

DAY 1

AN OVERVIEW OF PURSUING A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

This **40 Day Prayer Guide** is designed for you have a daily encounter with God through meditating on Scripture. As you read each passage, allow a few moments for the Word of God to saturate your heart and ponder deeply what God is revealing. Each day, questions are offered to stimulate reflection. As you listen to God's voice, respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit through worship-based prayer. The benefits of believing what is true, thinking what is right, and living intimately with God are immense!

*The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul**; the testimony of the Lord is sure, **making wise** the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, **rejoicing the heart**; the commandment of the Lord is pure, **enlightening the eyes**; the fear of the Lord is clean, **enduring forever**; the rules of the Lord are true, and **righteous altogether**. More to be **desired** are they than gold, even much fine gold; **sweeter** also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your **servant warned**; in keeping them there is **great reward**.*

(Psalm 19:7-11 ESV)

Over the next 40 days, we pray the Lord will transform your **heart posture** and heal emotional wounds. May you release anxiety and abound in hope and peace. May you replace insecurity with the confident assurance of God's presence and steadfast love. May the Lord redeem your grief and lead you to grace and turn your sorrow to joy. May the Holy Spirit change your heart to reflect humility, submission, generosity, and thanksgiving. For our heart posture to change, we must **remember, repent, rejoice, and repeat!**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, **bless his holy name!** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and **forget not** all his benefits, **who forgives** all your iniquity, **who heals** all your diseases, **who redeems** your life from the pit, **who crowns** you with steadfast love and mercy, **who satisfies** you with good so that your youth **is renewed** like the eagle's.*

(Psalm 103:1-5 ESV)

***Purge me** with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **wash me**, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. **Hide** your face from my sins, and **blot out** all my iniquities. **Create in me** a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a right spirit within me. **Cast me not** away from your presence, and **take not** your Holy Spirit from me. **Restore to me** the joy of your salvation, and **uphold me** with a willing spirit.*

(Psalm 51:7-12 ESV)

DAY 1 CONTINUED

Over the next 40 days, we pray the Lord will restore a biblical **mindset** in you. May you live with an eternal perspective as a citizen of heaven. May you be consumed with the glory of God and reclaim a sense of awe and wonder for the holiness of God. May you recognize the spiritual battle that wages war against you, and may you live with faith that God is working through trials and hardship to produce endurance in you. Again, for our mindset to change, we must **remember, repent, rejoice, and repeat!**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*
(Philippians 4:4-8 ESV)

As you meditate on the selected passages, contemplate the words and phrases that capture your attention.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHAT MUST GOD DO IN YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL?

WHAT STEPS OF OBEDIENCE ARE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL?

HOW MUST YOUR HEART POSTURE BE RESHAPED?

HOW MUST YOUR MINDSET BE ADJUSTED?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES PREPARING YOUR MIND FOR ACTION.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about preparing your mind for action in holiness.

1 Peter 1:13-20 (ESV)

Therefore, **preparing your minds for action**, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, **“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear** throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were **ransomed from the futile ways** inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the **precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that **your faith and hope are in God.**

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS PREPARING YOUR MIND FOR ACTION NECESSARY TO PURSUE CHRIST?

WHY IS HOLINESS ESSENTIAL FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL?

HOW MUST YOUR HEART POSTURE BE RESHAPED?

HOW MUST YOUR MINDSET BE ADJUSTED?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

DAY 3

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES DAILY DYING TO SELF.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about dying daily to self.

Luke 9:23-26 (ESV)

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, **let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU IN THIS PASSAGE?

WHY IS DYING TO SELF-DAILY ESSENTIAL TO PURSUE CHRIST?

HOW MUST YOUR HEART POSTURE BE RESHAPED?

HOW MUST YOUR MINDSET BE ADJUSTED?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES HEARING AND FOLLOWING HIS VOICE.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about Christ as the Good Shepherd.

John 10:1-15 (ESV)

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. **The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name** and he leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, **and the sheep follow him**, for they know his voice. **A stranger they will not follow**, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of a stranger.”* This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me**, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep**.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

WHY IS HEARING AND FOLLOWING THE VOICE OF JESUS ESSENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

WHAT OUTSIDE VOICE, HEART POSTURE, OR MINDSET IS KEEPING YOU FROM PURSUING CHRIST?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES BEING TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about transformation through submission to Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT SUBMITTING TO CHRIST AND BEING TRANSFORMED BY HIM?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN PURSUING A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

HOW MUST YOUR HEART POSTURE BE RESHAPED?

HOW MUST YOUR MINDSET BE ADJUSTED?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES WALKING IN THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about walking in the way of the righteous.

