

TWENTY ONE DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING



**CLICK HERE
FOR DANIEL
FAST
RESOURCES
AND MEAL
PLANS**

How Does This Work?

Scripture

This is the verse or passage you will focus on during your devotion. We will be highlighting a different passage or verse everyday as we go on this 21 day journey.

Observation

In this step, you take note of anything that stands out—words, themes, repeated ideas, commands, or anything you feel God is highlighting. Ask questions like:

What is happening in the passage?

Who is speaking or being addressed?

What seems important or meaningful?

Application

After observing what God is speaking through the passage, ask:

How can I apply this to my life today?

This step helps move God's Word from understanding to transformation. Consider what needs to change, start, or be surrendered in your life based on the Scripture.

Prayer

Close by talking with the Lord about what you've read. Ask Him to help you see clearly what He is speaking and to respond in obedience. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, actions, and attitudes as you live out the passage.

Week One: Hunger and Thirst



Scripture

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Observation

When Jesus said these words, He was speaking to people who knew real hunger. His audience was made up of ordinary Jewish people who were living under Roman oppression, and often barely had what they needed to get by. So when Jesus spoke of “hungering and thirsting for righteousness,” His audience knew the kind of desperation he was talking about. Jesus took our most basic human craving to be filled physically and showed that those who are filled spiritually are the ones who are truly blessed. To “hunger and thirst for righteousness” means to crave the things of God with that same kind of intensity. Righteousness isn’t simply trying to do good things when you can, it’s aligning your life with God’s ways. In this verse, Jesus promised that when we hunger and thirst for what’s important—for the ways of God—we will be filled. And that same promise still stands today.

Application

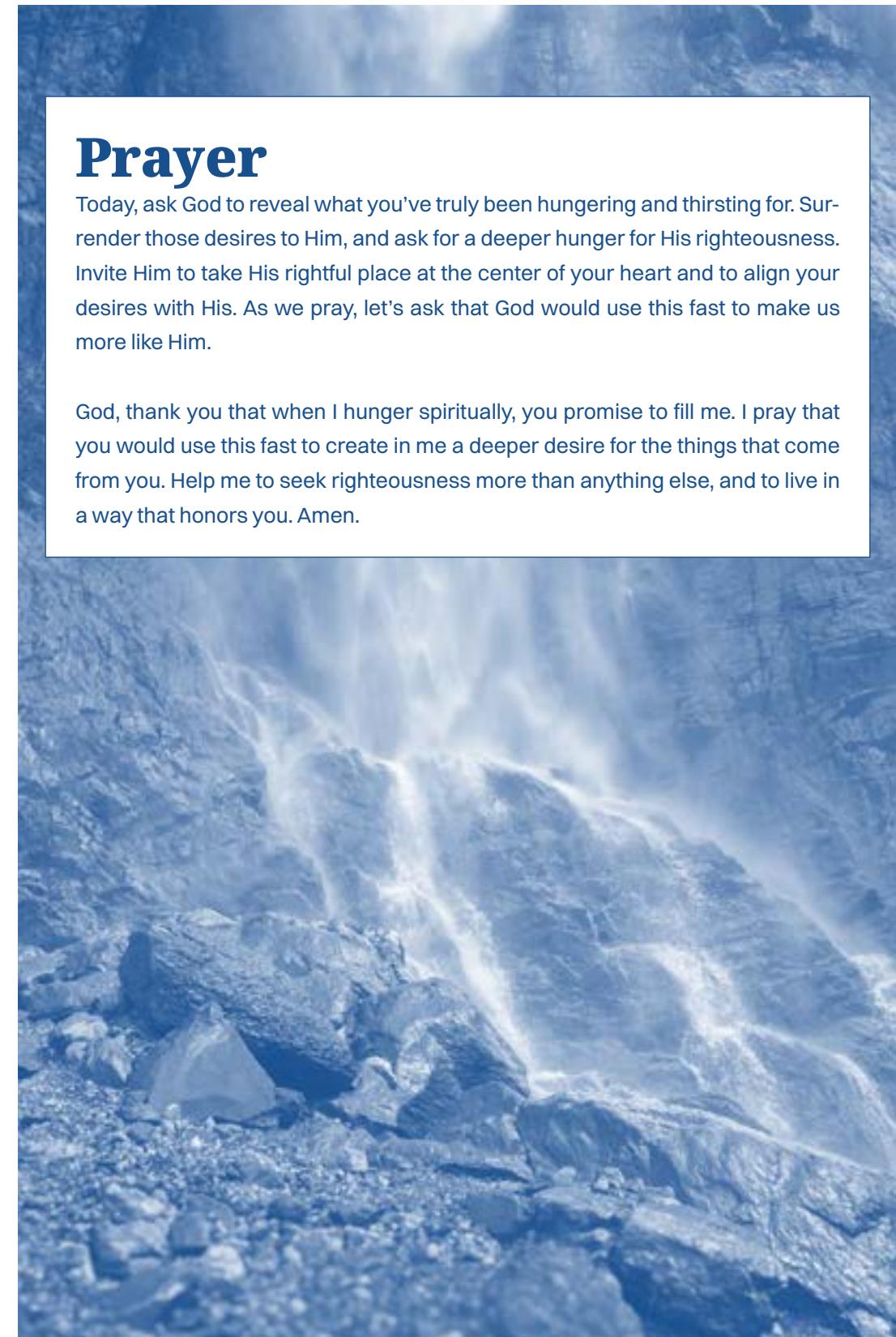
What does it look like to hunger and thirst for righteousness? It looks like seeking the character and presence of God every day. We need the righteousness of God in our lives just as much as we need food or water. Our physical desires are endless. We can keep filling them, but they always return. But when we hunger to be filled spiritually, Jesus promises that we will be. Fasting has a way of revealing the things we may hunger for more than God.

As we begin these 21 days of prayer and fasting, ask yourself, “what do I truly hunger for?” Is it success? Comfort? Recognition? Or is it the righteousness of God? Any good child wants to make their parents proud- to do what’s right in their eyes. In the same way, a righteous son or daughter longs to make their Heavenly Father proud. When our hunger is directed toward living a life that is pleasing to God, we begin to experience the kind of blessing Jesus spoke about. By choosing to fast, you are allowing God to redirect your deepest desires toward him. Fasting isn’t about giving up things we enjoy just for the sake of it. It’s about developing a hunger and dependence on God that will last far beyond these 21 days.

Prayer

Today, ask God to reveal what you’ve truly been hungering and thirsting for. Surrender those desires to Him, and ask for a deeper hunger for His righteousness. Invite Him to take His rightful place at the center of your heart and to align your desires with His. As we pray, let’s ask that God would use this fast to make us more like Him.

God, thank you that when I hunger spiritually, you promise to fill me. I pray that you would use this fast to create in me a deeper desire for the things that come from you. Help me to seek righteousness more than anything else, and to live in a way that honors you. Amen.



Scripture

2 Kings 5:1; 10-14

"Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy."

"Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy."

Observation

Naaman was a man of great status and reputation. His victories were many, and his name was well known throughout the land—he seemed to have everything going for him. Yet, as we read in verse 1, Naaman had leprosy. This condition threatened not only his health but also his honor and position. Beneath all his success, he desperately needed a breakthrough. Through the prophet Elisha, God made a way for Naaman to receive one. However, God's plan for his healing didn't look like how Naaman thought it would. He expected a royal welcome, a quick magic trick, and complete healing. Instead, God's command was for him to wash himself in the muddy waters of the Jordan river seven times. As easy as this seems, to Naaman, it felt beneath him. Naaman's pride was so great, that he nearly missed the breakthrough God had for him. Eventually, having reached the end of himself, he decided to submit to and obey God. In turn, his obedience was rewarded. Naaman received his miracle only when he chose to do things God's way. God's plan for the miracle you need won't always look like how you expect, or even how you might want it to. But doing things God's way is the only way to receive God's breakthrough.

Application

Naaman wanted a quick, one-and-done solution to his problem. But God called him to dip seven times—a number that often symbolizes completion in Scripture. If we want the solution that only God can bring, we have to obey His calling to completion. It may be messy. It may not look like how you expected. But God's ways will always get us closer to breakthrough than our ways ever could. We can easily miss the miracle God has for us if we prioritize what we want over what God wants. Fasting is one way we express a desire to have God's way in our lives instead of our own. It's a physical act that trains our hearts to choose God's will over our preferences.

This week, as we reflect on what it means to hunger and thirst for God, let's commit to choosing His way over our own in every area of our lives. What breakthrough do you need in your life? Which relationships need restoration? Which habits need breaking? When we surrender these things to God and obey His calling, we can trust that He is making a way for the breakthrough we need.

Prayer

Today, ask God to reveal where pride or the desire for convenience has kept you from the breakthrough He wants to give you. Bring to Him the areas of your life where you need His healing and provision. He cares deeply about your needs and concerns, and He is able to provide the miracle you need.

