THE GENERATIONS

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

Psalm 145:4

21 Day Spiritual Journey

6:30 AM Daily Prayer Guide

What Happens When the Church Prays? Acts 12:1-17. When the church prays; chains are broken, yokes are destroyed, and God delivers His people from the hands of the enemy. Our daily prayer focus will center on specific concerns within our church and community.

Everyone can join in this monumental time of faith, formation and future in our church.

Instructions:

Begin by reading and meditating on Acts 12:1-17. Each morning read the daily scripture referenced, then pray the prayer focus for each day and ask God what you should give toward building the new church building. Concentrate on the positive results, and your spiritual growth. Watch and experience what God does "when the church prays."

MONDAY - Family - Mark 5:19

Thank the Lord for working in your family. Claim salvation by calling the names of family members who are not saved. Pray for forgiveness and healing over past hurts or sins within the family. Intercede for families in our church.

TUESDAY - Community - Psalm 133:1-3

Pray for the city of Huntsville, and the communities surrounding the North and South Campuses. Ask God for healing; racially, economically, and educationally. Pray for a spirit of repentance and revival in our church and community.

WEDNESDAY - Evangelism - Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 9:35-38

Pray for The Lord to send more laborers to reap the harvest of souls in our midst. Pray for a spirit of evangelism in our church and that we will be committed to making disciples for Jesus Christ. Create an evangelism prayer list of at least three names of people to be saved.



THURSDAY - Building Project - Haggai 1:1-9

Pray that we will be strengthened by God to build "His house." Pray for supernatural financial provisions. Pray for supernatural ability for every worker and person affiliated with the project. Pray that God will tell me what my financial gift should be toward building the new church building.

FRIDAY - Leaders - Hebrews 13:7-17

Petition God for wisdom and favor for our church leaders (clergy and laity). Pray for blessings and protection thanking God for those who serve us. Ask God to continue to send forth more committed leaders.

SATURDAY - Needs - Phil. 4:19, 20

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness in supplying all of our needs. Present your personal request, supplications and petitions to God. Sing a song of thanksgiving and praise to Him.

SUNDAY - Worship - 1 Chronicles 16:23-31 Invite the Holy Spirit into our church worship

services. Arrive early and participate in prayer before worship. Ask God to bless the choir, musicians, audio, ushers, greeters, worship leaders and the pastor's message. Trust the Lord for adding to the church. Praise Him during worship for answered prayers.

As a result of our willingness and commitment to prayer and fasting, we WILL see God, break chains, destroy yokes, move mountains, and deliver His people. God will take us to a new level of faith as we believe Him for supernatural favor on our jobs, in our homes, our community and our church. The church in the book of Acts couldn't believe that God had answered their prayers to release Peter from prison. Let us learn from them and believe God with mountain moving faith to do the impossible. By faith we believe it, by faith we declare it, and it is so!



Wednesday Noon or Wednesdy Evening Prayer Focus

Each week during the 21 Days the focus is on a central issue(s), or concern(s) that is significant to the life of the church and membership. This does not preclude praying for other things; however, we are asking that these be a part of our prayer time at church.

Week 1: Finances (church and personal), Needs

- -Pray for the finances of St. Mark Church.
- -Pray that God will supply all of the financial needs of the church and use His heavenly resources to enable us to overcome the mountain that is before us.
- -Pray for a spirit of generous giving in the people of God and that God will open the windows of Heaven and pour out blessings.

Week 2: Discipleship, Worship, and Community

- -Pray that God will raise up disciples and send more laborers to reap the harvest of souls in our midst.
- -Pray for a spirit of discipleship and worship within our church as we go and make disciples for Jesus Christ and transform our world.
- -Pray that we will be a beacon of light, that draws people to Jesus Christ.
- -Pray for authenticity in our worship and that our experience will be fulfilling.

Week 3: Leadership, Families

- -Pray that God will raise up leaders after His own heart. Leaders who commit to the work of the church and to seeing the will and vision of God done in this eternal now.
- -Pray that families will be restored and reconciled and will come together once again.



Blessing Your Family

- 1. One day a week for the next 21 days have a meal with your family.
- 2. At the end of the meal, the head of the family will pray over and bless each member.
- 3. Scripture for blessing family members:
- (a) Numbers 6:24-26: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
- (b) Boys Genesis 48:15-16: Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh "And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."
- (c) Girls and wife Proverbs 31:29-31: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.





