to manage the remainder. For those that are struggling financially, I pray for employment and that all of their needs will be met in JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 3 - January 7: (Psalm 51:10)

Today, I pray for **PURITY** over my mind, actions and motives. Even though I am in a culture where purity is not a priority, help my family and myself abstain from lustful thoughts and actions. In JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 4- January 8: (Hebrews 13:17)

Today, I pray for the **PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES**. I am thankful for their role in my life and in our Church. I pray continual blessing, good health and protection for them. I pray for strength and that You would always reaffirm their calling in You. Remind me to encourage them and pray for them daily. In JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 5- January 9: (Proverbs 2:1-6)

Lord, as I read your **WORD** and participate in weekly services, help me to **UNDERSTAND** and **APPLY** it to my life daily. Give me a passionate hunger and thirst for Your Word and Presence. In JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 6 - January 10: (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Lord, I pray for **OUR CITY** and **OUR NATION**. JESUS, turn our nation and city back to You. I pray for our government leaders and local leaders. I pray for **GODLY** leaders to help protect the integrity of our Nation. I pray that you would expose any corruption and bring to justice those who commit it. I pray for a **GODLY** generation to rise up. Let our nation open to the Gospel that the people in it may be evangelized to. In JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 7 - January 11: (1 Cor 10:13, James 4:7)

Lord may the door of escape be evident to me whenever I face **TEMPTATION**. Convict my heart whenever temptation comes my way that I may choose to overcome it by Your Spirit and Your Word. I know I will face temptations in many areas of my life. Help me to stand firm in Your truth in JESUS NAME, Amen.

21 DAY PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE GUIDE - WEEK TWO (DAY 8-14)

DAY 8 – January 12: (Galatians 6:9)

Lord, I pray that in my moments of weakness that I will **NOT GIVE UP**. Help me to Not Let Quitting be an option. I pray for strength, endurance, initiative and discipline. Help me to continue pressing forward and keep pressing on. In JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 9 – January 13: (Proverbs 11:24, 2 Cor 9:6-11)

Lord, help me to not live tight fisted. Give me the compassion and desire to be **GENEROUS** with all that I have. May I be a shining example of You, the greatest giver. Let my time, my talents and my treasure always be available for you. Bless me so that I can bless others. Let Your glory shine through me. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 10 – January 14: (1 Cor 9:22, Mark 16:15-16)

Lord, today I pray to **REACH ANOTHER**. I pray for my family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that are far from you. Help me to love them right where they are. Minister to their hearts and use me as a mighty vessel of Your love and grace. I pray that they would come to know your **FORGIVENESS, SAVING GRACE, LOVE** and to receive Your **SALVATION**. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 11 – January 15: (Ephesians 1:7, 2:8)

Lord, today I am especially thankful for Your **GRACE**. Even though I did nothing to deserve or earn it, help me to receive it and freely give it to others. Give me the desire to ensure that others experience it. Be my hands and my feet. May Your **GRACE** pour out to others through me as Your Humble instrument. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 12 – January 16: (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Lord, today I pray for the **STAFF and LEADERS** at THE CORNERSTONE who serve GOD's People faithfully and diligently. I pray blessings over their families. I pray for good health, diligence, wisdom and unity. Give them passion and creative ideas. I pray that they always work for one common goal, to glorify Your Name. Most importantly, give them a Passion to serve You wholeheartedly with pure hearts and love. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 13 – January 17: (1 Timothy 4:12)

Lord, today I pray for our **YOUTH GROUP PURSUIT**. We pray that you would continually establish them in Your love and truth so they can be a light to those around them. We also pray for the **STUDENTS** of our community. I pray that they will come to know you as Lord and Savior. I pray that they will walk in Your protection and excel in every area of education. I pray that you would protect their minds from harmful teachings and convict their hearts to distinguish GOD's truth from the world's ideas. May they run hard for their dreams and accomplish all that you have for them. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 14 – January 18: (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Lord please **USE ME AS YOUR VESSEL** at my job, school, neighborhood and wherever I go as an example of Your love. I know You have a purpose for my life. Help me to discover your special gifting that you have placed within me and how to use my life for Your glory. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

21 DAY PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE GUIDE - WEEK TWO (DAY 15-21)

DAY 15 - January 19: (Nehemiah 8:10)

Lord, help me to keep Your **JOY** for it is my strength. Even though my life will have its challenges, ups and downs, let Your Joy always remain. Use me to encourage others that are going through the same situation. I will not walk in discouragement, depression or defeat in JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 16 - January 20: (John 8:34-36, 1 Cor 6:12)

Lord, today, I pray for those struggling with **ADDICTIONS** and **HABITUAL SIN**, which may include myself. Strengthen us to overcome these struggles by the Power of Your Spirit and Your Word. Remind us that the first step to victory is confession so that we can get Help from You and others. Help us to overcome and walk in freedom of our sin. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 17 - January 21: (Mark 10:9, 1 Cor 16:14)

