

31 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 2020



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Welcome to 31 Days of Prayer and Fasting!

Join us as our church family comes together during the month of October to seek our Father's face. We seek His will and His way for our individual lives, for our church, and for our community. Psalm 127:1 says, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."* We are asking our Almighty God and Father to build His house and to watch over His church. May He make it into what He wants it to be, and to Him be all the honor and glory.

Please use this prayer and fasting guide as a starting point in your own daily prayer time. We have allotted each Saturday as a time of corporate fasting as a church. Allow God to use the Scripture, ideas, and prayers in this book to guide you as you seek His heart in prayer for our church family and our community.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

What is Fasting?

"Fasting must always have a spiritual purpose — a God centered purpose, not a self-centered one —for the Lord to bless our fast." Donald Whitney

John 6:33-35 - Jesus said, "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. ³⁴They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jesus often referred to Himself as bread and water. Do you hunger for God as much as you do for food? Does a day without time with God affect you the way a day without food does?

The Bible defines fasting as the abstinence from food for spiritual purposes. Fasting in Scripture always focuses on food. But fasting does not need to be limited to food. We can fast from anything that takes our attention away from God. What things in our lives do we feel it would be impossible to give up? What things seem to take away our attention from God? Fasting is an issue of sacrificing something for the purpose of focusing on something greater.

TYPES OF FASTS:

- Normal Fast - abstaining from all food, but not water (Matthew 4:2)
- Partial Fast - limitation of the diet, but not from all food (Daniel 1:12)
- Absolute Fast - avoidance of all food and liquid (Ezra 10:6, Acts 9:9)
- Supernatural Fast - God's supernatural intervention into the bodily process (Deut. 9:9, 1 Kings 19:8)
- Private Fast - fasting in a way not noticed by others (Matt. 6:16-18)
- Congregational Fasts - (Joel 2:15-16)
- National Fasts - (2 Chronicles 20:3, Nehemiah 9:1)
- Regular Fast - under the Old Covenant on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29-31)
- Occasional Fast - Special occasions or when the need arises (Matt. 9:15)

1. Fasting is EXPECTED. (Matthew 6:16-17)

2. Fasting is done for a PURPOSE.

- To strengthen prayer
 - (Fasting does not change God's hearing as much as it changes our praying)
- To seek God's guidance (Acts 14:23)
- To express grief (1 Samuel 20:34)
- To seek deliverance or protection (2 Chronicles 20:3-4, Esther 4:16)
- To express repentance and the return to God (Joel 2:12, Jonah 3:5-8)
- To humble oneself before God (1 Kings 21:27-29)
- To express concern for the work of God (Nehemiah 1:3-4)
- To minister to the needs of others (Isaiah 58:6-7)

- To overcome temptation and dedicate yourself to God (Matt. 4:1-11)
 - To express love and worship to God (Luke 2:37, Zechariah 7:5)
3. Fasting is about waging war on an inward and outward battle.
- Inward for our own desires and affections, appetites.
Outward for kingdom advancement globally.

Day 1: Thursday, October 1

Luke 6:41-42

[Jesus said,] “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.”

We begin our focus on prayer and fasting by opening our own hearts before the Father and asking Him to purify and change us individually. We will focus on dealing with the “logs” in our own eyes so we can be better prepared to minister to those around us.

Prayer:

Father, I ask that you work in my own heart so that I may be a clean vessel through which You can flow. Reveal and uproot anything in my life that is not of You. Capture my heart and mind and bring me to my knees before God Almighty. Strip away anything that is not of You, so that all that is left is Jesus. Give me the courage and strength to face truth about myself, because only the truth will set me free. Make me desperate for You - for Your presence, Your Word, and Your holiness. May Your perfect and complete will be done in my life.

Day 2: Friday, October 2

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 51 is a psalm of David, written when he was confronted about his sin with Bathsheba by Nathan the prophet. We see David's brokenness and contriteness before God Almighty as he faces the reality of his failures. As you pray the words of Psalm 51 today, ask God to refine and restore your own heart as you seek to be a clean vessel through which He can work.