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21 Day Spiritual Journey Devotional



21 Day Spiritual Journey Devotional

Giving (Days 1-9)

- 1. Luke 6:38 → Give generously and you will receive abundantly
- 2. John 3:16→ Giving mirrors God's heart
- 3. 2 Corinthians 9:7→ Give as the Lord leads you
- 4. Exodus 35:4-5, 20-22, 29; 36:6-7→ It only takes the willing
- 5. 1 Corinthians 16:2→ Intentional Giving
- 6. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15→ Be a cheerful giver
- 7. 1 Chronicles 29:1-18 → A joyful gift to God
- 8. Ezra 1→ Return begins: God stirs our heart
- 9. Ezra 1:5-6→ A gift encouraged by the Holy Spirit

Fasting and Prayer (Days 10-14)

- 10. Ezra 8→ Fasting and prayer for protection
- 11. Daniel 9:3-9→ Forgiveness through fasting and prayer
- 12. 2 Chronicles 7:12-22 → God taught us how to pray
- 13. Matthew 6:6-13 → Jesus gave an example on how to pray
- 14. John 14:1-14→ Asking in Jesus' name gives privileges

PSaim 145:4

Precepts on Daily Living (Days 15-21)

- 15. Ezra 3→ Worship God first
- 16. Psalm 16→ Seeking God's will: The path of life and joy
- 17. 1 Kings 17:8-16→Trusting God in difficult times
- 18. Proverbs 3:9-10→ Honor brings abundance
- 19. 2 Timothy 2:14-16→ A worker approved by God
- 20. Psalm 119:103-105→ Need the answer? Go to the Word
- 21. Matthew 7:24-25→ A Lasting Foundation

GIVE GENEROUSLY AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ABUNDANTLY

Read: Luke 6:38

This is the essence of the principle of mutual exchange and generosity. My giving is directly related to the amount that I will receive. When we give freely and generously to the Lord and others, I tap into the principle and will be rewarded in kind, and in greater measure. This kind of spiritual generosity creates a positive cycle, leading to mutual benefits and blessings. This is a biblical spirit of giving with the assurance that it will lead to abundant returns.

<u>Question:</u> How am I living out the principle of giving generously and receiving abundantly in my life? Can you name some examples?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, thank you for teaching me the value of giving to you and to others. Thank you for providing resources for me to give. I realize that my generosity will not only bless me, but also those that I share with. Amen.

Day 2

GIVING MIRROR'S GOD'S HEART

Read: John 3:16

One of the great reasons why we believe in giving is because we love God. We have been taught to love by the one who loved us first. He loved us so much that he gave his best gift to us. Not a leftover, or surplus, or extra; not excess, or remains, or a reject, but he gave us his best, his one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived and died so that we could have eternal life. Therefore, we give because we love. We mirror God's heart. We know that you can give without loving; but you can't love without giving!

Question: What things come to your mind when you think about the sacrifice that God has made by giving his one and only son Jesus Christ to die for our sins and give us a way to eternal life?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, I am grateful that you love me and have given me the greatest gift in life...love. Thank you for calling me to give that same love to a world that is filled with hate and injustice. I do so willingly and without hesitation. Amen.

GIVE AS THE LORD LEADS YOU

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving to the Lord is a matter of choice based on information and inspiration. Everyone should give freely and willingly, without pressure or hesitation. Paul the Apostle is writing to the Corinthian church to explain that giving is a matter of knowing who God is and what He has done in our lives. The key point is that godly giving is a Christlike act of grace. Not by legalistic means, but we are inspired and driven by a willing and cheerful heart. Through our giving we participate with God in the work of the church, winning souls and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Question: How is the Lord leading you in your desire to give to His work?

<u>Prayer:</u> God, thank you for the blessed opportunity to give. My generosity is afforded because of your generosity to me. Today I walk in the newness of life because you have given me salvation, health, hope, and a future. I am a happy and hilarious giver because of your love for me. Amen.

Day 4

IT ONLY TAKES THE WILLING

Read: Exodus 35:4-5, 20-22, 29, 36:6-7

Great things happen when the people of God are willing. The Israelite men and women in an act of obedience demonstrate their faith by bringing freewill offerings to the Lord. They did this so that the work of building The Tabernacle would be completed. Although not everyone participated, we see in chapter 36 verse 6 and 7 that the willing provided more than enough. The people came together to donate money and resources to build a new worship facility. Their giving provided for the tent of meeting, its service, and the sacred garments. It happened because of their belief in God and His ability to provide so that they could contribute to this monumental work.