God, thank You that You know my needs even better than I do. I ask You to remove anything in my heart that keeps me from fully obeying You. Give me a hunger and thirst for Your will in every area of my life. I trust Your ways above my own, and I commit to following You completely, even when it's hard or inconvenient. Amen.

Scripture

Daniel 3:16-29

"Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.""



Observation

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could've easily kept to themselves, stayed quiet about their faith, and remained perfectly safe. It certainly would've been easier for them to simply blend in rather than disobey the king. But they didn't choose what was easy, they chose what was right. They chose to stay faithful to God, no matter how bad things looked.

Even in the face of certain death, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had faith in God's ability to do a miracle and save them. They didn't stop to ask, "What if God doesn't come through? What if He doesn't save us?" Instead, they said, "Even if He doesn't, we will never stop worshiping Him." Even if God didn't provide the miracle, He was still worthy of their worship. What a powerful response!

Because of their faith, God was with them in the fire, and His presence kept them safe from it. What King Nebuchadnezzar intended for harm, God used for His glory. He didn't just save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—He used their faith to make an incredible impact on the entire kingdom of Babylon.

Application

This year, there may be moments when it feels like we're walking through fire. There may be times when we feel tempted to choose what's safe or comfortable instead of what honors God. But when we hunger and thirst for Him, He gives us the courage to choose what's right over what's easy.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's faith wasn't just in the things God could do for them; their faith was in who He is. That's the kind of faith that withstands fire. Whether things are good or bad, whether we have everything or nothing, whether we're at peace or under pressure—we worship the Lord no matter what. Not because of what He can do, but because He is worthy.

Does it feel like you're in a fire right now? Take heart—God is with you in it. When your faith is in Him, when you hunger and thirst for His presence, you can be confident that you will never face a fire alone. His presence gives us the courage we need to stand firm, no matter what we're walking through.





GOD IS WITH ME IN THE FIRE

Prayer

Today, ask God to give you the kind of faith that doesn't bow to anything but Him. Ask Him to show you the areas of your life where He may be calling you to stand firm and choose what's right instead of what's easy. Pray for the courage to trust that whatever the enemy means for harm, He will use for good.

God, thank You that even when it feels like I'm in a fire, You're with me. Help me to worship You always, not just for what You can do, but for who you are. Give me the kind of faith that can withstand any fire and the courage to trust You no matter the outcome. Amen.

Help me to worship You always, not just for what You can do, but for who You are.



Scripture

Galatians 5:16-25

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Observation

In this passage, Paul explains that there are two ways we can live: gratifying our flesh or walking by the Spirit. Feeding the desires of our flesh always leads us toward destruction. It's a life marked by selfishness, anger, and emptiness. But walking by the Spirit leads us into a life filled with love, abundance, and real fruitfulness.

Our flesh craves power, control, possessions, and an endless list of other things. And if we're not careful, we can drift into the very mindset Paul warns about—living to "do whatever you want." But the Spirit leads us in a different direction. When we walk by the Spirit, He shapes our desires so that we begin to want what God wants. That's why Paul says those who belong to Christ have "crucified the flesh." Through Jesus, the power of those cravings has already been broken. And through the Holy Spirit, we now have the strength to say "no" to the desires of our flesh and "yes" to the things of God. When we give authority to the Spirit instead of our flesh, our lives begin to produce real fruit.



HELP
ME
WALK
BY
YOUR
SPIRIT



Application

Fasting is one of the most practical ways we can deny our flesh and learn to walk by the Spirit. For the past few days, we have been intentionally denying our cravings in order to seek the will of God for our lives this year. During this fast, God may be revealing harmful cravings that have become strongholds in our lives. He wants to break those strongholds and replace them with the fruit that comes from walking by the Spirit.

Take a moment to look at the list of fruits Paul gives in verses 22 and 23. Which of these do you see reflected in your life? What fruit is God calling you to seek more of right now? In every season, there is at least one of these that God wants to develop in our lives. This fast is an incredible opportunity to allow the fruits of the Spirit to become what we hunger for more than anything.

Prayer

Today, allow God to reveal any cravings in your life that are contrary to the Spirit. Ask Him to help you walk by the Spirit instead of gratifying the flesh. Seek to hear from Him about which fruits He is calling you to grow in during this fast.

God, thank You that You have given me power over the cravings of my flesh. I ask You to align my desires with Yours and help me live by Your Spirit. Produce Your fruit in every area of my life, and show me the places where You want me to grow. Amen.



Scripture

Matthew 7:7-11

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Observation

Jesus' repetition in these verses shows that persistence matters to God. Hunger and thirst demand satisfaction. When we're hungry, we keep seeking food until we're satisfied. True spiritual hunger works the same way. It doesn't stop after one prayer. It keeps asking, keeps seeking, and keeps knocking until it receives what only God can give. There's a strong sense of assurance in Jesus' words. He doesn't promise immediacy, but He does promise certainty. To those who ask for the things of God, He doesn't respond with a “maybe;” He responds as a Father who loves to give good gifts. Those who seek Him won't walk away empty-handed; they will find Him. And those who keep knocking won't be turned away, but in God's timing, they will see Him open doors in their lives. Persistent prayer not only positions us to receive from God, but it reminds us that our lives are in His hands, and that we can trust Him to provide.

Application

If there's something you've been seeking God to do in your life, don't stop asking. Keep bringing it to Him. Even when the answer doesn't come right away, keep trusting, keep knocking, and keep seeking. Jesus promises that those who keep coming to Him will never be turned away. He knows exactly what you need, and He is faithful to provide in His timing.

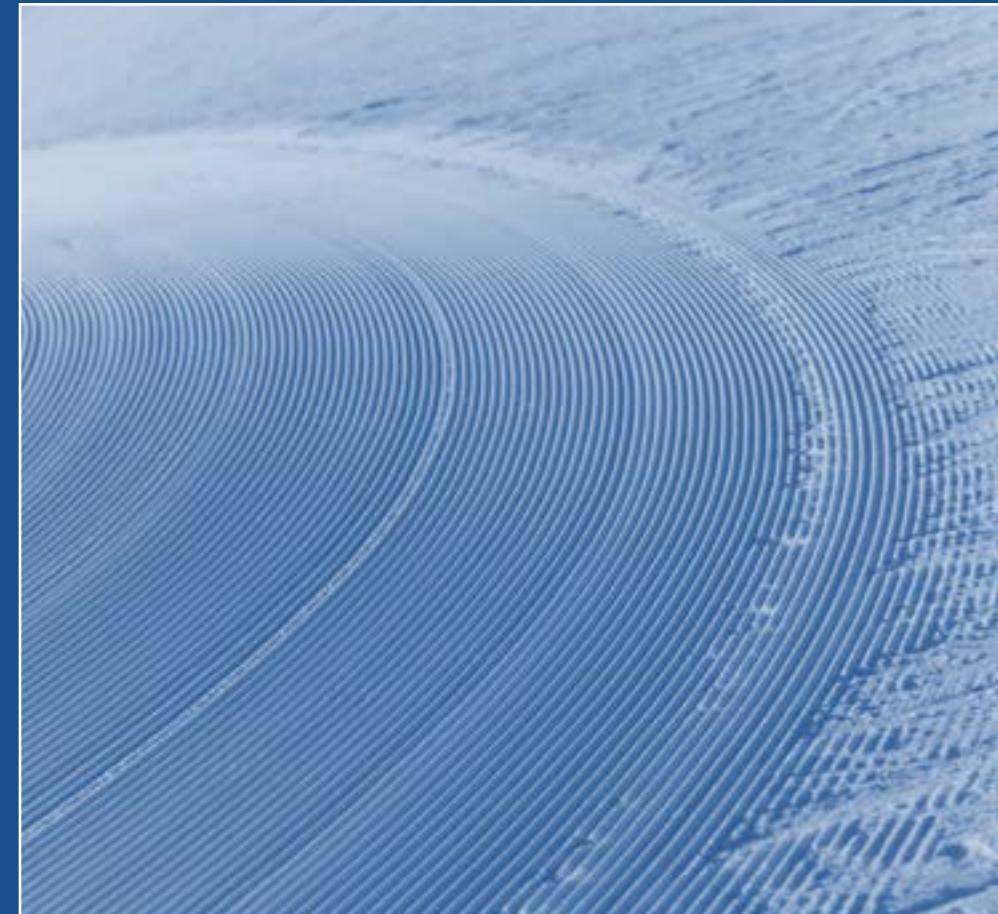
Is there something you need to ask God for in this season—a word or a miracle you've yet to receive? Ask Him again. Are there answers or direction you've been looking for God to reveal? Keep seeking. Are there opportunities or open doors you've been trusting Him to provide? Don't stop knocking. It's not enough to seek God occasionally. We need to seek Him persistently. He wants you to come to Him, not just for what He can do, but so He can give you the greatest gift of all: His presence in your life.