Prayer: Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Day 3: A Day of Corporate Fasting Saturday, October 3

Ezra 8:21-23

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek Him, and the power of His wrath is against all who forsake Him." So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty.

"If you say "I will fast when God lays it on my heart," you never will." - D.L. Moody

"Feed prayers on fasting." - Tertullian

Pray:

May we humble ourselves individually and corporately as brothers and sisters in Christ as we seek His will for our lives, our families and our church.

Day 4: Sunday, October 4

Psalm 33:22

Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Jesus commanded, "...If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Spend some time before the throne of grace and ask God to show you if there are things in your life that need to be reconciled.

Prayer: Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24

O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!

Day 5: Monday, October 5

Habakkuk 2:20 The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Proverbs 2:6-11 The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.

Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Today let us pray for those who have been appointed to do the hands-on search for our pastor.

Prayer:

Lord, give the pastor search committee an extra measure of wisdom and discernment. Fill them with Your knowledge and understanding. Let this group of men and women be void of their own pre-conceived ideas and prejudice. Let Your Holy Spirit lead and guide this team as they move out of Your way and seek Your man for this position. May they unmistakably hear Your voice behind them saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Day 6: Tuesday, October 6

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places.

God is faithful and trustworthy. No matter what is happening around us, we can rest in His unfailing faithfulness. In the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11, we see example after example of God's people showing faith and courage in the face of seemingly impossible circumstances. And in spite of their constant imperfections, God in His mercy honored their faith in Him. May we follow the same example in our own lives.

Prayer:

Give us, O Lord, the unrivaled faith and courage that You gave to that great cloud of witnesses we read about in Hebrew's Hall of Faith. Forgive the times we fail to trust in Your unfailing love and faithfulness. Increase our faith and teach us to trust You always.

Day 7: Wednesday, October 7

Psalm 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Lord, in the absence of a pastor in our church, You have raised up men who have delivered your Word faithfully. Thank you for their faithfulness. In this time of transition, as we seek the man You have planned for us, we lift our eyes to You, the God who made heaven and earth. You are the source of our help and direction.

Prayer:

Father, we don't know when Your man will come. The time is not for us to know right now. But, without a doubt, we know that in Your time the person we are waiting for will arrive and we will rejoice. In the meantime, let us stay focused on preparing ourselves. Are we serving with clean hands and pure hearts? Help us be about our Father's business as we wait.

Day 8: Thursday, October 8

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

There are many good and right things for which we want and have a deep desire. But Jesus' statement is much deeper and spiritual. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is first a personal matter, and then a collective goal. Righteousness, however, is more than a matter of keeping the commandments and following the rules. It is a matter of the heart. May we have a heart's desire for the righteousness that is by faith.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Your Word is very specific about unrighteousness; it is envy, unforgiveness, prejudice, gossip, and speaking words that do not edify others. As we inspect the closets of our minds, please show us our unrighteousness and help us clean house. Most of all, show us that Your righteousness is all we have, all else is rubbish.

Day 9: Friday, October 9

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to Me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Aren't you excited to find out what God has in store? In Jeremiah, 33:3, God invites us first to talk to Him about whatever is on our minds. Then He goes even further and says He will tell us “great and hidden things.” What kind of things? Things we are clueless about. Beyond our imagination! Meditate on this passage and listen to what God will share with you.

Prayer:

Your Word is thrilling, Lord! Deepen our desire to read and hear Scripture. It is, after all, Your love letter to us. May we treasure it and hide it in our hearts. Open our hearts to see the great and hidden things You want to reveal to us through Your Word.

Day 10: A Day of Corporate Fasting Saturday, October 10

Joel 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.” - Andrew Murray

Pray

May we repent and return to God, our first love. May we remember His sacrifice to rescue and restore us to Him.

Day 11: Sunday, October 11

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Proverbs 1:33 Whoever listens to Me will dwell secure and be at ease, without dread of disaster.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

As Richard Wurmbbrand was blindfolded, sitting in the back of a car as he was being taken to a Russian prison, he said that he had memorized 366 passages of Scripture about not being afraid. He had every reason to be terrified! Yet he mused that it was a leap year so he had a verse for every day of the year. He spent 3 years in that prison for the crime of relentlessly preaching the gospel.

