



2021-DAY FAST

BALDWIN COUNTY-WIDE PRAYER MOVEMENT

JAN 4 – JAN 24

BALDWIN PRAYS

Congratulations! You are now beginning a 21-day period of fasting and prayer with churches all across Baldwin County. During these next 3 weeks, we will believe together for miracles, for breakthrough in our spiritual lives, and to lean into God like never before. For some, this may be a familiar practice and ongoing part of your relationship with God. For others, this may be the first step towards a deeper relationship with our Creator and Savior, Jesus. Wherever you find yourself on this journey, the rewards are a sharpened spirituality for you and a stronger church as a whole as each one of us plays our part. Also, know that you are not alone, but are joining together with many others in the body of Christ. Here are some things to keep in mind over the next 21 days.

WHAT IS A FAST?

A Biblical fast means to go without food for a period of time to humble ourselves so that we can be free to seek God. (2 Chronicles 7:14) We put aside earthly appetites to develop the right spiritual appetites.

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR ME?

Although a true Biblical fast is going without food, the principle of abstaining from something in order to pray and seek God is an honorable practice. We encourage you to find a plan you can do for the full 21 days. Whatever you choose to do, make sure to consult a medical professional before making any drastic dietary changes. Here are some suggested fasting options for you:

1. Only eat 1 meal a day for 21 days.
2. Skip a meal once a day for 21 days.
3. Abstain from a certain foods that you really like.
4. Abstain from social media and/or television.
5. Abstain from caffeinated products.
6. Abstain from meats and sweets.
7. Abstain from all foods daily for a designated period (i.e.—6am to 6pm), drinking water/juices only.

These are just a few suggestions, but make sure you spend time every day on your own in prayer.

Fasting without prayer is just a diet.

WHAT SHOULD I PRAY ABOUT?

We want you to push forward in your walk with God like never before. Pray for the breakthrough you are believing for, pray for the salvation of those in your world who don't yet know Jesus, pray for our pastors and leaders, pray for our government and elected officials, pray in the Spirit, pray in the morning, pray at night, thank God for what He has done and Who He is, pray when you're hungry, pray that God's Kingdom would be established on the earth.

Each daily devotional has a PRAYER FOCUS. Join us in declaring “Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven!

DAY 1

Today’s Prayer Focus: MY SPIRITUAL LIFE—A personal reflection of where I am relationally with God

King David serves for us as a great role model of self-reflection. In Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT) he cried out: ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. He also prayed in Psalm 51:10 (TPT) Create a new, clean heart within me. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you. Spiritual self-reflection and evaluation should be a regular disciple of our lives.

Reflection Points:

- Is there anyone that I need to forgive because they have offended me?
- Are there things in my life that I’m allowing to affect my closeness with God? If so, identify them and ask God to remove them.
- When do you feel closest to God? When do you feel distant?

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 2

Today's Prayer focus: MY WITNESS—Being an agent of change

In his essay *The Efficacy of Prayer*, C.S. Lewis writes, "Prayer is request. The essence of request, as distinct from command, is that it **may or may not be granted.**"

I love this quote because it reminds me that prayer is much bigger than my personal wish list. It's not just me asking God for stuff, like a 6-year-old writing to Santa. If I keep this perspective, I learn to trust Him more. He knows what's best. It reminds me that ultimately, as Philippians 4:6 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but...present your requests to God."

Clearly God wants to hear our requests. And He wants to bless us. But, He also wants us to have the courage to not worry, even if the answer isn't what we wanted.

The ultimate example of prayer is found in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus prayed to be set free from the crucifixion. Yet, after lots of heartache, Jesus finally said the greatest words ever uttered, "Not my will, but Yours," to God. In that moment, Jesus expressed what prayer is all about. It's about being real with our Heavenly Father, for Jesus held nothing back. But it's also about giving Him the final say.

When we fast and pray, we reduce the temptation to focus on ourselves. We begin to overcome the flesh and go deeper in the Spirit and surrender our desires to His will. This is the beauty of church-wide prayer and fasting. When we collectively join together in prayer, I believe He will answer our prayers and He will reveal Himself in ways we never thought possible.

