

THE CONSECRATED HEART

WEEKLY
DEVOTIONS



EXTRAORDINARY
PRAYER

WE GO TO BATTLE FOR
THE SAKE OF OUR
FAMILY, OUR CHURCH,
OUR CITY, AND OUR
WORLD.



ABUNDANT
GENEROSITY

OUT OF GOD'S
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS,
WE BLESS OTHERS
ABUNDANTLY.



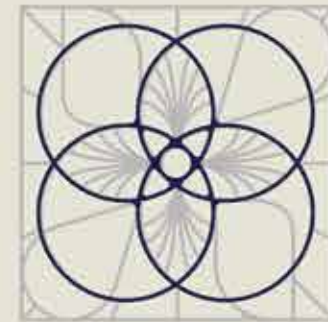
DEEP-HEARTED
WORSHIP

WE ARE NOT
SPECTATORS. WE GO
HARD AFTER GOD!



LIFESTYLE OF
REPENTANCE

WE LIVE IN RIGHT
RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD, UNHINDERED BY
SIN.



BOLD LOVE

IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS,
WE ARE VULNERABLE,
AUTHENTIC, AND
SELFLESS.



THE
CONSECRATED
HEART

CONSECRATE
YOURSELVES, FOR
TOMORROW THE LORD
WILL DO AMAZING
THINGS AMONG YOU.

JOSHUA 3:5

WEEK ONE



“FOR WHO SEES ANYTHING DIFFERENT IN YOU? WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU DID NOT RECEIVE? IF THEN YOU RECEIVED IT, WHY DO YOU BOAST AS IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE IT?”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:7 (ESV)

OUR VISION: HOUSTON AS A CITY OF GOD

1 CORINTHIANS 4:7



Sometimes the clearest vision comes in moments of brokenness. For WoodsEdge, it came in a season of barely surviving – when the church was shrinking, struggling to pay bills, and wondering if we would even last. Then came a challenge from a trusted voice: “Why don’t you find God’s thumbprint for your church?” That night, a shift began – a prayerful pursuit, a longing to become the kind of church that exists not for itself, but for the kingdom of God.

That pursuit has led here – to this moment, in this city, with this calling: *to see Houston become a city of God.*

This is not a vision of small improvements or steady growth. It’s not a vision of comfort or reputation. It’s a vision of revival. Of fire. Of awakening.

It’s a vision where the people of God cry out in prayer and live surrendered lives. A vision where churches don’t compete, but collaborate. A vision where prodigals come home, marriages are restored, children worship with abandon, and cities are changed.

But it begins in the heart. It begins with consecration.

When the people of Israel were poised on the edge of the Jordan River, ready to enter the Promised Land, Joshua told them, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” (Josh. 3:5) And here we are, standing again on the edge of God’s promise. The Lord has done amazing things. But He is not finished.

If we want to see revival in our city, it will require preparation in our hearts. It will mean living as if we really believe this vision is possible. It will mean surrender, faith, obedience, and sacrifice.

Because we are not owners of this vision – we are stewards.

Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 4:7 are a holy reminder: “What do you have that you did not receive?” None of this belongs to us – not our influence, not our resources, not our talents or buildings or budgets. It’s all by God’s grace. And these gifts come with responsibility.

So we prepare, not by building a better plan, but by allowing God to transform us into a people marked by prayer, generosity, worship, repentance, and love. People who live as if God really could change a city.

Imagine the fruit. Imagine the day when people look at Houston and see unity, joy, and transformation. Imagine the day when people look at Houston and see Jesus.

That’s the vision. That’s the invitation.

Let’s not miss it. Let’s be ready for amazing things.

PRAYER PROMPT

Lord, bring Your revival fire to our city. We are desperate for You to do a great work in our city! Save the lost, heal the broken, break strongholds and addictions, provide a Christ-honoring home to every child in foster care, extinguish divorce and restore families, put an end to abortions and human trafficking. This is not too difficult for You. We long to see a revival sweep across our city. Why not here, why not now? We wait on You!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Take time to ask yourself – do I really believe Houston can become a city of God? If not or if this is a struggle, what stands in the way?
2. Are there specific ways in which you would like to see our city transformed for His kingdom? Would you begin praying for His work in these areas?
3. For Houston to become a city of God, its churches must be united. Are there other specific churches you can begin praying for? As they come to mind, pray for God’s blessing on these other local congregations.

