

2026



**21 DAYS
OF PRAYER
& FASTING**

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For the next 21 days, we are choosing to intentionally slow down, set aside distractions, and seek God, as a church, with expectation.

A fast is not about proving our discipline or impressing God—it's about positioning our hearts to hear Him more clearly. We are saying, "God, You matter more than comfort, more than routine, more than what satisfies us temporarily."

Fasting creates space. It quiets the noise. It reminds us that we do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Throughout these 21 days, we will walk through devotionals written by our pastors—guides that will inspire, challenge, and point us to God's heart. Use them as your daily companion: read, reflect, pray, and allow God to speak through them.

Our prayer is simple: that God would meet us personally, renew us spiritually, and align us fully with His purposes.



FREE DOM THROU GH TRUST

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5&6

Trust is one of the most repeated invitations in Scripture—and one of the hardest to live out. Trust requires surrender. It means releasing the illusion of control, allowing God to lead, and believing His heart is good even when His ways are unclear. But trust is not blind optimism. Biblical trust is anchored in who God has revealed Himself to be: faithful, unchanging, sovereign, loving, and near. Trust grows when we acknowledge God in all our ways—not just the spiritual ones, but the practical, emotional, and uncertain parts of life. As we surrender control and walk in obedience, God promises to make our paths straight—not always easy, but purposeful and guided by His hand. We never pause before sitting down and wonder, “Will this chair hold me, or will it break?” Why? Because we trust the chair. It has proven reliable time after time. The thought of it failing doesn’t even cross our mind. That’s the kind of trust God invites us into. Why? Because He has proven Himself again and again.

HE IS FAITHFUL

“Your faithfulness continues through all generations.”

PSALM 119:90

HE IS GOOD

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

PSALM 34:8

HE IS UNCHANGING

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

HEBREWS 13:8

HE IS WISE

“His understanding is infinite.”

PSALM 147:5

Trust in God grows as we rehearse what is true about Him. The thought of God failing should never cross our mind.

The hardest part of Proverbs 3:5 isn’t the command to trust—it’s the instruction not to lean on our own understanding. Our understanding is limited. We see the present; God sees eternity. We see the surface; God sees the heart. We see the problem; God sees the purpose.

Often, we want God to explain Himself before we obey. But trust doesn’t grow through explanations—it grows through relationship. As we walk with God day by day, we discover that He is faithful even when life is unpredictable. When we lean on our own understanding, worry multiplies. When we lean on God, peace begins to take root. Trust isn’t pretending everything makes sense. Trust is resting in the One who does.

Trust doesn't require knowing the whole plan—only the next step. Consider the Israelites at the Red Sea. God didn't part the waters miles ahead; He parted them step by step. Trust often feels the same—walking a road God reveals only as we move forward. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105) A lamp doesn't show miles ahead—only a few steps. And God says that is enough. Trust is obedience in motion.

When we trust God, the heart finds rest. "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3) Peace is not the absence of storms; it is confidence in the One who commands them. Trust doesn't remove challenges, but it changes how we walk through them. When trust fills the heart, fear loses its grip.

Reflection & Prayer

Trust doesn't come naturally to us, but trusting God allows Him to work supernaturally in and through us. The more we choose to trust Him, the more we learn His faithfulness. Trust is choosing God's wisdom over my understanding—and God's direction over my desire for control.

Father, teach me to trust You more deeply. When my understanding is limited, remind me of Your wisdom. When my heart is anxious, anchor me in Your peace. When the path is unclear, guide my steps. Help me release control, surrender fear, and rest in Your unfailing love. May my life be a testimony of trust in You. Amen.

HEARING GOD THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:7–8

Think about a time you worked hard to get better at something — a sport, a project at work, or even just hitting a personal goal. It didn't just happen. You had to show up, put in the effort, and stick with it. Spiritual life works the same way. If you've ever wondered why some people seem to "hear from God" so clearly while you feel like you're catching only static, here's the truth: it's not about being "more spiritual" than anyone else. It's about training and putting the effort in. Paul tells Timothy, "Train yourself in godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7).

Training is intentional. Training takes effort. Training means showing up even when you don't feel like it. It's not about impressing God or anyone else; it's about creating the space and practice for His voice to come through clearly in your life. Just like an athlete conditions their body to perform, spiritual disciplines condition your heart to recognize God's voice more clearly. Over time, consistent practice leads not to spiritual status, but to spiritual clarity. God speaks through people and circumstances, but the main way He shapes us, strengthens us, and speaks to us is through spiritual disciplines — prayer, Scripture, silence, solitude, fasting, confession, worship, community, and serving. Think of them less like boxes to check and more like pathways that position your heart close to Him. God isn't hiding from you, but He invites you into a life where you learn to recognize His voice. Hebrews 12 reminds us that discipline is uncomfortable at first. Nobody loves the "training phase." Getting up early to pray, opening your Bible regularly, fasting, or creating quiet space in a loud world — it isn't always easy. But God promises a "peaceful harvest." Spiritual discipline doesn't earn God's love — it helps you experience it more clearly. The more trained your heart becomes, the quicker you recognize His voice, His correction, His comfort, and His direction. There's also a hunger factor. In Luke 18, a blind man hears Jesus is passing by and refuses to stay silent. Even when people told him to be quiet, he cried out louder. That's hunger. That's desperation for Jesus. And Jesus responded. When you're hungry for God, you chase after Him. You place yourself where He is. You show up. You lean in. Hunger pulls you toward His presence even when life tries to distract you or silence you.