Prayer

Are there things in your life that you've stopped praying about because you haven't seen results? Maybe it's an opportunity you've been waiting for, or a physical healing in you or someone you love. Today, bring those things to God again in prayer, believing that He is able to come through. Even if He doesn't answer immediately, you can trust Him as a Father who gives good gifts. Ask for the kind of hunger and thirst that leads you to continue asking, seeking, and knocking for the things of God in your life.

God, thank You that You are a Father who knows how to give good gifts. Thank You that when I ask, seek, and knock, You hear me and respond. As I persist in prayer, help me to trust Your timing. Give me the strength to keep coming back to You daily, so that I can receive all that You have for me.



Scripture

John 4:5-14

"So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Observation

Later in this passage, Jesus reveals that the Samaritan woman had previously had five husbands and was now living with a man who was not her husband. Whatever the circumstances behind her story, her life had clearly been marked by instability, brokenness, and unfulfillment. Like the water she came to draw from the well, nothing in her life had been able to satisfy her for long. But when she encountered Jesus, everything changed. In the same conversation, Jesus revealed Himself to this woman as the Messiah, the means through which she could receive salvation and eternal life. She had come to Jacob's well for water. But Jesus offered her living water. Living water represents the lasting fulfillment we can only find in Christ. Whenever we try to find satisfaction apart from Him, we end up thirsty again, chasing things that can never truly meet our needs. But Jesus promises that whoever drinks the water He gives will never thirst again. The satisfaction He offers doesn't fade, and it isn't limited to this life. It leads to eternal life. When we look to Jesus for all that we need, we find that He is more than enough.



Application

There's no shortage of things in life that can distract us from the Living Water Jesus offers. We start to think that if we just had a different job, a different lifestyle, or the next thing we've been wanting, then we would finally find satisfaction. And if we're not careful, we begin looking for fulfillment in places that can never give it. The kind of satisfaction that we long for only comes from Jesus. We all have things we turn to when we're looking for fulfillment outside of Christ. But the more we rely on the things of this world to meet our needs, the more we start believing we don't have enough. It creates a mindset of fear and scarcity, because none of those things ever truly satisfy us. But when we come to Jesus for the living water He offers, we discover that we already have everything we need in Him. His presence produces joy instead of fear, abundance instead of lack, and life that doesn't end.

What are the things in your life that you run to for satisfaction instead of Jesus? Is it a relationship? Comfort? Accomplishments? Whatever those things may be, bring them to Him, and trust that everything you need can be found in Him alone.

Prayer

Today, ask God to reveal the places you've been running to for fulfillment instead of Him. Pray that He would help you find everything you need in Him. Ask Him to help you let go of the things that leave you empty and to give you a deeper thirst for the living water Jesus offers.

God, thank You that in You, I have everything I need. Thank You for the living water You give that not only supplies me with what I need in this life, but grants me eternal life. Help me to rely on You for true satisfaction before anything else. Give me a heart that seeks you first in every place of longing. Amen.



Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

Observation

Jesus models for us the spiritual discipline of fasting. Living fully as a human being, Jesus wasn't immune to the temptations of His flesh. But He chose to fast so that His spiritual hunger would take priority over His physical hunger. And it was at this moment of physical weakness that the enemy came to tempt Him. Satan tried to appeal to Jesus' flesh, offering Him comfort, power, and shortcuts. But Jesus resisted every temptation by standing firmly on the truth of Scripture. It was His deep, internalized knowledge of God's Word that strengthened Him to overpower each temptation. And as we see in verse 11, the enemy eventually had to leave Him. Immediately after this moment, Jesus begins His public ministry. His time of fasting in the wilderness prepared Him for everything the Father had called Him to do. Through this fast, God does the same for us. He prepares us to stand on Scripture, resist the enemy's temptations, and feed our spiritual hunger throughout the year.

Application

The enemy often chooses to attack when we feel our weakest. But when we hunger and thirst for the things of God above all else, we can stay spiritually strong even when our bodies feel tired or empty. Jesus' fast in the wilderness shows us that the way to overcome temptation is by standing on the truth of Scripture. If we want the strength to overpower the desires of our flesh, we have to spend time in God's Word until our lives become deeply rooted in it. What temptations are pulling you away from spiritual growth right now? Maybe it's a substance you turn to instead of turning to God. Maybe it's the temptation to hold tightly to your time or money instead of offering those things to Him. When we take those things to God, He not only removes harmful desires, but He replaces them with a desire for His word and His presence. This year, there are amazing things that God wants to do in and through you. Through this fast, we are actively seeking those things out and inviting God to make them a reality in our lives.

Prayer

Today, ask God to give you the strength to resist the temptations of the enemy. In the places where you feel weak, ask Him to help you lean on His Word. Pray that as you continue to hunger and thirst for more of Him, He would prepare you for everything He has called you to this year.

God, thank You for how You've already been using this fast to prepare me for all that You have in store for me this year. I ask that my spiritual hunger would overpower my physical desires so that I have the strength to resist every temptation of the enemy. As I continue to hunger and thirst for more of You, help me become deeply rooted in Your Word. Amen.



A blue-tinted photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest under a cloudy sky. The image has a slightly grainy, vintage feel. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the surrounding trees. The banks of the river are rocky and covered with low-lying vegetation. In the background, large, mature trees stand tall, their branches reaching towards the sky. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by shades of blue and green.

**Week Two:
Listen & Learn**

Scripture

Daniel 2:17-28

“ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.” Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.” Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.” The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?” Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.”

Observation

After Babylon took Israel captive, King Nebuchadnezzar appointed some of Israel's wisest young men to serve as his advisors. Daniel and his friends were among them, and their success quickly made them valuable to the king. But one day, Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream and demanded that his wise men interpret it. When none of them could, he ordered that they all be put to death. In this moment, it would have been easy for Daniel to panic and despair. But instead, he gathers his friends, explains the situation, and they pray together. Daniel believed, even in an impossible situation, that God could still speak. Rather than giving in to fear, he chose to listen with faith that God would reveal what he needed to know. During the night, God answered. With certainty that he had heard from God, Daniel responded with worship. God had revealed the mysteries that no magician, sorcerer, or wise man could understand. With that confidence, Daniel approached the king and declared the truth he had been holding onto the whole time: “there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.” God’s voice brings answers where it seems like there are none, light to where there is darkness, and hope to those who listen for Him. Listening to God begins with believing that God truly speaks.