WEEK TWO



“EPAPHRAS, WHO IS ONE OF YOU, A SERVANT OF CHRIST JESUS, GREETES YOU, ALWAYS STRUGGLING ON YOUR BEHALF IN HIS PRAYERS, THAT YOU MAY STAND MATURE AND FULLY ASSURED IN ALL THE WILL OF GOD. FOR I BEAR HIM WITNESS THAT HE HAS WORKED HARD FOR YOU AND FOR THOSE IN LAODICEA AND IN HIERAPOLIS.”

COLOSSIANS 4:12–13 (ESV)

EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER: THE REAL WORK

COLOSSIANS 4:12-13



There is a kind of work that no one sees. It happens behind closed doors, in quiet rooms, in the early morning hours or late at night. It's the work of prayer – the real work.

Paul knew this. So did Epaphras.

Epaphras wasn't just praying occasionally. Paul says he was "always struggling on your behalf in his prayers." The word "struggling" implies effort and exertion. This was not polite prayer. This was gut-level, heaven-storming, Spirit-led intercession.

And Epaphras didn't just pray for himself. He prayed for others to "stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God." He fought for their spiritual health. He prayed fervently for the believers in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis.

What would it look like if our church today took the same posture? What if we really believed that prayer is the difference-maker? That it's not the perfunctory prelude to the work – it *is* the work.

What if we prayed extraordinary prayers, not because we are extraordinary, but because we serve an extraordinary God?

When God wants to move in a people, He often begins by stirring them to pray. Before revival comes fire, and before fire comes prayer. It's not flashy. It's not fancy. But it is where the breakthrough begins.

That's what we believe is happening right now. Both individually and as a church body, we are being prepared to accomplish a big vision. It will require raising our level of surrender. It will require consecrated hearts. And a consecrated heart is a praying heart.

Because the only way we'll see Houston become a city of God is if we become a people of prayer.

That's why our staff prays together every Tuesday morning. That's why our church gathers for prayer on Wednesday nights. That's why we envision 24/7 prayer in the new chapel. That's why we're teaching the next generation to be a praying generation.

We pray to a God who moves mountains, who softens hearts. Our God heals marriages, awakens prodigals, and opens doors no strategy ever could. Prayer is how we war against darkness, how we align with the Spirit, how we declare – *not our will, but Yours be done*.

So as we prepare our hearts in this season, let's labor in prayer. Let's struggle on behalf of our families, our friends, and our city. Let's pray for Houston to become a city of God.

We may not know what God will do tomorrow. But we know what He's asking of us today: consecrate yourselves.

And pray.

PRAYER PROMPT

Father, may I long to be in Your presence continually throughout my day. Give me the heart of Epaphras; teach me to pray fervently, to struggle on behalf of others. May my heart be sensitive to the leading of Your Spirit, my mind fueled by Your Word, and my ears attuned to Your voice. Please help me to take every thought captive and surrender it to You. Fill my heart with expectation that the God who moves mountains will accomplish His vision through my prayers. Make my heart Your dwelling place.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of prayers might we consider extraordinary?
2. How have you seen God work through prayer in the past?
3. Reflect on your current walk with God, specifically on prayer. How can you grow in praying fervently for others?

WEEK THREE



“AND ZACCHAEUS STOOD AND SAID TO THE LORD, ‘BEHOLD, LORD, THE HALF OF MY GOODS I GIVE TO THE POOR. AND IF I HAVE DEFRAUDED ANYONE OF ANYTHING, I RESTORE IT FOURFOLD.’ AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, ‘TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE...’”

LUKE 19:8-9 (ESV)

ABUNDANT GENEROSITY: THE JOY OF GIVING

LUKE 19:1-10



Zacchaeus didn't set out that day expecting his life to change. He climbed a tree hoping for a glimpse. That's all. But when we see Jesus, things change. When we see Jesus, He rewrites our story.

When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, He stopped, looked up, and called Zacchaeus by name: "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." And with that invitation, everything shifted.

Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus joyfully. And before the meal was finished, this man who had built his world around self-interest was already pouring it out for others. "Half of my goods I give to the poor... If I've defrauded anyone, I'll pay them back fourfold." (Lk. 19:8)

That's not reluctant charity. That's abundant generosity.