The truth is simple: you can't control everything around you, but you can control where you place yourself. If you want to hear God, you position your heart in His presence consistently. You train. You practice. You show up. Over time, His voice becomes clearer than the noise around you.

Reflection & Prayer

Where do you need to "take a new grip," as Hebrews says, and become more intentional with spiritual disciplines? What's one discipline — prayer, Scripture reading, silence, fasting, serving, or worship — that you can commit to this week to position yourself to hear from God more clearly?

Lord, thank You for inviting me into a relationship where I can hear Your voice. Give me the strength to train my heart in godliness. Help me desire You more than comfort or convenience. Strengthen me where I'm weak and give me a hunger for Your presence like the blind man who refused to stay silent. As I step into these spiritual disciplines, open my ears to hear You and my eyes to see what You're doing in my life. Amen.

LIVING BLESSED: A LIFE THAT STANDS

Scripture: Psalm 1:4–6 (NIV), Matthew 7:24–25

(READ PSALM 1:1-3 BEFORE)

Chaff looks like wheat until the wind hits. Culture, trends, and crowds can look solid and impressive—until the storm comes. Then only what is rooted in God remains standing.

The wicked in Psalm 1 aren't always loud villains; sometimes they're just people who never planted. They live light—no depth, no roots, no real substance. When pressure, pain, or judgment blows in, they're gone. Chaff has no weight because it never settled into truth.

But the blessed life stands. Not because the storm skips it, but because it's anchored in something—Someone—unshakable. Jesus said the wise builder doesn't avoid the rain; he just builds on the rock so when the rain comes, the house is still there the next morning.

Standing isn't arrogance; it's obedience that's had time to go deep. It's the quiet yes every day to God's Word and God's ways until, over years, your life gains weight and stability the world can't wash away. The blessed life stands in the judgment, stands in the chaos, stands in the crowd of the righteous—because the Lord Himself watches over it.

Reflection & Prayer

What storm is blowing hard against you right now? Instead of panicking or drifting, plant one rock-solid truth under your feet today. Write out a promise from Scripture that speaks directly to this storm, speak it out loud, pray it back to God, and stand on it all day—no matter how hard the wind blows.

Lord, I don't want to be chaff—light, empty, and gone when pressure comes. Build my life on the rock of Your words and Your ways. Give me the courage to obey today so I'm still standing tomorrow. When culture shifts and storms rage, hold me fast. I choose to stand—not in my strength, but on You, the only foundation that never moves. Watch over my way and keep me standing. Amen.

HEARING GOD IN THE QUIET

Scripture: Mark 1:35, Luke 4:1–2, Matthew 14:13

Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life in our day. If you can't remember the last time you had thirty uninterrupted minutes alone with God—no phone, no noise, no distractions—your soul is probably cluttered, on edge, and running on fumes. Jesus never lived that way, and He's calling you to something better.

The Greek word is *eremos*—a deserted, solitary, uninhabited place. In English we call it the wilderness or the quiet place. Over and over, the Gospels show Jesus slipping away to the *eremos* to be with His Father. He went before the temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4). He went before the crushing demands of ministry began each day (Mark 1). He went even when He was grieving John the Baptist's death or when the crowds wouldn't leave Him alone (Matthew 14).

The *eremos* wasn't a luxury for Jesus—it was His fortress, His place of strength, the source of everything He said and did.

Why? **Because in the quiet, God speaks. In the quiet, the clutter gets cleared out, the lies get exposed, and the heart gets realigned. In the quiet, you finally have space to ask the questions that actually change you: Where am I not like Jesus? What rhythms are missing? What stands in the way of becoming more like Him? Where am I broken and prone to sin?** These aren't questions you can answer while scrolling or rushing. They surface only when you get alone with God long enough for the noise to die down and His voice to rise.

Jesus modeled this because He knew we can't hope to live like Him, love like Him, or overcome like Him if we never follow Him into the quiet. **The same Spirit who led Jesus into the *eremos* is leading you there today—to prepare you for the day ahead, to remind you why you're here, and to shape the way you respond to every person and pressure that comes your way.**

Reflection & Prayer

This week, block out at least one 30–60 minute *eremos* appointment with God—no phone, no agenda except to be with Him. Go early in the morning or whenever you can, find a truly quiet spot. Bring only your Bible, a journal, and these questions: **"Lord, where am I not yet like You? What needs to change in me?"** Then be quiet and listen. Write what He brings up. This is where real transformation begins.

*Lord, forgive me for filling my life with noise and hurry until I can barely hear You. Lead me by Your Spirit into the *eremos*—the quiet, solitary place where You wait for me. Teach me to rise early, to slip away, to protect the sacred space where You speak strength, purpose, and truth into my soul. I want to become more like you, and I know that happens immensely when I'm alone with You. Still my heart today. Speak, Lord—may I finally be still enough to listen. Reveal what you want to reveal to me. Amen.*

FREEDOM THAT HOLDS

Scripture: Galatians 5:1

Freedom is one of the most profound gifts God offers His people—yet it is also one of the most misunderstood. Scripture makes it clear that the freedom Jesus brings is not self-indulgence or the absence of responsibility, but the freedom of a redeemed, restored, Spirit-filled life. It is freedom purchased at a cost—the life of the Son—and given in abundance.

