

## 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Devotional

## 21 Daily Devotions

Day 1	Desire
Day 2	Faith
Day 3	Revival
Day 4	Blessing
Day 5	Presence
Day 6	Boldness
Day 7	Compassion
Day 8	Sacrifice
Day 9	Joy
Day 10	Mission
Day 11	Nations
Day 12	Healing
Day 13	Devotion
Day 14	Love
Day 15	Holiness
Day 16	Unity
Day 17	Freedom
Day 18	Father
Day 19	Kingdom
Day 20	Forgiveness
Day 21	Persistence

## Day 1: Desire

### Scripture

*As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
so pants my soul for you, O God.  
2 My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?*  
Psalm 42:1-2.

### Devotion:

Imagine the scene: a deer running through the woods, literally dying of thirst. Panting, Frantically searching for a stream to drink from. Water is life. More than food, water is essential, and the deer can find none. This is the image, David says, of my relationship with God. I'm thirsty, I'm desperate, I can't live another moment without His presence. I NEED God, David says. He goes on to say his tears have been his food night and day. He is seeking, waiting, weeping. He knows that without this water for his soul, he will die. This isn't a cute, coffee-cup psalm. This is a desperate cry for the only thing that can satisfy. David's desperation isn't a sign of spiritual weakness, but strength. It's when you stop realizing just how dependent you are on the river of God that you lose your desperation for His presence. My prayer is that God would awaken us to our need for Him. That this 21 days would be a catalyst that launches us into a lifetime of hungering and thirsting for the river of life (Psalm 63:1). For the water that will never run dry (Isaiah 58:11). For that stream that makes glad the city of God (Psalm 46:4).

### Prayer:

God, give me a renewed desire to be with you. Make my heart like the heart of David: desperate for your presence. Awaken me to my need for you. Make me like that deer. Thank you that as I seek you, you will satisfy me with your presence. Thank you that you are with me today. Come Holy Spirit, fill me again with your power and presence. I need you!

## Day 2: Faith

### Scripture

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

Hebrews 11:1-3

### Devotion

Hebrews 11 is affectionately known as the “hall of faith”. Those “people of old” who have gone before us and have lived their lives for the purpose of knowing, loving, and obeying God. It doesn’t take much digging to quickly realize that the names on this list are not the picture of perfection. Their past is littered with sin, failure, doubt, fear, etc. Yet, in each of their lives, they made a decision to say yes to God, to turn away from their sin, to live by faith instead of fear. In spite of their doubt, they chose the path of obedience. For many of them, it cost them their lives. Their lives didn’t turn out the way they expected, yet God used their broken path to bring glory to His name. God has plans and purposes for your life, for our church, and our city. He wants to use you, to bless you, and to send you into the world to do the seemingly impossible. He wants to use you to heal the sick, to speak hope to the hopeless, to bring salvation to the lost, and so much more. We can’t please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), and yet faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). So what can we do? We can ask God for faith, and we can choose to live a life of faith by simply saying yes to Jesus and obeying the words He has already given us in the scriptures.

### Prayer

Thank you God for those believers who have gone before me and for those whom you have placed around me. Please increase my faith in your character & your word, and increase the faith of the people in King’s Church. Help us to believe every promise in your word and obey every command. Place within us a conviction that no matter what it costs us in regards to our comfort, our hopes, our dreams; that we will say yes to you. Give us the gift of faith, we pray, in Jesus’ name, amen.

## Day 3: Revival

### Scripture

*O Lord, I have heard the report of you,  
and your work, O Lord, do I fear.  
In the midst of the years revive it;  
in the midst of the years make it known;  
in wrath remember mercy.*  
Habakkuk 3:2

### Devotion

Holy discontent. I can't think of a better way to describe what the prophet Habakkuk is expressing in this verse. If you've ever read the Bible, or church history, I would imagine you've experienced the same feelings. "God, you've done AMAZING things in the past! Why do I not see those same things in my life???" You healed the sick, you raised the dead, you fed the hungry, you parted the sea, you made bread rain down from heaven, you made water flow from a rock, you brought entire cities to their knees and filled them with the word of God. What you did then, will you do it again?" This is the cry of Habakkuk's heart, and it has been the cry of God's people in every generation. We need God to move again. We need Him to awaken us, to revive us, and to put a holy discontent in us until He does in our day what He has done in generations before us.

