

2025 21 Days Devotional

Day 1 - The Winter is Past (Songs of Solomon 2:10-13 & Galatians 1)

In these verses, we see the lover coming to His beloved. He comes to rouse her from sleep, perhaps, or her inactivity, and to “arise” and “come away”. He describes a beautiful scene of a fresh season – the winter is past, the cold rains have come and gone, the earth is bursting with new life.

This is a beautiful picture of Jesus, the Lover of our souls, who comes to invite us, His beloved, into the new season that is upon us. He is bringing back to life the things that have gone to sleep and filling our hearts with the sounds of renewal just like when the cold barrenness of winter gives way to spring.

It is a call to arise. The lover calls his beloved to stir from her passivity, leave cozy familiarity, and step out into something new. In the same way, we need to respond as God calls us, to be willing to stir ourselves from passivity, and to leave the familiar behind, and be willing to step out into something new.

It is a call to let Him lead. The fruitfulness the lover describes to his beloved – the new season, the rains are gone, the blooming flowers, the chorus of birdsong, fruitful fig trees, fragrant grape vines – were experiences waiting outside her door. Yet, she would not experience any of it unless she responded and allowed Him to lead her out. In the same way, as we follow the Lord into the new season, we can trust that He is moving us on to better things.

It is a call to intimacy. The lover wanted to spend time with his beloved, He wanted her to enjoy him. Let us respond to this divine invitation to grow deeper in love with Jesus, to lean closer into Him and to know Him more. Let’s begin this new season by returning to our first love and to the Lover of our souls.

Reflection

In what areas of your life do you sense that God is doing a new thing? Or do you desire for Him to do a new thing?

What are some things that you need to leave behind – old habits, ways of thinking, preferences or relationships – in order to experience something new?

Prayer

Dear Lord, I say ‘yes’ to Your invitation to arise and follow You. Help me to leave behind my comforts and earthly securities. I choose to start this new season by returning to my first love for You.

Day 2 - Letting Go and Letting God Lead Us Forward (Isaiah 43:15-19 & Galatians 2)

I was packing my life into boxes, preparing to go to missions. During that season, I awoke one morning to the Holy Spirit's voice, telling me very specifically what to give away to whom. From my beloved collection of books, clothes, computer, and even my digital piano. When it was finally time to leave for missions, all my earthly possessions which were not in my luggage, were put away in a box of around 12 in. x 12 in.

Through the exercise of giving everything away, the Lord stripped me bare. He was helping me to detach myself from the 'old' identity and past experiences --- both successes and failures. It also brought me face to face with relationships that needed mending and people whom I needed to forgive so I could move on with Him. He was bringing me onto a fresh, clean slate.

When I arrived in the mission field, I had to make a conscious effort to not retrieve and use the memories as references. Instead, I had an awakened expectation that God was about to do something new. And He did not disappoint!

The passage we read begins with the Lord reminding Israel of who He is. Then He reminds them of the great deliverance He had brought them in the past – the parting of the Red Sea, the destruction of Egypt's armies. Then He told them to forget all that! Why? Because He was about to do something new, something never seen before. The tenses change to the future "I am about to... I have already begun... I will make... I will create...". The promise is for the future that has already begun. The invitation is to "see", to look with expectation at what He has already begun to do.

Reflection

What past experiences still define your walk with the Lord or still shape your identity? Make a list of those things and ask Him for a fresh start.

Are there past hurts you need to be released from and relationships you need to make right? Bring them before the Lord and release forgiveness from your heart.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to let go of past experiences – both my failures and successes that prevent me from moving forward with You. I open my heart to the new things You have for me in this new season.

Day 3 - Useful in the New Season (Galatians 3)

Do you believe in sharing your toothbrush? If you are like most people, the thought of sharing your toothbrush may disgust you! And certainly, most of us will never consider using our toothbrush to clean anything other than our own teeth! The toothbrush is something personal, not to be shared, and only for one purpose and one alone.

The Bible has words for this – “set apart” or “holy”. The Word of God tells us that as followers of Christ, we are to be holy. This means He wants our lives to be set apart for His use only. In 2 Timothy 2, to do this, we must do two things – doing either one or the other is not enough.

First, run away. Stay far away from things that can stimulate wrong desires; which are things contrary to what Jesus intends for us to think or do. Flee from youthful lusts and anything that can make us unclean.

