

AWAKEN

A 21 DAY PRAYER GUIDE & JOURNAL



IT'S TIME

ROM. 13:11a

Introduction

Awaken is an invitation for you to fast and pray over the course of the next three weeks for a revival of God's presence and work in your own life and church. The goal of that revival in you is for God's glory to be revealed to a watching world that needs to know Him. When large numbers or high percentages of people are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, spiritual awakening is the result. Communities change. Cities change. And yes, nations can change. Spiritual awakening is what we need in our nation, but revival of God's people is a spiritual prerequisite.

Each day in this prayer guide, I've included one or more Scriptures to get your focus on God and what He has to say to us through His Word. I've shared some thoughts with you that I pray will be a challenge or encouragement to you. I'm praying that God will increase your own hunger for His presence and power to such a degree that you will make every adjustment required to experience revival and awakening. I'm praying that God will increase your faith to believe Him for all He wants to do where you are. Don't focus attention on how bad things may be around you. Get your eyes fixed on Jesus and what He can do. He is our Hope.

I've given you some suggestions for prayer. Prayer is a relationship with the Creator of the universe. Jesus wants you to spend time getting to know Him and His purposes and His ways as you pray. He wants to speak to you about your life and your part in His plan for world redemption. You will notice that each day I'm asking you to talk to the Lord about what you should do to apply what you are hearing from Him. Don't be a hearer only.

Fasting may be a new discipline for you. If so, do some research or ask someone about fasting. That may include denying yourself food, or it could include a fast from television or media for a season. Fasting heightens your hunger for God and your focus on Him, but it also provides you with additional time to pray. Fasting and prayer go together.

DAILY REQUESTS JOURNAL

For myself and family

For Healing

For my city, state, country and world

For those who need to know Jesus or come back to Him

Day 1

Spiritual Awakening

God's Word for today

Rev. 3:14-22

What is a spiritual awakening? For there to be an awakening, there must have been a time of slumber or sleep. You wouldn't need an awakening if they were already awake, so perhaps it was a time of spiritual laziness or sloth in the church. The church at Laodicea was like that (Rev 3:14-22). That church really needed revival or an awakening, but what about today? What does a spiritual awakening look like? Can we start one? I think we know that this must be a work of God, but there are things we can do, and that is to humble ourselves. That's the beginning of having an awakening. It's having the realization of Who God is and who we are, and seeing ourselves as falling so far short of His glory (Rom 3:10-12, 23) that we could never be reconciled back to God without God Himself intervening on our behalf (John 3:16; Rom 5:1, 8:1), so step one is to humble ourselves before our God, and to ask Him to revive us and renew us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Ask for a renewed hunger and thirst for God. Sometimes, a spiritual awakening might be brought on by an emergency, either a personal one or a nation-wide one, and this could bring a renewed hunger for God and a more passionate desire to live a holy life before Him. We might find ourselves less on the phone, TV, or Internet, and more in the Bible and in relationships with others and in prayer. An awakening gets us off the couch of life and into the mainstream of being salt and light. In the 1700's, there was a Great Awakening in the U.S., perhaps in part from George Whitefield's itinerate preaching, but his impact may have caused the Great Awakening to spread to Europe. As a result of this awakening, millions were saved.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Pray for an Awakening inside of you. Ask Him for strength to overcome our spiritual laziness.
2. Pray to walk humbly before God.
3. Ask God what actions He wants you to take everyday for the next 3 weeks to overcome our weak area.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 2

Revival

God's Word for today:

Acts 2:42-47

Revival refers to a spiritual reawakening from a state of dormancy or stagnation in the life of a believer. It encompasses the resurfacing of a love for God, an appreciation of God's holiness, a passion for His Word and His church, a convicting awareness of personal and corporate sin, a spirit of humility, and a desire for repentance and growth in righteousness. Revival invigorates and sometimes deepens a believer's faith, opening his or her eyes to the truth in a fresh, new way. It generally involves the connotation of a fresh start with a clean slate, marking a new beginning of a life lived in obedience to God. Revival breaks the charm and power of the world, which blinds the eyes of men, and generates both the will and power to live in the world but not of the world.

The evidence of revival, a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers, is changed lives. Great movements toward righteousness, evangelism, and social justice occur. Believers are once again spending time in prayer and reading and obeying God's Word. Believers begin to powerfully use their spiritual gifts. There is confession of sin and repentance.

Want a revival in your life? Here is how.

