

March 27th
thru
April 16th
2022

21

FASTING &
PRAYING

DAYS

IMPORTANT READ THIS BEFORE MOVING ON!

You are getting ready to embark on a three-week journey. While this will be individual in nature, it will also be communal in nature. We will spend three weeks together as the body of Christ, asking for God to lead us. Allow this page to help you as you move forward with your fasting.

The Scriptural Basis for our Fast as Job says, "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. It was Jesus who also reminded the religious leaders and the crowds that, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day." Mark 2:19-20. Again, over and over again in the book of Acts, we see the early church fasting; Acts 13, 14.

Choose what you will fast from for many people believe that food is the only thing you must fast from. This is a falsity. While food is a great thing to fast from because it requires something which the body needs to be put on hold for a few hours, perhaps even a day, or longer. You may try to fast from something such as TV, certain types of foods (sweets, coffee, meats).

Just remember the purpose behind your fast is to bring you closer to the Living God, not only you personally but also the community as a whole. Allow the next three weeks as Eagle and Roadcup share in their resource on fasting; To Fortify your Prayer, bring you to Awareness of Sin, prepare your heart for a Ministry, To Receive the Power that Can Manifest, and most importantly, the discovery of God's will!

Each day will have a theme and purpose, scripture to read, questions to ponder, and a prayer to engage in and with. On each page, you will have space to write any reflections that God is showing you through these next 21 days as we embark on this journey together.

Day 1 - March 27TH 2022 - PLAN

Every day I would plan my work and work my plan. (John Maxwell)

THOUGHT...

What are you hoping to get out of these next twenty-one days? Today is all about setting your plan, putting it into practice, and sticking with it. In the dictionary, it says the definition of a plan is "A detailed proposal for doing or achieving something." You will be given prompts and suggestions for the next twenty-one days. You ultimately must decide for yourself what you will do. Which way will you fast? Which way will you pray? What will govern your actions? Remember, though, for the next twenty-one days, it is about growing in who you are and strengthening your faith. Allow yourself to be tested, your devotion to Him to be challenged, and ultimately your faith to be grown in and by Him. Asking God to empty you, search you, and test you. As King David prayed and asked God to do the same things.

In Ephesians 1, it says that God created you with a purpose. The purpose...to have a relationship with you! Each and every part of God's plan has been about you having the freedom to choose Him. Make it your plan throughout the next three weeks to draw closer to Him and choose Him over anything else. Write it down, allow it to guide you but don't be a slave to it.

READ IT

Ephesians 1:4-10

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What motivated you to come into this time with the Lord?
2. What are some things that you are hoping to get in the next three weeks?
3. What is something that you should consider giving up for three weeks or even permanently?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father will bless you and the next three weeks. Today try to breathe and pray out a Jesus prayer. As you breathe in, say, Jesus, then pray out your requests and make them known to the Father...

DAY 2 -March 28th Love the Lord Your God

When we love God because we feel we should love Him...we have forgotten who God really is. (Francis Chan)

THOUGHT...

Do you love God today because that is what you are supposed to be doing? Like someone somewhere taught you that you are supposed to love God because the Bible says so? Francis Chan, in his book *Crazy Love*, reminds us, the readers, that we can come to God not out of fear but of love. God first loved us and gave himself up for us. This is how we know what love is.

In the NT, there are several words for the word love. English translates all of these words with one fundamental word, love. Let us highlight today three of these words. The first is Storge, the second is Philia, and the third is Agape. Each has a different level when it comes to God. Each has a level when we consider it in our lives. Which of these three words describes your relationship with God?

Storge is term-limited for a family as parents have for kids.

Philia is a term that describes warm, intimate, and is even more general than that of Storge.

Agape is the deepest form of the word that says, "I will do what is spiritually best for you (GLR)." This is difficult and most challenging to show at times, but the love God has for us, and we are called to have for him.

READ IT

Matthew 22:37

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you love, or rather what things do you love most in life?
2. Have any of these things replaced devotion to God in your life?
3. What is something that you should consider giving up for three weeks or even permanently?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would show you your heart's desires. Begin by allowing the things that you care most to come to your mind. Ask for forgiveness in the things that have taken precedence in your life...