Lord, today I pray for all **MARRIAGES**, I pray that marriages remain strong, fortified and centered on **CHRIST**. Help all who are married work out any differences and bring them closer together as they draw closer to You. I pray that Husband and Wife would set aside their pride and work towards the route of humility. I pray that You would convict us of the areas that we fall short and to be **CHRIST-LIKE** towards our spouse. Help us understand how blessed we are that you have given us one another to love, support, encourage, serve and build life together. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 18 - January 22 (Proverbs 11:25, Matthew 5:16)

Lord, today I am thankful for all the **VOLUNTEERS** at THE CORNERSTONE who sacrifice their time, energy and resources to make it possible for this Church to continue to blossom and operate with excellence. Give them a passion to serve and to know that everything they do is for the glory of the **LORD**. Bless them for their efforts and continue to grow the gifting and talents that You have given them so they can continue using it for Your glory so that many others may be saved. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 19 - January 23 (Matthew 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:32)

Lord, thank You for forgiving me of many shortcomings. Help me to forgive myself and not withhold **FORGIVENESS** from those around me. Let me be quick to forgive and do not let any unforgiveness be harbored in my heart. I do not want to sin against You or others. I need Your strength to let go of the bitterness, grudges and pain. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 20 - January 24: (Joshua 1:9)

Lord, give me the **CONFIDENCE** to share my faith to those around me. Help me to live boldly for you, to stand out in a culture that just wants me to blend in and does not accept You. I want to be Your Salt and Light to this generation. Let me be bold and courageous for Your Name. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

DAY 21 - January 25: (Matthew 28:16-20)

Lord, today I pray that you **EXPAND YOUR REACH** and influence of the **GOSPEL** through THE CORNERSTONE. Help us to take Your message of Salvation to more people, in our families, in our social circles, in our communities, in our city and in more regions, IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 1 – January 5

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

The call to draw near to God is both an invitation and a promise. It is no good to submit to God's authority and to resist the devil's attack and then fail to draw near to God. We have it as a promise: God will draw near to us as we draw near to Him.

When a soul sets out to seek God, God sets out to meet that soul; so that while we are drawing near to Him, He is drawing near to us.

What does it mean to draw near to God?

- It means to draw near in worship, praise, and in prayer.
- It means to draw near by asking wisdom and counsel of God.
- It means to draw near in enjoying communion with God.
- It means to draw near in the general course of your life.

This verse shows what God wants to do for the sinner. It doesn't say, “Draw near to God and He will save you” or “Draw near to God and He will forgive you,” though both of those are true. But what God really wants is to be near to His children; to have a close relationship and fellowship with the individual.

- Drawing near to God helps us to resist the devil.
- Drawing near to God helps us to become pure.
- Drawing near to God helps us to sorrow for sin.
- Drawing near to God helps us to speak well of other people.
- Drawing near to God helps us to think of eternal things.

PRAAYER: “Lord, You have promised that if I draw near to You, You will draw near to me. I need more of Your presence today, and I am drawing near to You through prayer, worship, and reading Your Word. I open my heart to You and ask You to be near to me and change me to be more like You. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 2 – January 6

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

David came to the God of perfect knowledge and constant presence knowing He was also a God of love, and could be trusted to search him and to know him at the deepest levels. This is also an admission that God knew David better than David knew himself, and that he needed God to search and know him.

David knew that he could not know his heart at its depths, so he asked God to know it. He was asking for God to discern his motives and his actions. David opened his soul completely before God, asking if there were any unknown or unperceived sins. This showed how much he cared for holiness in his life, and how humble he was in recognizing that there could be an unperceived wicked way in himself.

David also wanted God to examine him and look for worry. Such anxieties could be evidence of unbelief or misplaced trust.

David ended this majestic psalm by declaring his destination – the way everlasting. Trusting the God of complete knowledge and constant presence would bring David to everlasting life. The way of holiness prayed for in the previous lines was the way everlasting.

PRAAYER: “Lord, I ask You to search my heart. If You find anything in me that is offensive, please show me and help me remove it from my life. Lead me to live a life that draws people to You. Help me live my life on earth in a way that impacts eternity. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 3 – January 7

SCRIPTURE: “*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*” - Matthew 6:14-15

Forgiveness is required for those who have been forgiven. We are not given the luxury of holding on to our bitterness towards other people. How can we dare go before God and ask Him to forgive us if we refuse to forgive others? God's grace is to be shared. If we do not share that grace, then it sours in us and we lose its blessing. We are forgiven to be agents of forgiveness. On a daily basis, our awareness of God's grace should help us restart the forgiveness cycle in our own lives by forgiving others before we ask for our own forgiveness. This desire to forgive and bless is just another evidence of being children of God who long to liberate others from their sin and bless them with grace.