Reflection Points:

- We were designed to host the Spirit of God changing every environment we encounter."
- Write down 3 things you want to see changed in the environments you are a part of.
- Ask Holy Spirit to give you creative ideas to bring about the change He wants to see.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 3

Today's Prayer Focus: **MY SERVANTHOOD**

I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ... [Mighty seraphim] were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" Isaiah 6:1 & 3

Take a step back for a minute, and consider the magnitude, holiness, and love of our God. Scripture says that Isaiah was so overwhelmed by the holiness of God that all he could see was the weight of his sin and the gravity of his unclean heart. "I'm as good as dead," he told himself. Yet, in this moment of coming face to face with the presence of God, Isaiah also encountered His amazing grace. An angel of the LORD touched his lips and declared, "Look. Gone is your guilt, your sins wiped out completely." Then, a laser-focused Isaiah raised his hand ... humbled, strengthened, and ready ... and said, "Here I am. Send me."

As you pray today, let the magnitude and holiness of God cover you. Let His grace heal and release you. And let His perfect love empower you. God is stirring your heart because He has called you to a life of powerful purpose. It's time to step out ... in your prayers, in your relationships and work, in renewing your mind and activating your faith ... and to know that God sees you, hears you, and will use you for His glory.

Prayer: God, more than anything, I want to put up my hand and say, "Here I am. Send me," whether that means sending me more deeply into the trenches of prayer, more brightly as a light to my family and neighbors, or more faithfully in service to others. I know that first, I need to acknowledge Your greatness and receive Your beautiful grace. I know that You alone are my portion and strength. Thank You for choosing me. And because of You, I have purpose and hope that will change my world! Amen.

Reflection Points:

- Am I serving the Body of Christ inside my local church?
- Am I serving the Body of Christ outside my local church?
- Do I serve gladly or begrudgingly?
- Journal some of your experiences/feelings (good or bad) in serving.
- List some areas that interest you and pray about involvement in those areas.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 4

Today's Prayer Focus: **MY PERSONAL GIVING**

"Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven" and simply trust God with the rest. Matthew 6:33

Prayer can be clumsy and awkward. One-sided conversations tend to be that way. When we pray, we often run out of things to say and it becomes one long monologue of our needs, our desires, our frustrations, our shortcomings, our failures, God's lack of timing, etc. Prayer, however, isn't meant to be a monologue. It's always meant to be a dialogue between the Creator and His finest creation. The problem is, we don't stop praying long enough to allow God to answer.

Prayer should involve moments of talking and moments of listening. It's in the stillness of His presence that we can listen for God's response, which quickly turns prayer from an awkward rant to a meaningful conversation. God is more interested in *relationship* and not *rhetoric*. He wants to *talk* and isn't worried about *technique*. Heartfelt prayer, without any fear of doing it wrong, turns our conversation into communion, and it's in communion that we draw closer to God. This is what God desires from us—*that we draw close*.

If we can slow ourselves down and seek Him, like Matthew 6:33 says, then the things that concern us about prayer (how we should pray, or what words to use) become less important, and we learn what matters most is simply getting in His presence. Our focus shifts from ourselves to Him and this changes our whole perspective on prayer. The goal: we become more like Him.

Reflection Points:

- Do I worship God in giving of my finances?
- Do I worship by giving on a consistent basis?
- Journal your experiences (good/bad) of financially worshipping God.
- Express in writing your gratitude to God for financial provision.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 5

Today's Prayer Focus: **MY PERSONAL WORSHIP**

Being Alone

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." Mark 1:35

I love to get away, get some place where it's quiet, and have alone time with Jesus. He always fills my soul with freshness during these times.

During Jesus' three years of earthly ministry He spent a lot of time with people. As He ministered to the people, He also showed us the secret to growing close to the Father was to withdraw and have quiet time through prayer.

Jesus needed the serenity that being alone with God brings. He also needed the clear communication that comes from quiet and focused prayer. We need this too. We only get this when we withdraw from the busyness of life and go to our quiet place.