Before Christ, every human heart carries chains. Some are obvious: guilt, addiction, anger, bitterness, fear, unforgiveness. Others are quieter but just as heavy: insecurity, people-pleasing, the pressure to perform, and a lack of trust.

We often try to break these chains on our own. We promise to do better, try harder, read another book, or convince ourselves that if we're strong enough, we can change.

But the gospel begins with honesty: we cannot free ourselves. And the good news is—we were never meant to.

Jesus steps into our story exactly where our strength ends. He does not shame us for our bondage; He delivers us from it. His death pays for our sin. His resurrection breaks the power of darkness. His presence drives out fear. Freedom in Christ is not self-improvement—it is divine rescue.

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)
Freedom in Christ is not only freedom from bondage—it is freedom for transformation. Christian freedom is not permission to do whatever we want; it is the power to do what we were created for. Paul reminds us, “Through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13) In Christ, freedom empowers us to love boldly, forgive deeply, and walk confidently. It frees us to worship without fear and to step into purpose with courage. Christ’s freedom is not aimless, but purposeful; not chaotic, but Spirit-led; not self-centered, but Christ-centered.

True freedom must be guarded—not because it is fragile, but because our hearts are forgetful. The world constantly offers counterfeit freedoms: independence without accountability, pleasure without purpose, identity without the One who defines us.

Scripture calls us to stand firm in the freedom Christ has already given (Galatians 5:1). Standing firm isn’t passive—it’s a daily choice to live from the victory Jesus has secured. We do this by returning daily to His presence, His Word, and His truth.

Celebrate the freedom Christ has given you.
When you are free in Christ—you are free indeed.

Reflection & Prayer

Christ has given you true freedom—and it was never meant to stop with you. People around you are longing for this same deliverance. As you live confidently in your identity in Christ, your life becomes proof that freedom is possible. Hope becomes visible. Courage becomes contagious. Christ has freed you from the chains that once bound you. You are free indeed.

Jesus, thank You for setting me free—not just from my past, but for a life filled with Your Spirit. Teach me to walk in this freedom today. Break every chain that still clings to my heart and guide me into Your peace. Let my freedom become a testimony of Your love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

THE COMMISSION STILL IN MOTION

Scripture: Matthew 28:16–20

The final words of Jesus on that Galilean mountain were not a suggestion for the spiritually elite. They were a command for every follower of Christ:

The scene is powerful. The risen Christ stands before His followers. Some worship. Some doubt. Same Jesus. Same evidence. Different responses. That's our world. That's our churches. And if we're honest—that's often us.

Before Jesus ever tells them what to do, He reminds them why they can do it: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." Jesus has authority over disease, demons, sin, suffering, nature, nations, and death itself. He proved it by walking out of His own grave. Then He says something staggering: I'm giving that authority to you—now go. The Great Commission is not "Go try harder." It's "Go in My authority. Go with My presence. Go on My agenda." Whether we realize it or not, we are always telling a story. Many of us mentally hit the exit ramp when we hear words like evangelism, witnessing, or sharing your faith. We say, That's not my gift. I'm more behind the scenes. I don't know what to say. But here's the truth: you are already sharing your story. At work. On the ball field. In the stands when the ref blows the call. At home when stress is high and patience is thin.

Your reactions, your words, and your priorities tell people what you truly believe about Jesus. Witnessing doesn't start with a speech—it starts with a life that makes people wonder why you live the way you do. What you believe about Jesus determines what you do with Jesus. When Jesus called the first disciples in Luke 5, He filled their nets after a night of catching nothing. Peter falls at His feet and says, "I am a sinful man, O Lord." Jesus responds, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." In other words: Followers fish.

The moment you said yes to Jesus, He gave you a new identity and a new agenda. He didn't just save you **from** something—He saved you **for** something. He invited you to join Him in reaching people. That requires dropping nets—loosening our grip on temporary things to leverage our lives for eternal purposes. That might look like:

- Opening your home and table instead of living behind a closed garage door
- Slowing down enough to truly see the hurting person in your circle
- Viewing your job, hobby, kids' sports, classroom, or PTA not just as obligations—but as mission fields

You don't need a seminary degree to do this. You need availability and obedience. And here's the promise that makes it all possible: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) You never step into a conversation alone. You never walk into a hard place without backup. The same Jesus who gives the command goes with you to fulfill it. Matthew's Gospel ends wide open—"And when Jesus had finished..."—because the story isn't finished. The Great Commission is still being written through ordinary believers who simply say, "Lord, I'll drop my nets. I'll go. Use my life."

Reflection

If I truly believed that Jesus has all authority—and that He is with me always—what is one specific net I need to drop this week, and one person I need to intentionally move toward with the love and truth of Christ?

WHEN THE STORM FEELS STRONGER THAN YOU

Scripture: Psalm 46:1

There are seasons when life hits with a force we didn't see coming. A phone call that changes everything. A door closes. A dream collapses. A relationship shifts. A burden grows heavy. The diagnosis you didn't expect. The job you didn't get. The prayer that seems unanswered. Suddenly, the world feels unfamiliar—like walking through dense fog where nothing looks the way it used to. Difficult times have a way of stripping away our illusions of control. They expose how fragile our plans are and how limited our strength truly is. Yet, strangely, these same seasons often become the places where we encounter God most deeply—not because the pain is good, but because His nearness becomes unmistakable. Before the crisis erupted, God was already there. Long before your tears began to fall, He had already positioned Himself beside you.