What fears would keep you from perfect peace? Take time to examine your thoughts. Meditate on Scriptures concerning fear and allow God's Word to replace your fear with peace.

Prayer, Psalm 27:1:

Lord, You are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
You are the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 12: Monday, October 12

Philippians 1:3-6

I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

In this passage, Paul explains how he faithfully prays for the people in the Philippian church. Do we do the same for our own church family? What if we picked up our church directory, or went through our phone contacts, and prayed for the people we see there? What a joy it should be to bring our brothers and sisters in Christ before our Father in heaven!

Prayer:

God, thank you for the privilege of being a part of your family. Help me to love my brothers and sisters well and guide me as I pray for them.

Day 13: Tuesday, October 13

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

Think about the day that you were “raised with Christ”. Since that great day, each of us should be seeking those things where Jesus is. Our minds should be fixed on things in heaven and not the earthly things.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to focus on things above! We want more days, weeks, and years filled with the joy we feel when our hearts are in tune with You. Draw us close, Lord, and keep us from being distracted by the things of this world.

Day 14: Wednesday, October 14

Colossians 3:3-4

For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

What an astounding phrase: “You died.” Yes, you put off the old man. Now your new life is hidden safely with Jesus Messiah, Christ, God with us.

Paul tells us that Jesus is our life, we are not our own. We have been ransomed, bought, and we belong to Him. And one day we will be with Him in all His glory.

Prayer:

Lord, until the day of Your return, help us dig deep into Your Word. Help us apply the Scripture to ourselves, because we know it is for our comfort that you gave us Your Word. Remind us that we are safe with You, come what may.

Day 15: Thursday, October 15

1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Who are we? How do we identify ourselves? By belonging to an organization – a fraternity, a team, a prayer group? A denomination? A church?

1 Corinthians 12:12 reminds us that we don't belong to the church; we ARE the church. Jesus Christ established the church; He is the head, we are His body.

What an honor! And what a responsibility. We are to be of one mind. This must be done prayerfully, seeking Christ's will, uniting our hearts together.

Prayer:

Lord, we come as Your body, seeking Your will in our lives and the life of our church. Draw us closer to You and to each other. Where there is discord, grant us unity. Where there is hatred, sow love among us. Ignite revival among us and use this body to draw people to You.

Day 16: Friday, October 16

Colossians 3:8-10, 12-14

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

These words from Paul to the Colossian church show us what Christlike love should look like. Imagine the impact our church would have if we truly loved each other and our community this way. Oh, that we would demonstrate this kind of love to our families, neighbors, church family, and community.

Prayer:

Lord, what a mighty God You are. Thank you that nothing is impossible with You. Help us to love those around us the way You ask us to. Where we fail miserably, give us the strength and ability to do better.

Day 17: A Day of Corporate Fasting Saturday, October 17

Matthew 6:16-18

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

“Why do we fast as disciples of Jesus? Because our souls feast on the glory of God. Fasting is an external expression of an internal reality. When we fast for a meal or a day or a week, we remind ourselves that more than our stomachs long for the pleasure of food, our souls long for the presence of God. We are satisfied in Him and by Him in a way that nothing in this world can compare to – not even the basic daily necessity of food. Fasting makes sense as a discipline in the Christian life only if it is connected with desire for Christ. When we fast, we say, “More than we want our hunger to cease, we want your Kingdom to come!” - David Platt

Pray:

May we through our time of fasting grow in our love and admiration to a Holy God. Don't fast for attention or recognition. Fast to draw nearer to God and rely on Him on deeper levels than you have before.

Day 18: Sunday, October 18

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God: your sanctification.

We often pray for God's will. We pray that those we love have happy marriages, good jobs, and Herculean health. We pray that God protect our children from every manner of discomfort. God certainly invites us to lay all our requests before Him. But what does Paul say to the Thessalonians? He says that God's will for us is our sanctification. Being sanctified means set apart, different, special. God desires that we be set apart for Him - for His plans and His will in our lives. May that be our prayer as well.

