



THE CORNERSTONE : 21 DAY PRAYER AND FASTING COMMITMENT

As we KICK OFF this New Year as a Community of Faith, Our Vision is for GOD to continue to build in every aspect of our lives. To know that we need more than resolutions and goals, we need more of GOD. Our growth, our progress, our maturity, our blessing is all attributed to GOD and putting HIM FIRST. Let us Grow in our Faith, our Calling, our Focus, our Marriages, our Families, our Relationships, our Church and Our Ministries. How do we get started? Let's commit together as a community to a 21 Day Fast starting, Monday, January 6th,

What is Fasting?

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

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

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

What should I Fast? (NOTE: It is honorable to not let it be known to everyone what you are fasting, let it be between you and GOD)

- Something that is hard to give up, consumes much of your time or you find yourself dependent/indulgent of.
- Some fast specific time of the day, a specific meal, a particular food that would be hard to give up (meat, carbs, sugar and sweets, coffee, etc), movies, tv, social media, video games, etc.
- Now, being people of integrity we are not to fast things that are vital, that which is necessity or in your direct responsibility: Health, Medications, Work, School, Being responsible, daily duties/chores, relationships, parenting, ministry, etc.

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

- Follow our 21 Daily Devotional and Prayer/Scripture Guide.
- Read GOD's WORD and Pray
- Praise and Worship, Listen to Godly music
- Go To Church Weekly / Watch Online if you cannot make it physically
- Share GOD with others, serve the community
- Gather with other believers / encourage
- Listen to sermons online, radio, etc
- Support the ministry, volunteer, help out

21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Monday, January 6

Day 1: Developing a Desire for GOD

Scripture:

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O GOD.

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. It's a sign of spiritual strength. The moment we stop realizing just how dependent we are on the river of GOD is the moment we lose our desperation for His presence. Our prayer over the next 21 Days 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). May we drink from the water that will never run dry (Isaiah 58:11). For that stream that makes glad the city of GOD (Psalm 46:4).

Application

Take 21 minutes over the next 21 days to seek GOD in prayer and the word., start a bible reading plan like [this one](#) and make 21 minutes of reading and prayer every day a new habit over the next 21 days.

(<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/60-the-one-year-bible>)

Ask GOD to give you a desire for Him. You may not be thirsty now. Start feeding on His word, and you will begin to thirst for His presence.

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!

Tuesday, January 7

Day 2: The Most Important Prayer

Scripture

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD 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. 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. Consider that. The most glorious, beautiful and spacious places. David says yet there is nowhere that compares to the place of His presence. David goes on to say once He's in GOD's house that 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.

Application

Consider what you spend your time looking at and listening to. Ask yourself, what things do I need to stop looking at, and whose voices do I need to stop listening to? What is one habit you can put in place to help you look to JESUS more, and listen to His voice more frequently?

Prayer

LORD, thank you for your faithful love in my life. Thank you for always being there. Thank you for the gift of JESUS. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me new life with you. More than anything, I want to know you. Please give me the heart of David. Help me to prioritize your presence through reading your word and prayer. Help me to turn my eyes away from unGodly things, and my ears from unGodly talk. Help me to fix my eyes on you JESUS and to listen for your voice. I love you JESUS, thank you for loving me. Amen.

Wednesday, January 8

Day 3: Clear Direction

Scripture

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. - Psalm 119:105

Devotion

The secret to success for every single believer is to love the Word of GOD. And by this, I don't simply mean that we have a warm fuzzy feeling on the inside about the things JESUS said. I am referring to an honest-to-goodness, authentic relationship with the Word...where we actually read the Bible and meditate on it day and night! For a person to call himself a Christian, but to never spend time in the Word is like someone packed up to go on a long journey without any kind of a map or food. He'd set off, excited for the trip, but very soon after departure, he'd have no idea where he was or even how to get from point A to point B. And if opposition came against him, he'd not know how to navigate through the difficulties well. In the end, he would never get to his desired destination! As believers, we must make a choice to love and to obey GOD's Word.

It is the Truth that will guide us through ANY circumstance: in marriage, in parenting, in relationships, in business, in our emotions, in our finances, in everything. It is only through GOD's Word that we can come to know GOD and His Son JESUS. And really, it's the only way we will come to know our true selves. The Word works as a mirror in our lives, reflecting our gifts and talents as well as teaching us the motives of everything we do. It is only through the Word that we grow into the kind of mature Christians that will be able to impact the world around us. I encourage you to dive deeply into GOD's Word today. And don't simply read a few verses out of obligation...ask GOD to help you to love His Word. He will put a fire into your heart that will give you the power and the desire to read and to meditate on His Word daily. You'll never be the same again!