Second, pursue. Run after righteous living, faithfulness, love and peace. Galatians 5:19-23 tells us the same idea in different words: we are to put off the works of the flesh, and then follow after the Holy Spirit and allow Him to develop His fruit in our lives.

Today let us ask God, as David did: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.”* (Psalm 51:10)

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to search us and reveal anything in our lives that does not please Him. Then let us admit our wrongs to Him and turn away from them. This opens the way for God to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). As we do that, we can expect Him to give us breakthroughs for stubborn habits, addictions, etc.

As we allow God to cleanse our hearts, we become honorable vessels fit for the Master’s use.

Reflection

What are things around you that stir up wrong desires? Determine to put these things away today.

Ask God to search and show you areas for you to make right. Repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing. Recommit your life to Him, to be a vessel fit for His use

Prayer

Lord, search my heart. Shine Your light into every corner of my heart, thoughts, desires, and even my possessions. Remove anything in my life that does not please You, so I can be useful for You, and give me a heart to obey You.

Day 4 - New Wine in New Wineskins (Mark 2:21-22 & Galatians 4)

Are you one of those people who enjoy new things? If you enjoy change, the word "new" is mostly exciting. But for those of us who do not like change, "new" is mostly stressful! But if we are honest, those times when we were willing to be stretched by new experiences usually led to seasons of growth. When I became a parent for the first time, I was stressed! Half the time, I was unsure if what I was doing was right, and there was no sending the baby back! Jokes aside, parenthood brought on a rapid season of growth which required me to dismantle many unhelpful ways of thinking and immediately replace them with new and helpful ones.

The analogy in Mark 2 that Jesus used is very apt. When new wine is being fermented, it releases gases. A new wineskin is pliable and can withstand the expansion caused by the gases. Putting new wine into old wineskin which is no longer pliable is asking for trouble. The expansion of fermenting gases will stress it beyond its breaking point, causing the old wineskin to burst, and both wine and skin will be lost.

In the same way, we cannot have a fresh experience of God with an old mindset.

Just like the ten spies who brought back a bad report of the Promised Land. God had new territories and conquests in mind for Israel but the ten spies saw themselves as grasshoppers and continued with their slavish mentality. Their actions brought about a great setback for their generation.

This is why the Bible tells us that our minds need to be constantly renewed by meditating on God's word.

As we step into a new season, we need a new mindset. Are we ready for a change?

Reflection

What are areas or circumstances of your life you feel will "never change"? Take some time to allow God to change your mindsets and perspective.

What are some new things that you can attempt for God or new ways you can serve Him in this New Year?

Prayer

God, renew my mind through Your word. Give me Your perspective, to look at my circumstances in a fresh way. Give me a new attitude, to serve You with courage. I am ready to learn, change and grow. Make me pliable Lord.

Day 5 - New Levels of Confidence (Galatians 5)

I used to be painfully shy as a child and feared speaking before groups of people. I believe one thing that enabled me to overcome this fear was being set free from a sense of rejection.

The psalmist David had similar battles with his inner life. He said in Psalm 27:10:

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.”

David, as a young boy, was not selected for presentation to the prophet Samuel. Therefore, it is expected of him to feel insecure, inferior and have a sense of rejection. Yet, we find David full of confidence when he faced a lion, a bear, Goliath and even a difficult king. What was his secret?

I believe it was spending time in the presence of God. He declared in Psalm 27:4 that the one thing he desired more than anything else was spending time with God.

Healing takes place in the presence of the Lord. As we spend time with God, we receive His healing and wholeness. In His presence, we can pour out our hearts and know that He hears and accepts us in spite of all our weaknesses. Then we can say, like David did: *“He restores my soul.”* (Psalm 23:3 NKJV)

Another factor that helps build our confidence levels in this new season is to know who we are in God. God has made us His own sons and daughters as well as His beloved.

As we receive these truths into our hearts, I believe we will walk with confidence like David. Then, we can go on to conquer our fears and past hurts. Also, we will be able to enter this new season with a greater level of confidence, knowing who our God is and who we are in Him.

Reflection

Take some time to thank God for healing you of your past hurts and insecurities. What are some emotional baggage that you still carry around that need healing?

Do you have the confidence that you are richly blessed, highly favored, and deeply loved?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for healing me emotionally and mentally, and making me whole. As I spend time in Your presence, continue to heal me of my insecurities. Help me understand and find confidence in my identity in You.