Question: What are you willing to contribute to the work of building a place of worship for the Lord? What has God commanded you to do in this endeavor? Have you prayed about your gift to the project?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, I believe in the work that you are doing in our church. The added members, the ministry, the message, and the bright future are symbolic of your hand on us. Thank you for guiding me and providing me with my gift for the work of building a new edifice for your glory. Amen.

INTENTIONAL GIVING

Read: 1 Corinthians 16:2

One of the reasons why we give is because there are needs. When we look at our world, our country, and our community we see many needs. In this verse the apostle Paul provides instructions regarding the collection of funds for the suffering Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. He emphasizes the importance of intentional giving, the practice of setting aside contributions regularly, so that the needs of others can be met. We learn how to glorify God through our faithful and obedient giving.

Question: Am I intentional in my giving, setting aside a day and amount that I give to the Lord for His work on earth?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, thank you for providing the financial resources that allow me to give to those who are in need. Thank you for the awareness and sensitivity to the plight of those less fortunate. Amen.

Day 6

BE A CHEERFUL GIVER

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

There was poverty in the church at Jerusalem. Paul had asked the other churches to give financially to the poor saints in Jerusalem. He also taught how we are to give. Whether using our spiritual gifts or giving our money we should give cheerfully and from our hearts. If we give sparingly or grudgingly our blessings will be sparingly. We should always pray about using our spiritual gifts and when we give our money. Not out of obligation but as the Holy Spirit directs us and cheerfully.

Question: Do you always pray and ask God to direct you when you give? Do you give cheerfully?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father, thank you for all your gifts to me. Teach me to give cheerfully and not out of obligation or to impress others. Amen.

A JOYFUL GIFT TO GOD

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:1-18

King David wanted to build a house for God to be worshipped in. He made plans for the building. He gave from his personal finances and then asked for the leaders and the people to give willingly to the Lord to build the Temple. There was not a fund raising campaign. Everyone gave willingly. 1 Chronicles 29:9 - Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. God not only provides financially for us but He also equips each individual with unique gifts and talents. Serving Him by using these gifts and our personal finances to bless others and our church brings joy.

Question: Have you used your God given gifts, talent or money to bless someone or your church?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord thank you for your spiritual, financial and physical gifts. Show me where I am to give. Thank you for the joy of giving and blessing. Amen.

RETURN BEGINS: GOD STIRS OUR HEARTS

Read: Ezra 1

The book of Ezra opens with a powerful reminder that God is sovereign over history and kings. After 70 years of exile, Cyrus, the king of Persia, is moved by God to issue a decree allowing the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. This is no small thing—it's a divine restart. Notice that the return didn't begin with construction plans, but with hearts being stirred. God moved in Cyrus, and then in the leaders and families of Israel.

This reminds us that all rebuilding—whether in a city, a church, or a person's life—starts with a stirring of the heart. God awakens something within us and gives us vision, courage, and purpose. Before bricks are laid or prayers are answered, God works in the unseen spaces of our souls.

Question: What has God been stirring in you lately? Is it a dream to restore your family, rebuild your faith, or serve your community? Don't ignore the nudge. It might be your "Cyrus moment"—God calling you into motion for a greater purpose.

<u>Action Step:</u> Spend 10 minutes in stillness. Ask God to show you what He is stirring in your heart to rebuild.

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, thank You for being the God who stirs hearts. Stir mine today. Wake me up to the vision You've placed within me. Give me the courage to begin again, knowing You go before me. Amen.

A GIFT ENCOURAGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read: Ezra 1:5-6

God had allowed the Temple David planned for and Solomon built to be destroyed and the people to be carried into captivity for 70 years. This was punishment for disobeying God. At the end of their captivity God stirred the heart of Cyrus King of Persia to allow the people of Israel to return back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Verses 5 and 6 state that God stirred the spirits of the leaders and the people to not only return and rebuild the Temple but also to give financially toward rebuilding. The Holy Spirit stirs our hearts to use our spiritual gifts. As we spend time with God in prayer he directs us where to work in the Church, who to help and what to give financially.

<u>Question:</u> Has God been encouraging you to do something? Have you felt the urge to volunteer, serve somewhere specifically in the church or to give financially?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father help me to recognize your voice as you speak to me heart. Give me the strength and courage to obey and use my gifts as you direct me. Amen.

