

MAKING ROOM *for His Presence*

21 - DAY COMMUNITY FAST
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



BOBBY & WANDA ALGER

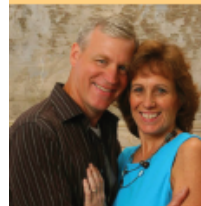
PURSUING A GOD-CENTERED COMMUNITY

If we long for our communities to see the tangible presence of God permeate our cities and bring lasting transformation, we must prepare the way through personal consecration. The key essentials of humility, holiness, and unity must take root in our hearts personally before we can apprehend them corporately. This 21-Day Prayer Guide provides not only biblical admonitions and practical prayer points, but guides participants through an entire 21-Day experience as a community of believers that will make way for God's presence to come and dwell.

The 21-Day experience was a powerful beginning to a movement... It pulled the entire community of church together for one central purpose. —Mike Hofmann, participant

This booklet is a powerful companion to a 21-Day Fast. It helped us connect with God more deeply. —Dan Donnelly, participant

Our nation is in desperate need of cities where the transforming presence of God is invited and realized. This resource will help prepare hungry hearts to pursue this reality. —David Kubal, President and CEO of Intercessors for America



Bobby and Wanda Alger pastor Crossroads Community Church in Winchester, Virginia. The church, planted in 1998, is a partner church with DOVE International. The Algers lead various community transformational initiatives and Wanda is also the Mobilization Director with Intercessors for America. The Algers have three adult children.



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We pray that our community will be a RESTING PLACE for the presence of God! As we spend time together in His presence, He will teach us how to become a people of His presence – a place where He can dwell. It is in THIS place that lasting transformation can happen.

Evening Gatherings

Community BREAKTHROUGH requires Community PURSUIT

Though our private devotional practices will produce a measure of fruit at home, it's only when we come together as the local Body of believers that we will walk in the unity needed for community impact. By gathering together during this Fast, we are positioning ourselves for God to move on behalf of the larger Church and our community.

It is recommended to come together each evening to share in a time of worship, waiting and repentance before the Lord. As we make these times a sacrifice of worship (Hebrews 13:15) we are actively preparing a place for His presence to come among us as a Body. As we learn to get comfortable in His presence together, we are becoming FAMILY and growing in our unity of heart and vision for the city.

"I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD – in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD." (Psalm 116:17-19)

Suggested Format of gatherings:

Corporate Worship (2 songs of preparation)

Devotional Reading for the Day

Listening and Waiting on the Lord (10-15 minutes)

Personal confessions at the cross (10-15 minutes)

Corporate prayer in small groups (10-15 minutes)

Closing Benediction

(If starting a 7 p.m. meeting – it can conclude by 8:15)

Practical tips for Facilitation

Leadership: Though a core of leaders will be giving oversight in this Fast, it is recommended to include leaders in the gathering from a variety of congregations, ministries, businesses, etc. This demonstrates the Body working together in submission to one another. (The best places to use other leaders are in giving a welcome, reading the Devotional and leading the benediction.)

Worship: A smaller team is recommended so as to remove any undue focus on platform ministry. The purpose of the worship is simply to prepare our hearts for waiting on the Lord, not for showcasing a team.

Time of Waiting: The term "soaking" is often used for this time of ministry as participants meditate on the Devotional while music plays softly in the background. Pre-recorded music is preferred to place all focus on what the Holy Spirit is speaking rather than live performance. (A suggested list of iTunes music is listed on the next page).

Personal Confessions: These are confessions to the Lord (not to one another). Have a microphone facing a cross on or near the stage for easy access. Following a time of soaking, a leader can read the Action Points and then invite participants to the cross as the Spirit directs them (music can continue softly in the background).

**Keep confessions short and in 1st person ("I", not "we")*

**If someone is confessing something at the mic that others bear witness to, they are encouraged to simply stand in their place in agreement.*

This allows for more people to participate in this time.