Jesus has much more to say about forgiveness (Matthew 9:2-6, 18:21-35, and Luke 17:3-4). Here, the emphasis is on the imperative of forgiveness; on the fact that it is not an option.

PRAYER: “Lord, I have a confession to make. I haven't loved others well. I have resented certain people and have not forgiven them in my heart. God, I know that You have forgiven me for so much, and I need Your help to follow You and forgive others. In faith, I now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself because You have made me new in the name of Jesus.”

DAY 4 – January 8

SCRIPTURE: *“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* - *Matthew 6:33*

This must be the rule of our life when ordering our priorities. Yet it is wrong to think that this is just another priority to fit onto our list of priorities – and to put at the top. Instead, in everything we do, we seek first the kingdom of God.

We should also remember this statement in its immediate context. Jesus reminds us that our physical well-being is not the most important object to devote our lives unto. If you think it is worthy that your god is wealth, then your life is cursed with worry, and you live life too much like an animal, concerned mostly with physical needs.

Jesus didn't just tell them to stop worrying; He told them to replace worry with a concern for the kingdom of God. A habit or a passion can only be given up for a greater habit or passion.

What this verse demands is, therefore, a commitment to find and to do the will of God, to partner oneself totally with His purpose... and this commitment must come first.

If you put God's kingdom first, He promises heavenly treasure, rest in divine provision, and fulfillment of God's highest purpose for man – fellowship with Him, and being part of His kingdom.

This choice – to seek first the kingdom of God – is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and are converted. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it. Let's seek Him first everyday!

PRAAYER: “Lord, Your Word tells me that if I seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness, You will lead me to a life of blessing, purpose, and freedom. I am Yours today, God, and I give this day to You. Help me to focus on Your priorities first, sharing Your love and making Your Name known. I know that by focusing on You rather than myself, I will receive joy and peace. In Jesus Name, Amen.

DAY 5 – January 9

SCRIPTURE: "*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*"
- James 4:10

Everybody wants to be exalted. We all want to be glorified. Maybe we wouldn't say so. Maybe we don't feel it all of the time. But part of the motivation for living according to the world system is to get exaltation for ourselves. This comes in having the things we want, getting the respect we feel we deserve, or living in the comfort and pleasure we crave. God asks us to quit the world's way of pursuing those things. Instead, He calls us to trust Him to exalt us when the time is right without trying to get that glory for ourselves.

That requires real humility. We agree not to make our daily lives about ourselves, and our God promises to make it about us when and how He sees fit. That's how Jesus lived, after all. Paul described Jesus's life on earth in Philippians 2. Jesus, God Himself, refused to fight for His right to be glorified. He "made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7) and became a servant, even to death. Then, when the time was right, the Father exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

God calls us to walk that same path: Humility today, God's glory forever.

PRAYER: "Lord, You have promised that if I humble myself before You, You will lift me up. I recognize today that I cannot succeed on my own, and I need You in every moment. I humble myself before You, and I ask You to work in and through me today. My time, efforts, thoughts, and words are Yours today (name specific parts of your day and give them to God). Use me for Your purposes, Lord. I trust that You will be with me and lift me up. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 6 – January 10

SCRIPTURE: “*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*”
- 2 Timothy 1:7

Paul, as a Spiritual Father to Timothy, saw the timidity that was in Timothy. God wanted Timothy to know that this fear wasn't from the God he served; he needed to know that God has not given us a spirit of fear.

We all face situations where we feel timid and afraid. For some, speaking in front of others makes them fear; others are afraid of confrontation, others of being made to look foolish, others are afraid of rejection. We all deal with fear.

The first step in dealing with such fears is to understand that they are not from God. It is a significant step to say, “This isn't God making me feel like this; God hasn't given me this.” Perhaps it is from personality, perhaps a weakness of the flesh, perhaps a demonic attack – but it isn't from God.

The second step in dealing with such fears is understanding what God has given us. A spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind.

God has given us a spirit of power: When we do His work, proclaim His word, represent His kingdom, we have all His power supporting us. We are safe in His hands.

God has given us a spirit of love: This tells us a lot about the power He has given us. Many think of power in terms of how much we can control others; but Jesus' power is expressed in how much we can love and serve others. On the night before the cross, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands – and what did He do with all that power? He humbly washed His disciples' feet (John 13:1-11).

God has given us a sound mind: The ancient Greek word here had the idea of a calm, self-controlled mind, in contrast to the panic and confusion that comes in a fearful situation.