During this year, discipline yourself to get alone with God and draw closer to Him like never before! Listen to the Father's voice as He guides you into all He has purposed and planned for your life. Also, during these times pray for our church, our leaders, our community, and the world!

Pray: Heavenly Father, I am so grateful for the quiet moments that You and I are able to spend together. Help me keep my priorities in order today, and I pray that I may be a blessing to someone's life. Continue to use our Church to touch my community and those around me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Reflection Points:

- Do I make worship a part of my daily life; more than Sunday morning?
- How can I personally involve myself in worship during celebration times at church?
- Journal your fears/joys of worship.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 6

Today's Prayer Focus: **YOUR CHURCH'S FUTURE**

Whenever God does something new, He involves people — often unlikely people, frequently surprised and alarmed people. He asks them to trust Him in a new way, to put aside their natural reactions, to listen humbly for a fresh word and to act on it without knowing exactly how it's going to work out. Reading the Bible without knowing in advance what God is going to say takes humility. Like Joseph, husband to Mary, we may have to put our initial reactions on hold and be prepared to hear new words, to think new thoughts and to live them out. We all come with our own questions, our own sorrows and frustrations, our own desires. God will deal with them in His own way, but He will do so as part of His own much larger and deeper purposes. Who knows what might happen, this year, if even a few of us were prepared to listen to God's Word in scripture in a new way, to share the humility of Joseph, and to find ourselves caught up in God's rescue operation?

Pray: Speak to us, Father, in a new way as we read your Word. Help us to hear Your voice and follow where You lead.

- Are you connected with the heart of our church's vision for the future?
- What are the top 3 things your church wants to see happen this year? Don't know?...ask your leader to share his/her heart with you.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 7

Today's Prayer focus: **CHURCH GROWTH**

"...three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before." -Daniel 6:10

One of the greatest sustaining factors in our walk with Christ is the consistency of our prayer life. Faced with great opposition and in the midst of being thrown into the Lion's Den, Daniel knelt and prayed, "just as he had done before."

I love that phrase: "just as he had done before." If we examine our lives and ask ourselves what we do when faced with opposition, what is our predominant response? Is it to panic? Freak out? Or consistently seek God?

My hope during this time of prayer and fasting is that I can continue to cultivate a heart response toward God that says, "No matter what I face, my life will reflect consistency with You."

Prayer and fasting doesn't change God's mind so much as it changes *my* mind. Fasting from food and "things" that distract me from the Kingdom of God can soften my heart and still my soul to hear His voice.

Let's have minds and hearts that are leaning into God like never before. We all play an integral part of being a church that prays. Together we can accomplish so much in prayer; from individual deepening of our relationship to collectively seeing the church advance through the power of a unified vision.

Reflection Points:

- Take a moment to pray for other churches in your community to prosper.
- Pray for people to be drawn to our churches through invitation of our members/attenders.
- Pray for people to give their lives to Jesus, experience true revival and become disciples.
- Declare multiplication and growth over your local church and the churches of Baldwin County.
- Pray that our church body as a whole sees "growth" as personal responsibility. Each person can help the church grow by being a walking "billboard."

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 8

Today's Prayer Focus: **MARRIAGES**

There has been an assault on the family in the last several decades like never before. The enemy loves division! Jesus said in Matthew 12:25 that "a house divided against itself will not stand." Unity makes us stronger! Are there areas of your marriage where you can see the enemy trying to bring division or separation between you and your spouse? Do you see others struggling in their marriage? It's time for us to intercede for our marriages. God created marriage and therefore marriage is HOLY. Satan hates...HATES...all things holy.

Reflection Points:

- Pray for your spouse (or future spouse).
- How can I love my spouse better?
- Pray God's protection over marriages—pray against infidelity both sexually and emotionally.
- What area(s) frustrates you most right now about your marriage? Ask God to heal it.
- What area pleases you most about your marriage right now? Praise God for it.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 9

Today's Prayer focus: **LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS**

"Heavy is the head that wears the crown!" It's a quote from Shakespeare's "Henry IV" which means that those charged with major responsibility carry a heavy burden.