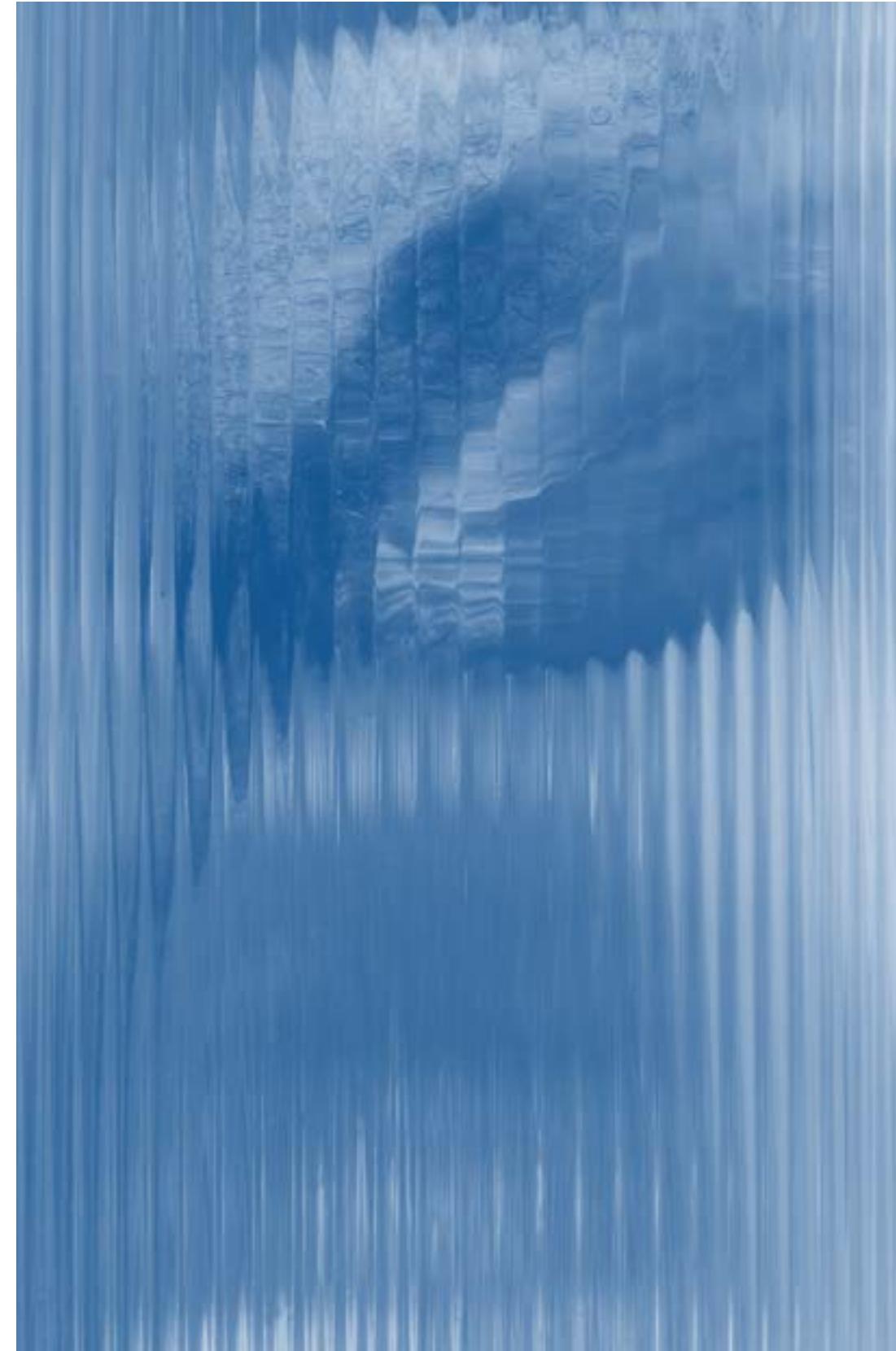
Application

Maybe you've stopped listening for God's voice because you've stopped believing that you can hear from Him. Today, have faith that God can and will speak to you when you listen. Just like Daniel, keep praying with an expectation that God will give you the answer you need. Before Daniel received an answer, he gathered his closest friends to pray with him. He knew he didn't have to seek God alone. In the same way, your church family wants to pray with you about whatever you're facing. When you come to the altar for prayer, fill out a prayer card, or share your burdens in a small group, the family of God joins you in lifting up your needs to Him. There's power in multiple people praying in the same direction. When Daniel faced a crisis, his first response was to seek a word from the Lord. God wants to speak to us today just as He did then. When we learn to listen for His voice, there is no battle we will face that He won't equip us for.

Prayer

Today, if you need an answer or a word from God, ask Him to help you hear His voice. Spend a few quiet moments listening for Him and believing that He will speak. Pray that He would grow your faith and help you trust Him to give clarity and wisdom in His timing.

God, thank You that you still speak today. Help me believe that I can hear from You about whatever I face. As I learn to listen for Your voice, I ask that You would speak clearly. Give me the peace and confidence that comes from hearing from You. Amen.



Scripture

Ezra 3:1-6

"When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices. Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the Lord, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the Lord. On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid."

Observation

After spending many years exiled in Babylon, the people of Israel were finally allowed to return to Jerusalem. Everything was in ruins, and they had to rebuild their lives from scratch. The city was vulnerable and exposed, and verse 3 makes it clear that the people were afraid of attacks from the surrounding nations. But even in their fear, they didn't start by building walls or houses. They rebuilt the altar of God first. The altar of God wasn't just a place for sacrifices and rituals. It was Israel's meeting place with God. By choosing to prioritize the altar of God, the Israelites positioned themselves to hear from Him before they did anything else. Instead of relying on their own strength or trying to secure their own safety, they trusted God as their source of protection, direction, and provision. They didn't try to fit God into their plans as they rebuilt their lives. They put God first and built their lives around hearing from Him.

Application

The altar was the place where the Israelites positioned themselves to hear from God. If we want to hear from Him this year, we need habits and rhythms that help us listen. Time with God in prayer shouldn't be an afterthought that we try to fit into our schedule. Meeting with Him daily should be what we put first.

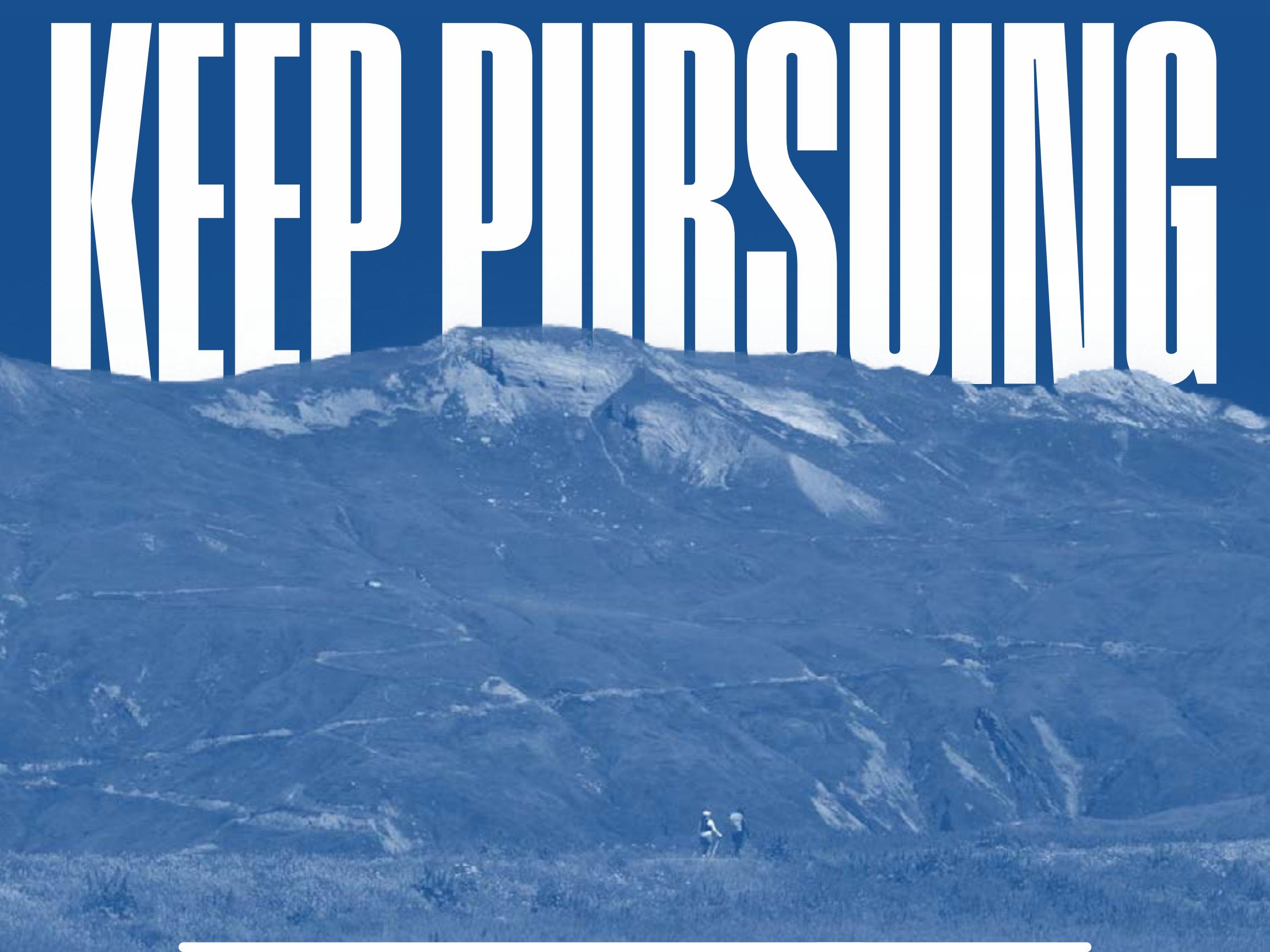
Do you prioritize the altar in your own life? Do you have patterns that help you hear from God? If not, start by giving Him ten minutes at the beginning of the day to read scripture, pray, and listen. If we're not careful, pride can keep us from listening. We start to think we can handle things on our own or rely on our own strength. Hearing from God begins with recognizing how much we need His Word and His help in every area of our lives. And when we put Him first, we'll begin to see more of our lives in alignment with His will.

Prayer

Maybe it's been a while since you've taken time to hear from God. Today, remember that He still wants to speak to you. Hearing from God begins with putting Him first. If there are things in your life that have taken that place, bring them to Him now. Ask Him to help you prioritize time with Him so His Word can shape every part of your life.

God, thank You that when I put You first, everything else falls into place. Help me position myself to hear from You every day. I pray that my life would be centered around meeting with You before anything else. As I choose to put You first, I ask that You would be my source of strength and protection. Amen.

KEEP PIRSUNG



Scripture

1 Kings 19:11-18

"The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.""



Observation

Elijah became deeply distressed and overwhelmed because he believed he stood alone in Israel as the only person still faithful to the Lord. He came to the mountain hoping God would act in power and fix everything. He looked for God in the wind, earthquake, and fire, but God didn't appear in any of those things. Instead, the Lord spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper.

The way God wants to work in our lives isn't by magically fixing everything. It's by speaking to us. When we listen for God's gentle whisper, He gives us perspective and direction. God told Elijah that there were actually 7,000 people who were still faithful to God. Elijah's perception of his circumstance wasn't fully accurate. Elijah wanted God to fix his circumstance, but God wanted to fix Elijah's perspective.

