***The Road to Pentecost***

***A 50 Day Spiritual Journey***



***Greater New Bethel Sounds of Praise***

***351 Greyback Road***

***Summerville, SC 29483***

*Chief Apostle Allen H. Simmons, DD*

*Bishop Designate Christian A. Simmons, Senior Pastor*

*Elect Lady Judge Janice Y. Simmons, Co- Pastor*

*Elder Kai-David Hartwell, Associate Pastor*

*Dr. Catherine H. Clark, Intercessor Pastor*

*Sis. Tiffany Newton, Chief Editor and Contributor*



Table of Contents

Greetings from Apostle…………..………………………………………………………………………………. 4

Fasting Schedule……………………………………………………………………………………………….….5

Road to Pentecost…..………..………………………...……………….………………………………………….6

Guide to Biblical Fast…………………………………………………………………………………………...7-8

Guide to Complete Fast………………………………………………………………………………………..9-10

Guide to Social Media Fast………………………………………………………………………………...…11-12

Guide to Daniel Fast………………………………………………………………………………………….13-14

Guide No Sweets Fast…………………………………………………………………………………….…..15-16

Daily Consecration Prayer Guide…………………………………………………………………………….17-18

Praying Scriptures Guide………………………………………………………………………………………...19

Theme: Road to Pentecost 50 Day Journey……………………………………………………………..……20-21

Road to Pentecost Weekly Breakdown………………….……………………………………………………….22

Road to Pentecost Daily Breakdown…………………………………………………………………………23-24

Week 1: He is Risen…………………………………………………………………………………………..….25

He is Risen – Apostle and Lady J Simmons……………………………………………………………………..26

He is Risen – Pastor C. Clark…………………………………………………………………………………….27

Week 1: Resurrection- He is Risen (Days 1-7)……………………………………………………………….28-34

Week 2: Encounters with the Risen……………………………………………………...………………………35

Encounters with the Risen Christ – Pastor Dr. Simpson…………………………………………………………36

Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ (Days 8-14)…………………………………………………...…37-43

Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection……………………………………...…………………………………44

Understanding the Resurrection – Pastor Stanley Shephard……………………………………………………..45

Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection (Days 15-21)………………………………………………...……46-52

Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life…………………………………………………………………………….53

Living the Resurrected Life – Mother Annabelle Wright………………………………..………………………54

Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life (Days 22-28)…………………………………………………...……...55-61

Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit………………………………………………………………62

The Ascension & Waiting for The Spirit - Dr. Latitia Adams……………………………………………………63

Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit (Days 29-35)……………….……………………………65-70

Week 6: Role of the Holy Spirit………………………………………………………………...………………. 71

Role of the Holy Spirit - Elder Thomassina Simmons ………………………………………………..……..72-73

Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit (Days 36-42)…………………………………..………………………74-80

Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost…………………………………………………………………………………81

How Should the Church Prepare for Pentecost - Pastor Y. Wigfall…………………………..………………82-83

Preparing for Pentecost – Bishop Des. C. Simmons……………………………………………………………..84

Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost (Days 43-49)………………………………………………………………85-94

7-Week Companion Guide for Church Deacons……………………………….………………………………...95

Family Corner…………………………………………………………………………………………………..100

Grace and Peace,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome to embark on a

transformative journey. “The Road to Pentecost: A 50-Day Spiritual Journey.” As we gather together in prayer and reflection, we are entering into a sacred season of renewal, growth, and spiritual awakening.

This prayer manual, meticulously crafted with love and devotion, serves as our guidebook for the next

fifty days—a period of profound significance on the Christian calendar. Just as the early disciples awaited

the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, so too do we eagerly anticipate the blessings

and revelations that await us on our own spiritual pilgrimage.

Throughout this journey, we will delve deep into the heart of prayer, seeking communion with the divine

and drawing closer to the source of all grace and mercy. Each day, we will set aside time for

contemplation, meditation, and supplication, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to us and lead us on the

path of righteousness.

“The Road to Pentecost” is not merely a manual of prayers; it is a roadmap for spiritual growth and

transformation. It is an invitation to surrender our hearts and minds to the divine will, allowing God to

work in us and through us for the glory of His kingdom. As we walk this path together, may we be united

in purpose and bound by the bonds of love and fellowship in the pages of this manual, you will find a

diverse array of prayers, reflections, and scripture passages carefully curated to nourish your soul and

ignite your faith.