Day 6 - Drawing Near to God (Galatians 6)

Two completely different people who enter into a romantic relationship can become similar because of the time that they spend in each other's presence. The same can be said of our relationship with God. We grow to be more like Him as we spend time with Him.

I have always admired Daniel for the courage and conviction that he had in not compromising on his love for God. He did not stop having his regular prayer times, even at the risk of his own life.

"But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God." (Daniel 6:10)

Because Daniel believed and relied on God, he was preserved from all harm, and caused an entire nation to turn and worship God. This would not have happened if Daniel did not have a habit of consistently seeking God every day. Of equal importance is the *quality* of the time spent in God's presence.

What should I focus on during my times of prayer and worship? Is it simply a time where I bring my requests and needs to God? David's answer in Psalm 27:4 (NKJV) is that we simply worship and adore God in our times of prayer and worship: *"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."*

When we are before God, we can worship and enjoy Him for who He is. We can listen to His voice. We can also tell Him about our day and share with Him our joy as well as our concerns and needs. We will grow in our relationship with God as we spend quality time with Him.

Reflection

What makes it hard for you to spend time consistently with God each day?

How can you change your daily schedule to spend more time with God?

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for Your promise that as we draw close to You, You will draw close to us. Give us a new desire to be found in Your presence. Help us to become more like You in speech, thought, and deed.

Day 7 - Greater Spiritual Hunger (Philippians 4:8 & Ephesians 1)

A grandfather once told his grandson a tale about life – “A fight is going on inside me. It is a fight between two wolves. One is evil – he is angry, jealous, greedy and full of pride. The other is good – he is joyful, humble, patient, kind and full of compassion. The same fight goes on inside you, and inside every other person too.” The grandson pondered on what he had just heard, and asked: “Which wolf will win?” The grandfather simply replied: “The one you feed.”

This story is a picture of the constant battle that goes on within the life of each believer. Each day, we fight battles where we either give in to our sinful nature, or submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit within us. Just like the wolves in the story, the victor is often the one that we have fed. How then, do we feed our spirits?

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

In Colossians, Paul tells us that even as we have been given new life in Christ, we are to set our hearts and desires on the things of God, and those which concern the heart of God. This means that we love the things that God loves, and hate the things that God hates.

Do you find yourself losing the daily battle, and giving in to your sinful nature? Begin to think on God’s word and especially on the Scriptures that He has quickened to you. Meditate on these Scriptures, and let God show us how to make practical applications to our life. Go on to memorize God’s word. These practices of meditating on His Word and memorizing Scriptures can help us win our next battle.

Reflection

Take some time to evaluate your daily routine. List down the areas in your routine that does not feed your spiritual nature.

What are some practical steps you can take to purposefully grow in your hunger for the things of God?

Prayer

Dear God, I thank You because in You I have victory. Give me the strength and courage to surrender my whole life to You, and help me to set my heart and focus my desires on the things that are from You.

Day 8 - Loving the Spiritual Disciplines (1 Chronicles 16:29 & Ephesians 2)

Growing up, I hated running. I never could understand why some people enjoyed hitting the pavement ever so often. But as I grew older and went running more frequently, I began to appreciate the peace and serenity that was often associated with my evening runs. Gradually, I began to enjoy my evening runs that allowed me to spend time alone with God, and also kept me physically fit!

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV))

There are multiple demands on our time from the very moment we wake up in the morning. We often think that the quicker we complete our routine, the more rest we get at the end of the day. Ironically, trying to get through the day without first meeting with God causes us to feel a greater sense of weariness at the end of the day. The Bible promises that even as we dwell in God’s presence, we are renewed, refreshed and gain new perspectives. We also gain fresh revelation of who God is and what He wants to do in our lives, and receive strength to face the day’s challenges.

One key to enjoying your times of worship and prayer is to do it consistently. Start by removing the distractions that we typically encounter first thing in the morning. We can try putting away our smartphones and resist the urge to use it until we have spent time in God’s presence.

We may start with a sense of duty but as we move from discipline to delight, we realize that spiritual disciplines such as fasting, prayer, worship and reading His Word are means to daily encounters and greater intimacy with a personal God.

Reflection

What are some of the benefits of beginning your day in God’s presence?