### Prayer

*"O Lord, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O Lord, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy."* Put in me a holy discontent. Put in me a yearning for your works and your word to fill my life, King's Church, and our City. Put in me a yearning for you to do the impossible in my life and through my life. Please, guard me from the temptation to settle into a life that is less than what you created me for. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 4: Blessing

### Scripture

*"The Lord bless you and keep you;*

*25the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

*26the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."*

Numbers 6:24-27

### Devotion

This is a priestly blessing, a blessing that Aaron and his sons prayed over the people of Israel generation after generation. It's an expression of God's heart for His people and His devotion to their good. We must reject the "prosperity gospel" that essentially teaches God's greatest interest is your health, wealth and prosperity. That is not true. God's greatest interest is His own glory and the exaltation of His Son Jesus. In rejecting that message, we must never lose the reality that God's disposition towards His people is a disposition of blessing and an outpouring of goodness. Romans 8:28 teaches us that God is sooo committed to our good, that He is literally working EVERY situation for the good of His people. 1 Corinthians 15:54 teaches that even death itself will be swallowed up (consumed) by the victory of Jesus and the saints (Christians). Therefore, praying God bless you, increase you, give you favor, prosper you, heal you, lay His hand upon your life and pour down a blessing until there is no more need (Malachi 3:10) is an excellent and biblical prayer. The word peace here is the Hebrew word "Salom", it is a word that is soo rich and robust we have no English equivalent. It can be translated as peace, blessing, favor, satisfaction, wholeness, completeness, and even salvation. The idea is that life is as it should be; it is a return to God's original intent for humanity and even creation itself. This is the heart of God, it is the mission of Jesus, and it is one of the greatest prayers we can pray over our lives, our church and our City.

### Prayer

Pray Numbers 6:24-27 over yourself. Pray it over your family. Pray it over Kings Church. Pray it over your neighborhood, over your work-place, and over our City.

## Day 5: Presence

### Scripture

*One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire in his temple.*  
Psalm 27:4

### Devotion

David had it all, and he could have whatever he wanted. Yet he knew that there was only one thing that would truly satisfy, one thing that would truly fulfill, one thing that really was the purpose of all of life. That was simply this: to be WITH God. It's not enough to know about God, or even to receive blessing from God. No, the deepest longing of the human soul is for connection with God Himself; for a relationship with the almighty. This is why later in Psalm 84:10 he says one day in God's house is better than a thousand elsewhere. David had access to every place on earth. Think on that. The most glorious, beautiful, spacious places. David says, there is no where like His presence. He says I will "ask" and "seek after". Both are important. Asking is prayer. Seeking is practical. Ask God to make this one thing the one thing in your life. Then consider: what are the practical steps you need to take to make that prayer a reality? David goes on to say once He's in God's house, He wants to see His beauty and inquire in His temple. Our life is directed by what we see and hear. We behold what we become and our thoughts direct our lives. David says, I want to behold you, and I want your thoughts to be my thoughts, your mind to become my mind.