Corporate Prayers: Following the time of personal confessions, small groups can be formed (mix with others not from your own congregation!) Prayers can continue using Corporate Action Points or other themes the Lord highlights.

**Take pleasure in HOSTING these gatherings, creating an atmosphere of warmth, safety and intimacy in worship. Make it easy for people to enter in!*

WEEK ONE HUMILITY VERSUS PRIDE

Day 1: Humility Defined

Day 2: Living Low

Day 3: Succeeding With Grace

Day 4: The Joy of Correction

Day 5: Letting Holy Spirit Do His Job

Day 6: Comparisons Prohibited

Day 7: Who Am I?



DAY 1: HUMILITY DEFINED

“And what does the LORD require of you; but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Humility is not so much defined in the Bible as it is demonstrated by the One who is humble. Humility is a central character trait of God as seen through Jesus Christ. The Old Testament word translated humility means “gentleness” and “helper.” The New Testament word for humility means “lowly in mind or position.” Humility is serving others as unto the Lord.

Pride is self-focused and self-absorbed. It presumes to know, better than God, how to follow His Word. We can fall into this trap by thinking we can find a different way and still achieve the same results on our own. Human beings are born with the root of pride in their lives. Jesus, however, was born with the root of humility in his life. Becoming born again removes the root (nature) of pride and plants within us the root (nature) of humility. Renewing the mind is a must in order to conquer pride’s residue and embrace the full benefits of humility.

Jesus rarely told people who He was, but rather served them, taught them, and showed them God’s love. He veiled his title to promote His Father! Humble people have surrendered their wills to God regardless of cost. Humble people will not explain away God’s Word when it goes contrary to personal convenience. Humble people will not listen to the voice of man, over the voice of God’s word.

PERSONAL ACTION POINTS

- Is title important to you?
- Is being recognized flattering—or not being recognized shattering?
- Do you serve others regardless of acknowledgement or praise?
- Confess any self-interest and ask the Lord for a clean heart and pure motives.

CORPORATE ACTION POINTS

- Confess any need for recognition as a ministry or congregation.
- Confess any fear of man you may be harboring.
- Ask for a greater fear of the Lord.
- Pray for a greater desire to serve than to be served.

WEEK TWO

HOLINESS VERSUS IDOLATRY

Day 8: Holiness Defined

Day 9: Living Pure in an Unclean World

Day 10: The Safest Place to Be

Day 11: Face Time with God

Day 12: Politically Correct or Biblically True?

Day 13: Holy and Happy

Day 14: No Holiness, No Presence



DAY 14: NO HOLINESS, NO PRESENCE

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

There is a troubling tendency in the Body of Christ today to believe that if we just have enough passion and prayer, we will experience the fullness of God’s manifest presence. Though there may be isolated testimonies of such occurrences, they usually don’t last over the long-haul. Scripture is clear that if we want to see God, we must be holy.

Previous spiritual awakenings have taught us that if we are not walking in purity of heart, integrity and right relationships, we will not be able to maintain His presence, no matter how powerful or anointed it seems. This is true at every level, starting at home and in our congregations. As we pursue more of His presence, we must also pursue holiness.

God doesn’t just want to come for a short while; He wants to stay. That requires a holy people who can steward His presence and all that He wants to pour out. It will require people who have proven themselves faithful to His Word and heart and are ready to carry His presence with humility, grace and wisdom.

Passion and vision may be the initiators of this journey to transformation, but it’s living a holy life that will ultimately determine whether or not we can rightly steward a supernatural outpouring.

PERSONAL ACTION POINTS

- Are you committed to embracing holiness as a lifestyle, not just a doctrine?
- Confess any tendency to want a quick fix rather than pursue a daily walk of integrity, purity and right relationships.

CORPORATE ACTION POINTS

- Does our corporate worship reflect holiness as much as zeal and passion?
- Confess ways in which we have tried to take shortcuts to spiritual awakening. Repent of any belief system which has placed temporary spiritual experiences above a life of daily devotion.