When Moses felt overwhelmed by the weight of leading Israel, God didn't simply give him instructions—He gave him His presence: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14) God didn't promise Moses an easy path; He promised he would never walk it alone. God is not a distant observer of your pain. He enters into it. He sits with you, strengthens you, and carries you. Even when you don't feel Him, He is working quietly and faithfully behind the scenes.

God doesn't wait for you to be strong enough. He meets you in your weakness and supplies what you lack. Your weakness is not evidence of failure; it's an invitation to rely on God in ways you never would when life feels comfortable. Paul learned this when he wrote, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10), because God's power rested on him. It's okay if you don't feel strong. You don't have to. God is strong for you.

When storms come, it's easy to assume they will define your story. But storms are temporary—God's purposes are eternal. Sometimes He calms the storm, and sometimes He calms the heart, but His presence never leaves the boat. He is an ever-present help, anchoring us with peace even when circumstances remain unsettled. You don't have to be strong today. You just have to lean on the One who is.

Reflection & Prayer

Even in your hardest moments, God's presence is your greatest promise and your deepest peace.

Father, when the storm feels stronger than I am, remind me that You are stronger than the storm. Be near to me in the places that feel heavy. Give me Your strength when mine runs out, and Your peace when my heart grows restless. Help me trust that You are working for my good, even when I cannot see it. Hold me fast in Your love and guide me through every difficult moment. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HEARING GOD THROUGH A RENEWED MIND

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2, Hebrews 4:12

Every day a war is raging for your mind. The enemy's primary weapon isn't always dramatic temptation—he's happy to win with quiet, repeated lies that slowly feel like truth. The only way to hear God clearly is to let His Word renew the way you think.

You can't experience renewal without replacement. Think about trying to get healthy: you don't just say, "I'm going to stop eating junk food." That leaves an empty fridge and a growling stomach. Real change happens when you throw out the chips and soda and replace them with food that actually nourishes you. Same with your mind. Telling yourself "just stop believing the lies" isn't enough. You have to replace the lies with truth—God's truth.

Romans 12 says the renewal of your mind is the pathway to transformation and the way you learn to discern God's will. That word "discern" is everything when it comes to hearing God. A renewed mind begins to recognize His voice because it's no longer drowned out by the static of the world's thinking or the enemy's accusations. You start knowing what is good, acceptable, and perfect because you're finally thinking like He thinks.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us God's Word is alive and active—sharper than the sharpest blade. When you open Scripture expecting God to speak, it doesn't just sit there; it moves. It cuts right to the core, separating soul (your feelings and opinions) from spirit (the place God speaks). It exposes lies you didn't even realize you were carrying and replaces them with what God says is true about you, about Him, and about your life.

This is how you hear Him: you let the living Word do its living work. You read slowly, you meditate, you ask the Spirit to make it real, and you let it replace the old junk with fresh truth. Every time you do, His voice gets louder and clearer.

Reflection & Prayer

Take 10 minutes today and ask the Holy Spirit to surface one lie you've been believing (about yourself, God, or your circumstances). Write it down. Then find one verse that directly contradicts that lie and write the truth right underneath it. Speak that truth out loud several times today—replacement has to be intentional.

Lord, I present my mind to You today as an act of worship. I'm tired of being conformed to the patterns and lies of this world. Renew me by Your Word and Your Spirit. Cut deep where I've believed wrong things for too long. Replace every lie with Your living, active, sharper-than-any-sword truth. Transform me by changing the way I think so I can hear You clearly and walk in what is good, acceptable, and perfect. I choose Your truth today. Amen.

IN THE WAITING

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

I don't know about you, but waiting does not come naturally to me. In a world built on instant answers and quick results, waiting can feel uncomfortable and frustrating. It often feels like standing still while everyone else moves forward.

Waiting strips us of control. We wait for answers, direction, healing, provision, or clarity—often longer than we would choose. Yet Scripture reminds us that waiting is not punishment; it's a place where God meets us.

Biblical waiting is not doing nothing. It is an active posture of trust. To wait on the Lord means to seek Him, listen for Him, and remain faithful even when the outcome is unclear. It's choosing obedience when results are delayed and hope when circumstances feel uncertain.

Throughout Scripture, waiting always comes before God's work. Abraham waited for a promise. Joseph waited through injustice. David waited to step into his calling. Even the disciples waited before the Holy Spirit was poured out. In every case, God used the waiting to prepare hearts for what He was about to do.

Waiting reveals what we truly believe about God. When answers are slow, we're tempted to rush ahead or assume God is silent. But His delays are not denials—they are invitations to deeper trust. God is working even when we can't see it.

Isaiah reminds us that those who wait on the Lord will have their strength renewed—not depleted.

What feels like delay may actually be divine preparation.

Reflection & Prayer

If you are in a season of waiting, take heart. God hasn't forgotten you. He is with you, shaping you, and preparing you for what's next.