DAY 3 -March 29th With All Your Heart

If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one. (CS LEWIS)

THOUGHT...

There is nothing more deeply moving than to give your heart to something or someone that you genuinely enjoy. Still, yet, there are moments when giving that heart away will lead down to points and moments of deep hurt. God has already done this very thing within each and every one of us. Genesis 6:5 says not only were the thoughts, but the hearts of men were evil continually. Men chose things that were not of God over the things that were of God.

C.S. Lewis, in his book *four*, loves shares a profound thought with us. If you desire to never have a broken heart, you must not have any interaction with anyone. We are created to have interactions with people. More than that, we are designed to have a relationship. Relationships can and will be stressed by the pressures of us being fallen, humans.

Today focus on the relationship between you and the Father. The Bible also tells us like sheep, we have gone astray and turned our own way. We either willingly or unwillingly give our hearts to things that are not of God today. Be mindful of those things and ask God to reveal to you in this time what you might need to cut out to build a deeper relationship with Him.

READ IT

Luke 10:27; Genesis 6:5-8

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What are the things that capture your heart? Hobbies, joys, family
2. What have you given your heart to that you possibly regret or still do?
3. what have you given your heart to that you wouldn't trade for anything?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father shows your heart's desires. Today ask Him to reveal to you your deep longings and what is holding you back from giving your heart fully over to Him today...

DAY 4 -March 30th With All Your Soul

When the whole soul is yielded to the Holy Spirit, God Himself will fill it. (Andrew Murray)

THOUGHT...

Deep down inside within the heart, the mind to the place where only the Father can look lies that which animates you and me. It is within this place that the Father desires for our relationship to be so closely knit to His own that we are seen and in the image of the firstborn of all creation, Jesus Christ.

When you look into the mirror, what do you see in the morning? The imperfections of a human being, perhaps the bulge of weight that you can't shed, greys in the hair of once dark-toned air, wrinkles on a face that once was youthful. Maybe you're young, and you see the vibrant glow of an adult, teen, kid. The strength that can seemingly move the Mountain or anything else.

Deep inside of that exterior, though, lies the soul of a man or woman in the Spirit striving to know the Father more fully. Deep inside each and every person is a longing to know the Lord more fully today than tomorrow. You see, if our hearts and love are captured by things, not of God, we may not have room to cultivate the soul and the relationship that God wants to have for us. Today seek fully to cultivate your internal relationship with the Father.

READ IT

Psalms 119:129, 119:167; Hebrews 4:12

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you truly enjoy the most about being a child of God?
2. What areas of your life have you found yourself trying to fix alone?
3. Consider your inner being today; how have you forgotten your place in God's kingdom, how have you remembered?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would show you your place in His kingdom. Ask God to help you see where you can help others see their place in that kingdom too...

DAY 5 -March 31st With All Your Mind

No man has the mind of Christ, except him who makes it his business to obey Him. (George MacDonald)

THOUGHT...

You and I are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and might or strength. This puts into perspective the whole being of who you are from outside to inside. Yesterday you were asked to look at the outside and focus on what really matters most. Today the point is what you do on the outside is a reflection of what you already are on the inside being.

What do you put your strength into; what is it that you do that reflects what God has done for you? Each person has to make up their own mind what it is that they will love, follow their heart, and put that into practice. Be careful as soon as you agree with that last statement. You must understand that our hearts above all are a deceitful thing, said Jeremiah.

There is an old saying that went something like you can do anything you set your mind to. In the past week, what have you been setting yourself up for? Has it been to have the same mind as that of Christ, or is it to have a mind that is concerned for the here and now?

READ IT

Romans 8:5-8

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What fleshly desires have you been focused on today, taking you away from what the Spirit has for you in your life?
2. Begin to think about what Christ would say to you if he were to have a conversation with you about those things?
3. Write down those things that have been on your mind and the possible answer you hear today as you open yourself to the Holy Spirit moving.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would give you a proper attitude and thought as you navigate, having a mind that is focused on the things of Christ...

DAY 6 - April 1st With All Your Strength

*God's part is to put forth power; our part is to put forth faith.
(Andrew Bonar)*

THOUGHT...