### Prayer

God, I want you more than anything else. Help me to seek you more than anything else. Help me to make you the priority of my life. Help me to see how much better you are, how satisfying your presence is, and how fulfilling a life with you is. Help me to fix my eyes on your beauty and to seek your counsel above any other. Come Holy Spirit, fill me with your presence and power, and lead me to the ONE for whom I was created. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 6: Boldness

### Scripture

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

Acts 4:13

### Devotion

If you've ever had the thought that you don't know enough or that you're not compelling enough to share your faith, be encouraged! In this short passage, the Holy Spirit proves that He is enough and that He flexes His muscles and displays His strength the most when He is working through weak vessels. Your weakness, Paul says, is the very thing that puts Jesus' strength on display (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). What is antidote to fear and timidity in sharing our faith? How do we step into a life of boldly declaring the words and doing the works of Jesus? The key for Peter and John is the same for us, simply this: to be with Jesus. It is in His presence that we find a boldness not from us, and we receive a power to do the works that only He can empower us to do (Acts 1:8).

### Prayer

God, thank you that you are strong when I am weak. Thank you that you don't need me to become something I'm not, I simply need to be filled with your presence and step into the work you have already prepared for me to do. Please, fill me with your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit please fill me with your presence and power to open my mouth and boldly tell the people I encounter today and in the days to come the good news of Jesus. Make me bold, and give me a deep and abiding confidence in your work in me and your word spoken through me. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Day 7: Compassion

### Scripture

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Matthew 9:36-37

### Devotion

The #1 emotion we see expressed in the life of Jesus is this: compassion. The Latin root for the word compassion is "pati", which means "to suffer", and the prefix "com"- means "with". Compassion, originating from compati, literally means to "suffer with". The connection of suffering with another person brings compassion beyond sympathy into the realm of empathy. Our God is a God of compassion, Jesus was moved with compassion, and to be like Him means that we become a people marked by our compassion. This is to be the driving motivation for our works and our words. Compassion was always preceded by Jesus "seeing" the people. The same will be true in our lives. Only when we enter into the world of the people around us, and see them the way God sees them, will our hearts break for them as God's heart does.

### Prayer

God, please help me to slow down and see the people around me. Give me your eyes to see them the way you see them, to enter into their suffering and to love them with your love. God, please break my heart for what breaks yours. Please remove apathy and fill me with a holy discontent for the suffering of those around me. And give me grace to step into that suffering with a hope in your supernatural ability to meet the need, to heal the wound, and to give hope to the hopeless. Ultimately to point to the eternal life to come that you promise to all who trust in you. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 8: Servitude

### Scripture

*It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Matthew 20:28

### Devotion

A defining mark of the ministry of Jesus is that He came not to be served, but to serve. This is an upside down kingdom. When the world is climbing the ladder, hustling to get mine, trying to make it...in essence doing everything possible to get everyone possible to lift up and serve ME... Jesus enters the scene and says He is going to do everything He can to serve everyone He can. And He calls us to do the same. Question: Have you entered into the upside down kingdom of Jesus in your thought life and your daily pursuits? What would your life look like if you entered into every relationship and moment asking the question "what can I do for them?" instead of "what can they do for me?" How would your friendships, your marriage, your workplace, your neighborhood relationships change? This, Jesus says, is greatness. What is one thing you can do today to pursue greatness by serving someone else?

### Prayer

Jesus, thank you for being the ultimate servant and example of a life poured out for God and others. Please help me to choose others above myself today. Please help me to put on your paradigm for greatness. Please purge from me the worldly standard for a "great" life, and help me to see greatness through the lens of a life poured out for you and others. Make this my posture, my disposition, and the heartbeat of my life. For your glory and the good of others. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 9: Joy

### Scripture

*I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
8I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.  
9Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.  
10For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.  
You make known to me the path of life;  
**in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.***  
Psalm 16:11