PRAAYER: “Lord, I know You have not given me a spirit of fear or timidity, but one of power, love, and self-discipline. When my mind feels out of control, I pray that You will renew my spirit and let power, love, and self-discipline fill me. Help me to look more like You every day. I declare that anything that is not of You has to leave me in Jesus' mighty Name. I proclaim that I do not have a spirit of fear, but I have a sound and healthy mind. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 7 – January 11

SCRIPTURE: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28*

Paul seems to offer the promise of this verse as a comfort for us.

Crucially, though, this promise is limited to "those who love God," and "those who are called according to His purpose." In short, that means the promise is for Christians: for saved believers, who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ (John 3:16–18; 14:6; Romans 3:26). No matter our feelings on a given day, loving God is part of what it means to live in Christ. That's who we are. Each of us is also called to fulfill God's

What is the promise? That, for those who are saved, all things will indeed work together for good. "All things" should be taken to mean each and every circumstance one might experience, even pain or suffering. "Work," or "work together," must be understood in light of God taking action in the world. He is the one who causes all things to work together or, perhaps, works in and through all circumstances toward a specific end. What is that end? "Good."

The word "good" does not necessarily mean happy or painless or financially successful or our idea of the best possible outcome on any given day. God's ultimate good for us is to glorify us in eternity (Revelation 21:1–4). Beyond that, God works in and through us toward an ultimate good that serves His purpose for the universe.

The comfort of the verse is that nothing in this life of waiting and suffering is wasted. It is all meaningful for those in Christ, even if that doesn't diminish our pain in the moment.

PRAYER: "Lord, You promise me in Your Word that in all things You work for my good. Right now, there are circumstances in my life that don't feel good and that I can't see an ounce of good in (talk to God about the specific situations that are causing you difficulty or pain). Even though this is how I feel, I choose to believe Your truth over my feelings. When you say You will work in all things for my good, I believe You. Even in situations that seem hopeless, I know You are working on my behalf and that You want more for me than I could ever want for myself. Thank You for having a purpose for me and for working all my life circumstances for good. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 8 – January 13

SCRIPTURE: “*Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.*” – *Psalms 62:8*

When we trust in God at all times, what difference will this make? In the safety and security of relationship with God, we are invited to tell God anything and everything. We don't have to hide our fear, doubt, anger, sadness, and disappointment. God gives us freedom to be fully ourselves with Him, sharing fully our joys and our sorrows, our longings and our losses.

If God is always our mighty rock, our deliverance, our fortress, and our refuge, we can trust Him at all times, including “these uncertain times.” There is no time at which God is not trustworthy. In fact, the insecurity of our current times encourages us to trust God even more. We may not be able to rely on a good economy or the wonders of medical science, we may not feel confident in the wisdom of our leaders and government, but we can accept the invitation of this verse and put our full trust in God, our refuge in all times.

PRAYER: “Father, in Your Word, You invite me to pour out my heart to You. You are my refuge, and I know that anything I think, feel, or do is ok to bring to You. Knowing that You are a safe place for me, I come to You and give You everything on my heart (talk to God about the specific things that are on your heart today). From what is worrying me to what is delighting me, what I hope for to what I'm afraid of, I bring it all to You because I know I can trust You. Help me and guide me in every area, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

DAY 9 – January 14

SCRIPTURE: "*The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.*" – Deuteronomy 28:12

This verse declares that the Lord will send rain (a necessary provision for the work of that day) and bless all the work that you do.

Friends, do you feel that this is too good to be true? Are you finding it difficult to believe, especially when you are in a difficult situation, when you feel discouraged, when you feel that it will take you ages before you can achieve what you set out to do, when you are not even sure if you will ever succeed, especially after you have failed several times. Do you feel that these promises may not apply to you?

When we believe in Christ Jesus, we belong to Jesus. We become the true descendants of Abraham and as GOD blessed Abraham so He will also bless us. As long as we are obedient to GOD in all the areas He requires of us. Remember that because of the finished work of Christ on the cross, we are eternally the righteousness of God in Christ. So all these blessings belong to us because of the finished work of Christ. It is good, very good, too good, but it is true! These promises are for us to declare as believers of Christ Jesus.

GOD wants to bless you and the work of your hands!

PRAYER: "Lord, I believe You have everything I need and You want to bless me. You tell me in Your Word that You will open the heavens to bless the work I do. I know that without You, I can do nothing. I ask that You will open the heavens and pour out Your blessings and power over me. I give my work and my efforts to You and I ask You for favor and blessing in anything my hands touch (surrender specific efforts to Him). May it be for Your glory alone so that others may see Your power and goodness at work. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 10 – January 15

SCRIPTURE: "*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" - *Romans 8:38-39*

What do you dread most in life? What is your greatest fear? In Romans 8:38-39, the Apostle Paul lists some of the most dreadful things we encounter in life: fear of death, unseen forces, demons, powerful rulers, unknown future events, and even the fear of heights and drowning, to name a few.