Evangelist Gypsy Smith, was asked what the secret of revival is. He said, "Go home. Take a piece of chalk. Draw a circle around yourself. Then pray, 'O Lord, revive everything inside this circle.'"

It's Time to Pray:

1. Pray that God will reveal His requirements for genuine revival in your life and in your church.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed.
3. Are you using your spiritual gifts? It is a must for revival!
4. Are you confessing of sin and repentance? Begin that today.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 3

Revival Pattern

God's Word for today.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Revival is the visitation of God, which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow.

J.I. Packer

Revival is a divinely initiated work in which God's people pray, repent of their sin, and return to a holy, Spirit-filled, obedient, love-relationship with God.

Henry Blackaby

Revival is a renewed conviction of sin and repentance, followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God. It is giving up one's will to God in deep humility.

Charles Finney

It's Time to Pray:

1. Do you notice a pattern? Revival begins with recognition of our sin. Doesn't God already know our sin? Of course He knows. Repent!!!
2. Repenting is just agreeing with God that we recognize our sin and confessing it as sin to him through prayer. Pray for a soft heart for God so He can do His work.
3. Pray for humility towards God. Acknowledge your need for Him daily.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 4

My Attitude

God's Word for today

Titus 2:9-10, Matthew 5:13-16

A man had a habit of grumbling at the food his wife placed before him at family meals. Then he would ask the blessing. One day after his usual combination complaint-prayer, his little girl asked, "Daddy, does God hear us when we pray?"

"Why, of course," he replied. "He hears us every time we pray."

She paused on this a moment, and asked, "Does He hear everything we say the rest of the time?"

"Yes, dear, every word," he replied, encouraged that he had inspired his daughter to be curious about spiritual matters. However, his pride was quickly turned to humility at his daughter's next question.

"Then, which does God believe?"

As you pray, and seek to reach out to those who need Jesus in your circles of influence, we must seek to represent Jesus. Jesus said in Matthew that we are "the light of the world". The 'light' doesn't get days off because he or she is upset. I don't see where Jesus said it's okay not to be the light at times. Although we all drop the ball on this at times, may we always seek to make things right.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Prayer and ask God humbly if you need to go to someone and make things right. Seek forgiveness from those whom may have felt hurt by your actions.
2. Ask God to reveal to you anything in your life that might hinder others from choosing to follow Him.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 5

Why Pray?

God's Word for today

John 17

CS Lewis was the author of the widely read children's books, *The Narnia Chronicles*, as well as many novels for grown-ups and books on issues surrounding the Christian faith. The movie *Shadowlands* (directed by Richard Attenborough and produced in 1993) tells Lewis' story, focusing in particular on his relationship with his wife, Joy Gresham. Gresham and Lewis meet while Lewis is at Oxford University.

After Joy is diagnosed with cancer the couple marry. The movie invites us to witness their love, their pain, their grief, their struggles with faith and God. Eventually Joy dies.

At one point in the story a friend says to Lewis, "Christopher can scoff, Jack, but I know how hard you've been praying; and now God is answering your prayers."

Lewis replies "That's not why I pray, Harry. I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me."

CS Lewis

In John 17, we have a glimpse of Jesus praying. It is interesting that Jesus would pray to the Father. Jesus didn't just pray for himself, but He prayed that others would know Him and have eternal life.

He then prayed for the disciples, and then He prayed for us.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Consider how Jesus prayed. CS Lewis found that praying for others change him. Jesus knew that too. How should your prayer life change after reading this?
2. God is at work, 24/7. He never sleeps and never stops for breaks. He is at work. Know that God is seeking our prayers. If you want someone to be saved or healed, ask God daily. It will change you. Who do I need to pray for?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 6

Daily Devotions

God's Word for today

Read Mark 1

In the 1880s a young man who was an earnest Christian found employment in a pawnshop. Although he disliked the work, he did it faithfully as unto the Lord until a more desirable opportunity opened for him. To prepare himself for a life of Christian service, he wrote on a scrap of paper the following resolutions: "I do promise God that I will rise early every morning to have a few minutes—not less than five—in private prayer. I will endeavor to conduct myself as a humble, meek, and zealous follower of Jesus, and by serious witness and warning I will try to lead others to think of the needs of their immortal souls. I hereby vow to read no less than four chapters in God's Word every day. I will cultivate a spirit of self-denial and will yield myself a prisoner of love to the Redeemer of the world." That young man was William Booth, who later led thousands to Christ and founded the Salvation Army.