As we journey together on” The Road to Pentecost” let us approach each day with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the blessings that God has in store for us. May this spiritual pilgrimage be a time of renewal, healing, and empowerment, as we prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit afresh in our

lives.

Beloved brothers and sisters, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to walk alongside you on this

sacred journey. Together, let us press forward with faith and perseverance, trusting in the promises of God and the guidance of His Spirit. May our hearts be stirred, our spirits renewed, and our lives forever

transformed by the power of prayer.

With love and blessings,

Apostle Allen H. Simmons & Lady Janice Y. Simmons

**A person and person standing together

Description automatically generated**

**50-Day Fasting Schedule: April 1, 2024 - May 18, 2024**

**Part 1: Daniel Fast (Days 1-21)**

**April 1-14**: Daniel Fast with no unnecessary conversations.

Participants will adhere to the dietary restrictions of the Daniel Fast, consuming only fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, and water.

Additionally, there will be a focus on limiting verbal communication to necessary interactions only, with participants abstaining from unnecessary conversations.

**April 15-21:** Continue Daniel Fast.

Participants will maintain the dietary restrictions of the Daniel Fast, continuing to consume only allowed foods and beverages.

**Part 2: No Sweets Fast (Days 22-35)**

**April 22-May 5**: Abstain from sweets.

During this period, participants will abstain from consuming any sweets, including sugar, desserts, candies, and sugary beverages.

The focus will be on eliminating refined sugars from the diet to promote discipline and self-control.

**Part 3: Social Media Fast and Personal Sacrifice (Days 36-44)**

**May 6-14**: Disconnect from social media.

Personal Sacrifice: Give up comforts or habits.

Participants will refrain from using social media platforms for personal use, limiting their online presence to essential communication or work-related activities only.

Additionally, participants will choose a personal sacrifice, such as giving up a favorite activity or indulgence, to further deepen their spiritual focus.

**Final Days: Complete Fast (Days 45-49)**

**May 15-18**: Complete fast (except water).

Participants will engage in a complete fast, abstaining from all food and drink except water.

This final phase offers an opportunity for intense spiritual reflection and connection.

**Pentecost: May 19, 2024**

- Await the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, fasting is a spiritual journey. May it be filled with reflection, prayer, and transformation. 🙏

***Theme: "The Road to Pentecost"***

**A 50 Day Spiritual Journey    
Associate Pastor Kai-David Hartwell**

The journey from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, spanning 50 days, is not just a passage of time within the Christian calendar but a transformative expedition.  This season mirrors the extended celebration of the Triduum over three days, encapsulating a continuous feast that extends the joy and revelation of Easter across what can be envisioned as a "great Sunday." This period is especially pivotal for those newly welcomed into the faith, offering a deep dive into the sacramental life through baptism and the Eucharist. It is a tradition rooted in wisdom from church leaders like St. Ambrose and St. Cyril, who underscored the importance of experiencing these sacraments before unraveling their deeper theological meanings.

The Easter vigil stands out with its suggestive symbols—immersing in water, being anointed with oil, and wearing white garments—each act richly symbolizing Christ's resurrection. This ceremonial richness sets the stage for a season of reflection and discovery, guiding the newly initiated and the wider church community to ponder the profound implications of these mysteries for their lives and faith journey.

The observance of the Ascension, 40 days post-Easter, marks a critical phase in this journey, symbolizing Jesus's return to the Father and highlighting the necessity of this event for the completion of salvation. The number ***40***, biblically emblematic of testing and renewal, further enriches this narrative, preparing believers for the forthcoming descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This period is thus a call to spiritual preparation, reflection, and anticipation, aimed at fostering a deeper engagement with the Holy Spirit's empowering presence.The number ***50*** holds significant spiritual meaning in the context of Pentecost.  In the Christian tradition, Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as described in Acts 2. This event is celebrated as the birth of the Church and the beginning of its mission in the world.

The spiritual significance of the number 50 is rooted in its symbolism of completion and fulfillment. In the Old Testament, the Festival of Weeks, also known as Shavuot or Pentecost in the Jewish tradition, is celebrated 50 days after Passover. It commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai, representing God's covenant with the Israelites. This parallels the Christian Pentecost, which celebrates the "new covenant" through the gift of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling Jesus's promise and empowering the believers to spread the Gospel.