Our world is a crazy place right now...culturally, politically, racially...Our leaders are facing so much chaos from every side. Let's pray for our leaders as the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-3: "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior...."

Whether you voted for current government leadership or not, whether you agree with them or not, whether you like them or not, take a moment to pray for our leaders. Pray for their souls and families. Pray for their well-being. Pray for them to have a supernatural encounter with God.

Reflection Points:

- Look up your city leaders and pray for your local leaders
- Pray for our President and other governmental leaders.
- Ask God's protection over our leaders—physical, integrity.
- Declare unity over our nation and healing of our country.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 10

Today's Prayer Focus: OUR COMMUNITY—Your City/Town, Baldwin County, Gulf Coast

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in the small, “hicktown” of Nazareth. Jesus lived in a time when important people were expected to come from important places. Nazareth was anything but important...*or so it seemed*. Once when Jesus was recruiting disciples to follow him, one of the newly commissioned disciples, Philip, reached out to his friend Nathaniel to recruit him saying: “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth? (John 1: 45-46).” There was this thought that nothing or nobody from Nazareth was of much value. Wow, did they ever miss it on this one?! The Son of God, the One that would change history—save humanity—came from a small, obscure town.

Do you believe that Holy Spirit wants to do something BIG in your town, city or region no matter how big or how small it is?? Can you believe that Jesus wants you to be a world-changer? Pray for revival in your city! Believe God to use you, your church and the people of God to reach the Gulf Coast!

Reflection Points:

- Ask God to raise up your church to be an agent of influence for Baldwin County.
- Ask God to help us meet needs that are not being met in our cities, county.
- Pray for strongholds over our cities and towns to be broken.
- Pray for favor with our city leaders.
- Break the spirit of suicide over Baldwin County (Baldwin is ranked 10th highest in numbers of suicides in Alabama.)

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 11

Today's Prayer Focus: **FOREIGN MISSIONS**

When you think about it, Jesus was the Ultimate Foreign Missionary! He left his home in glory, giving up his divine privilege to come share the Gospel. In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, ***and to the ends of the earth.***" Foreign missions is part of our commission—whether we go in person or we help indirectly—Jesus has commissioned us to go to the ends of the earth sharing the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Reflection Points:

- Pray for the protection and provision of missionaries whom your church supports.
- Pray about being involved in a future mission trip.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- Pray for the hearts of the nations to be open to a hearing and accepting the Gospel.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 12

Today's Prayer Focus: HEALING for those who are physically or emotionally ill

Read: John 5:1-9

Jesus heals a man at the pool of Bethesda – but first, he questions whether or not he wants to be well. When Jesus encounters a man lying ill beside the pool of Bethesda, he asks him what seems like a peculiar question: “Would you like to get well?” Uh... yeah, I’d like to get well! But the question is not as strange as it seems. He’s been lying there for 38 years. That’s a long time. If Jesus heals him, a lot will have to change. For starters, what will he do for income? He has relied on the compassion of strangers for nearly four decades. What if walking isn’t all it’s cracked up to be? What new habits will he have to embrace? What new challenges will he have to face? What if he can’t cut it in the upright world?

Jesus’ question is a genuine one after all. And he’s asking you and me the same thing. How long have you been struggling with an addiction? How long have you had that temper? How long have you been living from paycheck to paycheck, handcuffed by debt? How long have you been holding on to hatred in your heart toward someone who wronged you? How long have you been refusing to serve or give to make a difference with your life? Would you like to get well? Unfortunately, I think some of us would have to say, “No, not really. As bad as this is, as much as I act like I detest it, it’s all I’ve known for a long time. I’d rather stay lying here, far short of my potential.” I hope that’s not you! Because I’ll tell you one thing: I’ve decided I would like to get well. I want Jesus’ power to transform every area of my life, even those that have been mediocre for a long time. I want healing in my body, transformation in my mind, and power in my soul. I want to be able to move freely toward God’s best for me. I’ll take a well life that demands a lot of things will have to change over a sick one filled with the same dysfunctions any day of the week. Yeah, Jesus – I would like to get well. And you can do that for me. I’ve just gotta have the guts to stand up and walk when you do make me well.