The absolute most amazing thing about God is that he is all-powerful. Think about the fact that everything you see around you he created just by speaking it all into existence. It is by His mighty right hand that you and I are held up. It is by His power working in us through the Holy Spirit that we are able to move, live, and breath.

It is so easy to put our strength into things that will not last. To focus on the here and now and forget that it is only by the grace of God and the things of God that we exist. Strength is an interesting word, isn't it? You and I use strength in our actions, in our thoughts, in our feelings, in our attitudes. Yet, they all point back to what drives us. The inner nature of who we are is manifested in our actions.

When I think of the word strength, my mind can not help but think about power. I have very limited power but what I do have is a testimony to what God is doing in me. Strength is an active display or obedience, if you will, of the power inside of each and every one of us. Today as you focus on loving God with your whole being, and this week as you and I have focused on true love. Be mindful of what you put your strength into.

READ IT

2 Timothy 1:7-8

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What are the things you put your strength into daily?
2. When you consider these things are they God-leaning or Man leaning?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would help the body to begin a process of gleaning and leaning into God, strengthening activities over man leaning...

DAY 7 - April 2nd Teach Me To Pray

*Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth
(Rick Warren)*

THOUGHT...

Have you ever considered the statement that the disciples make when asking Jesus this very question? One day they come to the master and ask him this same question, "Jesus teach us to pray...." Honestly, what is so difficult about praying?

Yet, if you really break it down, don't we all have the need for someone to teach us how to really pray. In a few moments, you will be asked to turn in your bibles to this passage. As you contemplate the aspects of what Jesus tells them to pray for, something today may jump out of the pages of scripture as have never before.

Allow the Holy Spirit today to help you see what God has for you today; while you are writing and reading and answering questions today, ask God for the same help the disciples did. You may have been a Christ-follower for only 1 month, 5 years, 50 years, or even been there when he gave the Sermon on the mount (just kidding). The moment you think you have gotten there and fully understand it all is a sad moment. We must continue to grow, and so daily, we must ask him...teach us to pray.

READ IT

Luke 11:1-4

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What have you been finding yourself praying about? Write down a dozen or so?
2. Now, look over your list and mark are they internal or external?
3. Do you find yourself and your prayers a reflection of God and his mission?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would show you the things that you need to be praying for. As you use the next side, write down each piece of the verses and write down something that corresponds in your life to the word of God, then pray about those things...

DAY 8 - April 3rd Empty ME

Love, to be real, must empty us of self. (Mother Teresa)

THOUGHT...

Remember that in everything, the goal of these three weeks is to at some point find a place where you are completely empty to rely on the Father and the Son. It was this place of being completely empty that brought us to the cross in the first place.

When I drive down in the road in my vehicle at some point, I must do something. Do you happen to know what that is? I must stop at this place where I get out and put more fuel into the vehicle. Imagine for a few moments that your life and mine are precisely like our vehicles. We take turns, we go down roads, we go to places we may not necessarily like the terrain to get there. Nonetheless, we get where we are headed.

When we return to the absolute love of God and empty ourselves on behalf of others, we find ourselves more like our Savior. Jesus emptied himself and became like us that we might one day become glorified like he himself is. God's word promises us something if we are in it, and it is a daily part of our lives. You will find the answer to this in verse below. Allow this verse to give you comfort today.

READ IT

Isaiah 55:11

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. How have you been struggling this week to let God's word have time in your life?
2. How have you been like Jesus in emptying yourself for others this week? How have you failed to empty yourself and exemplify Christ this week?
3. How have you seen God's word returned to you full this past week?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would show you your heart's desires. Begin by allowing the things that you care most to come to your mind. Ask for forgiveness in the things that have taken precedence in your life...

DAY 9 - April 4th Search ME

If we become bored praying, then are we really praying.

(Craig Groeschel)

THOUGHT...

IN the book *Dangerous Prayers*, Craig Groeschel brings up several big points on the prayers of King David in his lifetime. One of the things about asking God to do things in our lives is being prepared for the outcome of those prayers.