Application

If you haven't yet, start a bible reading plan like [this one](https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/60-the-one-year-bible) and make 21 minutes of reading and prayer every day a new habit over the next 21 days. (<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/60-the-one-year-bible>)

Prayer

LORD, thank you for your word. Thank you that is brings peace, life, hope and conviction. Please give me a hunger for your word, and help me as I seek to grow in reading and studying your word in my life. JESUS you are the greatest gift ever given, you are the Living Word. And more than anything I ask you to make 2025 the greatest year of spiritual growth I have ever experienced. In JESUS name, Amen.

Thursday, January 9

Day 4: Passion Rather Than Performance

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. But 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. - Matthew 6:5-6

Devotion

In Matthew 6, JESUS teaches us that we don't pray to impress other people, but instead, we pray to connect with GOD. In other words, prayer is about your relationship with GOD, not about your reputation among people. In Jewish culture, prayer was a regular, daily part of their lives. Public prayer was a common thing at set times throughout the day. But sometimes, when it was time to pray, some people looked at it as an opportunity to display how great they were so that "they may be seen by others" (v. 5). JESUS says they are "hypocrites" (v. 5). Why? Because they are praying as if they have a deep connection to GOD, but their internal motivation was to impress people. Imagine a child who came up to talk to a parent, but the child was not that interested in talking with and connecting with the parent. The child instead wanted to impress his brothers and sisters. Can you imagine how the parent would feel? That is what JESUS is pointing out.

In Matthew 6, JESUS is not condemning all public prayer. But, in effect, he's saying, "What is your motivation to pray?" That is why he says that GOD likes private prayers that no one knows about—secret prayers. He sees these secret prayers that are not being done in public to impress people, and he says, "your Father who sees in secret will reward you." I have good news today—prayer is not about your reputation among people. Prayer is about your relationship with GOD. You have a GOD who loves you. You have a GOD who longs to spend time with you. You have a GOD who simply wants you to come to him with the motive of wanting to spend time with him. Prayer is not about your performance but your passion.

Application

Prayer is not about you feeling good enough or performing well enough. In the life, death, and resurrection of JESUS, you are approved! You are a child of GOD! Today, you can pray in secret with a passionate longing to connect with GOD like a child connecting with a parent. If you are feeling numb or lacking passion, then you can come to GOD in secret today and tell him. Ask him for fresh passion! Ask him to forgive and purify your motives! Ask him to awaken in you a desire to connect with him in prayer!

Prayer

Father, we come to you today disappointed by our failures in prayer. We are sorry that sometimes we hypocritically use prayer to impress others. Please heal our hearts of the need for the approval of people, and replace it with a passion for you. Free us from the desire to perform in prayer, and fill us with your Spirit so that we will simply come to you honestly, humbly, and connect with you. Amen.

Friday, January 10

Day 5: Ask for Big Things!

Scripture

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. James 5:17-18

Devotion

Nothing is too big for GOD. There is no sickness that he cannot heal. There is no anxiety that he cannot calm. There is no depression that he cannot lift. There is no financial difficulty that he cannot help. There is no relationship that he cannot heal. There is no problem that he cannot solve. There is no mountain that he cannot climb. Nothing is too big for GOD!

James talks about Elijah in James 5. He says that he was a person just like you and me. He wasn't impressive. He wasn't better than us in some way. He didn't have some type of access to GOD that we don't have. Instead, "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours" (James 5:17a). So what did he do? He did the same thing that we can do—"he prayed fervently" (17b). And he asked for something big! I mean something really big. He asked that it wouldn't rain, and GOD answered that prayer. Why? He lived during a time, recorded in 1 Kings 17-18, when people worshiped other GODs rather than the one, true GOD. Therefore, lacking rain was a way of showing them this and getting their attention. And guess what? It didn't rain for three and half years— incredible! And then Elijah prayed that it would rain, and again GOD answered that prayer—"heaven gave rain" (18).

What does that mean for you and me? James is telling us that you and I have the same nature as Elijah and the same ability as Elijah. We can pray fervently for big things, and GOD may answer it! But here's the takeaway: you have to pray! As A.W. Tower has said, "The key to prayer is simply praying."

Application

Pray for big things today! Have faith that the GOD who created and sustains the universe is capable of answering the prayers that seem impossible to you and me. In Matthew 19:26 JESUS says, "With GOD all things are possible."

Prayer

LORD, please energize our faith and stir it up. Help us when our faith is weak. Help us to come to you first with our problem. Help us to come to you first with our concern. Help us to ask for big things and believe that you can answer them! In JESUS Name, Amen.