Lord, waiting is hard. Teach me to trust You in the quiet and to remain faithful when the path is unclear. Renew my strength as I wait, and help me believe that You are working even now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Revival never starts in a building—it starts in a heart. You can schedule services, print flyers, and fill seats, but revival is God's work. What we can do is lay our lives on the altar so there's something for His fire to fall on. That's what Romans 12:1 calls us to: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice."

Paul isn't speaking to the lost—he's speaking to believers. He's saying, "You're saved. Now surrender." And surrender is not loss; it's trading the temporary for the eternal. Like the man who sells all he has to buy a hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44), surrender is letting go because we've seen something infinitely better.

Notice how Paul frames it: "In view of the mercies of God..." He doesn't use guilt or fear—He reminds us of what He has already done: we were dead in sin, yet He made us alive; guilty, yet He declared us righteous; orphaned, yet He adopted us. When we dwell on His mercy, surrender becomes not only reasonable, it becomes joyful.

Paul calls it your "reasonable service"—your logical response. And it's not just Sundays or your spiritual side; it's your whole self: mind, body, time, money, relationships, and plans. Surrender is saying, "Lord, nothing is off-limits. You don't just get my sin—you get my self."

It's a living sacrifice—Jesus already died. He's not asking you to die for Him; He's asking you to live for Him. Imagine a poker table: the player confident in their hand pushes everything to the middle and says, "All in." That's Romans 12:1. Your marriage, kids, career, finances, time, and reputation—slid across the table to Jesus. Not recklessly, but because you believe He is who He says He is.

Reflection & Prayer

What specific area of your life do you know is not fully surrendered to Jesus—and what is one step you will take today to slide that "chip" across the table and say, "Lord, this belongs to You"?

Lord Jesus, in view of Your mercy, I come. You have loved me, forgiven me, rescued me, and called me Your own. Today, I choose surrender. I place my whole life on the altar—my body, mind, desires, plans, relationships, money, and time. Search me and show me anything I'm holding back. Reveal every idol competing for my heart. Forgive me for partial obedience and divided loyalty. By Your Spirit, help me go "all in" with You. I believe Your will is better than mine, Your plans are higher, and Your presence is more than anything this world can offer. Set my heart on fire. Begin revival in me, and let it spill into my family, church, and city—for Your glory alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THANKFUL FOR GOD'S GRACE

Scripture: Romans 8:31–39

Some portions of Scripture don't just inform us—they steady us. Romans 8 is one of those chapters. You could say the gospel saved our souls, but Romans 8 saves our sanity. It begins with "no condemnation" and ends with "no separation," and in between, Paul paints a breathtaking picture of God's grace.

Paul asks a series of questions—not because he's uncertain, but because the answers are undeniable. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31) If you are in Christ, God is not neutral toward you. He is for you. The enemies you face—fear, failure, opposition—are real, but they are not ultimate. Grace means we can count on God's power.

"He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also graciously give us all things?" (v. 32) God's greatest gift is proof of His provision. Life may not always be easy, but His "no" or "not yet" is purposeful. Grace means we can trust God's timing and care.

Paul goes on: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?" (v. 33) and "Who is the one who condemns?" (v. 34) The answer is no one. Jesus' finished work covers you. God's pardon is complete.

Finally, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (v. 35) Nothing—hardship, failure, fear, life, death, present or future—can separate you from God's love. Circumstances change, but His presence is unwavering. Grace means we can count on His presence—always.

When we grasp this, gratitude flows naturally. God's power, provision, protection, pardon, and presence allow us to live with confidence, peace, and thankfulness.

Reflection & Prayer

How would my outlook change today if I truly lived convinced that God is for me and nothing can separate me from His love?

Father, Thank You for Your grace that holds us when life feels heavy. Thank You that You are for us, that You gave Your Son for us, and that nothing can separate us from Your love. When fear rises or accusations come, remind us of who we are in Christ. Help us live today anchored in grace and overflowing with gratitude. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HEARING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

**Scripture: Jeremiah 33:3 , John 10:27,
Philippians 4:6–7**

One of the greatest tools for strengthening any relationship is honest, two-way communication. Without it, the relationship stalls. The same is true with Jesus—this is the most important relationship you'll ever have, and prayer is the primary way we communicate with God.

Prayer is simply talking with God—sharing what's really on your heart and then listening for His response. It's not a religious ritual; it's the lifeline of your relationship with the One who created your soul. As someone once said, "Prayer is the means of communication between the human soul and the Lord who created the soul."

The purpose of prayer isn't just to get things from God; it's to know God & deepen your relationship with Christ. It draws you closer to His heart, and shows that you actually trust His power, wisdom, and love. Every time you pray, you're saying, "Lord, I believe You're real, You care, and You're big enough to handle this."

But prayer is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. Too many of us unload our list—our worries, our wants, our anger—and then sign off without pausing to hear what He wants to say back. Jesus promised that His sheep hear His voice. That promise happens most often in the place of prayer, when we get honest and then get quiet.

Our prayers should be raw and real. If you're mad, hurt, confused, or even doubting—tell Him. Exactly like that. God can handle your honesty; pretense is what He can't stand. Come just as you are. **Yet the goal isn't only to vent; it's transformation. Prayer isn't just about unloading your emotions—it's about inviting God to shape your heart, guide your next steps, and align your will with His.** Be honest about how you feel, then stay long enough for Him to speak peace, wisdom, or correction that reflects His character instead of your flesh. **Remember: just because God doesn't answer your prayers your way, or on your timing, doesn't mean He isn't good.**

Reflection & Prayer

Set aside 10–15 minutes today for real prayer. First, pour out everything on your heart exactly as it is—no filtering. Then sit quietly and ask, "Lord, what do You want to say to me about this?" Write down whatever comes—Scripture, impressions, peace, or even loving conviction. That's Him speaking.