It sounds so simple. Just a daily routine of talking and listening to God changes everything. Here are 5 things to do everyday that can help you take the next step of spiritual growth as you have your daily devotion.

1. Spend time in prayer
2. Study God's Word
3. Love those closest to you
4. Make a difference in someone's life
5. Take care of yourself

It's Time to Pray:

1. Try adding to your prayer time and study time. We must always be taking the next step in our spiritual walk.
2. How can show extra love to those closest to me today?
3. Who is someone I can encourage to make a difference in his or her life?
4. How can take care of myself physically today?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 7 Corporate Prayer

God's Word for today

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5

“I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus Christ never taught His disciples how to preach, but only how to pray.”—D. L. Moody

Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm in the Westland Chapel, a group gathers to pray. The answered prayers that we see doesn't surprise us but it is overwhelming to see God at work. We are in awe of our God who answers prayer. Anyone in this group can tell you of those with cancer that have been healed. One person with a rare cancer was given no hope. We still pray and pray for her. She is shocking the world with her recovery. Another with liver cancer is awaiting for the remission report, it's close. Another that was pregnant when she found out she had breast cancer decided to keep her baby and do chemo while pregnant. During her pregnancy she found the cancer had metastasized to her bones. She had a huge tumor on her back. One month before her due date Brody was born. Brody is a very healthy baby boy. One week later, mom had the tumor removed on her spine. She was in rough shape. We just kept praying. Today, mom is doing great. Mom is up and going and being a great mom.

Our group of prayer warriors is in need of some others who will join us. Please consider being a part of this group. You will be astonished to see God at work. You can contact Jimmy at jimmy@westland.cc for more information. It will end up being your favorite time of week.

It's Time to Pray:

1. God always wants us to grow spiritually. God wants His house to continue to be a house of prayer. Is your next step in your growth attending prayer time?
2. Pray for God's help in growing in your prayer life.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 8

Answered prayer

God's Word for today

Genesis 18:1-15

Recently in Bible Fellowship, we studied Genesis 18. What an incredible account of God doing the impossible. Abraham had a big promise from God. God made a promise that Abraham would be the father of many. However, there was a big problem, he and his wife didn't have any children. Then, at the age of 99, Abraham's 89-year-old wife, Sarah, was just informed that one year from now she would finally have a child. Can you imagine that? It was physically impossible. She was way passed child bearing age. Sarah's reaction was to laugh. She had probably long given up on having a child. Why did God wait so long? Probably to make sure they knew that it was God's doing since it was impossible for her to conceive.

Listen to this verse.

Genesis 18:14 – "Is anything too hard for the Lord...?"

While in class that Sunday, one of the young women in class told us that her 62-year-old aunt just had her first child. Her uncle and aunt have been trying and praying for a lot of years to have a baby but it never happened. And then, God answered. Not in their timing but in His timing. This is a modern day Sarah.

Is anything too big for God?

It's Time to Pray:

1. What do you need to bring to pray about that to us is impossible?
2. What is God leading to do in response to today's reading?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 9

Restore Broken Relationships

God's Word for today

Psalm 146:1-10

George Sullivan's worst childhood memory was his father holding a knife to his mother's throat, threatening to kill her. George started wearing his rejection glasses on the day his dad moved away from his family. He hated his father and swore he would never be like him. As George grew up, every memory of his dad kindled anger within him. Ironically, the more he thought about his father, the more he became like him.

Forty years later, George attended a Promise Keeper's meeting where the topic of discussion was mending father-son relationships. Now that George was a Christian, God tugged at his heart to forgive his father for the terrible things he had done. He wondered how he could ever have a good relationship with a father who had rejected, abused, and abandoned his own family. Perhaps if he made an attempt to be reconciled, God would set him free from his own hatred.

George began his search to find the man who had abandoned him over four decades before. He decided that if he found him, he would love him unconditionally.

After several months of investigation, his leads took him to a bar in Portland, Oregon. He walked into the tavern and asked the bartender, "Is there a man named Bill who's a frequent customer here?" The man pointed to an elderly man sitting at a table by himself.

George pulled up a chair next to the 76-year-old man. He stretched out his hand and introduced himself. "Hi, my name is George."

The old man with the wrinkled face shook his hand, saying, "I have a son named George."

George replied, "I know, Dad. I'm him. How are you doing?"