Prayer: Jesus, I would like to get well. You know the areas of my life where I’ve been lying down, telling myself this is the way it will always be. Confront me with my complacency. Then heal me! Deliver me from my sicknesses – physical, mental, and spiritual. No matter how long it’s been like this, you’re able to make me well.

Reflection Points:

- Ask God to heal those you know who have major illnesses or disease.
- Remember, God is our Healer...His name is Jehovah Rapha, “God our Healer.”
- Identify the areas of your life that need healing.
- Reflect/journal how you feel when God does heal; when he doesn’t heal?

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 13

Today's Prayer Focus: MINISTRIES IN MY LOCAL CHURCH—Youth, Children, Music, Adult Teaching

The local church is very important to the expansion of the Kingdom and making disciples. Prior to Jesus' departure, when he spoke of the power that was to be imparted to the Church by the Holy Spirit, he said we would be his witnesses in "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the outer parts of the earth." There was "an order" to Jesus' instructions. Jerusalem was ground zero... "home;" then moving out towards Judea, then further to Samaria and ultimately throughout the world. There was a sequence which highlighted the importance of starting at "home." The ministries of the local church are vital to the making of disciples. There can be no foreign missions unless there is a vibrant, growing and effective ministry in the local church.

Reflection Points:

- Pray for servant-hearted volunteers to come forward to serve. Is there a place that I can serve and help meet a need right now?
- Pray God's anointing (imparted power) over our leaders...that God would empower them with spiritual gifts (wisdom, discernment, knowledge, prophecy, healing, faith, tongues & interpretations).
- Pray that our adult teaching ministry, children, youth and music ministries would be effective in ministering the God-story to people every week.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. (Example: Call several of the leaders of some of your church's ministries, and let them know how much you appreciate them.)

2. _____

DAY 14

Today's Prayer focus: **OUTREACH—Local Ministry**

Matthew 9:36-- When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus cared for the people. He cared for their spiritual needs, but he also cared for their immediate physical needs as well. Jesus valued ministry to those who were less fortunate so much that he equated it with ministering to him personally!

He fed the hungry, healed the sick, stopped to have life-giving conversations with the lost, lonely or confused. He taught his disciples to do the same. And as his disciples created in his image, we should also care about the needs of our community.

Reflection Points:

- Pray about joining in an outreach project your church is sponsoring.
- Pray about serving at one of Baldwin County's outreach ministries such as Prodissee Pantry, Big Fish, Waterfront Rescue Mission, etc.
- Ask the Lord to help open your eyes to needs around you where you can help.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 15

Today's Prayer focus: **MY LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY**

READ ACTS 2:42-47

God designed us for community. And the local church is His model for relationship among believers. As the Body of believers, we have many benefits of being connected:

- Security (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- Spiritual Support (Galatians 6:2)
- Growth (Ephesians 4:12-13)
- Strength / Power (Matthew 18:20)
- Physical Support (Romans 12:13)
- Accountability (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Can you think of other benefits?

Reflection Points:

- Pray for the physical, relational, financial needs of people within your church.
- Is there a way you can minister in some way to a family within your church?
- Call someone and encourage or affirm them today.
- Am I connected with other families in our church? Think of ways you can connect outside of Sunday worship times.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 16

Today's Prayer Focus: INCREASED FAITH LEVEL

Read: Mark 9:14-29

Once a man brought his son who was demon possessed to Jesus for deliverance. The man asked Jesus to help him if he possibly could...to which Jesus replied, "***If I can***, anything is possible to a person who believes." as if to say, "What do you mean if I can? Why would you bring him to me if you thought otherwise?" The man responded and said, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief."

Is it possible to have belief and unbelief at the same time? When we know and trust God to be true to His Word. Yet, when our circumstances contrast with our faith and the Word what do we do? We exercise our faith! We remember the evidence of God's goodness,...the times He has provided for us. We use these as memorials and encouragement for our faith to be built up!