Saturday, January 11

Day 6: What Are You Chasing?

Scripture

But seek first the kingdom of GOD and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matt 6:33

Devotion

Whoever you and whatever you do, GOD has put in the heart of us all a desire to live for something greater. We long to lay hold of a vision, a purpose, a work that gives meaning to our lives. Many of us seek to fill that void with relationships, entertainment, acquiring wealth, creating comfort, shopping, addictions, and so much more. Yet, that deep itch in our Spirits is not satisfied. Because deep in your soul we long to fulfill the call of GOD on our lives, and the intense desire to be ambassadors for JESUS Christ.

One of the most common pitfalls for us Western Americans is we can get so busy achieving things for GOD, working the 9-5, so preoccupied with our little world, that we forget about GOD! We don't have time to pray, we don't have time to go to church; in fact, we don't even have time to stop and make sure all our "good" plans are actually "GOD" plans and have His blessing on them.

It's time to stop chasing all the rabbits! If you are feeling worn out, irritated, worried or anxious... then I'm talking to you right now! Remember the Proverb that says, "The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22). If you are dealing with the sorrows of a life that is too full "other" things, then guess what? It's time to clean out your schedule and get back to the only thing that matters: Seeking FIRST the KINGDOM of GOD.

Application

When we are diligent to seek GOD's face FIRST, over everything else, then it is amazing how much clarity and rest our hearts can experience. We will begin to see those aspects of our ministry, our business and our home that we've allowed to become out of balance, and maybe even notice some exploits that were never GOD-breathed in the first place. In His presence, He will reveal to us what He has for us to do and to accomplish. And then we must be disciplined to ONLY do those things. Don't allow your destiny to be diluted by distraction. Seek the face of GOD. Allow Him, and Him only, to direct your steps.

Prayer

GOD, do away with all the distractions. Help me to seek first your kingdom today. Help me to create the habit of feeding on your word and seeking your face in prayer. Help me to KNOW, deep in my soul, that only you can satisfy the deep desires of my heart. I want you JESUS, above anything and everything else. I choose you. And above all, I want to know you and be known by you. As I go into my day, keep this thought fresh on my mind that I will seek FIRST the Kingdom of GOD. In JESUS name, Amen.

Sunday, January 12

Day 7: The Difference Maker

Scripture

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever. - John 14:16-17

Devotion

This is one of the most beautiful and significant promises JESUS ever made to us. In this passage JESUS is revealing the very culmination of His very life, death and resurrection! GOD so passionately loved us that it was not sufficient for Him to merely have a close relationship with us...He wanted to actually abide within us. And because of JESUS' death and resurrection, GOD has made Himself available to every believer, through the Holy Spirit, and will actually live on the inside of our hearts. In the light of this revelation, how could anyone not receive such an invaluable and precious gift?

The most important relationship any believer can have is with the Holy Spirit. And as men and women who are passionate to build the Kingdom of GOD, this relationship is absolutely vital! Our GOD-sized success of the GOD-inspired dreams within our hearts are entirely dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit. And, yes, I am saying that on your own, you don't have what it takes to live in the fullness GOD has for you. And while this might be ego-shattering for you and I, it is crucial we come to realize this truth.

Take it from me, because I lived a portion of my life without the power of the Holy Spirit, and I was on the fast track to destruction! I was trapped in cycles of sin that were destroying my life, and I had no real power to break those strongholds. It was not until I experienced the authentic power of the Holy Spirit living on the inside of me that I was able to see real and lasting change.

Application

I urge you to welcome the tremendous power of the Holy Spirit. He is waiting for you and fully available to you. He will counsel you, strengthen you, help you, lead you and guide you. His peace will guide your every step and His wisdom will whisper in your heart the things that are to come.

Prayer

LORD, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit and baptize me in His presence and power today. I ask you to guide me through His counsel, give me His wisdom, and make me sensitive to His leadership in my life. I give my life to you again JESUS. I am Yours, and You are mine. It's in Your Name of JESUS I pray, Amen.

Monday, January 13

Day 8: Did You Ask GOD for It?

Scripture

*You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly**, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with GOD? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of GOD. - James 4:2-4*

Devotion

It seems like we have a daily conversation in our house where my wife or I function as a referee between two kids who are in the middle of a conflict over something. As the temperature of the conflict continues to rise, we will intervene and ask this question: "Did you ask them nicely?" Then comes the stunning answer: "No."

But really, all of us are this way. We want things that other people have (i.e. covet). We want the relationships that someone else has. We want the looks that someone else has. We want the success that someone else has. We want the job that someone else has.