God then replaced Elijah's despair with a mission. Elijah was hoping for an escape from his problems, but instead, God gave him direction on where to go and what to do. Just like God gave Elijah a path forward, He has one for you as well. He doesn't always take us out of our circumstances, He brings us through them. And when we listen for His voice, He can turn a situation that may seem bad into something He can use for good.

Application

Instead of waiting for God to change our circumstances, He wants us to listen for His voice. Before we become overwhelmed or anxious, we can seek His perspective. God can show us the truth about our situation in ways we could never see on our own. He may not bring an instant fix to every problem we face, but He will bring peace and understanding when we turn to Him.

How might God be wanting to work through you in what you're facing? Take a moment to reflect on how you have approached your situation and how you have spoken to others about it. Do your words and actions in those moments reflect God's perspective, or yours? When we adopt God's perspective, He uses us to bring His solution. He invites us to be participants in what He is doing, not just observers. And when we listen for God's voice, seek His perspective, and follow His direction, He will provide a path forward.



Prayer

1 Kings 19:11-18

Today, take time to slow down and listen for God's voice. Ask Him to speak to you about whatever you're walking through. Bring each situation before Him and ask Him to give you His perspective. Pray that He would show you how He wants to work through you as you follow His will.

God, thank You that you choose to work in my life by speaking to me. Help me see my circumstances the way You do and reveal what is true about what I'm facing. Give me direction in where to go and what to do, and use me to accomplish Your will. Amen.



Scripture

John 10:1-15

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”



Observation

In this passage, Jesus uses the picture of a shepherd and his sheep to show that every sheep follows a voice, but not every voice can be trusted. Thieves, robbers, and strangers may call out to the sheep, but the only voice they respond to is that of their shepherd. By following the shepherd's voice, the sheep enter through the gate where they find safety, protection, and pasture.

Jesus says that He is both the gate and the good shepherd. That means He is the one who protects us and the one who leads us into a full life. He guards us, He provides for us, and He guides us. Just like the sheep, we are surrounded by many voices competing for our attention. But only one voice has our good in mind. Only one voice leads to life. Only one voice belongs to the One who laid down His life for His sheep. Jesus' voice is the only one worth following. But we can only follow His voice if we learn to recognize it. We need to be able to discern His voice from every other one that calls out to us. When we listen to Him above all else, we will know which voice to follow when the enemy comes to steal, kill, or destroy.

Application

Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd because they have spent time close to him. In the same way, the only way we learn to recognize Jesus' voice is by spending time with Him. Jesus wants to be near to us. He wants us to talk with Him, to know Him more, and to listen when He speaks. He invites us into His presence so that His voice becomes familiar to us.

What voices have you been listening to lately? Have fear, comparison, or the opinions of others taken a louder place in your life than Christ? When any voice outside of Jesus becomes the one we listen to, we drift from the life He wants to give us. But when we learn to recognize His voice above all others, He leads us into life to the full.

Prayer

Today, take time to listen for what God may be speaking to you. Pray that He would help you build a habit of spending time with Him so that His voice becomes familiar to you. Ask Him to help you listen to His voice above every other one in your life.

God, thank You that You are the Good Shepherd who protects me and leads me. Thank you for laying down your life so I could be in relationship with you. Help me recognize your voice so I can follow you wherever you lead. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 10:38-42

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.""

Observation

In this passage we see that none of the things Martha was preoccupied with were bad. In fact, her focus was on serving Jesus! And yet, Jesus says that it was her sister Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him, who had chosen what was right. What Jesus wanted from Martha wasn't just for her to serve Him. It was for her to be with Him. Jesus wasn't correcting Martha's work. He was correcting her priorities. Her attention was fixed on everything she felt needed to be done, while Mary's attention was fixed on the fact that Jesus was in the room and speaking. Martha nearly missed this moment with Him because she was so focused on the tasks in front of her. She ended up drained, frustrated and overwhelmed, but Jesus invited her to rest. And today, He invites us to do the same. God's purpose for us is not that we live weighed down by work, responsibilities, or tasks. His purpose is for us to sit at His feet and listen to His voice. It's easy to believe that following Jesus is mostly about doing things for Him. But following Jesus begins with being with Him. Like Martha, we can't serve Jesus without slowing down enough to listen to Him first.

Application

Oftentimes, it can feel like there's always more to do and more things demanding our attention. But Jesus says that only one thing is truly important. It's not our performance. It's not how much we accomplish. It's being with Him and hearing His voice. Serving Jesus, working hard, and caring for the people around us are all good things. But even good things lose their purpose when they come before being with Him. In the same way, the things we worry about simply aren't near(ly) as important as listening to Him.

What distractions have been keeping you from sitting with Jesus and listening to Him? Whatever those things are, choose to put time with Jesus before them. The things Martha was worried about didn't matter in the long run. What mattered was the opportunity to hear from Jesus. In the same way, the things we worry about simply aren't near as important as listening to Him. Work eventually runs out. Pressure eventually fades. But the things we receive from being close to Jesus can never be taken away.

Prayer

Today, ask God to reveal anything that has taken priority in your time over being with Him. Reflect on the things that may be distracting you from the one thing that is truly needed. Bring those things to Him, ask for His peace, and refocus your attention on listening to His voice.

God, thank You that you invite me to lay down my worries and simply be with You. Help me focus on what is truly important and listen for Your voice. Teach me to make time with you a priority so that everything I do comes from a place of rest. Amen.

Scripture

2 Chronicles 20:1-6; 12; 15-17

"Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard and said: "LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you... Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.'"'



Observation

In this passage, King Jehoshaphat found himself facing the battle of his life. With multiple armies closing in on the nation of Judah, the odds were stacked against him. But instead of strategizing, looking for a solution, or trusting his own strength, he turned to God. He didn't try to appear strong or capable on his own. He openly admitted that he didn't know what to do and that he needed God. King Jehoshaphat called the people to fast and pray. Together, they directed their attention away from their enemies and toward the Lord. They acknowledged that even though they didn't have power over their situation, God did. And it was in this posture of humility and dependence that God spoke to them. God told them that they wouldn't fight this battle, but He would. He said they had no reason to be afraid and no reason to be discouraged. Even though their situation seemed impossible, a single word from God was enough to change everything. Later in the story, the Lord won a decisive victory for the people of Judah. When we choose to listen to God instead of relying on our own strength, He can do more than we ever could on our own.

Application

King Jehoshaphat knew that the battle he was facing required a solution from God, not himself. Listening to God begins with admitting that we need His strength to win the battles in our lives. When the people of Judah waited for a word from the Lord, they made room for Him to reveal His plan. In these past couple of weeks, we've been fasting for the same reason—so we can hear His voice and rely on His strength instead of our own. When we come to God in humility and fix our attention on Him, He comforts us, He strengthens us, and He fights our battles for us. What are you facing right now that you need God to speak into? Where have you been relying on your own strength to fight your battles? Do you turn to your plans first, or do you turn to God? Maybe there's a decision you're unsure how to make, or conflict in your family that you don't know how to solve. Whatever battle you're up against, remember that you're not fighting it alone. The solution is not to think harder or work harder. It is to pray. Bring what you are facing to God, listen for His voice, and trust that He's fighting for you.

Prayer

Today, bring whatever battle you're facing to God in prayer. In the places where you don't know what to do, admit your need for His Strength and ask Him to fight for you. Pray that He would speak clearly and that His Word would change everything. Give Him praise in advance for the victory that He's going to bring.

■ ■ ■

God, thank You that when I turn to You, You fight my battles for me. Help me come to You first instead of relying on my own plans or my own strength. Speak to me and give me direction in the places where I don't know what to do. I trust that You can win the battles I could never win on my own.

■ ■ ■

Scripture

John 14:25-27

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Observation

In this passage, Jesus prepares His disciples for the moment He will no longer be physically with them. The thought of losing His presence and His voice must have been overwhelming. But Jesus comforts them with a promise. He tells them that even though He is leaving, He isn't abandoning them. Instead, He is sending His Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus would continue to speak to them, teach them, and remind them of everything He had already said. Before, they had Jesus with them. But now, they would have His Spirit in them. Jesus didn't move farther away—He drew closer. Jesus still speaks to His people today through the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon select people in specific moments, but Jesus promised something far greater. He said that His Spirit would be given to all who believe. It's the same Spirit who empowered Moses, who spoke to Elijah and Samuel, and who moved through the apostles as they preached and healed. The same Spirit who spoke then is the Spirit who speaks now. Not to a few, not in rare moments, but to all of God's people—everywhere, at all times.

Application

Through this fast, we've been learning how to listen to God's Voice, and many of us have likely already heard from Him. But listening to God and learning from Him doesn't end with the fast. God wants to keep speaking to us, teaching us, and reminding us of what He said well past these 21 days. And because God's Spirit is in us, we can hear from Him at all times. The fast has trained us to hear from God, but the Holy Spirit sustains us to hear from Him in the days, weeks, and years to come.