How can you make small changes to your daily routine to develop a habit of seeking God first each day?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to regularly practice the spiritual disciplines that help me encounter You. Help me also to set aside every distraction and excuse to cultivate these healthy habits.

Day 9 - The Stretching of Faith (Isaiah 54:2-3 & Ephesians 3)

I was recently given my own room in my office. Previously, I worked in a shared space where my table was next to my colleague's and having any private conversation was nearly impossible. However, when I moved into my new room, I was at a loss as to what to do with all the space! I started sourcing for furniture, making plans on how to best utilize the space, and dreaming of how I wanted my room to look and feel.

With every new season, God wants to give us new room to grow. However, sometimes we enter a new season still planning and dreaming within the same limitations and boundaries as in the previous season. We find it hard to imagine anything beyond the limitations we had previously known. Just like Israel, we need to receive a revelation in our hearts that God is stretching our capacity, and that we can expect Him to do greater things!

Ephesians 3:20 says that our God is able to do *"infinitely more than we might ask or think"*. God is able to do even more than whatever we can imagine right now! Do we dare to ask God to remove our past limitations, and to give us greater things? We can start by asking God for the faith to ask for greater things!

We should prepare ourselves for the new things that God wants to bring. Let there be a 'yes' and a willingness in our hearts to go beyond our present, in line with what God is saying to us.

I believe responding in faith and in practical ways to what God is saying to us is the key to the increase in fruitfulness that is coming to us.

Reflection

What is the greatest thing you can imagine God giving you in this season? It could be for your own walk with Him, your family or ministry. Write it down in a journal.

Are there old limitations you can identify in the way you are making decisions today?

Prayer

Father, thank You that You always have greater things in store for me. Please remove the limitations I have towards these greater things. Reveal to me what You want to do in my life in this season, and grant me faith to receive it.

Day 10 - Growing Strong in Faith (Romans 4:20-21; James 2:17; Ephesians 4)

Waiting is usually not a fun experience. It could be in the grocery line, for our turn at the doctors, or for a difficult period at work or school to be over its fulfilment. We may have promises from God that we are believing for and even have already made plans for, but yet, have not seen even a glimpse of. During these times, our faith may grow weak, and the promise of God may become forgotten.

As we read today's verse, we see Abraham in such a situation. He had received a great promise from God, but for years did not see even a shadow of a possibility of the promise being fulfilled. Abraham was an ordinary man, and just like us, he faced doubts, questions and could have forgotten God's promise over time. However, the verse tells us that Abraham's faith endured, and in fact, grew stronger! Amazing! Abraham's faith grew because it was based on his implicit trust in the character and Person of God. Therefore, he was able to believe --- and believe again --- that God would do what He said He would.

Today, we can draw close to God and ask for a revelation of His greatness and His goodness to us again. As we gain a deeper understanding of the God of the promise, our faith will be stirred up and grow! For example, I always believed in God's ability to heal, but had not seen God use me to heal anyone before.

However, as I grew in my trust and understanding of the faithfulness of God, I saw Him give me a fresh authority and faith in praying for the sick. Just recently, I prayed for a girl whose appendix was infected, and indeed, the girl's appendix was then miraculously cleared of the infection! Faith is not alive until we act on God's word to us (James 2:17). As we take every opportunity to exercise our faith in God's word, we will see God move on our behalf!

Reflection

What are some aspects of God's character that you can focus on that can help you develop implicit trust in Him?

What are some opportunities you can take to exercise faith in God's word to you today?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your promises in my life. Grant me a fresh revelation of Your ability and willingness to fulfil Your word to us. Help me to believe in You, and to take every chance available to act on Your word!

Day 11 - Laying Hold of His Promises for Us (2 Corinthians 1:20 & Ephesians 5)

When I was growing up, one of the coolest things you could own was the complete collection of your favorite singer's albums. It meant the world to me when my parents would agree to buy the latest Hilary Duff album! I would count the days before we could go to a CD store, and I would remind my mother repeatedly that she had promised to buy the CD for me. I do not remember an instance when my parents did not come through on their promises to me.

We know our God is a good father, and He is faithful to the promises He has given us. God is ready to move us to a new dimension of faith today.

However, we often imagine God's promise to be "somewhere out there". We continue our daily routine with the understanding that God has given us specific promises, but we may not live like He is fulfilling His promises to us.