We want things that other people have, and when we realize that we aren't getting it we may respond in many different ways. Some of us feel hopeless because we think, "I'll never have a life like that." Others think I must work harder and longer to get what I really want. Some of us may gossip about that other person who has what we want and try to bring them down to our level.

James goes on to say that we may have a prayer problem (James 4:2), we may have a motive problem (James 4:3), or we may have a worldliness problem (James 4:4). But today, I want to zoom in on verse two and look at the prayer problem that he talks about. In verse 2, James says, "You do not have, because you do not ask." Sometimes we haven't received because we haven't simply stopped and asked GOD for it. We didn't take the time to pray. In other words, like my kids, when we are faced with the question, "Did you ask?," we would have to say, "No." This shows us the heart of GOD. He wants you to come to him as a child comes to a Father and ask him. Let us not get to the end of our lives and find out that we missed something in life simply because we didn't ask GOD for it.

Application

Instead of complaining or coveting, pray! Come to your Heavenly Father today and simply ask Him for what you NEED. And then you can trust Him, knowing that He wants the best for you. He would only say, "No," to a prayer if He has something better for you in mind. He's a good Father. If you don't have, don't let it be because you didn't ask. Ask GOD for it!

Prayer

Father, please help us to come to You with all of our needs today, knowing that You are a Good Father who enjoys answering our prayers ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL. And comfort us with the idea that whether You say "Yes," "No," or "Later" to our prayer, You will work together a plan that will be better than what we asked for. Help us to simply come to You and ask for the things we need today! Help us to trust that You will provide for our needs. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Tuesday, January 14

Day 9: Lone Rangers Are Lost Rangers

Scripture

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all sound judgment. - Proverbs 18:1

Devotion

Every one of us must understand that the quality of our success in every area of life will be dependent upon the quality of our relationships. Any King who thinks he can fulfill his destiny without several strong, intimate relationships is a fool. I cannot put it any plainer than that.

We were made in the likeness and image of GOD (Genesis 1:26) and GOD is a relationship! Think about it: He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So in essence, although all three are one, they are still each a distinct and unique Person, each engaged in a relationship with each other. It's a mystery, and difficult to wrap our minds around, but that doesn't make it less true. The very essence of the Trinity is perfect relationship. In addition, when GOD walked on this planet, He was all about relationships. JESUS cherished His time with the 3 (Peter, James, & John), with the 12 Apostles, and with the 70 who were mentored by Him and sometimes even were sent out into ministry. If JESUS knew the importance of comradery of friends, how much more do we?

Application

Every believer must make it a priority to build and to nurture vulnerable and GOD-centered relationships. These people around you will sharpen you, keep you accountable, and inspire you to be all you can be. They will be there to celebrate your greatest victories and to support you through your toughest trials. Make it a point today to reach out and nurture the GOD-given relationships in your life.

Prayer

LORD, help me to open my heart and life to You and to other believers in my life. Help me to prioritize relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. Instead of projecting my strengths, help me to be honest with my weaknesses, so that I might know the strength of Christ in Christian relationships. Thank You JESUS for Your body, help me to build my life surrounded by it. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Wednesday, January 15

Day 10: The Discipline of Intimacy

Scripture

Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful in their power, or the rich in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: That they truly know Me and understand that I am the LORD...
Jeremiah 9:23-24

Devotion

GOD yearns for intimacy with us; it was the very reason He created us. He wants to make His home in our hearts and to share a give-and-take relationship of thoughts, feelings, visions and dreams. Too often we are so busy in the pursuit to accomplish great things for GOD that we forget about the thing He cares about the most: being with us.

If our relationship with GOD could be based on our activities and accomplishments, many of us would be enjoying a strong and intimate relationship with our Father in heaven. But this is not what GOD desires from us. He deeply desires to be a part of our lives, involved in our thought processes, and above all, King of our hearts.

Nothing can substitute an authentic and intimate relationship with our GOD. In fact, intimacy with GOD should be the #1 discipline of every believer. In His presence is where you find your vision, your direction and your faith in His Word and His promises. It is here you find courage to take the risks required to fulfill your deepest dreams, it is here you find your GOD-confidence, your value, your meaning. It is here you begin to fathom the unconditional love GOD has for you.

Application

During this 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, carve out time to spend one-on-one time with GOD. He's waiting to breathe life into your heart and refresh your soul like never before. Even if it's just 10 minutes, it'll be the best 10 minutes of your day...and before you know it, it will grow into more!