David was used to hearing God give him the real answers to his prayers. What if you and I were men and women after God's own heart? What if when God were describing you to the angels in heaven, he said, "Here is _____ someone after my own heart!" You see, God searched David, and David asked him to do so. As we proceed this week, let's focus on God as he searches and knows our inner beings. We've considered the heart, soul, mind, strength in the past days; let's consider and look deeper into God searching for us and revealing to us who we really are.

The catch to this is being willing and ready to hear the truth. If you are not willing to hear the truth, then today, you might want to stop everything you are doing and ask God to reveal to you the truth of who you really are. Be open, be honest, be ready, and hold on tight, because the Spirit wants to reveal to us the heart of God. The thing is, are we prepared to hear it?

READ IT

Psalms 44:20-21

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you asked God to search you deeply?
2. How would you describe your heart in searching after God?
3. What would it mean for you to hear God call your name in the above place?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would indeed search you and allow you to be internally prepared to hear what He has to say to you at that moment...

DAY 10 April 5th Test ME

If you give it to God, He transforms your test into a testimony, your mess into a message, and your misery into a ministry. (Rick Warren)

THOUGHT...

In the scriptures, there are two things that really stand out about the idea of being tested. The first is our testing of God. Jesus, when confronted by Satan in the wilderness, pointed to the drawback of such a claim. Jesus told Satan that should not put the Lord our God to the test. This was something that Jesus believed in, and thus we must take care in our day to do the same thing.

Yet, there is a flip side to this very statement in scripture. God put you and me to the test. In the Psalms, David asks for God to put him to the test. This is again another one of those dangerous prayers that David would pray to God and ask for him to see if there was something some area in David that he was off track.

Is it something that you would and I would dare ask God to do? In the book of Judges, Gideon put God to the test, and God did still bless him and give him confirmation. I am not saying that God won't respond. Our aim, though, should be only to be tested by God to see where our hearts lie. Today if you dare, ask God to test you. Be careful, though; this is dangerous.

READ IT

Judges 3:1-6

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What were the results of the Israelites being tested?
2. What similarities do you see in yourself? What differences do you see?
3. How have you unintentionally or in what areas are you intentionally putting God to the test?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would forgive you of your testing of him and yet ask Him today that he might test if you will remain faithful to him through it all...

DAY 11 April 6th Break Me

Brokenness is often the road to breakthrough. (Tony Evan)

THOUGHT...

Too often, we can ask God to break us and not really want to be broken. However, have you ever had something very precious to you broken? Did you try to put it back together, or did you just throw it away? In our lives, there are times that we must be broken before we can get put back together. There is a popular song right now from Brandon Lake, and Elevation Worship called Graves into Gardens. In this song are the lyrics, "Then you can along and put me back together." The only way to be put back together is to be broken in the first place.

Understand this from God's point of view for just a moment. What if He had looked at you in your brokenness, in your many pieces, and then said, "Nah, too much work, just going to throw it in the trash." Then Jesus came along and put all the pieces together. Today remember that even as a child of God, you will be broken into pieces. God's love is so great in it all that he will over and over again put you back together.

Yet there is a catch to it. Are you ready for it? You have to ask Him to put you back together sometimes. Sometimes we may be missing a piece, and we have no idea. You see, sometimes you are like a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle that was once a beautiful picture cut into tiny pieces. They all fit together nicely and neatly, but what happens if you get 999 pieces in, almost done, and you can't find the last piece. It is only God who can put that final piece in. Today ask Him to break you.

READ IT

Psalm 34:17-19

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel broken today?
2. What are some steps that you can take personally to begin the process of healing?
3. Who might you need to reach out to today to help begin the process?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Open your prayer today with, God help me be broken in the areas I need to be broken in today, reveal to me my inner desires of brokenness...

DAY 12 April 7th MY Name

"If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things." (Elizabeth Elliot)

THOUGHT...

There are two great truths to the idea of a name. You see, at the end of the day, it is God in heaven who controls all the little things and all the big things. It is God who created the entire world and everything in it. God has a name that he doesn't want to be profaned either.