How can you position yourself to continue hearing from God? What spiritual rhythms and disciplines does God want you to carry over from the fast into your everyday routine? Maybe it's a habit of starting your day in Scripture, or

finding time throughout your day to spend a few minutes in prayer. Because we have the Holy Spirit, we can continue to hear from God in new ways. But without systems in place to help us slow down and listen, we risk missing out on what He wants to teach us. When we take time to acknowledge God's presence daily, His Spirit goes with us. When we're tired, He gives us rest. When we're tempted, He gives us strength. When we're worried, He gives us His Peace. If you keep listening, God's Spirit will keep leading you.

Prayer

Today, take time to acknowledge the presence of God's Spirit with you. Pray that He would continue to speak to you, teach you, and remind you of the things He has said. Ask Him to help you listen to His Voice and be led by His Spirit long after the fast is over.

God, thank You that through Your Spirit, I have access to Your presence at all times. Thank You that I don't have to be in a specific place or doing a certain thing to hear from You. Help me continue listening to Your Voice and learning from You every day of my life. Amen.



A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape under a vast, blue sky filled with white and grey clouds. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored boulders and a rocky, sandy ground surface with sparse, low-lying desert vegetation. The horizon is flat, and the sky above is filled with various cloud formations.

Week Three: Trust & Obey

Scripture

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Observation

In these verses, the author of Proverbs is calling us away from half-hearted trust in God. Our trust becomes half-hearted when it only applies to certain parts of our lives. We may be willing to trust God with some things, but with others, we prefer to hold on to our own ways. There are often parts of our lives—maybe our money, our time, or our relationships—where we want to keep control. But when we trust God halfway, we’re not really trusting Him at all. When we divide our trust between ourselves and God, we end up with crooked paths. Leaning on our own understanding always leads to confusion, frustration, and exhaustion. Our perspective is limited, and our ways aren’t reliable. We’re not meant to carry the weight of guiding our own lives. We’re meant to submit to God and follow His lead. When we submit everything to Him, He makes our paths straight. That doesn’t mean He gives us an easy path, but it does mean He keeps us on the right one. When we trust and submit to God in all things, we can be confident that He is guiding us exactly where we need to go.

Application

These past two weeks, we’ve been fasting and praying for God to make our paths straight this year. We don’t want to lean on our own understanding. We want God to lead us. But we can’t walk the path He has for us with half-hearted trust. Half-hearted trust shows up when we rely more on our understanding than we do on God’s. The truth is that nothing in our lives is ever better in our hands than it is in His. If we want God to lead us this year, we have to trust Him with all our heart.

What are the parts of your life that you’ve struggled to submit to God? Where have you leaned on your own understanding instead of trusting Him? How is God calling you to obedience instead? Maybe it’s your schedule, your relationships, or even your future that you’ve found difficult to surrender to Him. But we don’t want God’s ways in only some areas of our lives. We want His ways in everything. Today, submit to God the things you’ve been trying to keep control of. God wants better for you than your way. He wants to go before you in all things and straighten your paths.

Prayer

Today, ask God to show you the places in your life where you’ve been holding on to control instead of submitting to Him. Ask Him to reveal how He is calling you to obey Him, even in the areas that are hardest to release. Pray that He would help you trust Him fully and follow His ways in everything.

God, thank You that when I submit to You fully, You make my paths straight. I pray that You would help me to trust You instead of my own understanding, and follow Your ways instead of my own. I give You control over every area of my life, and I ask for Your guidance through it all. Amen.



Scripture

Luke 5:1-11

"One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

Observation

After a long night of unsuccessful fishing, Peter felt exhausted and discouraged. So when Jesus told him to cast the nets one more time, he didn't expect anything to change. The command seemed unreasonable. Yet Peter's response was, "because you say so, I will let down the nets." He cast again, not because it was rational, but because Jesus had said so. Peter had already seen Jesus heal and teach with authority, so he knew he could trust what Jesus said. He didn't obey because the command made sense. He obeyed because he trusted the One who gave it. The overflowing nets were only the beginning of the miracles Jesus did that day. Through this encounter, Jesus changed Peter's life forever. Seeing the power and holiness of Jesus, Peter recognized Him as Lord, repented, and chose to follow Him. The miracle Jesus was working through Peter's obedience didn't end with a catch of fish. Jesus called him into an even greater purpose: to fish for people. Peter's initial trust in Jesus prepared him for deeper obedience and a greater calling.

Application

When we trust in the authority and character of Jesus, we can obey His commands even when we don't fully understand them. Living righteously isn't always convenient. Doing what God tells us to do doesn't always make sense at first. But when we remember who He is, trusting Him becomes the natural response. If Jesus says it, that is reason enough to obey. Regardless of what the past looks like, Jesus can use your obedience to do a miracle. Even if you're tired. Even if you haven't seen results. Even if the miracle hasn't come yet. Keep casting your net. Don't let disappointment from the past keep you from what Jesus is calling you to do today. Instead of looking at the empty nets behind you, look to the One who is in the boat with you. Trust His authority before the miracle, and obey Him even when you don't fully understand. God can work in ways far beyond what you expect when you choose to obey Him.

Where is Jesus calling you to obey Him even when it doesn't make sense? How is He calling you to trust His character more than your circumstances? Maybe He's calling you to serve, give, or pour into others beyond what seems easy or comfortable to you. Just like Peter, your small act of obedience is preparing you for an even greater calling. Trust who Jesus is and obey Him no matter what, and He will lead you into the purpose He has prepared for you.

Prayer

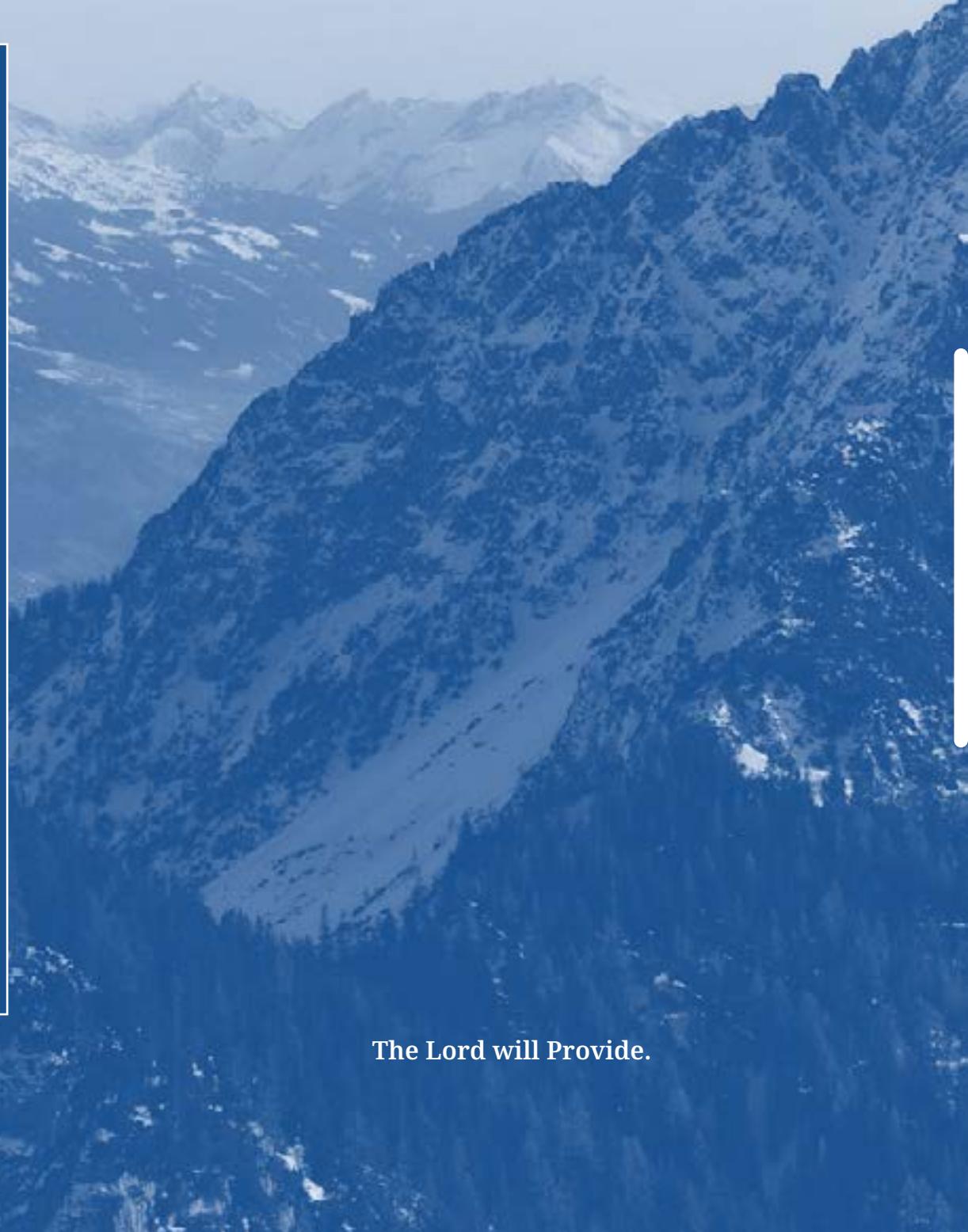
Today, ask God to deepen your trust in who He is. Pray for the faith to obey Him even before you understand everything He's doing. Ask Him to use your obedience for His mission and purpose.