Lord, thank You that prayer is simply talking with You—my Creator who knows me completely and loves me anyway. Teach me to pray honestly, without pretense, and then to listen. I don't want to just unload my heart; I want You to shape it. Speak, Lord—Your sheep are listening. Quiet my soul long enough to hear Your voice today and every day. Deepen my relationship with You and make me more like Jesus through every prayer. Amen.

The Oxford English Dictionary has over 171,000 words—enough to fill countless pages and stump even the most avid wordsmiths. Some words make you scratch your head: erinaceous (hedgehog-like) or nudiustertian (the day before yesterday). Crazy, right?

The Bible, too, is full of words—but these words have life-changing power. God's words comfort in sorrow, bring hope in despair, correct, convict, instruct, and reveal. They are a sword, a light, bread, and shelter.

From Genesis to Revelation, God's words are filled with wisdom, instruction, and power. There are words that describe what God has done for us: forgiven, redeemed, saved, merciful, blessed. Words that describe Him: Holy, faithful, righteous, loving, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Immanuel. Words that describe who we are in Christ: new creation, adopted, child of God, more than a conqueror, temple of the Holy Spirit, joint heir with Christ.

My favorite word in all the Bible is finished. From the cross, Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Everything we need for forgiveness, life, and salvation is complete. Our sins are forgiven and forgotten. Our future is secured. God's love is demonstrated fully in His Son.

There are a lot of words in the world, but the Word of God is a love letter to you—guiding, comforting, and reminding you how deeply you are loved.

Reflection & Prayer

Words have power. Use your words to encourage and lift others today. And remember the words God speaks over you: you are His beloved child.

Lord, let Your words shape me, direct me, comfort me, and challenge me. Remind me of who You are and who I am in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Scripture: Romans 8:31–39

Forgiveness is one of those things we know we should do but rarely practice as often as Scripture calls us to. Yet if we follow Jesus, forgiveness isn't optional—it's a Kingdom house rule. Paul makes this clear in Colossians 3:13: "Bearing with one another... forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Notice how practical Paul is. He starts with bearing with one another. Some people haven't deeply sinned against us—they're just different, quirky, inconvenient. Spiritual growth often looks like patience. God has been patient with us; learning to extend that patience to others is part of sanctification.

Then Paul goes further: "If one has a complaint against another..." That's real offense, real hurt. Forgiveness isn't based on how deserving the other person is—it's based on the gospel. Forgiveness is rooted in what Christ has done for us.

Many misunderstand forgiveness. It is not simply "letting it go." Jesus never taught denial of sin; He calls us to truth, confrontation, and repentance (Matthew 18). True forgiveness is costly. The cross shows us this—Jesus suffered, was humiliated, and died so that we could be forgiven. Some wounds—betrayal, abuse, or harm to children—are beyond human strength. On our own, forgiveness is impossible. Forgiveness is not the same as trust. Releasing someone to God does not mean restoring access immediately. Trust is rebuilt through repentance and fruit. Forgiveness protects your heart; wisdom guards your future. It also doesn't cancel consequences. David was forgiven by God but still faced the consequences of his sin. Grace cancels guilt, not responsibility.

So, what is forgiveness? It is extending to others the grace we have received from God. Paul says in Ephesians 4:32: "Forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Every call to forgive points back to the cross. Forgiveness begins with looking in the mirror, remembering our own debt. Those who grasp God's grace cannot withhold grace from others—not perfectly, but sincerely.

Forgiveness is refusing to make someone pay anymore—through resentment, sarcasm, silence, or reopening old wounds. We hand the debt to God: "Lord, You handle this" (2 Timothy 4:14). God's justice is perfect, through repentance or righteous judgment. Finally, forgiveness is supernatural. You may feel, "I can't forgive." And you're right—you can't. But Christ in you can. It begins with willingness. Offer that, and God supplies the power. Freedom always follows.

Reflection & Prayer

Is there a specific person or situation God is bringing to mind that I need to surrender to Him in forgiveness today?

Thank You for forgiving us through Christ when we could not save ourselves. Today, we choose to release those who have hurt us. Give us willing hearts and the power of Your Holy Spirit to forgive as we have been forgiven. Bring freedom where there has been bitterness, healing where there has been pain, and peace where there has been unrest. We trust You with justice and outcomes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SEEING GOD WITH A PURE HEART

Scripture: Matthew 5:8, Psalm 24:3–6

If you want to see God—if you want His presence to be real, His voice to be clear, His hand to move in your life—there's one simple requirement: a pure heart. God doesn't reveal Himself to hearts clinging to impurity. At the same time, He invites all of us to come to Him honestly, even when we fall short.

A pure heart isn't perfection; it's direction. It's a heart that says, "I want God above everything else." It's clean hands (what you do) and a clean heart (why you do it). It's refusing to lift your soul to anything false—idols, comfort, lust, bitterness, pride, or image. You can't see God clearly while your eyes are fixed elsewhere.