Challenges and discouragement must not be allowed to dim our hope in God's promises. The promises of God should be as real to us as if they were already fulfilled (Romans 4:21). I used to make "excuses" for God's promises when I did not see His promises of provision fulfilled in my life. However, when I decided I would wait expectantly for Him to come through, He enabled me to have all I had needed!

Some of us may be clinging on to God's promises for our healing. Some of us may be laying hold of His promises for loved one's salvation. Yet, others of us may be persevering in faith and hope for His promises to us in our ministries, careers or even our dreams. Keep believing!

Let us continue to claim God's promises in prayer, reminding Him of His promises to us. We can make decisions expecting that God is already working in our midst – because He is! Our God is not only the Maker of promises but He is also the Fulfiller of promises!

Reflection

List some of the promises God has made to you.

Are there any ways that you struggle to believe in God's promises? What are some decisions you would make differently if you are expecting God to fulfil His promises to you?

Prayer

Father, You are the Maker and the Fulfiller of Your promises. Help me to be like Abraham, who was completely convinced that You were able to do what You promised. Grant me faith to not just believe, but to act on Your promises.

Day 12 - Growing Strong in Hope (Joshua 14:10-11 & Ephesians 6)

As a child, I joined my school's Track and Field team as a runner. One of the most memorable moments of my time in Track and Field was when I participated in my first competition! Looking back, my race event probably only lasted less than five minutes, but at that time, it felt much longer than that. Nevertheless, it was the vision of winning and the hope of the finish line that kept me going. I will never forget how amazing it felt when I crossed the finish line knowing that I had done well!

Hope is the expectation of good in our lives and it helps us to finish well. My hope of the finish line kept me going for five minutes. Caleb held on to the promise of his inheritance in the Promised Land – hope kept him going for 45 years! Whether it is for five minutes or 45 years, hope keeps us believing and running our race.

As we navigate through our life on earth, sometimes we focus on the temporal things we face, and our short-sightedness robs us of our hope. Even as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, Caleb could have focused on the circumstances around him and allowed it to dampen his hope.

Instead, he set his sight on God's promise to Israel, and that hope and vision of his inheritance kept him physically and mentally strong at 85, just as he was 45 years ago! At the end of 45 years, he was hungry to take his inheritance, which Joshua gave to him!

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

The Bible tells us that God is our source of overflowing, confident hope. Let us ask God to fill us with His hope and to revive the dreams He has placed in our hearts, even those from many years ago.

Reflection

What are the dreams that God has placed in your heart? Ask God to pour fresh hope onto these dreams and revive them.

What are some things that can take away your hope in God's dreams for your life? How can you overcome these obstacles to have strong hope?

Prayer

God, You are my source of hope. You are faithful to fulfil every promise. I choose to fix my eyes on Your promises instead of the circumstances. Fill me with confident expectation in Your word and my future.

Day 13 – Fulfilling Your Destiny (Jeremiah 29:11-13 & Philippians 1)

For a season of my life, I worked as a teacher. Because of a desire to impact young lives, I derived much fulfilment in watching each child grow. While it was not uncommon to hear my peers complaining about dreading to go to work, I found that I looked forward to going to work every morning! My strong sense of purpose in what I was doing helped me overcome the challenges that I faced, and brought about great joy and fulfilment in my life.

We were created to live with purpose. As we discover God's purpose for our lives and walk in it, we will find great joy and meaning. Conversely, when we run away from God's purpose, we will be restless, unfulfilled and our disobedience can actually bring about storms around us.

Jonah knew God's purpose for his life but was afraid to submit to it, and that decision to run from God's purpose ended in a terrifying experience – being thrown overboard a ship in a storm and being stuck in the belly of a giant fish for three days! However, Jonah eventually chose to walk in God's purpose for him and the result of his obedience was powerful – an entire city was saved!

Like Jonah, we can resist walking into God's purpose for us because we are afraid to step out of our comfort zones and release control of our lives over to God. But when we recognize that God is worthy of our trust, we can surrender our lives to Him because He is good and His plans for us are to give us a future and a hope.

Even as we discover God's purpose for our life, choose to be willing to submit to what God wants us to do. There's no better joy than knowing that we are walking in the destinies that God has for us!

Reflection

Think about what God is requiring from you to step into in a new spiritual dimension. What are some reasons why you may resist fulfilling God's purpose?