Paul is thoroughly convinced that none of these dreaded things—and he includes anything else in all the world—can alienate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Paul begins his list of ten of the most feared things with death. That's a big one for most people. With certainty and finality, we will all face death. Not one of us will escape it. We fear death because it is cloaked in mystery. No one knows exactly when it will happen, how it will happen, or what will happen to us after death.

But if we belong to Jesus Christ, this one thing we do know with all assurance, God will be there with us in all of his great love. He will take our hand and walk with us through whatever we must face:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4, ESV)

It may seem odd that life is the next item on Paul's list. But if you think about, anything else that we may fear except for death happens in life. Paul could have listed thousands of things we fear in life, and in every case, he could say, "This will not be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

Nothing in the course of a lifetime can separate the children of God from their Father's love. Nothing! Nothing! Absolutely nothing! We are eternally secured in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: "Lord, I am in awe of Your love for me. You are so great, and I am so small, yet You love me fully. I remind my soul today that nothing can separate me from Your love—I am so grateful! There is nothing I can do to win or lose Your love; You love me without condition. Because I know nothing on earth, in time or space, or anything in existence can separate me from Your love, I will live confidently and peacefully knowing I have always been and will always be fully loved by You. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 11 – January 16

SCRIPTURE: *“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.” – Isaiah 54:17*

4 Key promises of this Verse.

#1 “no weapon forged against you will prevail,”

The evil one has come up with new “weapons” to try against the church in every generation since the creation of man. But Jesus said that he would build his church and “and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Mt 16:18). There may be some casualties in the battle against the darkness, but the enemy cannot succeed. God has promised it. The Church will live to see the coming of the Lord.

#2 “and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.”

There are two ways this manifests. The first is that the accuser has no power over the child of God. Day and night his tongue rises against you in judgment, but it is only a ruse. The only power he has to harm us is when we believe him. To believe him is to disbelieve the promises of God. But if we will walk in faith, we will refute all his “judgment.” The second is that the people who walk in darkness will rise up against the church in every generation. God has promised to give us the words and the power to face them. He has given us the truth that will prevail ultimately against the lies.

#3 “This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and this is their vindication from me,” We have received and will receive an inheritance in Christ of everlasting life and a place in the New Heavens and the New Earth forever. Part of our heritage is this promise of protection from slander and accusation. It will be vindication for the harm that is done to God’s people for a little while in the battle against the principalities at work in the world.

#4 “declares the Lord.”

The Lord has spoken definitively through the prophet. It will be done.

PRAYER: “Lord, I know that no weapon raised against me will succeed because I am Your child. I feel pressure in my life right now, and sometimes I feel as though life will overcome me (talk to God about the concerns weighing on you). Even though I feel this way, in faith, I claim Your promise that no weapon can overcome me and that any accusations that come against me will be silenced. This truth is verified by Your love and saving power in my life. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 12 – January 17

SCRIPTURE: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*
Philippians 4:6-7

Paul begins with a contrast between anxiety and prayer. He notes believers shouldn't be "anxious about anything." This does not imply a complete lack of concern. Nor does it mean Christians are to be careless. Instead, it means that believers should not be fearful, paranoid, or uneasy. Why not? Believers can speak directly with God, the maker of heaven and earth, who has all power and authority, who is in total control of the situation.

Instead of anxiety, believers are to humbly and gratefully approach God with whatever is on their minds. Mature prayer includes thanking God for what He has done in addition to asking for help in areas of need. This is the Christian prescription to reduce anxiety in all areas of life. This does not mean believers are going to live a worry-free life. Nor does it mean additional help won't be required. However, it does show that addressing problems in our lives should begin with prayer. When we do this, Peace will take over our lives and guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER: "Father, my heart feels anxious (tell God what is giving you anxiety), but I'm thankful I can come to You and receive peace. Even though my mind and heart are racing, I'm coming to You knowing that You provide healing and calm for my soul. Thank You for giving me breath and life. I thank You that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image. I lay down all worries, all my physical and mental anxiety, and any attempt to try and control it all. I surrender it all to You. Even when things are unstable around me, I pray that Your peace will be evident in my heart and my life. Guard my heart and mind, God. I trust that You are faithful, and I receive Your peace in my life today. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 13 – January 18

SCRIPTURE: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* - Jeremiah 29:11-13

We spend a lot of time thinking about God's plans for us. While this is definitely a wonderful thing, it's easy to have the attitude: "It's all about me." God cares about every intricate detail in our lives. Jesus said that he even numbers the hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7). After all, when compared to God, everything is small. But should we expect that the main purpose of God's plans is to make us happy right here, right now?