Prayer

LORD, help me to walk in the discipline of intimacy. Help me to seek You first, even if it means to set aside all the work, the to-do list for a moment. Help me, to more importantly, set aside the distractions. Help me to set aside time today, and everyday, to seek You in Your word and prayer. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit, and teach me to open my heart and life to you that I might know your love like never before. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Thursday, January 16

Day 11: GOD's Ways Are Not Our Ways

Scripture

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. - Proverbs 16:9

Devotion

Most people in our world are searching desperately for true meaning and significance in their lives. Even for many believers, we struggle with thoughts and insecurities, wondering if how we are spending our days will matter in the end. Once we have walked into eternity, will the things we strove to achieve have made any impact on the world we left?

I have good news for you today. If you will allow GOD to determine every step of your life, in your marriage and family, in your businesses, and in your Kingdom Building, then you can rest assured that your life will be filled with the favor and grace of the Almighty GOD.

Remember, GOD does not see "success" as most people see it. He does not value or honor the standards the world believes to be the most important. And so, as a believer, you must come to know GOD in such an intimate way that you begin to view your success and the course of your destiny through His eyes...that you learn to value what GOD values. Otherwise, if you chase after the same things the world runs after, you will waste your time orchestrating the wrong game plan for your life. You'll exhaust your time and energy on exploits that might build your own ego, but not the Kingdom of GOD.

Application

Be a KINGDOM BUILDER, not an ego builder! Submit your plans to the LORD and allow Him to determine your steps. Better yet, completely submit your heart to the LORD so that He can guide your thoughts to become agreeable to His will. Only then will ALL your plans succeed!

Prayer

Father, help me to give my entire life to build your Kingdom. Help me to give my time, my energy, my resource, my relationships, everything that is dear to me - to you for your Kingdom. I submit my mind and heart to you JESUS. I surrender all to you. And I pray Your Kingdom come, Your will be done. Not my will, not my ego. Your Kingdom! In JESUS Name, Amen.

Friday, January 17

Day 12: GOD Does Not Call The Qualified, He Qualifies The Called

Scripture

The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor! Go in this might of yours, have I not sent you? Judges 6:12,14

Devotion

I love the story of Gideon. Here's a guy who is hiding from everyone, including GOD, he is afraid of everyone and feels like he is a nobody going nowhere. It's in this state that the Angel of the LORD comes to him and greets him by calling him "a mighty man of valor." I don't know about you, but this is greatly encouraging to me! Even when we are in our lowest places, GOD still sees us through His eyes of faith.

There are so many pearls of wisdom that can be drawn from Gideon's life, but today I want to emphasize this point: It's not your job to qualify yourself for the plan GOD has called you to execute. It is GOD who qualifies you! He doesn't look at the state of where you are at the moment to determine how successful you will become. And thankfully, He doesn't consult your past to decide what He wants for your future.

Just like with Gideon, GOD has a plan for your life that is beyond your wildest dreams. Before the foundations of the earth were laid, He mapped out for you a life filled with good works and a future that is full of hope and promise. He has called you to be a king, and He is calling you to rally behind His Cause to build His Kingdom. However, it's up to you to pick up the call He has for you.

It's OK if you have doubts about yourself and about your ability. No one was in need of a self-esteem adjustment more than Gideon...but GOD called him anyway. Fortunately, Gideon answered the call (shaking in his boots most of the time), GOD showed up (just like He said He would), and Gideon achieved great exploits. You can read all about this story in Judges 6.

Application

Stop focusing on your inferiority and start focusing on GOD's superiority! Put your trust in Him and believe He will accomplish through you every single thing He has promised. Allow GOD to be your plan and to be your provision. He will never let you down, and you will experience a life filled with more blessing than you could've ever asked or even imagined!

Prayer

LORD, help me to trust in you today. Help me to stop focusing on myself and start focusing on you! Help me to stop worrying about my needs and start trusting your Provision. You are my GOD, and I am your Son/Daughter. JESUS, you are my leader and my LORD. You are my Salvation and my Rock. I give you my life, and whatever you call me to - I will obey. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Saturday, January 18

Day 13: Eliminating Distractions

Scripture

Now, these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. - Mark 4:18-19

Devotion

The Parable of the Sower is one of JESUS' most famous parables, and it's packed with profound pearls of wisdom for every believer to mine out. Today, I want to focus on the third of the four different types of people JESUS referred to in this parable, because I think this one describes many believers in the Body of Christ today.

Here, JESUS is talking about a person who hears the Word and who applies that Word to his life to the point that he begins to bring forth good fruit. But when the cares and deceits from the world begin to crowd into his life, those thorns start to choke out the Word to the point that his life becomes unfruitful.