God called Israel out of Egypt; he made them a people of his own name in the Old Testament. They are his as God says in the book of Isaiah, "For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" Even in the New Testament when it says that they were first called Christian in Antioch. We are followers of Christ.

We get to have the God who is in control of all things be our Father. We have His name. We are the sheep of His pasture. Today I want to invite you to trust in the God of the big things, and if you believe that he is the God of the big things, then the little things will take care of themselves. No matter what you are going through today, rely on the one whose name is Great and whom you and I are named after. Rely on Him in the big things and the small things!

READ IT

2 Chronicles 7:13-15

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. Do you ever consider the fact that you have His name?
2. If the people you are closest to were asked if you represented that name well, what would they say?
3. I challenge you today to ask two or three of your closest friends to tell you if you represent that name well or not; ask them to be honest.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would reveal to you the areas in your life that you may be neglecting to share that name with others. Ask God to expose weaknesses in your life that you need to work on.

DAY 13 April 8th Your Children

A generation that knows only what God said will be followed by a generation that doesn't believe what God said. (A.W.Tozer)

THOUGHT...

In the book, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*, the author points out the very different eastern and western cultures and the difference in viewing the Bible in those terms. The reality is that the Bible is written from an eastern set of eyes, so there is much gleaning that can happen in doing this.

The first point to think about is the fact that Proverbs tells the church to raise up a child the way they should go, and when that child is older, then they will not depart from the faith. Do you pray for the church children? Do they know only what God has said? Do they see it modeled in you?

One of the greatest and deepest sadness's beginning to surface is the amount of growth in the church. There are more people who are lax in their faith and living it out in our day and age. If that statement convicts you, lean into it today and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what it is that you are saddened by.

Today of many and most days is a day to focus on the next generation. In the book of Judges, there was peace on all sides of Israel, and thus they became lax, and so the author says a generation arose who didn't know God. Challenge yourself today to not let this happen in your lifetime, friends.

READ IT

Ephesians 3:1-7

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you believe the purpose of Paul's words is here?
2. What do you do to help the next generation know who Jesus is?
3. What reservations do you have for helping in next-generation ministry?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would show you ways to get involved in next-generation ministry; if you don't know what that is, ask God to lead you to lean into conversations and study on it...

DAY 14 - April 9th The LOST

*"What we need is God, not whatever quick fix we're looking for."
(Brian Hardin)*

THOUGHT...

In the book of Luke, Jesus is going through Jericho, and there is such a large crowd that not even the wee-est of little men could see Jesus in the streets. So, what does that wee little man do? He climbs up in a tree enough to see Jesus coming by. Jesus then stops at that tree and beckons the man to come down so that he can dine in the man's house.

The story is found in the book of Luke in chapter 19. It is in this chapter that Luke quotes Jesus as saying, "The Son of Man came to seek and save the LOST." Do you have a burden, care, or compassion for the lost? Do you care if people find Jesus or not? Do you know anyone who is lost?

What if I were to share with you that there are more than enough people in the community who do not know who Jesus is. How would you respond to someone asking you to share why you believe in Jesus with them? Jesus cared for the lost, and we need to too.

READ IT

Luke 19:8-10; Ephesians 6:18-20

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What might you have to give away today or make recompense for to see someone come to know Jesus?
2. When it comes to sharing your faith, why do you not do it? Take time to write it down and ask God for help?
3. As you read Ephesians 6, does it comfort you that Paul still asked for help in doing the very thing of preaching the word of God?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would make sharing your faith easier for you and lean into that conversation with him. If you have not leaned into putting down on paper what it looks like to share your faith, pray for help...

DAY 15 - April 10th Your Future

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."
(Corrie Ten Boom)*

THOUGHT...

There are two great truths to share with you today, friend; one is from the Old Testament, and the other is from the New Testament. One is hope for a nation that was abandoned and lost in a land not their own. The other is about a nation that is not lost yet resides in a land that is not their own.

In the book of Jeremiah, the prophet was told to preach to the nation of Israel and let them know that God was about to send the Babylonians to them and that they would take them into Babylon as a nation in chains. God had given them over to the Babylonians to take possession of them. Nevertheless, God was going to bring them back to Israel. God had a plan for them, and it was not to completely destroy them or leave them alone.