Jeremiah's message in today's devotional verses is radically different. Jeremiah wrote to a group of people held captive. They were ripped from their homes and now live in exile. He was reminding them that although they're not where they expected, God has not forgotten them. Even amidst this insanely hard situation, God's plan will stand. As Jeremiah knows very well, God's plans are always good. God hasn't forgotten them. God hasn't forgotten His people—just like He hasn't forgotten you.

Just a few verses earlier, we see a big part of God's plan for them is to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile" (Jeremiah 29:7). In other words, God wants them to know His plans are not just to benefit them personally. God is also telling them that He is not removing them from the situation immediately. He does promise to restore them; but it's not coming quickly. Instead, it's 70 years out, when many of them will be dead. God is letting them know they can move forward, because in the eternal picture, God's justice will prevail and everything will be made right.

God has a plan for you, and it will be used to bless the world around you. Today, during tough situations, God wants us to know He has a plan and purpose. He also wants us to know that as we submit to His plan, He will use us to bless the world. The key remains during both good and difficult times: You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

PRAYER: "My God, I try to make so many plans for my life, but I know Your plans for me are best. Thank You for loving me enough to have a plan for my life. You have promised me that when I call on You, You will listen to me. Thank You for listening when I pray. I lay my plans down at Your feet and receive Your plans for me (mention your plans and lay them down before God). I know that You see the big picture and You know what is better for me than I do. I trust You, and I ask You to guide me toward Your plans. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 14 – January 19

SCRIPTURE: *"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* - *Deuteronomy 31:8*

In this verse, God is reassuring the Israelites that all will be well. He was removing Moses, not only as their leader, but from their midst and He knew the turmoil they were feeling. This was a monumental change for these people who had relied on Moses for so long. His voice was God's voice; They knew and trusted that voice. God was giving Moses much needed eternal rest and although He had appointed Joshua as Moses' successor, God would rule and reign through this next leader as He did with Moses.

Even today, when we face life altering changes in our life, these same words that were once spoken to comfort a people struggling with the changes they were facing, are the same words God is using to calm our fears and anxieties. It is always His intention for us to walk in His peace as we walk in Him.

This verse speaks volumes about God's heart for us and His determination to help us see Him as He really is. Not only is He always ahead of us carving out a path we are to travel on, but He is able to walk with us as we go through our intimate trials. He is telling us that there is no reason to be afraid or discouraged because He's not going to abandon us. He has everything under control and all that is going to happen will happen under His watchful eye.

Whatever storms God is using in our life, it's for a reason. Sometimes it is to strengthen us or change us or deal with a flaw in us. Regardless of the reason for the time of suffering, His promise is that He will go through it with us and He will be with us in any and every circumstance; whether hard or easy. This verse is a declaration of His complete and total willingness to be involved in our life. God wants us to know Him and His heart.

He is a God of love and everything He allows or does is because of His love for us. He has no hidden agenda. God is with us and will always be with us every day of our life.

Speak this verse over your life and experience His peace.

PRAYER: "Father, I am so comforted by the fact that You will never leave me. You are always with me, and I am safe with You. As I go through my life and take on each new situation, I'm comforted by knowing I'm not alone because You are by my side. Help me feel Your presence. When I feel uncertain or afraid, I pray You will comfort me through Your Holy Spirit and remind me that I am never alone because You, the Almighty God, have promised to always be with me. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 15 – January 20

SCRIPTURE: “*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*” -Matt 11:28-30

We must remember the context here. Jesus is talking to people who are weighed down by the rules put in place by the religious. They can't possibly live up to these expectations and they are weary from trying. What an incredible invitation Jesus is extending. It's not much different today is it? Many of us are weary and burdened. We are weighed down by what we are carrying. Jesus is inviting us to put down the heavy yoke. Jesus follows up this invitation with a promise. If we go to Him we will find rest.

We often have this picture of God just wanting us to obey Him. But we got it backwards. He's not demanding obedience for obedience sake. It's through obedience that we can experience the goodness He has for us.

What Jesus is inviting you into a life free from unnecessary burdens. A life where you can find rest. The invitation is open, all you have to do is go to Him.

The meaning of Matthew 11:28-30 shows us God's intention for us. It's not to weigh us down, but give us rest. God has a purpose for you, but His purpose isn't an unbearable burden, it's an appropriate weight. And you don't have to accomplish it alone, you are yoked to Jesus. This passage should be a breath of fresh air. In a world that is exhausting with its toil, demands and trials, God has a different way for his people. His way is life-giving and it allows us to experience the fullness of life. Jesus has created you for a purpose. But that purpose is light when we are with him.