What are some practical steps you can take to overcome your fears and live out God's purpose?

Prayer

Jesus, I thank You that You are good, and Your plan and purpose are always good. Show me Your plans for my life. Help me Lord, as I choose to submit to what You want me to do.

Day 14 - Fresh Infilling of His Spirit (Acts 1:8 & Philippians 2)

The verb 'be filled' here in the original Greek is in the continuous tense, implying that we need to be continuously filled with the Spirit of God.

At one time, Jesus likened the Holy Spirit to living water when He said, *“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”* (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.)” (John 7:37b-39a)

Though this empowerment is first received during the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there can be many subsequent infillings. All we need to do is wait on Him.

The New Testament disciples understood this. In Acts 4, some of the disciples, including Peter and John, were commanded not to witness in Jesus' name anymore or risk punishment. Their response was to come together to pray for boldness to continue to witness for Jesus. And the result was that they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word with boldness.

We are not to be daunted by obstacles or cease being witnesses for Jesus when threatened. Rather, let us continue to seek the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that we can continue to be a powerful witness for Him.

When we are consistently filled with the Spirit, we overflow with His power and wisdom. Just as Stephen was full of the Spirit, his opponents were unable to cope with the *“wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen was speaking.”* (Acts 6:10)

Let us continuously have the infilling of His Spirit in our lives. The rivers that flow from our innermost beings will quench the thirst of a lost and needy world around us.

Reflection

What steps can you take to seek the fresh infilling of the Spirit on a regular basis?

What are some obstacles that are stopping you from becoming a bold and consistent witness for Jesus in your life? How can you overcome these obstacles?

Prayer

God, thank You that You desire to fill us with Your Holy Spirit daily. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit, Your wisdom, and empowerment. I cry out for a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit, that I may continue to be a powerful witness for You.

Day 15 - There is Great Strength in Unity (Psalm 133;1 & Philippians 3)

Behind every successful organization or team lies a group of united individuals that are able to achieve something greater together than they ever could on their own.

“They all met together and were constantly united in prayer...” (Acts 1:14)

The New Testament church in the book of Acts recognized this and were committed to being united in love for one another as well as in their hearts and thinking. They were constantly meeting together as well. As they continued to meet, share and worship God together, they were greatly blessed by the Lord and enjoyed the goodwill of the people around them.

Commitment is something we have to choose and prioritize, and often involves sacrifice on our part. Just like team players who make decisions for the benefit of the collective rather than self, it takes humility and denying of our rights to build unity and harmony.

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

It is not easy to build unity in the body of Christ; that is why we need to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There might be internal and external factors that seek to divide us, but with Christ in us, we have the capacity to exercise grace and understanding to work together for a common cause.

As we enter this new season, let us aim to be peacemakers and instruments of God to bring about unity in the body of Christ. A people who are united are difficult to stop.

Reflection

What attitudes ought to be cultivated in order to keep the unity in the bond of peace?

What are some differences that are needed to reconcile as we work towards fostering unity in our church?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to grow in our ability to bring reconciliation and peace in the body of Christ. Give us a spirit of humility and forbearance towards one another and a greater level of unity in our church and among the churches in our nation.

Day 16 - **Operating in God's Power (Mark 16:17-18 & Philippians 4)**

Most electronic devices today require a certain voltage and even the correct cable head to charge! Try charging an iPhone with a micro-USB cable or an imitation cable that cannot give enough power. You are likely to get an error message saying, "Connected charger incompatible with this phone", or "This accessory may not be supported".

Similarly, we cannot operate fully in the gifts and power that comes with the Holy Spirit if we are not plugged in or connected with our Source! God has given us many ways to stay connected with Him --- praying, reading His Word, waiting on Him, etc.

We need to realize that it is in the going forth in His name to be His witnesses that we can see His power demonstrated. God's anointing on us, is to be utilized in the neighborhoods and in the communities, where needs are abundantly present.

Jesus used His anointing as He went about in His community to do good works, as Acts 10:38 tells us: *"And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."*

As children of God, we need to proclaim and declare His Word with faith that His Word is able to do what it says. As we declare God's word boldly over obstacles, we can expect God to confirm His Word with signs and wonders. As we lay hands on the sick, let us do so believing that the sick will recover.