Prayer:

Lord, give us Your desires and Your heart for those around us. May we focus on Your will for our lives – our sanctification. Set us apart, Lord. Make us different; may we be Your light in a very dark world.

Day 19: Monday, October 19

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers, loved by God, that He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

What love Paul had for the Thessalonian church! He was faithful to preach the Word, and the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit confirmed God's presence and work. We are grateful for our own pastors who have faithfully preached the Word over the years. God has blessed our church and has been with us, carrying us when it seemed from the outside like we were going it alone.

Prayer:

Lord, we are ever grateful for Your hand on this church throughout the years. Thank you for Your amazing legacy of faithfulness as we move forward in faith.

Day 20: Tuesday, October 20

Psalm 86:6-7

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.

What confidence David had as he prayed! In times when we feel unsettled and adrift, God's precious promises will comfort and reassure us.

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Hebrews 13:5-6 He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Genesis 15:1 The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield and your very great reward."

Prayer

Lord, we are ever grateful for your promises. May our minds have the capacity to hold them and bring them to memory as we need Your comfort. Thank you for loving us, unworthy as we are. Your grace is amazing!

Day 21: Wednesday, October 21

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Psalm 119:33-35, 66

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

In Proverbs 29:18, vision is connected to keeping the law. God wants us to know His Word intimately. He desires that we observe His commands with our whole heart. We learn knowledge and good judgement through the wisdom of the Word. Through the study of the Word, we also learn God's heart and vision for His church. May we as a church body seek His vision for our lives and for our church.

Prayer:

Father, give us a hunger and a passion for Your Word. Knit our hearts together and give us minds of one accord. We seek Your vision for the lives and our church. Thank You for bringing us together as a body.

Day 22: Thursday, October 22

John 10:10-11, 14-15

[Jesus said:] “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own, and My own know Me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

In Henry Blackaby’s book “Experiencing God”, he makes these points:

- God is always at work around you.
- God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
- God invites you to become involved with Him and His work.

“He loves, He desires that no one should perish. His work is to draw people to Himself.”

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for being our Good Shepherd. Give us ears to hear Your voice in the midst of the din around us. Thank you that You are with us and that You desire a personal and loving relationship with us. May we respond to Your invitation to join You in Your work. Thank You, Lord, for Your mercy and love when we fall short.

Day 23: Friday, October 23

Exodus 14:13-14

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be silent."

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He **ON PURPOSE** led them into an impossible situation – the Red Sea before them and the Egyptians behind them – in order to demonstrate His faithfulness and trustworthiness. This is one of many times God intentionally put His people into impossible situations in order to prove to them that He is forever faithful and trustworthy.

In "Experiencing God", Henry Blackaby says that God's invitation to you to work with Him always leads to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

It is only in the impossible situations – where God is the only way out – that we can come to truly understand that He is forever trustworthy and faithful.

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to trust You. Show us Your power and Your faithfulness. May we totally and completely lean on You and none other.

Day 24: A Day of Corporate Fasting Saturday, October 24

Matthew 4:2

After fasting forty days and forty nights, He [Jesus] was hungry.

“I want to insist that, contrary to popular opinion, fasting is not the suppression of desire but the intense pursuit of it. We fast because we want something more than food. We say No to food for a season only to fill ourselves with something far more tasty, far more filling, far more satisfying. That is to say, if one suppresses the desire for food it is only because he or she has a greater and more intense desire for something more precious – something of eternal value.” - Sam Storms

Pray:

May this day of fasting draw us into an even greater hunger for God's will to be done in our lives and in our church. May the desires we have today for food, entertainment, technology, social media or anything else you may fast from fade away so that our desire for Jesus may grow more and more.

Day 25: Sunday, October 25

Romans 21:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul is appealing to his fellow believers in Christ to give themselves completely to the work and will of God. We are to fill our minds with things above, not things of this world, so we will be able to discern the will of God.

Prayer:

God, we present ourselves to you. Show us where You are at work and we will join you. May we be ready to offer our lives as living sacrifices to You.