### Devotion

The Christian life is a life of joy. Unfortunately, Christians have often been known for our judgment, our hypocrisy, and even our grumpiness. We need to own this, ask God to forgive us, and choose a different way: the way of Jesus. Joy is not a feeling, it's a choice. If it wasn't a choice, the bible couldn't command it. But it does. Over and over again, believers are commanded to simply "rejoice". Philippians 4:4 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16 command us to rejoice "always". In every season, under every circumstance, the bible teaches, choose joy! We are commanded to sing for joy (Psalm 5:11) and to shout shouts of joy (Psalm 32:11). The afflicted and the needy are commanded to rejoice (Isaiah 29:19), as are the righteous and upright (Psalm 33:1). The choice to rejoice is a declaration of the goodness and faithfulness of God. Every command to rejoice is based upon the character and faithfulness of God Himself. Friends, there may be nothing more powerful we could do today for our own souls and for our witness than to choose joy. Make the decision, right now, to rejoice. Reject a complaining, critical spirit. Take on the spirit of joy. Begin your day today and everyday by thanking God for the blessings in your life and declaring that "This is the day that The Lord has made, I WILL rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

### Prayer

God, thank you for today. Thank you for the breath in my lungs, for your new mercies, and for the purposes you have for me today. This is the day that the LORD has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it. I refuse to give in to a complaining and critical spirit. I refuse to allow depression, anxiety and fear to win the day today and any day. I will lift my voice to praise your name. I will rejoice. And I will choose joy. This is not falsehood or forced emotion. This is a choice based upon the reality of your faithfulness and the truth of your word. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 10: Mission

### Scripture

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*  
Matthew 28:18-20

### Devotion

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He is more passionate about his lost children than we could ever imagine. For God so loved the world that He gave Jesus (John 3:16) that none should perish. This is God's heart: that not a single person be judged for their sins. His heart is for every person to come under the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Forgiveness and new life has been made possible through the work of Jesus. Yet He has entrusted the message to us; He has given to His people the mandate to take the message to the ends of the earth. This does not happen primarily through stages or mass media. No, this work primarily happens person to person, neighbor to neighbor, co-worker to co-worker. It's a mission we can't accomplish on our own. We need His presence and we need His power, both of which He has already given to us. There is no time to waste. Hell is hot and eternity is forever.

### Prayer

God, thank you for our salvation. Thank you that you sent someone to tell us. Thank you that they obeyed your promptings, that they spoke your word into our ears. Please, embolden us to go and do the same. Please, fill our hearts with a passion for your mission, and help us to do for one person today what you have called us to do unto the ends of the earth. Help us to proclaim with our deeds and our words that you are the hope of the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 11: Nations

### Scripture

*And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."*

Matthew 21:12-13

### Devotion

God's heart has always been for every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Revelation 7:9). From Genesis to Revelation God is interested not in seeing some people brought back into a relationship with Him and restored to their God-given purpose in life, but ALL people (2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16). As Christians (and churches) we can get distracted from this primary focus of praying for and seeking the good news of Jesus to fill the nations. In the passage above we see Jesus treating this not as some small mistake, but as something worthy of great devotion and severe correction. Jesus is not kind and gentle in his rebuke. No, he is driving people out, flipping tables, and making quite the scene to make his point. God's house is NOT to be a place for acquiring wealth, personal comfort, or any other self-serving purpose. Instead, the church, more than any other organized group of people in the world, is to exist for the purpose of praying for and serving the world.

### Prayer

God, please give me a heart for the nations. I'm sorry for where I have made my life or our church about me. Please forgive me, and help me as I repent and turn back to a life that is lived for you and the advancement of your gospel to the nations. Break my heart for what breaks yours, and help me to leverage my life for the greatest gospel impact both here in my neighborhood and city, and the world.

## Day 12: Healing

### Scripture

*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Matthew 9:35-36

### Devotion

It has been said that anytime you find Jesus He was coming from, going to, or currently healing someone. God never intended sickness and death; this was a result of sin entering into the world (Genesis 2:17). God's promise for those who believe in Jesus is to forgive our sin, heal our bodies, and restore us to His original intent for our lives. Healing is promised and expected in scripture (Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 103:3, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Matthew 12:1). We know that the kingdom has come in Jesus (Mark 1:15), yet it has not fully come (1 Corinthians 15:54). Therefore, we pray expectantly, knowing that God will heal (whether it be in this life, or in the life to come). We expect God to supernaturally heal the sick when we pray for them, and we have a strong theology to ground our hearts when it doesn't happen when or how we expected. The supernatural healing of the sick is a sign that confirms the message we preach (Hebrews 2:4). Therefore, we ought to consistently and continually pray earnestly and fervently for the healing of the sick both within and outside of the church, for both believers and unbelievers. For the prayer, however God chooses to answer, is to God's glory and the good of people.