PRAAYER: “Lord Jesus, I am so tired and worn out (tell God the areas that you're tired and weary). I feel exhausted mentally and physically. Life feels hard, and I feel like I can't keep up my current pace. You invite me to come to You when I am weary, and I fall at Your feet desperate for rest, peace, and perspective. Show me where I am trying to do things on my own. Show me where I need to rest instead of strive. Teach me Your ways. Show me how to walk in gentleness, humility, and rest. I know Your ways are higher than my ways, and I pray that You will transform my heart and mind to be more like You. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 16 – January 21

SCRIPTURE: *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”*
- Psalms 91:1-2

In one of the most uplifting passages of Scripture, we have this reassurance: To dwell in the shadow of the Almighty is to live under the promise of God's protection.

The word dwell means “to live in or be an inhabitant of.” Shelter refers to “a hiding place, covering, or protection.” Shadow suggests “shade, comfort, protection, and defense.” And abide means “lodge, live, spend the night.” The language of Psalm 91:1 speaks of someone who is wholly comfortable and accepted into the household and community life of the Most High God.

Most High is a title for God that effectively levels every threat. This name stresses God's supreme power as the sovereign ruler of the world. Almighty or Shaddai is the name that upheld the wandering patriarchs (Exodus 6:3). As the Almighty, God is fully capable of accomplishing all of His promises.

Dwelling in the shadow of the Almighty is the everyday experience of someone who, although persecuted or threatened by danger, is thoroughly at home in the protection, comfort, and safety of Yahweh, the God of absolute power. This person declares of the Lord: “He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust Him.”

PRAAYER: “Lord, I claim that I dwell in Your shelter, the Most High God, and I rest in Your shadow, the Almighty One. I claim that You alone are my refuge and fortress. You are my God and I trust You. When I face anything that brings me uncertainty or fear (confess these things to Him), I know that I can come to You as my safe place. Thank You for Your strength and protection in my life. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 17 – January 22

SCRIPTURE: "*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*" - 1 Cor 15:58

Our verse today is a reminder for us to stand firm. Paul is reminding the people in Corinth and even us readers to not be moved. We should not let anything move us because we must stand firm in the Lord. We must always give ourselves fully to the Lord because we know that our labor is not in vain. Our verse today is another way to remind us that we belong to the Lord, and if we offered and gave our life to Christ, we have to stand firm and should not be moved. It is very hard for us to accept the fact that we are still suffering. However, we must understand that we are saved by grace, and it does not mean we will have no trouble, but it means we have Christ in us and He will never forsake us.

So, as people of Christ, no matter what life throws at us, stay committed. We must not let anything move us. May it be personal problems, may it physical problems, financial problems or etc. we are to trust God, and not be moved. We should let God handle our situations, and believe that He will always be there for us. After all, God has given us people to share our sorrows with, and our struggles so we are really not alone. We have our brothers and sisters in Christ that know what we're going through. We are so blessed and indeed, we must remember to give our hearts and our ourselves fully to the work of the Lord because we know it is not vain and we are beyond blessed.

PRAYER: "Lord, help us to stand firm and stay committed to the call. We know that it is not easy but there is no better path to take and live by than yours. True satisfaction, contentment and purpose is only discovered when we live our lives truly for you. Help us to remain steadfast and to never give up. For we know that in the end, You will always have the victory and the glory belongs to you... and we don't want to miss out on Your glory and what You will do in our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 18 – January 23

SCRIPTURE: “*Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*” - *Psalms 103:2-5*

Take a moment to think about a time in your life where you didn't know how you would get through it. Do we sometimes forget the faithful things that GOD has done for us in the past?

We often do. We forget the great work God has done for us and in us. Where He brought us from, and what He delivered us from. King David often reflected on what God had done in His life personally and in the lives of the children of Israel.

Now, I'm not telling you to dwell on your past or your past mistakes and sins, but I am telling you that it is beneficial to remember the good works that God has done in your life. It is beneficial to encourage yourself in the Lord. You can get so caught up in not being where you want to be, that you forget how far He has brought you. Remember how He had blessed you. Remember where He found you. Remember how He adopted you, and plucked you out of the muck. Washed you whiter than snow. Set you upon a Rock. Lifted you up in the presence of your enemies. Never forget what HE has done for us. It will encourage you and remind you that HE will be faithful now as HE was faithful then. Need encouragement? Need deliverance? Need healing? Let's ask HIM who is capable and faithful to do it.

PRAAYER: “Father, in the Name of Jesus, I come before You asking forgiveness if I have forgotten where You have brought me from. Thank you for reminding me today that you are a faithful and loving GOD who forgives my sins and answers my heart's cry. I pray for healing (for yourself or someone you are praying to experience healing). My hope is in You as our healer. I believe You are able to do this. Your name is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals. I pray for encouragement and reconciliation for myself and those who need it. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross so that we can receive your promises. Thank You that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. I stand in faith, believing you will answer according to Your Perfect Will. Nothing is impossible for You, God! Give us peace and direction as You work in our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 19 – January 24

SCRIPTURE: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”* – 1 Peter 2:9

Living a holy life doesn't mean just saying holy things and taking holy actions. It includes our motive behind the words we say and the actions we take. It means speaking to others the way Jesus would and loving others the way Jesus commands.