Friends, we must not let ourselves become deceived. The greatest joy of the enemy would be to distract us from our call to build GOD's Kingdom by turning our hearts away from GOD, and instead, onto greed, lust, anxiety, fear, success, or any other thing that would take the place of GOD in our lives. Thorns are ANYTHING that would distract us from GOD, from spending time with Him, and from fulfilling His purposes for our lives. GOD is a jealous GOD, and He wants to be FIRST in your life. And remember the promise in Matthew 6: when we seek Him first, all His blessings will follow!

Application

Take some time today to be brutally honest with yourself. Quietly go before GOD and ask Him to search your heart to see if there is anything in your life that is crowding Him out...anything that you are putting first before Him. And if He graciously reveals something to you, be diligent to make the needed changes.

Prayer

LORD, thank You for pursuing me even when I don't pursue You. Thank You for sending JESUS for me to pay for my sins when I was running away from You. Thank You for desiring relationship with, and tearing down the dividing wall of hostility between You and I. Please help me to prioritize time with You in Your word and prayer. Help me to eliminate distractions, and create Kingdom habits that put You first in every area of my life. Help me to give generously instead of live for greed. Help me to walk in purity instead of lust. Help me live to build Your Kingdom, not my own. Help me honor You in all my relationships. Make me like You JESUS. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Sunday, January 19

Day 14: How to Pray Continuously

Scripture

...pray without ceasing... - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Devotion

Pray without ceasing? How can anyone pray without stopping? How could I pray without taking a break? This seems like an impossible command to obey in Scripture. And, to make it even more challenging, it is sandwiched between the commands to rejoice all of the time and give thanks in every circumstance.

Why? Paul gives the reason: happiness, prayer, and thanksgiving are always GOD's will—no matter our circumstances in life. I'm sure I have your attention now. "What?!", you're thinking. "How could I ever do GOD's will then?" And that's an excellent question. Let's look at that more closely.

First, prayer is speaking to GOD, but it's more than that. Prayer is being connected to GOD in a close relationship. We are commanded then to be in an unbroken relationship with GOD. What does this mean? We can strive to live always with an attitude of prayer.

Second, prayer does include speaking to GOD with words at times. We cannot continually speak to GOD with words in an unbroken manner due to sleep and other tasks that prevent us from doing so. But what we can do is pray frequently. We can pray publicly and privately. We can pray out loud and silently. We can pray longer prayers and shorter prayers. We can confess, thank, and ask in prayer. We can pray in the morning, pray before meals, and pray before bed. In other words, we can pray so often it seems almost like it is unceasing, unbroken, and continuous.

Finally, Scripture speaks of many things that GOD desires but may not be perfectly experienced by us until the new heavens and new earth. For example, GOD will wipe away tears, sadness, pain, sin, and our spiritual enemy—we know that is GOD's will (see Revelation 21). But this won't be experienced fully until the second coming of JESUS (1 Thess. 4:17). We also know that even though we are followers of JESUS, we still battle sin until we either die or JESUS comes back (Romans 7:15-25). So, we won't perfectly live this out right now. We won't perfectly pray without ceasing. But thankfully, JESUS did for us and teaches us how to do it as well.

Application

What ways do you sense GOD leading you into a life that is filled with prayer? Think of one way you can strive to maintain an attitude of prayer. Here are some examples (if it's helpful!): pray a few times a day, pray in the car, pray in the morning when you wake up and in the evening before bed, or maybe it's not necessarily something to add into your life—perhaps instead you may just want to be more aware of GOD throughout your day (at work, at home, parenting, doing chores, etc.).

Prayer

LORD, we see clearly that it is Your desire that we pray without ceasing. Help us to not view this command as a burden but a blessing. Help us to see this as Your desire to connect with us and satisfy us with Your joy. Help us to want more of You and more of the gift of joy that You give! Please make us more aware of Your presence throughout the day, and please forgive us for living segmented lives which only acknowledge You at certain times and on certain days. Thank You for Your grace! In JESUS' powerful Name, Amen.

Monday, January 20

Day 15: Prayer in the Age of Outrage

Scripture

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, Godly and dignified in every way. - 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Devotion

Some have called the time period we live in the age of outrage. You have to be outraged about something, so it seems. Often that outrage appears in various news media—especially concerning politics. Occasionally, on these media outlets, you can hear a tone of sarcasm, skepticism, and perhaps even hatred.

Now, I'm not suggesting that the Bible is silent about political issues, and I'm not saying it's wrong to have a conviction on these issues. However, hatred is wrong! Christ says to love our enemies, not to hate them—and surely that would also apply to people who disagree with us politically. But Scripture does not stop there, we are explicitly told to pray for our government leaders.