### Prayer

Ask God to give you greater faith to pray for the sick to be healed and expectation to see that prayer supernaturally answered. Ask God to give you boldness to offer to pray for the supernatural healing of those you encounter, and those you already know. Begin praying for yourself or others you know who deal with chronic illness and ask God to supernaturally heal their bodies. Take a moment to entrust yourself and others to God, that His ways and timing are perfect.

## Day 13: Repentance

### Scripture

*For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
“In returning (repentance) and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*

Isaiah 30:15

*Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.*

Matthew 3:8

*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

Romans 2:4

### Devotion

The Hebrew word for repentance is “subah”, it means simply to “return” and is used throughout the scripture to describe a return of mind, heart and action to God. To repent is to “turn away from our wicked ways” and to turn ourselves back to God. Repentance can be dramatic (as it was in the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32). It is a one time event (the day we repent and believe in Jesus, Acts 3:19) and a daily practice (Matthew 3:8). As John Calvin said, “the human heart is an idol factory. Our hearts become factories of idols in which we fashion and refashion God to fit our needs and desires.” The practice of repentance is as simple as asking God to show you where you have put other things above Him, turning away from that and returning to Him. So, how do you know what your idols are? Tim Keller said you know what your idols are based on what you day-dream about. What are you day-dreaming about? How dependent is your hope, your joy, and your peace on your circumstance? Repentance brings salvation, it produces a fruitful life, and it leads us back to God day by day. Walk today, my friends, in the gift of repentance.

### Prayer

God, what do I love more than you? What people or things have my heart above you? Please show me. I repent, and in this moment I am returning to you. Please help me to return to you with all my heart and mind. Help me to align my life to your word and your ways, and to walk with you. I love you God, I want to love you more. Thank you for abundant grace and mercy. I don’t deserve it, yet you give it freely. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Day 14: Love

### Scripture

*1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

*13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

### Prayer

God, thank you for your love. Open the eyes of my heart to see and receive your love. Increase my capacity to receive love from you. Holy Spirit, fill me with the love of God, give me deep revelations of God's love and transform my thinking patterns and heart-attitudes to conform to God's love. Help me to love my brothers and sisters in Christ as you have loved me. Help me to give myself, unconditionally, in love to the people around me. Make me more like you, Jesus. Help me to walk by your Spirit and not the desires of my flesh. Make my hands like your hands, my feet like your feet, my mouth like your mouth. I want the world to see your love through my life. Thank you for the overwhelming joy of living life in and through the power of your love. Amen.



## Day 15: Holiness

### Scripture:

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*  
Psalm 19:14

*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;  
2but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3He 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.*  
Psalm 1:1-3

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former  
ignorance, 15but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your  
conduct, 16since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*  
1 Peter 1:14-16

### Devotion

The Christian life is a life of becoming more like Jesus as we walk with God. Throughout the scriptures God's people are called to a life that is holy on the basis that God Himself is holy. The word holy is from the Greek word "hagion" which means to be "dedicated" or "set apart". Think of China in a China cabinet. It is set apart from the other dishes. It's special and distinct, and everyone in the family knows it, it is only to be used for special occasions. Because of it's worth, it's value, maybe it's identity as a family heirloom it is treated with great care and given great dignity. So it is to be with God's people. Our behavior changes because our identity changes. We no longer belong to the spirit of this age, we have been purchased at the high price of the blood of Jesus and we belong to God our Father. We are no longer slaves to sin, we are sons and daughters of the King. This new identity in Christ is the basis on which the apostle Paul makes the appeal to the Christians in Rome to no longer engage in old, sinful practices (Romans 6:15-23). As He says in Galatians 5:1, "for freedom Christ has set you free".