This journey reflects the fulfillment and empowerment of the Christian believer. The 50-day period symbolizes a time of preparation and transition, where believers are called to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus (Easter) and anticipate the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). It signifies a movement from the contemplation of God's saving work in Jesus to actively participating in God's mission through the power of the Spirit.

Thus, the number 50 encapsulates a period of waiting, preparation, and anticipation that culminates in a transformative event—Pentecost—where believers are equipped and sent forth to move forward in God, carrying out the mission of spreading the Good News and embodying the kingdom of God on earth.

***"The Road to Pentecost: A 50-day Spiritual Journey"*** encapsulates the essence of this season as a journey of growth, empowerment, and renewal. It invites the faithful to reflect on the resurrection's transformative power, to recommit to living out Jesus's teachings, and to embrace the mission of evangelization with renewed vigor. Easter emerges not only as a commemoration of Christ's victory over death but as a dynamic invitation to move forward in God, propelled by the Holy Spirit, and to embody the resurrection's hope and power in every aspect of life. This season calls us to a deeper communion with God, urging us to live out the implications of the Paschal Mystery and to spread the light of Christ's resurrection until we gather again in celebration, continually renewed and inspired by the Spirit's guiding presence.

**Guide to a Biblical Unnecessary Conversations Fast**

**Introduction:**

In our daily lives, the power of our words plays a crucial role in shaping our relationships, our spiritual well-being, and our overall impact on the world around us. The Bible offers profound wisdom on the importance of guarding our tongues and engaging in conversations that build up rather than tear down. This guide is designed to help individuals embark on a fast from unnecessary conversations, drawing on biblical principles to encourage more meaningful, intentional, and uplifting verbal interactions.

**Purpose of the Fast:**

* To cultivate a habit of thoughtful and intentional speech.
* To improve listening skills and understanding.
* To deepen relationships with God and others through meaningful dialogue.
* To foster a peaceful and edifying conversational environment.

**Biblical Foundations:**

1. **Guard Your Tongue:**

* **Proverbs 21:23:** "Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble."
* **James 1:26:** "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless."

1. **Speak Life and Edification:**

* **Ephesians 4:29:** "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."
* **Proverbs 15:4:** "A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."

1. **Be Quick to Listen:**

* **James 1:19:** "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;"
* **Proverbs 18:13:** "If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame."

1. **Seek Silence and Solitude:**

* **Ecclesiastes 3:7:** "A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;"
* **Lamentations 3:26:** "It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

**Practical Steps to Undertake the Fast:**

1. **Morning Reflection:** Begin each day of the fast with a prayer asking God for wisdom and self-control over your conversations. Reflect on the daily scriptures provided.
2. **Daily Scripture Reading:** Meditate on the biblical foundations listed above. Allow these scriptures to guide your thoughts and actions throughout the day.
3. **Intentional Silence:** Set aside specific times during the day to practice silence. Use these moments to listen more intently to God and those around you.
4. **Conversational Accountability:** Choose a trusted friend or family member to be your accountability partner during this fast. Share your experiences and challenges with them.
5. **Evening Review:** At the end of each day, reflect on your conversational interactions. Consider what went well and what could be improved. Offer thanks to God for His guidance and ask for continued strength.

**Conclusion:**

Engaging in a fast from unnecessary conversations is a powerful way to align our speech with the wisdom of Scripture. By doing so, we not only honor God but also enrich our relationships and cultivate a more peaceful and purposeful life. May this guide serve as a starting point for a journey toward more meaningful and edifying conversations, rooted in the timeless truths of God's Word.

**Complete Fast: A Biblical Guide  
( 6:00A.M. – 6:00 P.M. )**

**Introduction:**

A complete fast, often referred to as an absolute fast, involves abstaining from all food and sometimes all liquid for a certain period. This guide is designed for those feeling called to a short-term, 5-day complete fast for spiritual renewal, deeper communion with God, and intercession. It's crucial to seek medical advice before beginning any form of complete fasting, especially for extended periods, to ensure it's safe for you to do so.

**Purpose of the Fast:**

* To dedicate oneself wholly to God, seeking His will and guidance.
* To engage in intensive prayer and intercession for specific concerns.
* To experience spiritual breakthrough and personal renewal.
* To humble oneself before God, acknowledging dependence on Him for sustenance.

**Biblical Foundations:**

1. **Jesus’ Example:**

* **Matthew 4:1-2:** "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."

1. **Spiritual Preparation:**

* **Exodus 34:28:** "Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments."