Being holy is striving to have eyes that see others the way Jesus does. It also means responding to Him in a way He is worthy of because of His unmatched holiness.

When we choose to make the pursuit of holiness a priority in our lives, we will have a sense of urgency about it, and we will become committed to making the hard choices that come with it.

Making those aforementioned hard choices can sometimes cause us to feel like we have been set aside, but if we decide to change our outlook, it is then that we see we are actually set apart. Not set aside. Set apart for holiness and being set apart is a great place to be, because that is where God is where HE wants us to be.

PRAAYER: Lord, I want my life to be set apart for your special use. You are a holy GOD and I want to be holy because I want to be pleasing before Your sight. There are areas in my life that I need You to help me, to ensure that everything I do is done in accordance to Your Word and righteousness. I know that I cannot do it on my own. I need Your Holy Spirit to guide me and convict me so that I do not sin against You. Set me apart for Your purpose so that I can bring glory to Your Name all the days of my life. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

DAY 20 – January 25

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

Paul told Titus how to speak to the different groups of people in the church, and he told Timothy to tell the young men "to be sober-minded" (Titus 2:6). Then Paul explained to Titus the importance of being a good example himself.

This is what Paul wrote: "In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works." Titus had to be more than a teacher, he also had to be an example, a pattern. His guidance to others could not be taken seriously if he himself was not walking after God's truth. This is a powerful, basic principle that is often neglected. If the preacher or teacher does not live what he teaches, why should anyone else?

This doesn't mean that leaders in the church must be perfect. Like anyone else, they will have their weaknesses and failings. Leaders can't be examples of perfection, but they certainly can be examples of humility and repentance. Did you know that GOD called you to be a leader as well? Doesn't necessarily mean a title or position in the church or workplace but you can be a leader in your home, in your friend group, on your team. A leader is not someone who dictates or someone who just takes control. A leader is someone who sets a positive example and inspires others.

There's a specific way that Titus had to be an example: "In doctrine showing integrity." Titus had to be an example in doctrinal stability and integrity. If he wasn't comfortably settled in his understanding of the Scriptures, he wasn't ready to lead.

I'm sure there are people that you really want to see come to faith and a real relationship with Jesus Christ. There are probably many others you know who already love Jesus but need to be taught in some important areas of the Christian life. With both groups, remember that your example means so much.

If we fail to be good examples of the Christian life, what we teach others is of little effect. If we fail to be good examples of the Christian life, we give others the opportunity to excuse their unbelief. We can humbly ask Jesus to forgive us for all the times we have failed in being good examples, and then ask Him for the ongoing strength to represent God and His people by our good example.

PRAAYER: Lord Jesus, I want to be a good example of the faith to those around me. When they see me or speak of me, I pray that they see You and speak of You. I need your guidance and strength every day to show integrity, reverence and sound speech. I want to point others to Christ by setting an example of the wonderful and loving GOD You are. In Jesus Name, Amen."

DAY 21 – January 26

SCRIPTURE: *“Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 1:6*

Paul is encouraging the Philippians by telling them how much he prays for them (Phil 1:3-5) and is now telling them of his confidence in not only their perseverance but in their sanctification. Not only in what they are currently doing but what they will become because of God's work in them. This verse speaks to the process by which we are made like Christ. While the final touches will be put on at the end of time (1 Jn 3:2), we are not to wait around unchanged. Seeing Christ as the end goal, the faithful Christian will seek to grow in godliness until the day he or she dies or Jesus returns.

God is the one who saved us by his great mercy and because of his great love for us. He will not now leave us on our own but has a plan to sanctify us. GOD is making us holy. God started this work in us and He will finish it. God called us and God has given us His Spirit as a deposit (Eph 1:14). We find eternal security in the fact that it was God who saved us when we could not save ourselves. It was God who loved us and sent his only Son to die for us (Jn 3:16) when we had no love in us. It is God who will continue to transform us from glory to glory. If you belong to God, then you will desire to grow. If you continue to grow, GOD will continue to use you for great and mighty things!

PRAYER: “Lord Jesus, thank You for this 21 day devotional journey with You. I pray that this will not end here but this is the jumpstart of a daily journey with You for the rest of my life. Keep me steady in Your Spirit and in Your Word. Keep me hungry for Your presence. Remind me that there is so much more in store for me as I continue to grow in Christ. Help me to always put You first in everything I do. Draw me closer and closer every day. Do not let me fall away. Do not let me lose sight of calling You have for my life. Set my heart on fire for you. I desire to do Your Will Oh Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen.”