Where are you not living a holy life? Turn back to God. Confess it to a fellow believer (James 5:16). And receive God's mercy.

As Lamentations 3:22-23 says "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

### Prayer

Father, forgive me. Renew a right spirit in me. Renew my mind in your word. Renew my heart in your presence. I receive your mercy. I lay this at your feet and I ask for the strength to never return to it again. Make me holy, as you are holy. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 16: Unity

### Scripture

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!  
2It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!  
3It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.*

Psalm 133

### Devotion

The universe is made up of physical laws, like the law of gravity. These laws are created by God and facts of life. In the same way there are physical laws, there are also spiritual laws. Spiritual realities God has created that cannot be changed. One of those is the blessing of Unity. When brothers (believers) live together in unity, God cannot help but pour out a blessing on their lives. This applies to our marriages, our small groups, our parenting, and our church-life. This applies to the way we think, speak and act towards one another in person and behind closed-doors. The church cannot help but flourish when believers commit themselves to the way of unity. The church cannot help but fail when believers become divided. Therefore, one of the greatest commitments we can make to our fellow believers is to choose the way of unity. What is the blessing of Unity?

**The oil on Aaron's beard:** Represents the anointing of God to do the work we are called to do. The oil is poured on Aaron's head and is running down his beard and the collar of his robes: this is an abundance of oil, representing an abundance of God's anointing.

**The dew of Hermon:** Dew creates an atmosphere for growth. It is refreshing, life-giving and plant-life cannot help but thrive in its presence. When Unity exists: believers mature, mission advances, and God is glorified.

### Prayer

God, give me a heart that loves your people. Remove any divisive ways from me and help me as I devote my life to the building up of the body of Christ. God, please unite churches and believers throughout our City so that you will command a blessing like never before. May we be one, as you are one, in Jesus' name.

## Day 17: Leadership

### Scripture

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4

*Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

1 Peter 2:17

### Devotion

One of the great tensions in the Christian life is that we are called to pray for and show honor to those in positions of leadership in our society. This would be easy if those leaders were always godly in character and made decisions that aligned with the character of Jesus. As we well know, that is not always the case. When the apostle Peter penned the above words in 1 Peter 2:17, the emperor at the time was Nero: a man who hated Christians and murdered them in masses. It is suspected that Peter was martyred in the persecution executed by Nero himself in the years of AD 64-65. Why does this matter? Because even at the hands of the most wicked rulers, we are called to surrender our lives into the hands of the most glorious Savior. When the church learns to be a prophetic voice that can call upon the society for repentance and reform, and still maintain her surrender to the sovereign hand of God in both praying for and honoring its leaders, then God will be glorified and the gospel will advance mightily.

### Prayer

God, help me to honor the emperor. Help me to honor those in leadership at my workplace and government officials. Help me to honor leaders in the church and to pray for them. Please bless the leaders in my life. Open their eyes in a greater way to your love for them, give them wisdom to lead, fill them with the power of your Spirit to do their work and help them make decisions that honor you today. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 18: The Lord's Prayer, Part 1: Father

### Scripture

*"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

Matthew 6:1-8

### Devotion

Prayer is not performance, it's relationship. We know Jesus is not condemning "group prayer" in this passage, for the early church was marked by their "gathering to pray". What he is condemning is using prayer as a platform for religious posturing. A few checks and balances: Are your prayers more impressive with others than when you're alone with God? Do you find yourself trying to 'sound spiritual' or overly express your 'passion' in praying with others in a desire to impress them? If so, you may have fallen into the trap Jesus warns of here. The good news is, your prayer life can be revived and you can walk free from religious posturing. Return to God, go into your room and get on your knees, then begin praying simply and humbly like a child. Stay in that place until your heart is more focused on Christ than it is on others. Repeat daily for the rest of your life.