1. **Repentance and Seeking God:**

* **Jonah 3:5-10:** The people of Nineveh believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

1. **Spiritual Warfare:**

* **Ezra 8:21-23:** "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him a right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions."

**Practical Steps to Undertake the Fast:**

1. **Preparation:**

* Physically: Gradually reduce food intake before starting the fast. Consult with a healthcare professional to ensure it’s safe for you to undertake a complete fast.
* Spiritually: Begin with prayer, asking for God’s guidance and strength throughout the fast.

1. **During the Fast:**

* Engage in regular prayer and meditation on Scripture. Use the time you would spend on meals for spiritual activities.
* Drink water to stay hydrated, unless you feel led to abstain from all liquids and have confirmed it's safe to do so.
* Rest as needed. Your energy levels may be lower than usual.

1. **Spiritual Focus:**

* Set aside specific times for prayer, worship, and reading the Bible. Consider studying the fasting experiences of biblical figures.
* Keep a journal of your prayers, thoughts, and any revelations or insights received during the fast.

1. **Breaking the Fast:**

* Gradually reintroduce foods, starting with light and easily digestible items. Be mindful of your body's reactions.

**Conclusion:**

A 5-day complete fast is a powerful spiritual discipline that can lead to significant breakthroughs and deeper intimacy with God. It's a time of humbling oneself, seeking God’s face, and standing in the gap for others through intercession. As you embark on this journey, may you experience the Lord’s presence, guidance, and strength in profound ways.

***Disclaimer:***

*This guide is for informational purposes and should not replace professional medical advice. Always consult with a healthcare provider before starting any fast, especially one involving abstention from food and/or liquids*.

**Guide to a Biblical Social Media Fast**

**Introduction:**

In an age where digital connections often overshadow face-to-face interactions, taking a step back to evaluate the influence of social media on our lives is both healthy and necessary. The Bible, while ancient, speaks profoundly into modern concerns, offering guidance that can help us navigate the complexities of today’s digital landscape. This guide is crafted to assist individuals in undertaking a fast from social media, drawing on biblical wisdom to foster a deeper connection with God, self, and others.

**Purpose of the Fast:**

* To reduce distractions and noise that hinder our relationship with God.
* To cultivate a spirit of mindfulness and presence in the real world.
* To evaluate the impact of social media on our emotional and spiritual well-being.
* To strengthen real-life relationships and community ties.

**Biblical Foundations:**

1. **Seeking God First:**

* **Matthew 6:33:** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
* **Psalm 46:10:** "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!"

1. **Guarding Your Heart:**

* **Proverbs 4:23:** "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."
* **Philippians 4:8:** "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

1. **Renewing Your Mind:**

* **Romans 12:2:** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will."
* **Ephesians 4:23-24:** "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

1. **Cultivating Real Relationships:**

* **Hebrews 10:24-25:** "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
* **1 Thessalonians 5:11:** "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

**Practical Steps to Undertake the Fast:**

1. **Set Clear Goals and Boundaries:** Define the length of your fast and what you hope to achieve. Decide if you'll abstain from all social media or limit your use.
2. **Daily Scripture and Prayer:** Begin each day of the fast with scripture reading and prayer, asking God to fill the space that social media occupied with His presence and guidance.
3. **Engage in Alternative Activities:** Fill the time you would have spent on social media with activities that enrich your life and faith, such as reading, journaling, spending time in nature, or engaging in community service.
4. **Foster Real-Life Connections:** Use this time to strengthen relationships with family and friends through face-to-face interactions, phone calls, or handwritten letters.
5. **Reflect and Journal:** Keep a journal of your experiences, reflections, and any insights you gain during the fast. Note changes in your mood, stress levels, and overall well-being.

**Conclusion:**

A social media fast, guided by biblical principles, offers a unique opportunity to reset our digital habits, refocus our priorities, and rejuvenate our spiritual life. By intentionally stepping away from the digital world, we can rediscover the joys of real-world connections, deepen our relationship with God, and gain a fresh perspective on what truly matters. May this guide serve as a starting point for a transformative journey towards a more balanced, purposeful, and spiritually fulfilling life.

**21-Day Daniel Fast Guide**

**Introduction:**

The Daniel Fast is a spiritually motivated practice of fasting and prayer, based on the fasting experiences of the prophet Daniel. This 21-day period is designed to draw participants closer to God, improve their physical health, and foster a deeper understanding of self-discipline through restricted dieting. Below you'll find biblical references, dietary guidelines, and spiritual practices to guide you through your Daniel Fast.