Think of your heart like the alignment on a car. When it's off, you drift, the tires wear unevenly, and the ride feels shaky. Impurity is misalignment—little compromises, hidden motives, tolerated sin. Over time, they pull you off course so gradually you don't even notice. Purity is daily realignment: "Lord, search me. Show me anything that's pulling me away from You."

God welcomes those who come to Him, even imperfectly. When your heart is genuinely seeking Him, He listens. But there's a difference between following Christ and living in a way that consistently rejects Him. God does not hear the prayers of those who are living for what is contrary to Him; He listens to those whose hearts are pursuing Him. The promise is breathtaking: the pure in heart will see God. Not just in heaven someday—right here, right now. In worship, Scripture, answered prayer, or even ordinary days, you start seeing Him move because your heart is tuned to His frequency. Purity isn't a price you pay to earn God; it's the pathway that lets you experience the God you already have.

Reflection & Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit: "What's one area of my heart that's out of alignment with You?" Name it honestly—a thought pattern, a relationship, a habit, a motive. Confess it, repent, and replace it with one deliberate act of pursuit: worship, generosity, forgiveness, obedience—whatever the opposite of that impurity looks like.

Remember: God welcomes your pursuit even when you fall short, but your heart must be seeking Him. Being honest and intentional about realigning your heart opens the way to see Him clearly.

Lord, I want to see You more than anything else. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Search me, expose anything false or dishonorable, and purify me by Your Spirit. I choose You above every lesser thing. I seek You, I need You, I honor You above all else. Let the promise be true in my life today—because my heart is pure, open my eyes to see You. Amen.

GENEROSITY

Scripture: Matthew 6:19–24

Have you ever stored something in a box, forgotten it, and years later discovered that it had disintegrated into dust? That's the picture Jesus paints when He talks about storing up treasures on earth. The problem isn't that we want treasure; it's where we store it—here on earth instead of in heaven.

In Jesus' time, "heaven" often meant God's presence and purposes here on earth, not just the afterlife. When we invest in God's kingdom, we store up lasting treasure—treasure that cannot be stolen, destroyed, or wasted.

Jesus' central insight is this: our hearts follow our treasure. Where we put our money, attention, and energy shows what we love most. Earthly treasures bring fear and greed. Heaven-focused treasures bring trust and joy.

Verses 22–23 use the imagery of a healthy or unhealthy eye. In Jesus' day, a "healthy eye" symbolized generosity and an abundance mindset. It sees God as provider, life as gift, and opportunities to give as joy. An "unhealthy eye" represents stinginess, fear, and scarcity: the world is dangerous, resources are limited, and we must guard what we have.

Generosity is a reflection of God's abundance. A generous heart trusts God, invests in His kingdom, and loves without fear. Scarcity leads to fear, greed, and slavery to money. That's why Jesus says we cannot serve both God and money.

When we choose generosity, we step into God's vision for life, participate in His work, and reflect His heart. The life of Jesus is the ultimate example: compassion for the broken, healing for the sick, truth for the wandering, and ultimately, giving His life for the world.

Reflection & Prayer

Generosity reflects God's heart. Every act of giving—big or small—is an opportunity to follow Jesus' example and show His love in everyday life. Where can you choose generosity today?

Lord, help me have the right mindset about money. Remind me that You are my provider. Teach me to store up treasures in heaven by investing in Your work here on earth. Help me trust You with not only my life but also my resources. Make me a conduit of Your generosity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

EXPECTING TRIALS

Scripture: Mark 10:46–52

Trials are not a matter of if but when. You may be walking through one, coming out of one, or heading into one. That reality doesn't make us weak—it makes us human. Scripture never minimizes pain, but it does give perspective.

In Mark 10:46–52, we meet Bartimaeus, a blind beggar in Jericho. His location was cursed, his life difficult, and his limitation heavy. Yet in the middle of his trial, something remarkable happens. When he hears Jesus is near, he cries, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd tries to silence him, but he cries out all the more. And then—three powerful words: Jesus stood still.

Trials shrink our vision. We focus on what's wrong, what's missing, what hurts. Bartimaeus couldn't see, but he could hear—and he had faith. Instead of fixating on lack, he leaned into what he had. Trials often test whether we persist in calling out to God when others say, "Be quiet." Faith grows in persistence.

When Jesus calls him forward, Bartimaeus throws off his cloak—the symbol of his old identity and security. By letting go, he demonstrates trust. Trials invite us to do the same: lay down defenses, stop hiding behind old labels, and trust Jesus with who we truly are. When asked, "What do you want Me to do for you?" he answers simply, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." Immediately, Jesus heals him. His trial became the place where faith met mercy.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:17 that our "light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." Revelation 21:4 promises a day when God will make all things new. Trials are not the final chapter—they are preparation. Jesus still stands still for those who cry out to Him. What feels like darkness may be where His mercy meets you.

Reflection & Prayer

What is one thing your current trial is inviting you to surrender or trust to Jesus today?

Father, You see the trials we carry—spoken and unspoken. When pain clouds our vision, help us cry out to You with faith. Teach us to trust You in the midst of suffering, to lay down what we cling to, and to believe You are working for Your glory and our good. Give us perspective to endure, courage to persist, and hope to keep moving forward. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LIVING BLESSED: A LIFE THAT SETTLES

Scripture: Psalm 1:1–3, 2 Timothy 2:22

Some running is good—run from sin, run to Jesus. Most running, though, is just restlessness: chasing the next thing, the next high, the next approval, afraid we'll miss out if we ever slow down and plant. The blessed life doesn't run like that. The blessed life settles.