### Prayer

God, I'm sorry for using prayer to seem impressive to others. Please forgive me, and help me return to the heart of prayer. Help me come daily into your presence, and teach me to pray. Teach me to call upon your name with humility, like a child. I want to know you, Lord, amen.

## Day 19: The Lord's Prayer, Part 2: Kingdom

### Scripture

*9 Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.*

*10 Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us this day our daily bread,*

*12 and forgive us our debts,*

*as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*13 And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Matthew 6:9-15

### Devotion

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Kingdom of God is anywhere the King, Jesus, is ruling and reigning. In His Kingdom there is no more sickness, death, or disease (Revelation 21:1-4). Sin is repented of, the sick are healed, the captive is set free, the hungry are fed, orphans are brought into families, the words of God are treasured and Jesus is glorified. This is what we pray for when we pray "your kingdom come".

### Prayer

Your kingdom come, Jesus, in my life, in my family, in Kings Church, and in our City. Spend a few minutes praying for various aspects of God's kingdom that come to mind over these spheres of life.

## Day 20: The Lord's Prayer, Part 3: Forgiveness

### Scripture

*9 Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.*

*10 Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us this day our daily bread,*

*12 and forgive us our debts,*

*as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*13 And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Matthew 6:9-15

### Devotion

Un-forgiveness is a prison and a poison. Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 18 of a servant who owed his master 10,000 talents (worth 6,000-18,000 days wages, est. \$1-\$3million). The servant begged for forgiveness and the master showed him mercy. Upon receiving mercy the servant found his own servant who owed him 100 denarii (100 days wages, est. \$18,500). Instead of mercy, the forgiven servant choked and imprisoned his servant until he could repay every penny. The master found out, and the forgiven servant now spent the rest of his life in a prison. Why? Because he refused to extend the same forgiveness to his debtor as His master had done for him. So it is when a believer refuses to forgive a wrong done when God has forgiven us so much. Friends, do not allow un-forgiveness to exist in your life. Forgiveness is not an emotion, it's a choice. Forgiveness does not require trust or reconciliation; some people will never earn that right again. That does not justify our withholding forgiveness from them. Release them, and yourself, from the debt they owe. Entrust them to God, and ask God to bless their life, and you will find your heart is flooded with God's mercy once again.

### Prayer

Father, I forgive. I release my debtors from the pain, the hurt, and the wrongs they have done to me. I will not hold their sins against them, in the same way you did not hold my sins against me. Thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Please give me a greater love for my offenders, and help me to pray for their good regularly. In doing so I remind myself of your mercy towards me, and I express your mercy to them. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Day 21: Persevering Prayer

### Scripture

*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

Luke 18:1-8

### Devotion

Friends, it has been a joy to fast and pray with you these 21 days. My prayer is that our knocking on heaven's door would not cease as these 21 days come to an end, but that these 21 days would have set a pace for us to continue knocking as the weeks and months carry on. As we see in the text above, God loves and is compelled by a persistent person who will continue to come to heaven's doors and knock until they receive their answer. He is not put off by it, but compelled by it. Whatever you have been praying for these 21 days: for children to know God, for physical healing for yourself or others, for the salvation of a friend or family member. Don't lose heart if those prayers don't seem to have made progress. Keep coming, keep knocking, and keep believing that the God who called you is hearing you and is answering you. Will the son of man find faith on the earth when He returns? I pray He does in us!

### Prayer

God, thank you for the gift of these 21 days. Thank you for times in your presence, and for the gift of seeking you in prayer. Help me to persist and persevere like this widow. Help me to keep knocking on heaven's doors, and to battle in prayer for the salvation of my lost friends and loved ones. Help me to keep contending for physical healing for myself or others. Make me one who stands at the gates of prayer to ask, seek and knock until you return. May you find faith in my heart when you come. Amen.