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moment and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Day 26: Monday, October 26

Psalm 119:10

With my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments!

How do we know we are being led by God? When we yield our hearts to God and seek Him wholeheartedly. His desires become our desires. Our steps are in sync with Him. In other words, we have the mind of Christ. How important it is to spend time learning His will and His ways in the Word. Let us never wander from being firmly rooted and grounded in the commandments of God.

Prayer:

With all our heart, mind, and soul we seek You, Lord. Keep us from wandering from Your commandments. As we go about our daily lives, let us keep Your Word in the front of our thoughts. May there never be a circumstance when Scripture does not pop into our thoughts.

Day 27: Tuesday, October 27

Matthew 9:35-38

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

In Matthew 9: 38, Jesus tells His disciples to pray that the Lord "send out laborers into His harvest." Notice what happens in the next chapter. In chapter 10, Jesus sends out those same twelve disciples to be the very laborers they prayed for. The point is this: When we pray for a harvest, we better be ready to work!

Prayer:

Lord, You are God over all things. We pray for those who are separated from You whether by ignorance or willfulness. Bring them to a saving knowledge of You. Give us willing hearts to do the part You have prepared for us from the foundation of the earth in promoting Your kingdom.

Day 28: Wednesday, October 28

Acts 26:16-18

[Jesus said,] “I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen in Me and what I will show you...I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

When Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Jesus sent him into a lost world for the purpose of sharing the good news of salvation. From that moment on, Paul had a single-minded passion for fulfilling his calling.

How much do we care about the lost people around us? Do we share Paul's passion to reach them with the amazing love and grace God provides? Do we care enough to get uncomfortable? To move out of our comfort zones? May God give us His heart for the lost, dying, and hurting.

Prayer:

Lord, break our hearts with what breaks Yours. Let us be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Open up doors of opportunity for us to share our faith, to bring people to this wonderful community of believers. Thank You for the mighty ways You will use us.

Day 29: Thursday, October 29

2 Chronicles 7:14

If My people who are called by My Name humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles is a conditional promise. God says, "IF..."

- If My people humble themselves...
- If they pray...
- If they seek My face...
- If they turn from their wicked ways...

Each of us carries the responsibility of this verse. Am I truly humble in my attitudes toward God and others? Do I pray? Do I diligently seek the face of Almighty God? Am I willing to face the reality of my wicked ways and turn from them? God promises that when we turn our hearts to Him in humility and contriteness, He will hear and forgive and heal.

Prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for Your mercy and Your grace! Thank You for the blood of Jesus that covers my failures and shortcomings. Teach me to be humble. Put in my heart a passion to pray and to seek Your face. Show me my wicked ways that I may repent before You. May I become more Christlike every day.

Day 30: Friday, October 30

Ezekiel 11:19-20

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow My decrees and be careful to follow My laws. They will be My people, and I will be their God.”

Isaiah 54:10

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken or My covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Oh, the faithfulness and compassion of our God! No matter how far His people wander, no matter how hard-hearted they become, He will always forgive and always restore when they turn back to Him. He is always waiting, searching longingly for the prodigal son to come home and will always welcome him with open arms.

Prayer:

Revive us, O Lord. Forgive our selfishness, stubbornness and rebellion. Remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. Give us undivided hearts that are fully and solely devoted to You. Thank You for Your unfailing love and Your covenant of peace.

Day 31: A Day of Corporate Fasting

Saturday, October 31

Acts 13:3

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

“In Shansi I found Chinese Christians who were accustomed to spend time in fasting and prayer. They recognized that this fasting, which so many dislike, which requires faith in God, since it makes one feel weak and poorly, is really a divinely appointed means of grace. Perhaps the greatest hindrance to our work is our own imagined strength; and in fasting we learn what poor, weak creatures we are - dependent on a meal of meat for the little strength which we are so apt to lean upon.” - Hudson Taylor

Pray:

May we seek God's direction for what He desires for us. It would seem that the church here fasted for guidance from the Holy Spirit. They didn't know what to do next, but they ached for God's direction. May we hunger like the New Testament church in our desire as we look to God's guidance for our lives and our church.