Psalm 1:1-6 (ESV)

*Blessed is the man **who walks not** in the counsel of the wicked, **nor stands in** the way of sinners, **nor sits in the seat** of scoffers; **but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows **the way of the righteous**, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Reflection Questions:

HOW DOES THIS TEXT CONTRAST THE WAY OF THE WICKED AND THE RIGHTEOUS?

WHY IS DELIGHTING IN GOD'S WORD ESSENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

WHAT IMPACT DOES WALKING, STANDING, AND SITTING IN/WITH THE SINFUL WAYS OF THE WORLD HAVE ON YOUR HEART POSTURE AND MINDSET?

WHAT FRUIT DO YOU DESIRE FROM PURSUING CHRIST?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES KNOWING CHRIST, BEING FOUND IN HIM, AND BECOMING LIKE HIM.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

Philippians 3:7-14 (ESV)

*But whatever gain I had; I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count them as rubbish**, in order that **I may gain Christ and be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the **righteousness from God that depends on faith**— that I may **know him** and the **power of his resurrection**, and **may share** his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible **I may attain** the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I **press on** to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward** to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT THE SURPASSING WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST?

WHAT MUST GOD DO IN YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL?

WHAT STEPS OF OBEDIENCE ARE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL IN THIS WAY?

WHAT HEART POSTURE MUST BE SHAPED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST?

WHAT MINDSET MUST BE ADJUSTED TO HAVE THIS ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES A HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HIM.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about being satisfied by God alone.

Psalm 63: 1-8 (ESV)

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU IN THIS PSALM ABOUT THE LORD?

WHAT MUST GOD DO IN YOU TO EXPERIENCE RENEWAL IN THIS WAY?

WHAT CONVICTS YOU OR CHALLENGES ABOUT BEING SATISFIED BY GOD ALONE?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES DIVINE POWER FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about making every effort to supplement your faith with qualities that produce fruit.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (ESV)

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT HIS DIVINE POWER?

WHY IS "MAKING EVERY EFFORT" IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST?

WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE LACKING IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT STEPS OF OBEDIENCE ARE REQUIRED TO BE FRUITFUL?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES SETTING YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about setting your minds on things above.

Colossians 3:1-10 (ESV)

*If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS SETTING YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST?

WHAT HEART POSTURE, BEHAVIOR, OR MINDSET MUST BE "PUT AWAY" OR "PUT ON" FOR YOU TO BE CONFORMED TO CHRIST AND RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF YOUR CREATOR?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST REQUIRES KNOWING AND LIVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about experiencing the love of God.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (ESV)

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be **strengthened with power through his Spirit** in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith** – that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to **know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to **him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ABOUT CHRIST'S LOVE?

WHY IS BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE ESSENTIAL IN PURSUING A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH PURSUE A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL TOGETHER BASED ON THESE PROMISES?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

*PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY
REQUIRES CHALLENGING ONE
ANOTHER.*

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about sharpening others and being sharpened.

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

HOW ARE YOU SPECIFICALLY BEING CHALLENGED AND CHALLENGING OTHERS TO LIVE GODLY?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST'S COMMUNITY?

WHAT HEART POSTURE OR MINDSET LIMITS YOU FROM EXPERIENCING COMMUNITY IN THIS WAY?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY REQUIRES AFFECTION.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about ministering to others with affection.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

*But we were gentle among you, **like a nursing mother** taking care of her own children. So, **being affectionately desirous of you**, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become **very dear to us**. For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil; we worked night and day that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, **like a father with his children**, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ABOUT MINISTERING WITH AFFECTION?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST'S COMMUNITY?

WHAT HEART POSTURE OR MINDSET LIMITS YOU FROM EXPRESSING AFFECTION FOR OTHERS?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY REQUIRES GLORIFYING GOD.

As you meditate on the selected passage in today's reading, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you having an eternal perspective and living sober-mindedly for the glory of God.

1 Peter 4: 7-11 (ESV)

*The end of all things is at hand; therefore be **self-controlled and sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers. Above all, **keep loving one another** earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **Show hospitality** to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order **that in everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. **To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST'S COMMUNITY?

WHAT HEART POSTURE OR MINDSET MUST BE ADJUSTED TO BRING GOD GLORY IN THIS WAY?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY REQUIRES INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about prioritizing time with other believers.

Hebrews 10:22-25 (ESV)

let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us **hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us **consider how to stir up one another** to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH ESSENTIAL FOR PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY?

WHAT BEHAVIOR, MINDSET OR HEART POSTURE HINDERS YOU FROM PRIORITIZING ASSEMBLING WITH BELIEVERS?

HOW DOES STIRRING UP BELIEVERS FOSTER A SPIRITUALLY RENEWING CULTURE?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMUNITY REQUIRES LIVING TO PLEASE THE LORD.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about living to please the Lord.