Zacchaeus didn't just give money. He made things right. He served the people he once exploited.

A heart changed by Jesus is a heart in motion. It serves, repairs, and restores. It lifts burdens, washes feet, and heals wounds.

That's one of the marks of a consecrated heart. We don't just pray, "God, use my resources." We pray, "God, use *me*."

In this season, we are preparing for a move of God. We're asking for big things: that Houston would become a city of God. That revival would sweep through homes, neighborhoods, schools, churches. But revival doesn't come through wishful thinking – it comes through surrendered lives. It comes through people who say, "You can have my time, my hands, my strength, my wallet – everything."

At WoodsEdge, we've seen this again and again. We've seen people giving generously to send others to the nations. Volunteers showing up early to pray with kids. Leaders walking with couples through healing. Coaches mentoring boys in foster care. We've seen generosity expressed through action.

You don't need a platform to be generous. You need a heart that's been with Jesus. That's what happened to Zacchaeus. He didn't change to *get* Jesus – he changed because Jesus came close. Because love drew near.

We don't give or serve to earn God's favor. We give because we have it. We serve because He served us first. We pour ourselves out because He poured Himself out on the cross.

So yes, we give – our money, our presence, our time, our effort, and our gifts. And when we do, it's not drudgery – it's joy. Because when we meet Jesus, we want others to meet Him, too.

Abundant generosity comes from those who have received abundantly. And oh, how greatly we have received. Love has been lavished on us. We've been given peace beyond understanding. A debt we could not pay has been eternally forgiven. "You will be enriched in every way," Paul writes to the Corinthians, "so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2 Cor. 9:11)

Let's live abundantly – with open hands ready to serve and ready to give.

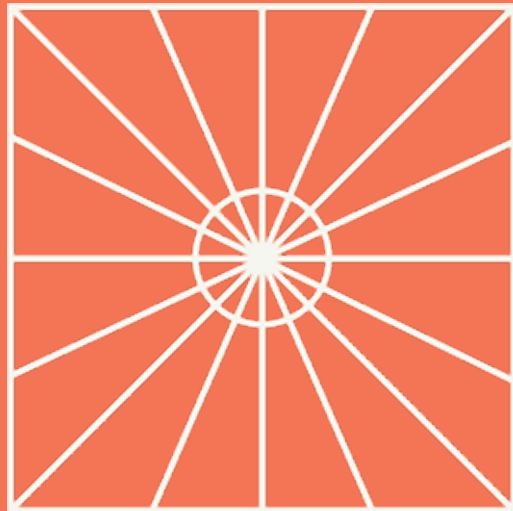
PRAYER PROMPT

Jehova Rapha, everything I have has come from Your hands. Remove greed, selfishness, and pride from my heart. You are my provider. May I give as generously as You have given to me. Let me share in abundance—my finances, my time, my love, words of encouragement, and prayers. Teach me to trust that You will provide for every need, and to be content with all You have blessed me with. Use me, Jesus, to usher in Your plans and purposes here on earth.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What good things have you received from the Lord? Take a moment to meditate on some of the blessings He has given you.
2. Examining your heart – does giving bring you joy? What perspective can help us find joy in giving?
3. What might it look like to take the next step as a cheerful giver?

WEEK FOUR



O GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD; EARNESTLY I SEEK YOU;
MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR YOU; MY FLESH FAINTS FOR YOU,
AS IN A DRY AND WEARY LAND WHERE THERE IS NO WATER...
BECAUSE YOUR STEADFAST LOVE IS BETTER THAN LIFE,
MY LIPS WILL PRAISE YOU.

PSALM 63:1,3 (ESV)

DEEP-HEARTED WORSHIP: THIRSTING FOR MORE

PSALM 63:1-5



There’s a kind of worship that comes from duty. And then there’s the kind that comes from desperation. That’s the kind of worship David is describing in Psalm 63.

David isn’t writing from a mountaintop. He’s in the wilderness. We think this psalm may have been written when David was chased from the palace by his rebellious son, Absalom. Whatever the case, David is tired and desperate. But his soul isn’t thirsting for comfort or answers. It’s thirsting for God.

True worship flows from this deeper place. From hunger and ache. From a heart that knows what it was made for.

“Thou has formed us for thyself,” wrote Augustine, “and our souls are restless till they find rest in you.”