A tourist breezes through a city snapping photos, eating at every hot spot, always looking for what's next. Someone who moves there plants roots, unpacks boxes, learns the streets, and grows into the place. Too many of us live the Christian life like tourists—sampling Jesus, chasing experiences, afraid to settle down in His presence in case something “better” comes along.

Psalm 1 says the blessed person is no tourist. They are planted—intentionally rooted beside streams of living water. When you say yes to settling in God's Word, God's people, and God's presence, you're saying no to a thousand lesser things the world keeps dangling in front of you. And that's okay, because every time you choose to plant, you stop leaking life and start bearing fruit.

You don't grow when you're always chasing. You grow when you're planted. The tree doesn't produce because it tries harder; it produces because it stays put and drinks deep every single day. Stop running long enough to settle, and you'll finally hear God growing something beautiful in you.

Reflection & Prayer

Where in your life have you been running when God is calling you to settle? (A relationship, a habit, a decision, a distraction?) Today, make one deliberate choice to plant instead of chase: cancel the thing, delete the app, set the alarm earlier for time in the Word, commit to the community—whatever it takes to say, “I'm not a tourist anymore. I'm planting here.”

Lord, I'm tired of restless running and shallow roots. I choose today to settle—to plant my life deep in Your Word, Your presence, and Your people. Forgive me for fearing I'll miss out when the world's streams always run dry. Make me like that tree: steady, nourished, fruitful, unshakable. I'm staying right here with You. Grow something lasting in me. Amen.

LOVE. REVEALED

Scripture: Romans 12:1

Many people reduce love to feelings—warmth, affection, or “fuzzy” emotions. The world often sees love as a secondhand emotion, but Scripture reveals something far greater. Love is not primarily a feeling; it is the very nature of God. 1 John 4:9-10 tells us: God showed His love by sending His Son so that we might have eternal life. Real love is active, sacrificial, and life-giving.

Jesus is God’s ultimate expression of love. His sinless life, His miracles, the fulfillment of prophecy, and His teaching all reveal God’s love in action. But the pinnacle of that love is seen in His suffering, death, and resurrection. God’s love is deliberate, costly, and transformative—it is choosing to act for the good of others, even when it costs something.

Love is patient and kind. It doesn’t envy, boast, or keep score. It protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres (1 Cor. 13:4-7). Jesus demonstrated this love fully—gentle enough to heal our wounds, strong enough to carry us through our hardest days. His love is a safe place and a stronghold.

As followers of Christ, love is not optional—it is the posture of the heart that should guide every action. When we understand God’s love for us, we are empowered to pour it back out to others in grace, patience, and service.

Reflection & Prayer

Rest in the truth that you are deeply loved by God—not because of what you’ve done, but because of who He is. Ask Him to help you pour that love out to others in grace, patience, and simple acts of service today.

Lord, thank You for Your incredible love, shown through the sacrifice of Your Son. Help me to live out the command to love others—not just in words, but in action. Let love be my motivation in everything I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

WE EXIST FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET HERE

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:19–23

Every church eventually answers this question—intentionally or not: Who do we exist for? Paul answers it clearly: “Though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them... I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:19, 22–23)

Paul’s life wasn’t about comfort, preference, or freedom—it was about people who don’t yet know Jesus. This isn’t people-pleasing; it’s gospel-driven purpose. Jesus modeled the same heart, stepping into our world, not to affirm sin, but to rescue sinners (2 Cor. 5:21).

Paul didn’t compromise truth, but he removed unnecessary barriers so people could hear life-saving truth. And that urgency is personal for us. The church can drift from urgent rescue to routine. Sundays are not the mission—they are the gathering for people on mission. So we must ask: Who is far from God, yet close to me?

Holiness is not separation from people—it’s separation from sin. If you belong to Christ, your life is a mission field: your neighborhood, workplace, school, or friend group. God placed you there because someone near you needs grace, truth, and hope. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5 that we have the “ministry of reconciliation.” We don’t exist for ourselves or comfort. We exist for those who are not yet here.

Reflection & Prayer

Who has God placed near me right now that is far from Him—and what is one intentional step I can take this week to move toward them for the sake of the gospel?

Father, thank You for loving us when we were far from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to step into our world and rescue us with grace and truth. Forgive us for living for comfort or preference. Give us Your heart for those near us who are far from You. Open our eyes, give us courage to love them, and boldness to share the gospel with compassion. Use our lives for the sake of Your name. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

As we conclude each day of this fast, remember that God is at work—even in ways we may not immediately see. He is drawing us closer, strengthening our faith, and transforming our hearts. Be intentional in listening, reflecting, and responding to what He is teaching you.

We also want to celebrate what God is doing in our community.

If He moves in your life during these 21 days—through breakthrough, encouragement, clarity, or answered prayer—we'd love to hear your story! Text STORY to 833-270-0999 and share the ways God has met you during this fast. Your testimony could inspire someone else and remind us all of God's faithfulness.

Let's finish these 21 days with hearts fully surrendered, eyes fixed on Jesus, and lives open to His work.