In the book of Philippians, Paul makes the same claims about those who are a part of the church. He tells the church at Philippi that you and I are not really here on this earth as citizens. Our home is not really in the United States of America; it really is in heaven where Jesus is and on His throne. It is in these words that God reminds us our home is future tense, and in Jesus, we can look forward to that home.

READ IT

Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 3:20-21

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. How often do you consider what lies on the other side of this life?
2. What do you most look forward to in heaven?
3. What promises from God do you forget to remember as Citizens of heaven?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today in thanksgiving to God for the home that is awaiting us all as servants of the living God; give praise to God for making a way...

DAY 16 April 11th Contentment

*"Contentment is not by addition but by subtraction: seeking to add a thing will not bring contentment. Instead, subtracting from your desires until you are satisfied only with Christ brings contentment."
(Jeremiah Burroughs)*

THOUGHT...

Consider the words above by Jeremiah for a few moments. How do you resonate with these words? Jesus talked about this very thing in the Sermon on the Mountain. Jesus shared that at the end of the day, you can only serve one master; you can not put all of your time and energy into two different masters. You must decide if you will serve the God of this world or the God of all created things.

In the book of Timothy, Paul shares with the young preacher that there is a great amount of contentment when we recognize that what we are really getting money for is to give to others. That if you and I have our necessities, the rest is to help those who do not have.

Some have been blessed with more seeds than others, but we can all give the same amount respective to what we do have. This will indeed yield a result that is far beyond all that we could think, say, and do when we allow God to use it for His glory.

Just remember today, though, the more extra's you have, the easier it is for Satan to get a foothold into your business and life.

READ IT

Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. Think about what you have; is it enough?
2. Are there things you keep telling yourself you need? Ask God if it truly is a need or a want?
3. How can you take the things you have and begin using them for his glory?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father helps you manage the possessions that he has entrusted you with. Ask the Father to show you areas that you can begin using that perhaps you have not been using them for his glory...

DAY 17 April 12th Nation

"It is impossible to rightly Govern a Nation without God and the Bible." (George Washington)

THOUGHT...

What a great quote from one of our founding fathers who knew what it took for our nation to be governed and run. The nature of today is to really set apart the day and begin to pray for the healing of our country. Quite often, I hear many of us making remarks about the leadership of the nation, those in charge, and various other things. The reality is that throughout scripture, there were many similar kings, judges, foreign nations that did the same.

The realities are there is nothing new under the sun, as King Solomon would say. I implore you and myself today to not just complain, belittle, or talk about the leadership of our nation. Instead, let's go to God, let's pray together, let's ask God to step back in in a powerful way. Let's give those in the community and in our country a reason to love and respect Jesus.

Jesus is our King; we are a follower of Him. God told Israel even in the Babylonian times to do good, to plant, to live. But we must live for Him; we must live how he has called us to live. To share our faith, not give the world an excuse for not knowing Jesus Christ. Let's hold each other up and accountable to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

READ IT

Romans 13:1-7

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. How do you see yourself in opposition to God's word here at times?
2. What are your deepest struggles with our current administration?
3. Have you been actively praying for these people or not?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would help strengthen us as His children to be Godly people and a Godly nation of His children...

DAY 18 April 13th Essential

"The crisis of physical hunger is essentially a crisis of faith. What or whom will you trust to meet your most basic needs?" (Charles Swindoll)

THOUGHT...

In the life of the apostle Paul, there were many things after accepting Jesus that would have to change. One of those was the uncertainty of having the things he would need in life. When it came to having plenty of food, having enough clothes to wear on his body, or even having an uplifted spirit all the time, he would fall short sometimes.

Yet, at the end of the day, he was able to walk about from life and say that he had done everything he could for the sake of the Gospel message. God had promised a man named Saul that he would suffer much but that a great reward would follow that.

In the book of 2 Corinthians chapter 11, Paul shares the many struggles and things that would happen to him in his life as a follower of Jesus. Whether having plenty of food, shipwrecked, stoned, etc., Paul was not a stranger to struggles. But the one struggle he had the most was that God's word would be magnified through HIM.