David knows this. Nothing can satisfy him except God himself. “My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,” he writes. And you can almost hear the resolve in his voice: Even here, even now, my lips will praise you.

That’s deep-hearted worship from a consecrated heart – not marked by perfection, but by pursuit of the One whose love is better than life.

Deep-hearted worship is not performance. It’s not noise. It’s the surrender of a thirsty soul. It’s lifting your hands when life feels empty. It’s showing up with your whole heart – even when your heart feels broken.

Deep-hearted worship is what you were made for. It shapes us. It awakens us. It transforms us. Because worship is where we meet God.

Some of the deepest work God does in our hearts happens in worship. It’s where walls start to come down, where pride softens, where wounds begin to heal. Worship is where we remember who we are and whose we are.

Maybe lately you’ve felt like you’re in the wilderness. Maybe your soul feels more dry than devoted. That’s okay. Worship isn’t for the ones who “feel ready.” It’s for the ones who are hungry. Thirst is the starting point.

So start there.

Start by showing up, by turning your heart toward Him. Let the words be simple: “God, you are my God. Earnestly I seek you.”

And then let God do his work.

This week, carve out space to worship. Let it be personal. Real. Let it be raw, if it needs to be. You don’t need polished prayers or perfect posture – just a heart that’s willing to say, “I want You more than anything else.”

That kind of deep-hearted worship changes things.

Because you were made for this!

PRAYER PROMPT

Father God, May I never lose the sense of wonder for all You have done for me. May I be captivated by Your gaze. In all I do, let my heart overflow in worship, not just in song, but in acts of service, generosity, community, and prayer. Transform my heart, make me hungry for more of You. Take me deeper still. May my life be a continual offering of worship to You.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to the beginning of your relationship with God. What were your common practices to stir your affections for Him? Are those practices still a part of your life?
2. Is there anything for you to surrender to the Lord that stands in the way of worshiping Him more deeply?
3. If we want God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, what might that look like in our worship?

WEEK FIVE



FOR THUS SAYS THE ONE WHO IS HIGH AND LIFTED UP,
WHO INHABITS ETERNITY, WHOSE NAME IS HOLY:
“I DWELL IN THE HIGH AND HOLY PLACE,
AND ALSO WITH HIM WHO IS OF A CONTRITE AND LOWLY SPIRIT,
TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE LOWLY,
AND TO REVIVE THE HEART OF THE CONTRITE.”

ISAIAH 57:15 (ESV)

A LIFESTYLE OF REPENTANCE: MAKING SPACE FOR GOD

ISAIAH 57:15



We don't often associate repentance with closeness. Repentance is something we do after we've messed up – something reserved for guilt or shame or dramatic moments, right? But in Scripture, repentance isn't just about confession. It's about communion. It's about nearness.

Isaiah tells us that the high and holy God – the One who inhabits eternity – makes His home with the lowly and contrite. That's where He chooses to dwell – not with the proud or polished, but with the humble. With those who are willing to kneel low and say, "God, I need you."

What if repentance wasn't just a one-time act but a lifestyle? What if it became part of how we walk with God – daily turning our hearts back toward Him? Not out of fear, but out of love. Not because we're trying to earn His presence, but because we *miss* His presence when we wander.

Repentance helps us make space for God to move. It clears away the clutter and opens up room in our hearts. In repentance, we say, "God, I don't want anything – *anything* – to get in the way of intimacy with You."

There's something freeing about turning away from our sin. We instinctively fear that bringing those dark places to light will push us away from God, but it doesn't. It brings us back home.

Often, repentance is quiet. It happens in the small moments when we recognize that bitterness is creeping in. When we admit that we've been coasting spiritually. When we name the things we've allowed to harden our hearts. It's in those moments that repentance becomes an invitation – to return, to be revived, to let God breathe fresh life into us.

We prepare our hearts not by pretending to be whole, but by being honest about where we need healing. That's the soil where revival takes root – a heart that says, "God, here I am. Do what You want in me."

If our desire is to see God move in our city, it must begin with what He is doing in us. A consecrated heart isn't a perfect one, it's a responsive one. It listens when the Spirit convicts. It softens when God speaks. It keeps short accounts. It says yes to the refining, even when it's uncomfortable, because it knows the outcome is life.