His father, who had not seen him since he was a boy, choked up with emotion. With tears rolling down his face, he replied in a nervous laugh, "What took you so long to find me?"

It's Time to Pray:

Ask God to reveal any relationships you may have that need reconciliation of forgiveness. Pray for those people today.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 10

First Love

God's Word for Today

Hebrew 13

Philippians 4:13

The story is told about an old farm couple who were driving along in their pickup when the wife said, "We never sit all snuggled up in the truck like we used to." The husband looked at her and said, "I haven't moved."

When we discover as a church or as individual believers that we aren't as close to God as we once were, understand this, He didn't move, we did.

It is comforting to know that we can always trust God because He is always there. He is not a moving target. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:7, the author encourages us to have a mentor or role model as someone to imitate. Look at someone who is mature in their faith that loves Jesus with all their heart. Imitate what they do to stay close to Him.

Pastor Roy's favorite verse is Philippians 4:13. As a teenager, he understood that the secret to staying close to Christ, his first love, was to turn to Jesus for strength.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Thank God for his faithfulness. He is still on the throne.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed.
3. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add them to your prayer list in the front of your prayer guide.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 11

Surrendered Lives

God's Word for today

Romans 12

Jim Elliot, along with four of his missionary colleagues was killed on January 8, 1956 while trying to establish contact with the Auca Indians in Ecuador (now known as the Waodani people). Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Flemming and Roger Youderian had been working to make friendly contact with the Auca tribe which they had seen from the air. Though they had only met one tribesman face to face, they had participated in trades with the Auca from a plane to ground system. When Elliot and his friends landed on a river beach on that fateful January day they were slaughtered by the waiting men.

Their deaths were not in vain though. The widows continued to try and make peaceful contact and eventually won the hearts of the tribe. God has used this recent missionary martyr story to inspire new generations of missionaries willing to give their lives for what they believe.

Though God may not require you to lay down your physical life for His cause, His call to salvation is a call to lordship. Jesus is Lord. We are His servants. We need to be prepared to obey His every command because we love Him. And we love Him because He first loved us and gave His life for our salvation.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Thank God for all the mercy and grace He has shown to you. Now, I beg you to present yourself to the Lord as a servant who will obey his or her Lord's command.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for a person or group who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 12

Faithful Walk

God's Word for today

1 John 1

God is faithful and just. It's who He is. Because He is faithful to always forgive when we ask, we should be faithful to Him.

In the 1880s a young man who was an earnest Christian found employment in a pawnshop. Although he disliked the work, he did it faithfully as unto the Lord until a more desirable opportunity opened for him. To prepare himself for a life of Christian service, he wrote on a scrap of paper the following resolutions: "I do promise God that I will rise early every morning to have a few minutes—not less than five—in private prayer. I will endeavor to conduct myself as a humble, meek, and zealous follower of Jesus, and by serious witness and warning I will try to lead others to think of the needs of their immortal souls. I hereby vow to read no less than four chapters in God's Word every day. I will cultivate a spirit of self-denial and will yield myself a prisoner of love to the Redeemer of the world." That young man was William Booth, who later led thousands to Christ and founded the Salvation Army.

God desires our constant acknowledgment that we need Him and His guidance. This helps us stay close to Him. God is "faithful and just to forgive...".

It's Time to Pray:

1. How is your faithfulness to Him? How can I show my faithfulness to God?
2. Prayer, study God's Word and make a difference in others lives are key components of staying faithful to God.
3. How are you doing in prayer life? How are you doing in studying God's Word? How are you doing in making a difference?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 13

Renew my Strength

God's Word for today

Isaiah 40:28-31

One of the great benefits of a close relationship with God is how He gives us strength. This life on earth has ups and downs. When we are down, God does what only God can do, He comforts us and gives us strength.

In the passage from Isaiah, we see God not only give us strength, but strength to “soar on wings like eagles.”

What a great God we serve.

Never take for granted what you see God do. He is always at work, 24/7. I love vs. 28 in this passage. It seems as though God is bragging about his goodness.

God wants us bragging on Him and what He has done for us.

“Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
The creator of the ends of the earth”.