Day 10

FASTING AND PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

Read: Ezra 8

Ezra had been given permission by the king to return to Jerusalem to teach the Law of Moses to God's people who had been in captivity for 70 years. A large number of people were traveling on the dangerous trip with Ezra. Ezra did not ask the king for soldiers to protect them. Before starting the journey they fasted and prayed asking God to protect them on their journey. Ezra 8:23 states, "So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty."

Question: Do you fast and pray asking God for His will, wisdom and protection before making big decisions?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father you are powerful, you have all knowledge and wisdom. Teach me your will and guide and protect me in this decision. Amen.

FORGIVENESS THROUGH FASTING AND PRAYER

Read: Daniel 9:3-9

Is there something you did or said that has continued to bother you. You think about it over and over. Even when you start praying you think about it and your prayer is shortened because you feel so guilty. Remember like Daniel did, God is merciful and He forgives us. All we have to do is be sorry for what we did, do not plan on doing it again and ask God for forgiveness. Jesus' death on the cross paid for everything we have done. We have to also forgive ourselves. If God forgives us, who are we to not forgive?

Question: What have I not forgiven myself for doing? What do I need to ask God for forgiveness for?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord you are merciful and all powerful. I have sinned and ask for your forgiveness and mercy. In Jesus' name I pray. Thank you. Amen.

Day 12

GOD TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY

Read: 2 Chronicles 7:12-22

Solomon had prayed a prayer dedicating the Temple to God. He had asked God to hear and answer the prayers that would be prayed in the Temple. In His answer to Solomon, God instructed How His people should pray. When we accept Jesus as our Savior we become God's people. When we pray, we are to Acknowledge how great God is (humble ourselves), communicate with God (talk and listen-pray) search for God's will in what we are praying for (seek God's face), repent of things we have done wrong (turn from our wicked ways) then God hears and answers our prayers.

Question: What have I not repented from? Have I searched for God's will in what I am asking Him for.

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord you are great and awesome. I am listening to you. Show me your will for me. I am sorry for the things I have done wrong. Amen.

JESUS GAVE AN EXAMPLE ON HOW TO PRAY

Read: Matthew 6:6-15

Prayer is communicating with God. It is necessary for your spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing. It is just as important as breathing is to living. It is between you personally and God. Jesus' instructions states our prayers should include honoring God, asking that God's will be done in what we are asking for, ask for our needs and other's needs, ask for forgiveness and protection and give God the glory for his rule and power.

Question: How is my communication with God? Do I need to work on my communication with God?

<u>Prayer:</u> Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Day 14

ASKING IN JESUS' NAME GIVES PRIVILEGES

Read: John 14:1-14

Jesus explained to the Disciples (and to us) that eternal life is received through Him. We receive eternal life by believing that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins. The Disciples and we will be able to do things that Jesus did. When we ask God for something we should ask for it In Jesus name. Jesus will do what we ask and God will get the glory.

Question: Do I ask in Jesus' name acknowledging that I have accepted Jesus as my personal Savior? Do I always give God the credit for what He does?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father I make all my requests in Jesus' name and I give you the glory for everything. Amen.

WORSHIP GOD FIRST

Read: Ezra 3

What is the first thing you do before you start your day, before you start a new project, before you head out to work, before you start getting the children ready, before you make plans or make a decision?

Israel had returned from 70 years of captivity. They were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple which God had allowed to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

Before starting to work rebuilding the Temple they built an altar and worshiped God. Worshiping God acknowledges who He is and shows that we are thankful for what He has done and will do for us.

Question: Is Sunday the only time I worship God? Should I begin everything by worshiping God first?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord you are awesome, and I thank you for all your blessings. I lift up and magnify Your name. Amen.

SEEKING GOD'S WILL: THE PATH OF LIFE AND JOY

Read: Psalm 16

David acknowledges that our understanding is limited. We are nothing without God. God counsels and teaches us. He will tell us what His will for us is, our path of life. We should be willing to follow God's instructions and live a life that honors Him and will give us Joy.

Question: What will bring us joy and pleasure in life: God's will for us or our personal life goals. Should they be the same?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father, teach me your ways and your will for me in all that I do and plan to do. Amen.