Colossians 1:9-14 (ESV)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING COMPONENTS OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

AS YOU EVALUATE YOUR LIFESTYLE, ARE YOU LIVING TO PLEASE THE LORD?

HOW DOES DELIVERANCE FROM DARKNESS CATALYZE "BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK?"

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION

One of the great joys for a believer is seeing someone profess faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized. There is thunderous applause when one is raised from the water to walk in newness of life. When a soul is rescued from the dominion of darkness and given everlasting life it is exciting, because the gospel message is a motivating force. As we pursue Christ's Commission to make disciples of all nations, we have purpose, and we belong to a noble cause that is greater than us. This calling renews us.

Over the next 13 days, the focus of our Bible meditation and prayer will be on living dependent on the Holy Spirit in our compelling mission. It begins by knowing and relishing the heart of God who lavishes His love on us. The gospel daily renews our hope for eternal life and its abundant grace fosters gratitude. The hope and grace of the gospel compel us to worship in spirit and truth, for the wrath of God has been satisfied and sin has been defeated.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. (Psalm 103:8-13 ESV)

As you read the following parables, contemplate the heart of God for lost souls. Ponder the response of heaven when a sinner repents. Reflect on your heart-posture and mindset toward this good news.



DAY 27 CONTINUED

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:1-7 ESV)

The Parable of the Lost Coin

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’¹ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:8-10 ESV)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. (continued)

DAY 27 CONTINUED

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’” **(Luke 15:11-32 ESV)**

As you meditate on this passage, what captures your attention? Journal your thoughts as a prayer. Respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit with worship-based prayer.

Lord, I praise you because...

Lord, forgive me for...

Lord, I desire to...

Lord, I pray for my church to...

Lord, I pray for _____ (my church family member) who...

Lord, I pray for _____ to know and love you. Open the door of their heart to the gospel. Use me as a witness to your grace. Bring conviction of sin and draw them to yourself.

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. Remember who you are in Christ. Repent of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. Rejoice with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES MAKING DISCIPLES.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about making disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT CHRIST'S AUTHORITY AND HIS PRESENCE WITH YOU?

HOW DOES MAKING DISCIPLES CULTIVATE A SPIRITUALLY RENEWING CULTURE?

WHO HAS GOD PLACED IN YOUR PATH FOR YOU TO BE A GOSPEL WITNESS?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES URGENCY.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about the urgency of proclaiming the gospel.

2 Peter 3:8-10 (ESV)

*But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise** as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish**, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE INFORM YOUR PURSUIT OF HIS COMMISSION?

WHAT STEP OF OBEDIENCE IS NEEDED TO PURSUE CHRIST'S COMMISSION WITH URGENCY?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about those who need Jesus and our responsibility to seek them out.

Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

*[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And **he was seeking to see who Jesus was**, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "**He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.**" And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**"*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE INFORM YOUR PURSUIT OF HIS COMMISSION?

WHAT STEP OF OBEDIENCE IS NECESSARY TO SEEK SOMEONE GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest.

Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord.

Remember who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES PROCLAIMING HIS EXCELLENCIES.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about proclaiming the excellencies of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF HIS COMMISSION?

WHAT CONDUCT MUST BE CONFESSED TO LIVE AS A GOSPEL WITNESS?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES TELLING YOUR STORY.

On Day 12, you meditated on the first half of this passage. It has been expanded to give the scope of David's God story and his desire to share it. As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about telling your story of God's grace.

Psalm 40:1-10 (ESV)

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. **He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the congregation.***

Reflection Questions: *Respond:*

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ABOUT MINISTERING WITH AFFECTION?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF CHRIST'S COMMUNITY?

WHAT HEART POSTURE OR MINDSET LIMITS YOU FROM EXPRESSING AFFECTION FOR OTHERS?

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUIING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES BOLDNESS.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about boldness to proclaim the gospel.

Acts 4:23-31 (ESV)

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed" – for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ABOUT BOLDNESS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL REGARDLESS OF THE OPPOSITION IN A SITUATION YOU ARE FACING?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT IN YOUR PURSUIT OF HIS COMMISSION?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES PRAYING EARNESTLY.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about praying earnestly for laborers in God's harvest fields.

Luke 10:1-3 (ESV)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and **place where he himself was about to go**. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore **pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest** to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am **sending you** out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

HOW DOES EARNEST PRAYER IMPACT YOUR PURSUIT OF HIS COMMISSION?

HOW DOES DEPENDENCY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR MISSION CULTIVATE A SPIRITUALLY RENEWING CULTURE?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES ELEVATING GOD'S PRIORITIES.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about how elevating God's priorities relates to fulfilling Christ's commission.