READ IT

Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 11:21-28

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you consider essential in your personal life?
2. Have you given over to a complete 24hr fast yet in the last few days?
3. Do you really, truly trust God to meet your needs? How can you lean into a situation where you must completely rely on God to meet your needs?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would increase your capacity to lean into hurt, pain, suffering for the sake that someone would come to know who Jesus is through you as Paul made mention in the scriptures...

DAY 19 April 14th Church Leaders

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." (John C. Maxwell)

THOUGHT...

In the church, God has created a leadership structure. It goes Pastors, shepherds, elders. These men were appointed in the early church by the Apostles to lead and shepherd the flock. This is sometimes a thankless, tireless, and taxing ministry.

Have you ever considered the fact that these leaders have a bullseye on their back with Satan, who desires to bring them down? To take them down. To get them so discouraged, content with the status quo, that they are ineffective. Do you pray for the leaders of the church who have been given a ministry of leadership?

It is indeed a leadership position in the church and demands our full appreciation as Christ-followers. When you think about leadership in the church, take time to share and allow the Holy Spirit to talk to you about raising up the next generation of elders in the church. This is sadly one area that many churches do not have next-generation ready to step into and fill shoes.

READ IT

1 Peter 5:1-5

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about elders from the word of God? Do you know who the elders of MVCC are?
2. What do you see the elder of MVCC doing? What should they be doing, in your opinion? Have you shared this with them?
3. What would it mean for you to hear God call your name in the above place?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would help these men be Godly servants and step up to do the work they have been tasked with. Pray that God will help them in their leadership of the church...

DAY 20 April 15th Ministers

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him to do His work through me. (Hudson Taylor)

THOUGHT...

Often times when it comes to the word ministers, we think of only the people up front and in charge. You know the preacher, the youth minister, the children's minister, the music minister, etc. The reality is that we are all ministers in some capacity. If you are indeed sharing in some activity, the word of God is being proclaimed; you are a minister.

While yes, it is absolutely an awesome thing to pray for lift up your ministers, the truth of the matter is Jesus called for workers. In fact, Jesus said, "Call on the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into the field..." This is huge; he is literally asking that each of us take the word of God with us no matter where we are going.

Jesus called a bunch of fishermen to be his disciples; he called a teen like John to go out and proclaim the gospel message. Go; therefore, you don't have to be a full-time ordained minister to be a minister. You just have to be willing.

Today, lift up each and every member of the body of Christ where they are, the areas they serve in the church. This is you, the youth sponsor, the children's sponsor, the communion cup filler upper, and everything else. You are a minister. Proclaim the goodness of Jesus in your ministry.

READ IT

Colossians 3:23-24

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What would you consider yourself a minister of?
2. Be honest; what would it take for you to be a ministry leader?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Pray today that the Father would help you to lean into areas of ministry in the church, to reach out to leadership, or the full-time ministers, to get plugged in to a ministry that suits your passions and desires...

DAY 21 April 16th Send Me

"God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them." (John Piper)

THOUGHT...

I am curious about what God has done for you and me these past three weeks. Honestly, I read in one place that you and I have somewhere around 20,000 moments in a given day we will not, nor do we remember all of them. In the last few weeks, through all of us going through this journey together, we have had days where we've fasted from something, we have had prayers that we were not sure what for, but we did them.

The benefits that we are receiving we may not know, the beauty of it is, God does. Lean into this last day, thanking God for those days and those moments that we do not know. Lean into this today with the perspective that God has done some extraordinary things that we are unaware of, but we know that they have benefited the kingdom in one way or another.

The reality of today is that you and I are known by God, so let's praise the God who knows us, as Isaiah said when he was cleansed by God, "Here I am Send Me I will God." What will you do today that shows praise for the creator of the entire universe!

READ IT

Galatians 4:8-10; Psalm 150

ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. What is something that you have seen God doing the past 21 days?
2. What has been the biggest blessing you have seen in your life?
3. What are you still hoping for God to reveal to you? Lean into that conversation with Him and ask for Him to help you tonight?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Praise God today for the past, praise God today for the day, Praise God today for what the future holds for you, your church family, the kingdom as a whole praise God...