Day 17

TRUSTING GOD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16

One of the dimensions of faith is trust. When we trust God, it means we have faith in His goodness, power, and His promises. Elijah was directed by God to go to Zarephath, where he met a widow with very little food. Even though she didn't have much, she shared her last meal with the man of God, trusting his promise that her flour and oil would not run out until it rained again. Her faith was rewarded with a continuous supply of food for her and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

<u>Question:</u> When was the last time that you really trusted God? What was the outcome? How can I strengthen my faith so that I will trust God in all situations and circumstances?

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord, when I find myself in trying times, times when I have needs to be met and desires to be filled, I will put my trust in you to be my divine supplier. Thank you because you always come through and at the right time. Amen.

HONOR BRINGS ABUNDANCE

Read: Proverbs 3:9-10

When we dedicate a portion of your wealth to honoring and serving the Lord, we will receive abundant blessings in return. This is a promise from God's Word that teaches that generosity and faithfulness will lead to prosperity and fulfillment in life. By prioritizing spiritual values, showing gratitude, and our faith in God through our resources, we will experience blessings and rewards. Honoring the Lord with our wealth, that which He has given us means giving to God first. Doing so will result in overflowing blessings.

Question: Am I honoring God first with my wealth? How can I be more faithful in my giving and in what ways can I honor God more?

<u>Prayer:</u> God, increase my faith as I desire to honor you in my giving. Thank you for showing me how and why I will bless you in my obedience to your Word. Amen.

Day 19

A WORKER APPROVED BY GOD

Read: 2 Timothy 2:14-16

Paul instructed Timothy on being approved and unashamed in his ministry. The requirements were to study the Scriptures and know for himself what the Scriptures said. The Scriptures were God's Word. He was to live as God commanded in the Scriptures. Just as important Timothy was to teach others what the Scriptures meant. God's approval requires reading the Word, living the Word and teaching the Word.

Question: Do you have a desire to be approved by God? James 2:14 says faith apart from works is dead.

<u>Prayer:</u> Lord give me the desire and strength to study, obey and teach others your Word. Amen.

NEED THE ANSWER? GO TO THE WORD.

Read: Psalm 119:103-105

Psalm 119 was written out of love for God's law. The Psalm says blessed are those who keep God's commandments and seek God's will. He asks God to teach him and he will hide God's Word in his heart. Verses 103-105 indicates God's commands are not hard and provide understanding and directions for life. Who do you go to for answers to your problems? Your BFF, your mentor, your parents, your friends, social media or AI (artificial intelligence). Maybe you should try The One who knows. At least read His Book (The Bible)!

Question: Are you seeking answers from The Right Source?

<u>Prayer:</u> Father you are faithful and you have all knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Teach me your Word and lead me each day to choose your way. Amen.

A LASTING FOUNDATION

Read: Matthew 7:24-25 NKJV

Six months after moving into a new house, a sinkhole damaged my neighbor's driveway. Shortly after, another sinkhole appeared under the same neighbor's house. I recall many neighbors being concerned and afraid that the same issue could potentially happen to their homes; as you can only imagine, the spirit of fear spread through the neighborhood like wildfire. One day, while in prayer, I heard God say, "Silence the noise". As I sit with God in prayer, He reminded me of the foundation that was laid when the home was built. I remember when I first chose the lot for my home, I remember telling my realtor that I needed to pray over the land. Each week during the building process, I would go to the subdivision just to pray. When the dwelling was put up, God gave me specific scriptures to write in each room. When I silenced the noise, I was able to experience a peace that only God could give me during that time.

In Matthew 7:24-27, scripture shows us that Jesus finished the Sermons on the Mount with a parable about two men. In this parable, we learn that two men had three things in common: 1) they both were building a house, 2) they both heard the word of God being taught, and both encountered a violent storm. One of the men applied the wisdom obtained from the sermons and built his house on the rock. The other man did the complete opposite. He built his house on sand. When the violent storm came, the house that was built on the rock stood through the floods and the rain.

Whether you are going through the home-building process as an individual, family, or church family, a lasting foundation is necessary. In life, storms, tests, and trials will come. We find hope and encouragement through the word of God.

Question: How has Jesus given you peace in a storm or tribulation? How might you make sure you are building your house on the word of God? What is God laying on your heart for the church?

<u>Prayer:</u> Dear Jesus, thank you for giving me peace regardless of what's going on around me. I can come to you and find rest and shelter. Amen.