Haggai 1:1-11 (ESV)

*In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for your yourselves to dwell in paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: **Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little.** You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.*

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts: **Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.** You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. **Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.** Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS THE HEART OF GOD FOR HIS PRIORITIES?

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ELEVATING GOD'S PRIORITIES IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW DO THE PRIORITIES OF GOD CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU.

OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL.

USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING

CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES MAKING AN APPEAL.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about appealing to others to seek reconciliation with God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (ESV)

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THIS PASSAGE?

HOW DOES LIVING AS AN AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION REQUIRES SHARING GOOD NEWS.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about the beauty of sharing good news.

Romans 10:9-15 (ESV)

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THIS PASSAGE?

HOW DOES SHARING GOOD NEWS CULTIVATE A SPIRITUALLY RENEWING CULTURE?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH WORSHIP-BASED PRAYER:

LORD, I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE...

LORD, FORGIVE ME FOR...

LORD, I DESIRE TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY CHURCH TO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ (MY CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER) WHO...

LORD, I PRAY FOR _____ TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEART TO THE GOSPEL. USE ME AS A WITNESS TO YOUR GRACE. BRING CONVICTION OF SIN AND DRAW THEM TO YOURSELF.

Journal:

Journal what is on your heart as a prayer to the Lord. Be open and honest. Express your hurt, frustration, doubt, concerns, and needs. Turn these over to the Lord. **Remember** who you are in Christ. **Repent** of the sinful heart postures, mindsets, or behaviors that quench the Holy Spirit. **Rejoice** with a grateful heart.

PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION IS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about the glory of God in our pursuit of His Commission.

Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV)

After this I looked, and behold, a **great multitude** that no one could number, from every nation, **from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**"

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

HOW IS WORSHIP THE AIM OF PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION?

HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE IMPACT YOUR HEART POSTURE OR MINDSET?

Respond:

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PURSUING CHRIST'S COMMISSION IS BEING THE AROMA OF CHRIST.

As you meditate on the selected passage, contemplate the words and phrases that speak to you about being the aroma of Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 (ESV)

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in **triumphal procession**, and **through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere**. For **we are the aroma of Christ** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a **fragrance from death to death**, to the other a **fragrance from life to life**. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.*

Reflection Questions:

WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO YOU?

IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR HEART
POSTURE AND MINDSET AN AROMA
OF CHRIST?

Respond:

RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY
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A CASE STUDY FOR A SPIRITUALLY RENEWING CULTURE.

The book of 1 Thessalonians is a tremendous example of a spiritually renewing culture. The life of this church was marked by their work of faith, their labor of love, and their steadfast hope. When the gospel came to them, the Holy Spirit brought deep conviction, and the power of God to save souls was evident. In submitting to Christ, and modeling the example of the Lord, they became a life-giving community. They also became a compelling testimony of the grace of God. This was reflected in their lives, relationships, and conduct. It shaped their passions and priorities. The joy of the Lord rang out from them and the fruit of this spiritually renewing culture had a far-reaching impact.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 ESV)

Do you see the essential elements of this spiritually renewing culture? This is true for us today. The power of the Gospel is alive! We have incredible hope. The joy of the Lord is our strength. It sustains us and refreshes us. As we imitate Christ, the culture of our church is shaped by our convictions and our commitment to Him. This is reflected in the grace we extend, the love we show, the honor we give, the compassion we share, the disciples we make, and the example we set.

First, let us pursue Christ. Let us delight ourselves in Him. Let us exchange the futile ways of the world and desire His presence. Let us look heavenward with an eternal perspective. Everything we need, Jesus is!

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV)

DAY 40 CONTINUED

Next, let us pursue Christ's Community. Let us devote ourselves to one another. Let us be known by our love. Let us demonstrate care and concern and be a life-giving community. Let us model the grace of God.

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

*For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. **(1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 ESV)***

A spiritually renewing culture is shaped by how we disciple one another. It's the mindset we establish, the vulnerability we exhibit, the humility we model. Disciples exhort and encourage one another to live a life worthy of God for the glory of God. We submit to the authority of God's Word and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Our prayers bind us to the heart of God and to one another.

Finally, let us pursue Christ's Commission. As we are dependent on the Holy Spirit, our lives will be refreshed as the gospel is proclaimed. As souls respond with repentance and faith, we will rejoice with the angels in heaven. We have a compelling mission, and we have the extraordinary opportunity to share the love, joy, hope, and peace found in Christ. Demonstrate it with your words and deeds. Share your testimony of how you turned from idols (your sin and self) and embraced the true and living God. A church united in spirit and purpose magnifies the name of Jesus and seeks to make Him famous.

DAY 40 CONTINUED

For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Respond:

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