It's Time to Pray:

1. Is strength something you need today? Is soaring what you or someone else needs today?
2. Can you recall a time when you felt God's comfort and strength. Thank God at this time for that.
3. What is God leading you to do today in response to this today?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 14

The Blessings of Obedience

God's Word for Today

Read John 14:15-23 and Matthew 7:21-27

Thoughts for Today

Hasn't Jesus made some wonderful promises to us? He has promised the Holy Spirit as our Counselor who will never leave us alone. He has promised us life in Him and in the Father. When we love Him and obey His commands, the Father will love us and Christ will reveal Himself to us. When we love and obey God, He takes up residence in our lives to live in us and with us! Did you notice the importance of obedience in all those promises? Those who do not obey, do not love Him. And their experience with God will be very different.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable about the two builders. One built his house on a rock, and the other built his on sand. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm and the other was destroyed. He said our lives are like those two builders. Those who obey are wise like the man who built his house on the rock. When the storms of life come, we can remain strong through the tough times. Those who do not obey are foolish like the man who built his house on the sand. People like that cannot remain strong when the storms of life rage around them.

It's Time to Pray:

1. If obedience is such a big deal to God, how am I doing in living this out in my life?
2. What areas of my life do I need to reflect on this and change?

Day 15

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 15

Survey Your World

God's Word for today:

John 1:35-51

When Andrew and Philip met Jesus, they immediately thought of others in their circles of relationships who needed to meet Him. They immediately brought Peter and Nathaniel to meet Jesus. Today, I want you to begin thinking about the people in your circles of relationships who need to meet Jesus as Savior and Lord. Follow the prayer suggestions below and then turn to the front page. Pray for God to reveal more people you know who need to be introduced to Jesus.

God has us in Katy, TX on purpose. He has asked us to be Jesus with skin on around others. He is calling on us to keep our eyes open to His work. He is active 24/7.

Recently, we have a group of students and adults from South Korea come to Westland. While here, they will all hear the gospel. God has brought them a long way to hear the gospel and prayerfully respond to. May God put on our mind and hearts those around us to hear and respond to Jesus.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to remind you about the time you were first introduced to Jesus. Reflect on the change that Jesus has worked in your own life.
2. What are the names of your next door neighbors.

Begin today praying for them to come to know Jesus or to team up with you to make sure others around know Jesus.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 16

My Baggage

God's Word for today:

1 Samuel 10:9-24

When God led Samuel to appoint Saul as king, the people were thrilled to finally have a king like the other nations had. Samuel warned the people what a King would require from them. A king would take your sons and your daughters and make them serve him. A king will also take your horses and chariots. He will take the best of your cattle and flocks.

The people refused to listen to Samuel and wanted a king. So a king they got. Sure enough Samuel was right about everything.

The first king of Israel was named Saul. When Samuel anointed Saul, Saul was afraid and overwhelmed. In fact, the first time Saul was introduced as King, they couldn't find him. Eventually they found him "hiding in his baggage" according to verse 23 in our reading. Why was he hiding? Fear!

In our lives we have many obstacles. God wants us to face them head on. He wants us to face our fears and not hide in "our baggage".

Why do we sometimes let fear and frustration get the best of us? Is it a lack of trust in God? A lack of faith in God? Something from our past (baggage)?

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to show us how we respond frustration and fear in our lives.
Do we respond negatively because of our baggage?
2. Pray for God's guidance as we grow in walk with the Lord?
3. Ask someone close to you about areas of growth in your life.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 17

My Strength

God's Word for today:

1 Samuel 17

The story of David and Goliath is a very well known story. There are so many aspects of this story that we can apply to our own lives. However, the main focus of this story always leads to our admiring David's spiritual strength.

David walks through the battle lines of Israeli army with such a confidence. He doesn't understand why the soldiers won't fight this guy who "... defiles the armies of the living God".

Oh what I would do to have the kind of strength to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone. To walk as a spiritual victor has great appeal for followers of Jesus.

We are all faced with our own giants in life.

The Israelites were helpless against Goliath. They were afraid, They had no plan. They allowed themselves to be intimidated and they had forgotten that God was on their side.

Why did David think he could fight and beat Goliath? His confidence comes from his experiences where he has seen God working and his faith in God.

Have we forgotten how to face our giants? We are not to be afraid, God has a plan, we have no reason to be intimidated because God is on our side.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray for strength as we face our own giants.
2. List the giants in your life that you need to face. Pray for God's wisdom and strength to overcome these giants.
3. Who do know that needs help facing their giants? What can you do to help?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 18

Facing My Fears

God's Word for Today:

Matthew 14:22-33

This well known passage in Matt. 14 shows us a lot about Peter. He often speaks first and thinks second. We all have those moments in our lives. How many of us can identify with Peter? He was always outspoken and doing things that he shouldn't. Also, he was someone who was willing to take risks.