God wants to demonstrate this love and power to this world through His church. Let us arise and go in His name and authority to do the impossible - for with God, all things are possible.

Reflection

What are some things God wants to do supernaturally through you that you are trying to do in your own strength?

What are some ways you can minister to the needs of your community and share the good news in your neighborhood?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, I ask today for a new level of boldness and faith. Give me the courage and desire to step out in faith to operate in the gift of healing, the gift of faith, and the gift of the working of miracles.

Day 17 - Fighting the Good Fight (1 Timothy 6:12; Isaiah 54:17; James 1)

We are able to fight the good fight with spiritual weapons such as those described in Ephesians 6:14-17: “[Put] on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Some practical ways in which we can put on the full armor of God are:

1. **Belt of Truth** – Keep ourselves in the truth of God’s word by starting the day reading, memorizing and meditating on His Word.
2. **Body Armor of Righteousness** – Our integrity and purity flow from our hearts. Let us fight to keep our thoughts and emotions pure.
3. **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace** – Be at peace with one another and be prepared to share the Gospel with whoever we meet.
4. **Sword of the Spirit** – Allow the Holy Spirit to take the word of God in us and make it come alive to us so that we can use it as an offensive weapon against the lies and attacks of the enemy.
5. **Shield of Faith** – Our faith helps us navigate our belief in God. When challenges come our way, feed our faith and starve our doubts.
6. **Helmet of Salvation** – The most important thing is that we have an assurance of our salvation. Continually let Christ renew our mind so that we can be secure in Him and His salvation.

It is easy to be caught up in waves of emotions, struggles, and frustrations when we face difficult circumstances. But God has promised that we fight from a place of victory and no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

Reflection

Is there any area in our life that we constantly find ourselves struggling with?

Which particular piece or pieces of the armor of God do we need to utilize more than the other pieces in our spiritual battle today?

Prayer

Dear God, I pray against the attacks of the enemy and stronghold that stops me from stepping into the victory. I pray that You will strengthen me with boldness to fight for I know that You have already won this victory.

Day 18 - Strong When We Are Weak (2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26 & James 2)

Most of us have strengths that we are proud and assured of, but we also tend to shy away or hide the areas that we are weak in. Even the Apostle Paul, who experienced one of the most dramatic conversions, preached salvation to the Gentiles, and who wrote the majority of the New Testament had struggles. He faced a challenge that he begged God to take away. Each time the response of the Lord was, *"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

Having weaknesses can make us feel insecure, uncertain, and fearful. But these "thorns" in us are more than mere inconveniences. They draw us to depend on God, so that He can work in and through us, doing only the things He can do. If we only know how to depend on our own strengths, we are missing out on a whole lot of supernatural power that God wants to give us!

The very things in our lives that seem to cripple us (e.g. sins, weaknesses, failures) are the very things we can overcome because of Christ. May we learn Paul's perspective on this matter: *"That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* (2 Corinthians 12:10)

When we received Christ into our lives, many of us were not wise, powerful or wealthy in the world's eye (1 Corinthians 1:26). Our confidence in drawing near to God is always based on His grace, never on our ability or performance.

We might have spent years building on our strengths, and these are achievements we can be proud of - but let us step into this new year learning how to be assured of God's strength and grace flowing to help us in our weaknesses. It is a sure fact that when we are weak, our God in us is strong.

Reflection

What were some weaknesses in your life that turned into strengths as you gave them over to the Lord?

What are you struggling with today? Take some time to commit them to the Lord and allow Him to empower you in these areas.

Prayer

Dear Lord, I commit to depend more on You in all areas this year. I commit to surrender my weaknesses to You and choose to not be ashamed of my weaknesses because You can turn those weaknesses into strengths.

Day 19 - Increasing in Wisdom (Luke 2:40-52 & James 3)

A significant portion of the Bible talks about wisdom and how important it is for us as believers to seek her out.

In this simple account that sums up the early years of Jesus' life, the Bible puts a spotlight on Jesus growing in wisdom. Well certainly, one may presuppose, wisdom must come to Jesus naturally since He is God and God is all-knowing. Yet, the narrative reveals that Jesus was not only filled with wisdom, He also grew in wisdom (kept increasing and advancing) in very practical ways.

Jesus' hunger for wisdom positioned Him amongst the teachers of the law in the temple, where he listened to them and asked them questions (Luke 2:46). Similarly, we can start this quest by cultivating a spirit of inquiry and a hearing ear to God and other wise people.