Prayer: God, I pray for increased faith, for the ability to believe without seeing. When things get hard and doubt fills my mind, give me the courage and the confidence to push doubt out and to hold tight to your promises instead.

Reflection Points:

- List 2-3 "miracles" you have personally seen in your life-time.
- List 2-3 "needs/or desires" you have that are beyond your ability to produce—Only God can do it!

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 17

Today's Prayer Focus: MY AWARENESS AN WILLINGNESS TO BE USED BY GOD

Read: John 4:1-30

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well in the middle of the day and asks her for a drink. It's hard to understand today, but in Jesus' time the whole interaction is bizarre (that's why his disciples are so shocked by it). She's a Samaritan; he's Jewish. She's a woman; he's a man. She has a questionable reputation; he's perfectly pure.

And how does he start things off? "Please give me a drink." What happens next is intense and inspiring. They banter back and forth until the woman realizes who he is and runs back to her village to invite everyone she can to meet him. He doesn't need her to get him a drink – he's perfectly capable! But he asks nonetheless. He gives this woman a part to play in the miracle he's about to perform in her life. "Please give me a drink." What Jesus knows of course is that what he has to give her is infinitely superior to what she has to give him. Nevertheless, he asks her to do what she can do before he does what he can do.

Those first few words out of Jesus' mouth make me wonder,... "If Jesus wanted something, would he ask me?" And would I be willing to do it? The opportunities we have to serve, to give, to turn our attention away from our own needs and be generous toward what matters to God may very well be Jesus starting a conversation with us.

Prayer: Jesus, I'm striving to be the kind of person you can come to when you're thirsty – the kind of person you can ask for a drink. You've had the grace to change my life; now everything I have belongs to you. Thank you for starting conversations with me through the opportunity to do things for you. I'm ready to do anything you ask. So, ask away.

Reflection Points:

- If God wants something done, can he depend on you?
- Have you experienced God prompting or speaking to you to step out and do something for Him?
- What usually causes me to "shrink back" from stepping out.
- Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you opportunities where you can be an agent of hope and healing.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 18

Today's Prayer focus: **MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

The prayers of a father for a son and a son for a father have a special bond. As all parents have learned, you don't know how deep you can love until you have a child. Someone once put it this way, "It's like having your heart live outside your body."

Was this the way God the Father felt when His son Jesus walked the earth? Imagine how hard it was to know Jesus would have to endure the cross. I think about the incredible sacrifice this was, and it was made for you and me so that we could have a relationship with God and be saved.

God the Father spoke His love for His son when Jesus was being baptized in Matthew 3:16-17.

"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

These words weren't just for the crowd that had gathered. God, as a Father, was speaking to Jesus His Son. God wanted Jesus to know how much He loved Him and how pleased He was at Jesus' obedience. These were words from a father to a son.

Let's take today and pray for our children and our parents...

Let's draw close to God like never before and believe that His hand will protect, guide and prosper all of them.

Reflection Points:

- Pray for those in your family who have not made spiritual decisions to follow Christ.
- Pray for their financial, emotional and physical needs.
- Pray a spiritual covering of protection over your family (especially your spouse and children).
- Speak blessings over your children; their future. Pray for their future spouse.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 19

Today's Prayer Focus: **THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF YOUR CHURCH**

Pastors burn out at an alarming rate! As Christians, we should feel deep agony over this fact, especially since the main reason for it appears to be . . . us! The very Christians who comprise the congregations of pastors who are rapidly dropping out of ministry are most often the cause for it. God has not called us to criticize or damage our pastors. He has called us to love them (1 Cor. 13:1-13), to be submissive to their leadership (Heb. 13:17), and to pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-2). The Father has called our pastors, and has ordained them to be our shepherds (Acts 20:28).

How can you pray effectively for your pastors and their families? The first thing that is needed is to make a commitment to pray for them daily. If your pastors knew that you, your family, and others were praying for them each day . . . can you imagine what an encouragement that would be? Would their hearts be lifted if they knew that they could share a need or a concern with your family and you would take it to the Lord on their behalf? You know it would!