God, thank You that You still do miracles today and that You use our obedience for Your glory. Help me trust Your authority and character, even when I'm tired or confused. I ask that You would use my life for your purpose as I seek to point people to You. Give me the strength to obey You no matter what. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 22:1-14

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”



The Lord will Provide.

Observation

In the chapter just before this passage, God miraculously fulfilled His promise to Abraham by giving him and his wife a son, despite their old age. Now, God was telling Abraham to sacrifice the very son he had been waiting for. Just as he was coming out of a season of difficulty and disappointment, he found himself facing another test. And yet, Abraham didn't argue with God or resist His command. He obeyed immediately. In verse 8, Abraham tells Isaac that God Himself will provide a sacrifice. Even though Abraham didn't know how God would come through, he trusted that God would make a way for Isaac to be spared. He believed that the same God who provided for him before would provide for him again. Abraham knew that if God was bringing him into a test, God would also bring him through it. And just like Abraham believed, God spared Isaac. God provided a ram as the sacrifice in his place. The test became an opportunity for Abraham to experience God's provision once again. But the significance of this story doesn't end there. In verse 2, God called Abraham to go to the region of Moriah to offer the sacrifice. Thousands of years later, Jesus' sacrifice would take place in that same region. God provided a way for Abraham's son to be spared, but He did not spare His own Son. Jesus took our place and became the sacrifice for our sins. And just as God provided for us then, He will provide for us now.

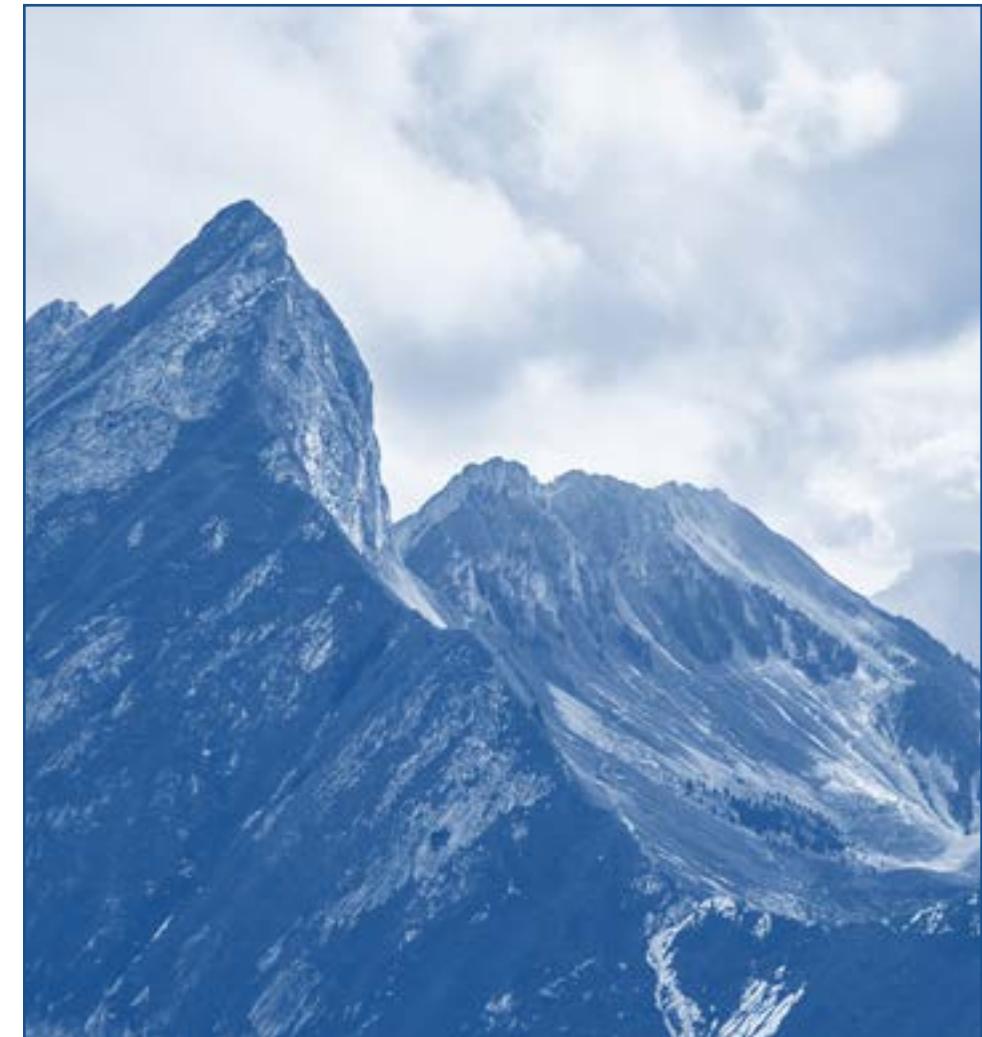
Application

After sacrificing the ram, Abraham named the place Jehovah Jireh, which means "the Lord will provide." Jehovah Jireh has long been one of the names used to describe God. He doesn't just provide occasionally; He keeps providing. It's not just what He does. It's who He is. Maybe, like Abraham, it feels like you've walked through one season of testing after another. If so, look back on the times in your life when God has provided for you before. If He provided then, He won't stop now. What do you need to trust God to provide? In fact, finish this sentence: "I need God to provide _____. Now, ask God what step of obedience He's asking you to take so that you can see His provision become a reality. Abraham could've hesitated, argued, or refused to do what God asked of him. But because he obeyed, he not only passed the test, he saw God provide for Him. Even when you can't see how, God can provide exactly what you need. And if we want to walk in the provision of God, we must be willing to obey Him.

Prayer

Today, take time to thank God for the ways He has already provided in your life. Ask Him to help you trust that He will bring you through every test you face. Pray for the strength to obey Him no matter what.

God, thank You for the ways I've seen Your provision in every season of my life. Most of all, thank You for providing Your Son as a sacrifice in my place. Help me to remain obedient to You in every test, and trust that You will always see me through. Amen.



Scripture

Acts 9:10-19

"In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength."

Observation

Before Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was the most feared persecutor of the early Church. His reputation for threatening, imprisoning, and hunting down followers of Jesus was well known. So when God told Ananias to go to him, it's no surprise that Ananias was afraid. He wasn't an apostle like Peter or a leader like Stephen. He was simply described as a disciple living in Damascus, and this moment in Acts 9 is the only time he appears in Scripture. Yet God used his obedience in the face of fear to change the course of the Christian movement. Saul had been a violent enemy of the Church, but that's not what Ananias called him. He greeted him with the words "Brother Saul." He was the first believer to welcome Saul into the family of God and into the new identity Jesus had given him. Through Ananias' obedience, God restored Saul's sight, filled him with the Holy Spirit, and prepared him for the ministry ahead. From this moment on, Saul would become Paul, the man who preached the Gospel across the world and wrote much of the New Testament. Despite his fear, Ananias chose to trust that God would protect him and guide him. His obedience created a turning point not only in Paul's story, but in the story God was writing through His people.

Application

Ananias was afraid to do what God had called him to do because of what he knew about Saul. But instead of giving in to that fear, he chose to trust that God knew more than he did. Only God knew that Saul had already encountered Jesus. Only God knew that Saul would become a chosen instrument to spread the Gospel across the world. The things God calls us to may not feel safe, comfortable, or easy. But like Ananias, we can trust that God sees what we cannot and that His Protection goes with us wherever He leads.

Where might God be calling you to obey Him, even if it feels uncomfortable? How could God use your obedience to impact someone else's life? Maybe He's calling you to reach out to someone you've avoided, serve someone you struggle to love, or take a step toward healing a broken relationship. God uses everyday people like Ananias to make a difference in ways they never expect, and His purpose for you is greater than you can imagine. All He asks is that we obey Him, even in the face of fear.