Every day in this new season, there will be opportunities and situations for which we can seek the Lord for His wisdom. Like Jesus, we can also gain valuable insights from other wise people by initiating conversations and asking questions.

We can ask the Holy Spirit for His guidance in our daily decisions for He is the Spirit of counsel and wisdom.

We can glean wisdom from the Bible and especially from the Book of Proverbs which contains many insights and wisdom for our daily lives.

Just as Jesus needed to learn and grow in wisdom, we likewise need to do so.

Reflection

How can we seek out God's wisdom for the decisions we need to make?

Who are the people in your life that can give you godly counsel? Be intentional to involve them in your decision-making.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to learn from You. Help me to associate with wise people and learn from them. Help me also to constantly return to You on matters that I need wisdom on and wait on You for the answers that I need.

Day 20 - Endowed with Supernatural Favor (Psalms 147:11; Psalms 5:12 & James 4)

Having the favor of God in our lives is having the Lord delight in us, and that, as revealed in Psalms, begins with the fear of the Lord. To fear God is to 'love what God loves, and hate what He hates', and letting every decision we make about our speech, our conduct, and our lifestyle stem from that. That being said, sometimes the fear of man and the desire to court their favor, can cause us to compromise on living a life that pleases Him.

We know from Jesus' life that He would never compromise on the ways of God for the purpose of pleasing people. Instead, the Bible teaches us that as we seek to please God in all we do, He would *"surround [us] with [His] shield of love."* (Psalm 5:12b)

I love how the verse describes His favor as a shield, signifying the supernatural protection of God in situations that in the natural, should not work out in our favor. It is the favor of God that can turn our situations around as I have experienced first-hand.

My new superior had a reputation of being intolerant of mistakes to all; even newbies. She had exceptionally high expectations because we had received prior training. On the first day of work, I was afraid that she would eat me up alive. Hence, I found myself pleasantly surprised to find her extremely patient with me; willing to guide me where I lacked.

Looking back, I can only say it was truly the favor of God at work! It started with a decision not to only work to please or constantly worry about stepping on her toes. Instead, my purpose was to work as unto the Lord – having integrity, a humble and willing spirit, and a pursuit of excellence that would please Him. Truly, there is nothing like walking in the favor of God!

Reflection

What are some experiences where you gave in to the fear of man or you stood firm and received God's favor?

What are some godly convictions you need to develop in order to have an uncompromising lifestyle?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give me the strength, courage and wisdom that I need to walk in the fear of the Lord. Remove the fear of man from my life and I ask that I may continue to walk in increased favor with God and with man in this new season.

Day 21 - Turning Challenges into Blessings (Psalms 84:5-7 & James 5)

The idiom 'to bury one's head in the sand' originated from the supposed habit of ostriches hiding their heads in the sand when faced with attacks by predators. The notion is that the ostrich seems to believe that if it cannot see its attacker, then the attacker cannot see it. What a comical sight that must be!

Well, it will be silly to think that Christianity gives us immunity from hard times just as the sand does to the ostrich. God has called us to trust Him for the strength needed to get through that Valley of Weeping (Psalm 84:5-6). Not to escape, or go another route, but to get through it. As we choose to rely solely on Him, our valley experiences become a place of significant growth and victory!

In the valley, we grow deeper in our understanding of God as a comforter who never leaves us nor forsakes us. We learn of His provision and grace as we get through those hard times. Our faith grows as we experience His might and power working in and through our situations.

If we have not made the most of our valley experiences, we can choose to do so in this new season. Watch how God will not only see us through our challenges, but also heal us of our hurts and disappointments. In this way, our hurts can be turned around for His redemptive purposes in bringing healing to others.

Finally, I thought you would like to know, that ostriches do not actually bury their heads in sand to avoid their attackers. Instead, they lower their heads into the sand to feed, to be resourced, to draw the strength they need to fight or take flight should a predator attack. Likewise, Christians should draw from God as they face or go through valley experiences and in so doing, they emerge victorious.

Reflection

Review how you have always been responding to difficult times in your life.

In this new season, what is one practical thing you want to change about the way you respond to challenges?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that I can look back in my life and say that You have never once failed me. Today, I declare that I will choose to trust in You no matter the circumstances and rely solely on You to give me strength.