Most pastors and their families feel very alone in the midst of their churches. Often, they don't have close friends in the congregation to whom they can go with burdens. They may feel that they can't share needs because they, of all people, should have everything running smoothly. In truth, the pastor's family is just like yours. They struggle with similar issues and problems. They desperately need others to come alongside of them and commit to fervent, continuous prayer so that the enemy won't have the opportunity to do damage. Your pastor's ministry will only be as effective as the prayer that fuels it. If you want a joyful, Spirit-filled shepherd, who confidently leads their congregation into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and demonstrates a passion for revival and for reaching the lost, then you must pray for them – and for their families!

Reflection Points:

- Pray for their marriage, finances and physical protection.
- Pray for their children.
- Pray that God would give them favor in our community.
- Pray for spiritual revelation and hunger.
- Pray that God would continually develop them in their abilities to lead.
- When was the last time you made a tangible expression of appreciation to your spiritual leader(s)?

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____
2. _____

DAY 20

Today's Prayer focus: **FRIENDS WHOM I CAN INFLUENCE**

READ: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus tells us that we are the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” He uses these 2 metaphors to help us understand as believers, we have influence in the circles in which we operate. Our life, words and actions matter to people. We carry God inside of us! Just imagine what our spheres of influence will look like as we display kindness, character, power, love, humility, patience ...the list can go on indefinitely! Our actions are the salt which makes people interested in why we are the way we are...Now comes the light part. Light guides in darkness. Once we have their attention, we will be able to give Jesus the credit for the good things happening in our lives...or the GOSPEL...the GOOD NEWS as Jesus calls it!

Reflection Points:

- List several friends on whom you would like to make a positive impact.
- How can you change some things in your personal life that may positively affect them?
- Do I share (in a non-threatening way) the great things God is doing in my life?

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____

DAY 21

Today's Prayer focus: **SPIRITUAL FRUIT**

"You are the God who performs miracles; You display Your power among the people." Psalm 77:14

The early church was birthed in power. Their normal-Christian experience was one of hundreds of people being saved daily; miracles, daily; the power and presence of God in their midst, daily. This was *normal*.

So was prayer and fasting.

Many of us can read through the New Testament in awe as we think about the early church and the impact it had. We can read about the rapid expansion of the church, their meeting places, the extraordinary miracles God did among them, and we can think, *They were the super apostles. They were the super Christians...*

The fact is they were no different from you and me. They were people in desperate need of a savior and in desperate need of His help every day of their lives. But, they leaned into God through prayer and fasting.

An easily overlooked yet very important mark of the early church was their devotion to seeking God through prayer and fasting. It was common for whole churches to gather, sometimes daily, to pray. They would pray overnight. They would meet in people's homes, sometimes in the Jewish temples, and at times they would meet just outside the walls of their city. And all the people fasted twice a week, no food till sundown—even the kids!!

This was no small devotion.

Their commitment to prayer and fasting was in essence a humbling of themselves in recognition of their desperate need of God, seeking Him so that His will would be done through their lives powerfully.

The New Testament stories can be our stories. Miracles can be our normal. God still wants to move through His people powerfully. He wants to show up in our lives to show us He is good and strong and generous. He wants to provide for us *and* be our *ever-present help* (Psalm 46:1).

God wants us to live lives that are full of His power because when we live full of His power our lives are made better, and so are the many people's lives we come in contact with every day.

There are no shortcuts to accessing God's power. No magic bullets. It's simply when we get desperate for Him, humbling ourselves and devoting ourselves to prayer and fasting to seek Him.

We can have as much of God in our daily lives as we want. The question is, *How desperate are we for His presence and His power?*

I hope and pray as this 21-day fast wraps up, that this will be just the beginning of your (our) seeing transformation

“He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.” Job 5:9

Reflection Points:

- Pray for revival—true, radical life change—in our churches and region.
- Pray for miracles, signs and wonders to be the norm.
- Pray for spiritual hunger.

What are your Action Steps? (List 1-2 actions you can take):

1. _____

2. _____



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