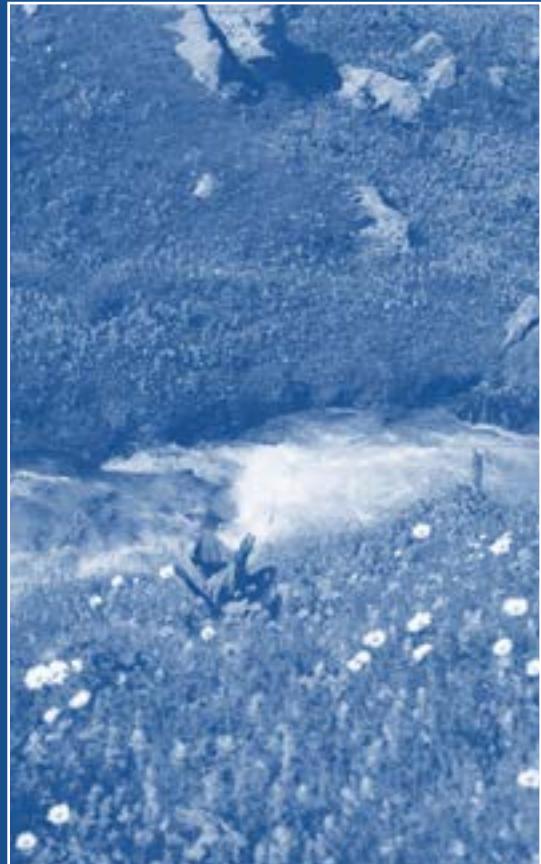


Prayer

Today, ask God to show you who or what He may be calling you toward. Trust that He sees what you cannot and that obedience to Him is always worth it. Pray for the courage to go where He leads, even when it feels uncomfortable at first.

God, thank you that when I choose to obey You, Your protection and guidance go with me. Help me trust You instead of giving in to fear. Use my life to make an impact on the people around me, and give me the courage to do whatever You call me to. Amen.

FOLLOW JESUS



Scripture

Matthew 14:22-33

"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God.""

Observation

Far out in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, the disciples found themselves caught in a brutal storm. Facing strong winds and massive waves, they feared for their lives. But in the middle of the storm, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He walked on the very thing they feared. When Jesus called Peter to come to Him, Peter obeyed and, for a moment, walked on the water with Him. But the miracle lasted only as long as his eyes were on Jesus. Once his attention shifted to the wind and the waves, fear took over and he began to sink. Even then, Peter cried out for help. He may have doubted his ability to stand on the water, but he still trusted that Jesus could save him from it. Just like Peter, Jesus calls us to walk on the storms of our lives as well. The things we're afraid of and the things that feel impossible are the very things He has power over. Even when it feels like we're sinking, there is no storm Jesus can't save us from. When our focus is on the power of the storm, we start to fall. But when our focus is on the power of God over the storm, we can do the impossible with Him.

Application

The storm the disciples were in didn't go away as soon as Jesus appeared to them. He didn't offer an instant escape from the storm. Instead, He invited Peter to walk on it with Him. In the same way, Jesus invites us to walk on the storms in our lives. That doesn't mean that they get easier. It means that we can stand instead of sink, have courage instead of fear, and obey Him even when it seems impossible.

What has your focus been on? The size of the waves or the One who walks on them? God has power over any diagnosis, financial setback, broken marriage, or whatever else you may be facing. Maybe it feels like you've already started to sink, or like the situation you're in is too far gone. If so, have faith that God is bigger than any storm. Just as He saved Peter, Jesus can lift you above anything that you're going through. When we focus on Jesus instead of the waves, and obey Him when He calls us to step out, we can walk on the storm with Him.

Prayer

Today, ask God to help you keep your focus on Him instead of the storms around you. Pray that He would give you the courage to obey when He calls you to step out. Whatever you're facing, ask Him to strengthen your trust in His Power over it.

God, thank You that by focusing on You, I can walk on the storms in my life. I trust that You have power over everything I face. Help me obey You and take a step of faith when You call. Amen.



Scripture

Genesis 6:9-22

"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him."

Observation

In Noah's time, the world was filled with violence and corruption. Everyone had chosen to live their own way instead of staying faithful to God. But Noah lived differently. He lived a lifestyle of obedience. Even when everyone else turned away, Noah trusted that God was still in control of His creation. The story of the flood is often thought of as God giving up on His Creation. But in reality, it shows God protecting Noah from a dangerous generation. Noah's obedience positioned him to experience God's faithfulness in the middle of a broken world. Obedience wasn't a dramatic, one-time decision for Noah. It was the daily rhythm of his life. To everyone else, the thought of building an ark seemed absurd and pointless. But to Noah, it was simply the next step in following God. And when the flood came, Noah was ready. God not only protected Noah, but He used Noah and his family to begin to restore His Creation. A life built on daily obedience becomes a life God can use for His glory.

Application

Noah trusted that God still ruled over His Creation, even when everyone around him lived as if God didn't matter. Today, we see the same thing in our world. Many people live with no concern for the ways of God. But the way we live still matters deeply to Him. We are called to trust that God is involved in His creation, that He sees every part of our lives, and that He will one day bring justice and set things right. Even if the world around us goes in a different direction, God calls us to live a life of daily obedience.

Does your lifestyle reflect a pattern of obedience? Do the words you say, the things you do, or the way you treat people align more with the ways of the world or with the ways of God? A lifestyle of obedience means choosing God's ways in everything. God never gives up on those who walk faithfully with Him. He honors a life built on consistent, everyday obedience. And when we obey Him no matter what, God not only protects us, but He uses our lives as part of His Restorative work in the world.





Prayer

Today, ask God to reveal the places where your life reflects the world's ways instead of His. Pray that obedience would become a daily rhythm, not just a one-time choice. Ask Him to help you trust that He still has authority over His creation and that His justice is on the way.

God, thank You for Your protection and purpose in my life. Help me to remain obedient to You, even when the world around me goes a different way. I pray that You will use me to be a reflection of Your faithfulness to the people around me. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 6:46-48

““Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.”

Observation

Jesus says that those who hear His Words and put them into practice are like a person who builds their house on a foundation of rock. A foundation isn't just another part of the house; it's the part that every other piece is built on. The foundation is laid first, and it determines the strength and shape of the entire thing. In the same way, when the foundation of a person's life is the word of God, it shapes everything they do, everything they say, and everything they become. According to Jesus, this is the kind of life that cannot be shaken. Jesus assumes that storms will come. He doesn't say “if” the flood rises or the torrent strikes. He says “when.” Hardship is inevitable. Difficulty will come. But when our lives are built on obedience to the words of Jesus, we stand firm no matter what we face. Just as a house cannot support itself without a solid foundation, we cannot be our own foundation either. If we try, we'll be left to our own strength, wisdom, and protection. But the Word of God is a trustworthy foundation for our lives. When we build our lives on obedience to what Jesus says, we are standing on solid rock.

Application

Many people hear God's Words, but not everyone builds their life on them. God's word isn't meant to be a small part of our lives. It's meant to be the foundation. A foundation shapes everything that sits on top of it. If Scripture sets the foundation of your life, then the way you live, speak, think, and act will be formed by what God has said.

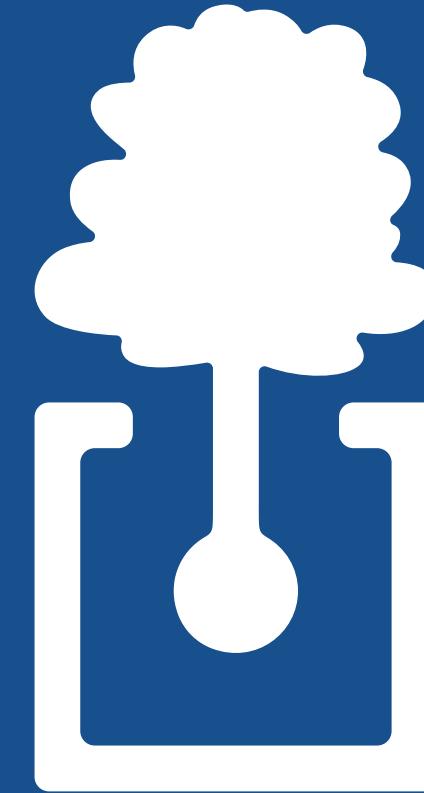
What have you been building your life on? Are you simply hearing the words of Jesus, or are you practicing them? Jesus doesn't just call us to listen. He calls us to obey. But in order to obey the Word of God, we have to know it. And in order to know it, we have to spend time in it. When we look to Scripture daily, we learn what God has said and we are equipped to live it out. For 21 days, we've been fasting and praying so that the Word of God becomes our foundation for the year ahead. But we can't leave that foundation behind when the fast ends. We have to keep seeking God, keep listening to His Voice, and keep obeying His Word if we want to stay rooted in Him. And if we do, then when the storms come, we won't be shaken. We can trust that our foundation will hold, because our lives are built on the Words of God Himself.

Prayer

Today, thank God for everything He has done during this fast. Pray that the things He has spoken and the habits He has formed in you would continue throughout this year and beyond. Ask Him to help you keep building your life on His Words so that when the storms come, you will remain unshaken.

God, thank You for how You've drawn me closer to You during this fast. This year, help me continue to seek You, hear Your Voice, and obey what You've called me to do. May Your Word be the foundation of my life, and keep me rooted in it. I ask that Your Presence would go with me in the weeks and months to come. Amen

How Did God Move In Your Life During These Past 21 Days?



At Oaks Church, No One Walks Alone
[Click Above to Share Your Story](#)