Peter's confidence of walking on water tells about his faith in Jesus. None of the other disciples walked on water, only Peter.

What did you think made Peter sink? Was it because his focus shifted from Jesus to his circumstances? Maybe because his fear was greater than his faith. The right answer is probably a lot of both.

The one thing we all admire about Peter is that at least he stepped out there. You know all of the other disciples wish they had the faith to step out like Peter.

Often, we are most like the disciples. We like the safety net of the boat. We are comfortable there. What if Jesus is calling us to step out of our boat onto the waves? Are we willing to do it or do we want to stay where our comfort is?

Oh what I would do to have the kind of faith to step out of the boat I'm in, onto the crashing waves. To get out of my comfort zone because that is where Jesus is.

It's Time to Pray

1. Where is God leading me to 'step out of my comfort zone'?
2. What keeps you in boat or cause you to sink?
3. Pray for God's power to help step out of comfort zone.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 19

What Does It Cost

God's Word for Today:

Matthew 16:13-28

Matthew 16:24 is a verse we often read fast so we don't have to focus on it. It's a tough verse.

What do you think this verse means when it says '...deny ourselves'? If we really pray through this, God will show us what He wants us to do. I pray that during these 21 days of prayer that you have "fasted".

What do you think this verse means when it reads '... take up your cross'? That passage means that you and I are willing to die in order to follow Jesus. That is where Jesus wants us.

How often does Jesus say that we should deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him? Daily.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Trials will come. Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never said it would be easy.

Living daily for Jesus is going to take a commitment to begin every morning by praying and seeking God in His Word. That is when you will see God at work everyday.

It's Time to Pray:

1. What would help you take the next step in your life? Do you need to correct some of my misconceptions of who Jesus is?
2. Do you need to get to work on the basics-prayer, Bible reading, etc.
3. Do you need to confess your faith publically?

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 20

Confidence

God's Word for Today:

1 John 4-5

The story is told of a young girl who accepted Christ as her Savior and applied for membership in a local church. "Were you a sinner before you received the Lord Jesus into your life?" inquired a deacon. "Yes, sir," she replied.

"Well, are you still a sinner?" he asked.

"To tell you the truth, I feel I'm a greater sinner than ever," the little girl said.

"Then what real change have you experienced?" the deacon asked.

"I don't quite know how to explain it," she said, "except I used to be a sinner running after sin, but now that I am saved, I'm a sinner running from sin!" she was received into the fellowship of the church.

The passage reading today can give us confidence to know we are His. When Jesus comes into our lives, it is for our own good. As we learn to follow Him and begin to read our scripture, our lives transform to become more like Jesus.

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:21

"Friends, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

It's Time to Pray:

1. Gaining confidence in our faith is a must for Christ followers. God wants us to be growing. Growing means knowing where I am in my walk and taking a step to know His Word. Where are you in your walk with God?
2. What is my next step?
3. Pray for what God wants you to do to grow.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal

Day 21

Next Step

God's Word for Today:

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

In the 1880s a young man who was an earnest Christian found employment in a pawnshop. Although he disliked the work, he did it faithfully as unto the Lord until a more desirable opportunity opened for him. To prepare himself for a life of Christian service, he wrote on a scrap of paper the following resolutions: "I do promise God that I will rise early every morning to have a few minutes—not less than five—in private prayer. I will endeavor to conduct myself as a humble, meek, and zealous follower of Jesus, and by serious witness and warning I will try to lead others to think of the needs of their immortal souls. I hereby vow to read no less than four chapters in God's Word every day. I will cultivate a spirit of self-denial and will yield myself a prisoner of love to the Redeemer of the world." That young man was William Booth, who later led thousands to Christ and founded the Salvation Army.

William Booth understood his next step. God has used him in a mighty way. His ministry is still active and alive today. What an incredible legacy. William knew that he called as an ambassador for Christ and he didn't take it lightly.

Are you creating a legacy? It always begins with knowing God personally.

It's Time to Pray:

1. If you were appointed as an ambassador, where would you like to sent?
As followers of Jesus, we are His ambassador's. We represent Him.
Since we are ambassadors that speak for Christ, how do I grow to speak for Him?
2. Consider teaming up with the prayer team that meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm to continue to keep a strong prayer life.

Go to first page and begin praying over your Daily Requests Journal