Repentance isn't the end of our story – it's a new beginning, a path back to joy, freedom, and fire. It's where the Spirit revives the lowly and breathes new passion into the contrite. And it's how we stay close to God. Day after day. Step by step.

So this week, pause often. Ask God to search you. Be honest when He answers. Don't rush past the gentle conviction. Let it lead you into His arms.

He isn't waiting for you to fix yourself. He's waiting to revive your heart.

PRAYER PROMPT

Lord Jesus, when I go my own way, woo me back to the wonder of Your love, that I may confess my wandering, my self-reliance, and my pride. May I long to walk in holiness, set apart for Your divine purposes. Search my heart and reveal anything that displeases You or draws me away from You. Restore my joy through a repentant heart. Breathe new fire and passion into my heart through Your Spirit. Consecrate my heart that it may continually beat for You.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Are you in a place where you are glad for God to expose anything in your life that is unpleasing to Him?
2. Read 1 John 1:9. What does God promise for the person who confesses their sin rather than hiding it?
3. Though our sin is ultimately against God, is there anyone you need to ask for forgiveness for a past sin?

WEEK SIX



THEN HE POURED WATER INTO A BASIN AND BEGAN TO WASH THE DISCIPLES' FEET AND TO WIPE THEM WITH THE TOWEL THAT WAS WRAPPED AROUND HIM... "IF I THEN, YOUR LORD AND TEACHER, HAVE WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET."

JOHN 13:5,14 (ESV)



BOLD LOVE: THE COURAGE TO KNEEL

JOHN 13:1-15

Jesus had every right to remain seated. He was the rabbi, the Lord, the one with all authority. And yet, He got up. He wrapped a towel around His waist, poured water into a basin, and knelt before His disciples.

One by one, He took their tired, dirty feet into His hands and wiped away the grime and dust. Even Peter. Even Judas.

Jesus didn't just talk about love. He demonstrated it – down on His knees, with a basin and towel.

That's bold love. It's not loud. It needs no spotlight. Bold love is powerful. It crosses boundaries. It pushes through discomfort. It costs us something. And bold love shows up, again and again, in the quiet places where people need to be seen, known, and served.

Jesus says, "I have given you an example." And in this season of consecration, we're invited to follow it.

What would it look like to follow Jesus' example? It might mean opening your home when you'd rather shut the doors behind you. It might mean forgiving again when it would be easier to walk away. It might mean entering into someone else's pain – listening, weeping, staying. It might mean choosing vulnerability in a world that rewards self-protection. It might mean showing up when you feel spent.

Jesus said the world would know us not by our theology or strategy, but by our love. Not surface-level kindness or social niceties, but real love. Cross-bearing love. Foot-washing love. The kind that requires courage and boldness.

Bold love prepares the way for God to move. We can't seek revival while ignoring the brokenness in our communities. We can't ask God to change our city if we aren't willing to let Him change the way we treat the people right in front of us.

So let's begin here – in the everyday, in the unseen, with towels in our hands and humility in our hearts. Let's make space for people to be real. Let's be authentic and transparent. Let's carry others' burdens. Let's walk with the grieving and welcome the lonely. Let's look like Jesus.

This week, ask the Holy Spirit to help you love others, not in theory, but in action. Ask Him to open your eyes to someone who needs encouragement, care, or grace. Ask Him to make your heart more open, your schedule more interruptible, your posture more like Jesus'.

God, help us to love boldly.

PRAYER PROMPT

Papa, Your love is extravagant. May I drink deeply of the love You lavish on me. Let the fruit of Your Spirit be the fragrance of my life—overflowing with love for those I encounter. Teach me to love in a way that reflects Your heart. May I speak the truth in love and extend grace and kindness to others. Fill me with Your perfect love that casts out fear. Free me from self-protection, and give me the courage to love boldly and extravagantly. Help me to love those who are difficult to love, to be a big-hearted forgiver, and to serve others sacrificially. May people see right past me and find You. May I always be captured in the wonder of Your love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Like Peter, who didn't want Jesus to wash his feet, sometimes we find it difficult to receive such a gift of love. Have you allowed yourself to receive God's love for you?
2. Are there people in your life who are difficult to love? Ask the Lord for wisdom according to His Word. What would it look like to love these people?
3. Have you found Christ-centered community with people who can love you and you can love in return? If so, what steps can you take to show one another God's bold love? If not, what steps can you take to pursue community?