Notice what Paul says to Timothy, I "urge" you to pray "for all people" (v. 1). Now, all people would include difficult government leaders or at least those with whom we disagree. But Paul does not leave that up to interpretation. He spells it out clearly. In verse 2 Paul says, pray "for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, Godly and dignified in every way." Therefore, regardless of who it is in the White House, State Capitol, City Hall or any governmental position, we must pray for that person.

Let's reject hatred and pray for our leaders.

Application

Is there a government, business, church, or some other type of leader on your heart to pray for today? Pray that the person would "lead a peaceful and quiet life, Godly and dignified in every way" (1 Tim. 2:2).

Prayer

LORD, we are sorry for how we can get sucked into our age of outrage which seems to enjoy speaking negatively about leaders. Please forgive us! Instead, replace it with prayer. Please bless our government, business, and church leaders with wisdom, grace, Godliness, boldness, and kindness that they would lead well and that they would lead peaceful lives. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Tuesday, January 21

Day 16: A Simple Way to Pray

Scripture

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. - Matthew 6:9-13

Devotion

Martin Luther, the father of the reformation, lived about five hundred years ago—long before modern technology and modern distractions. Yet, he also experienced the whirlwind like we do. At one point he supposedly said, "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." The overwhelm of tasks and productivity weighed on him, but he didn't rush into getting tasks done. Instead, he seems to think that this means he needs to prioritize prayer even more!

The problem of our prayerlessness is not simply with our smartphones or schedules. The problem is with our hearts. So, if we really want to grow in our prayer life, we must take aim at something much deeper than surface distractions: our most inward affections and desires." In other words, we can blame our age, but instead we should probably blame our own hearts. The frightening reality is that our desire for productivity, tasks, and accomplishments is occasionally stronger than our desire for GOD.

Now, admittedly, life sometimes feels like I am juggling multiple important plates that can't be dropped in order to go pray. You probably feel that way too! So, I thought I would recover an ancient prayer and an ancient practice for us today.

First, the ancient prayer is the LORD's Prayer. It comes from JESUS himself. In Matthew 6, JESUS tells us how to pray by using the LORD's Prayer. Can it be recited as it is? Yes! Can it be used as a model for prayer to pause after each phrase and pray spontaneously? Yes, even more so! Reciting the LORD's Prayer knowing what it truly means and then going back through it helps us to use each phrase as a springboard to jump off with prayer.

Maybe it would be helpful for us today to return to the simplicity of early church prayer. Prayer was never meant to be complicated.

Application

Try praying the LORD's Prayer today! Pray it even multiple times throughout the day as reminder of how GOD taught us how to pray.

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Wednesday, January 22

Day 16: Confess and Be Healed!

Scripture

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the LORD will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. - James 5:13-16

Devotion

Prayer is multifaceted. Sometimes you are in the middle of a hard season or situation and you need to pray for help. Other times you are going through a great time of blessing and your prayer may erupt into joyful praise. Other times you may be sick and need church leaders to pray for you. Life takes us on many twists and turns, but we can always pray!

In James 5:16, James reminds you and me of something that is really easy to forget. He says to confess our sins to each other and pray for one another so that we may be healed. There is a healing for us in confessing our sins to each other and praying for each other. But it's difficult! We must admit our weakness! We must admit our struggles! We must drop the facade of perfection!

But the benefit is so encouraging. We may be healed! Perhaps that healing is spiritual, mental, or emotional, but it may even be connected to a physical healing! Let me encourage you to find another Christian that you can be vulnerable with and confess your sins.

Application

Find a safe, trusted Christian with whom you can share your sins and struggles. Let them pray for you that you may be healed. They may want to do the same with you!

Prayer

LORD, today I confess my sin of _____ to you. Please forgive me, help me, and heal me! And please guide me to trusted Christian friends with whom I can confess and receive prayer. In JESUS Name, Amen.

Thursday, January 23

Day 18: Fasting: Asking with Passion

Scripture

While they were worshiping the LORD and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. - Acts 13:2-3

Devotion

During a challenging time in life, my wife and I fasted and prayed for direction. On the second day of the fast, we received stunning guidance from the Holy Spirit through a lady who gave a specific prophecy for us. It was a powerful moment of GOD's kindness to us in a hard situation.

Fasting seems to awaken us to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Sam Storms has said, "Fasting is consistently portrayed in Scripture as one of the primary ways that we seek GOD and those blessings that he has promised to us if only we would ask . . . Fasting is pursuit. Fasting is spiritual seeking. Fasting is asking with an extraordinary intensity and passion." In other words, fasting is asking with passion!

As the leaders in the church in Antioch worshiped and fasted, they received guidance from the Holy Spirit calling Paul and Barnabas to be set aside for ministry. They fasted—asked with passion—and GOD miraculously responded!

I wonder if there is anything that you need to ask for with passion today. Is it a healing? Is it guidance? Is it for more of GOD? Is it for a spiritual gift? Whatever it may be, fast and pray! GOD may respond like he did for me and like he did for the church in Antioch.

Application

Fast one meal and spend some extra time praying for something specific. Remember that fasting is asking with passion. You're increasing the intensity of your ask, and GOD might answer it!

Prayer

LORD, we long for more of You! As we continue our fast, make us hungry for You! Strengthen us as we fast and remind us with every hunger pain that we are hungry for more of You. Please pour out Your Spirit! Please empower us! Please give us guidance and wisdom! In JESUS' Name, Amen.

Friday, January 24

Day 19: JESUS To the Nations

Scripture

“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!” - Romans 10:13-15

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.

Application

Pray for all the Christian missionaries in the world. Pray that the Gospel message will reach those who have not yet heard the good news of JESUS Christ. Support if you are able to by giving a monthly or occasional gift towards missionaries. The Cornerstone currently supports 3 Missionaries. Pray for the generosity and seed to sow for the support of missionary work.

Prayer

LORD, 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. In Jesus Name, Amen

Saturday, January 25

Day 20: My Local Mission

Scripture

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." - 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.

Application

Remember that our mission field is where we are planted. Your neighborhood, your workplace, your school, your gym, etc. All we are called is to share the love of JESUS in hope that they would be drawn to His Saving Grace.

Prayer

LORD, 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.

Sunday, January 26

Day 21: Blessing

Scripture

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. “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 “Shalom”, 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.

Application

Pray Numbers 6:24-27 over yourself. Pray it over your family and friends. Pray it over The Cornerstone Church Family. Pray it over the brethren.

Prayer

LORD I ask You bless me and keep me. May Your face shine upon me and be gracious to me. LORD lift up Your countenance upon me and my family and give me peace. Amen.

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

Monday, January 6 ☐ DAY 1 (1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:5)

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

Tuesday, January 7 ☐ DAY 2 (2 Corinthians. 9:10)

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

Wednesday, January 8 ☐ DAY 3 (Psalm 51:10)

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

Thursday, January 9 ☐ DAY 4 (Hebrews 13:17)

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

Friday, January 10 ☐ DAY 5 (Proverbs 2:1-6)

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

Saturday, January 11 ☐ DAY 6 (Nehemiah 8:10)

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

Sunday, January 12 ☐ DAY 7 (1 Cor 10:13, James 4:7, Gal 5:16)

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

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

Monday, January 13 DAY 8 (Galatians 6:9)

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

Tuesday, January 14 DAY 9 (Proverbs 11:24, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

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

Wednesday, January 15 DAY 10 (1 Corinthians 9:22, Mark 16:15-16)

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

Thursday, January 16 DAY 11 (Phiippians 4:13, Isaiah 40:29)

LORD, today I pray for all the **PARENTS AND SINGLE PARENTS** who do their best every day to be a good example to their children. We pray for extra strength and grace. Even in the times they feel tired or like giving up, lift them up and guide them by Your mighty hand. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

Friday, January 17 DAY 12 (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

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

Saturday, January 18 DAY 13 (1 Timothy 4:12)

LORD, today I pray for the **STUDENTS** of our Families, City and Community. I pray that they will walk in Your protection and excel in every area of education. I pray that they will continue to mature and grow. I pray that you would protect their minds from harmful teachings and convict their hearts to distinguish GOD's truth from the world's ideas. May they run hard for their dreams and accomplish all that you have for them. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

Sunday, January 19 DAY 14 (Isaiah 6:1-8)

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

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

Monday, January 20 ☐ DAY 15 (2 Chronicles 7:14) (Inauguration Day)

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

Tuesday, January 21 ☐ DAY 16 (John 8:34-36, 1 Cor 6:12)

LORD, today, I pray for those struggling with **ADDICTIONS**, which may include myself. Strengthen us to overcome these addictions by the Power of Your Spirit and Your Word. Remind us that the first step to victory is confessing our Sin and Addictions so that we can get Help from You and others. Help us to walk in the true freedom You have for us. IN JESUS NAME, Amen.

Wednesday, January 22 ☐ DAY 17 (Mark 10:9, 1 Cor 16:14)

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

Thursday, January 23 ☐ DAY 18 (Proverbs 11:25, Matthew 5:16)

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

Friday, January 24 ☐ DAY 19 (Matthew 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:b32)

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

Saturday, January 25 ☐ DAY 20 (Matthew 28:16-20)

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

Sunday, January 26 ☐ DAY 21 (Joshua 1:9)

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