**Biblical Foundation:**

1. **Daniel's Choice:**

* **Daniel 1:12:** "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink."
* **Daniel 10:2-3:** "At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over."

1. **Purpose of Fasting:**

* **Joel 2:12:** "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

1. **Spiritual Clarity and Strength:**

* **Matthew 4:4:** "Jesus answered, 'It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’"

**Dietary Guidelines:**

The Daniel Fast involves a vegan diet with additional restrictions. Below is a list of foods to include and avoid:

**Foods to Include:**

* All fruits: fresh, frozen, dried, juiced, or canned.
* All vegetables: fresh, frozen, dried, juiced, or canned.
* All whole grains: amaranth, barley, brown rice, oats, quinoa, millet, and whole wheat.
* All nuts and seeds: including nut butters.
* All legumes: beans, lentils, chickpeas, etc.
* All quality oils: olive, coconut, avocado, etc.
* Beverages: water (plain, sparkling, or flavored without sweeteners), unsweetened almond milk, coconut water, and herbal teas.
* Other: tofu, soy products, vinegar, seasonings, salt, herbs, and spices.

**Foods to Avoid:**

* All meat and animal products: including but not limited to beef, chicken, fish, eggs, and dairy.
* All sweeteners: sugar, raw sugar, honey, syrups, molasses, and cane juice.
* All leavened bread and yeast.
* All processed foods: anything with artificial additives, preservatives, and chemicals.
* All deep-fried foods: chips, fries, etc.
* All solid fats: shortening, margarine, lard, and foods high in fat.
* Beverages: coffee, tea (except herbal), alcohol, and carbonated beverages.

**Spiritual Practices:**

1. **Daily Prayer and Meditation:** Start and end your day with prayer, thanking God for His provision and seeking His guidance. Meditate on a passage of Scripture each day.
2. **Bible Study:** Dedicate time each day to read and study the Bible. Focus on stories of faith, devotion, and the power of prayer.
3. **Journaling:** Keep a journal of your fast. Note any physical, emotional, and spiritual observations. Reflect on how the fast is affecting your relationship with God.
4. **Community:** If possible, engage with others who are fasting. Share experiences, encourage one another, and pray together.

**Conclusion:**

The 21-day Daniel Fast is a journey of faith, discipline, and reliance on God. By abstaining from certain foods and focusing on prayer and Scripture, you are invited to deepen your relationship with God and gain insight into your spiritual and physical health. May this time of fasting bring you closer to God, renew your spirit, and refresh your body.

Shape

*Remember, it's important to consult with a healthcare professional before starting any fast, especially if you have health concerns or dietary requirements. This guide is meant to support your spiritual journey and enhance your physical well-being, but it should be adapted to fit your individual health needs*

**No Sweets Fast: A Biblical Guide**

**Introduction:**

In a world filled with temptations of all kinds, the discipline of fasting from sweets serves as a tangible practice of self-control and a symbolic gesture of prioritizing spiritual nourishment over physical pleasures. This guide provides a biblical foundation for undertaking a fast from sweets, aiming to draw individuals closer to God through the exercise of discipline and to promote physical health in accordance with biblical principles.

**Purpose of the Fast:**

* To exercise self-control and discipline, fruits of the Spirit that are essential for spiritual growth.
* To honor the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit by making healthier dietary choices.
* To deepen one's relationship with God by sacrificing physical desires for spiritual gains.
* To foster a greater awareness of and gratitude for God's provision.

**Biblical Foundations:**

1. **Self-Control and Discipline:**

* Galatians 5:22-23: "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."
* 1 Corinthians 9:27: "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

1. **Honoring the Body as God's Temple:**

* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

1. **Spiritual Nourishment over Physical Pleasure:**

* Matthew 4:4: "Jesus answered, 'It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’'"

1. **Gratitude for God’s Provision:**

* 1 Timothy 4:4-5: "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

**Practical Steps to Undertake the Fast:**

1. **Define the Duration:**

* Decide how long you intend to fast from sweets. A period of 21 days is common for many fasts, but choose a length that is meaningful and realistic for you.

1. **Prepare Spiritually:**

* Begin with prayer, asking God to help you with discipline and to use this fast as a time of spiritual growth.
* Consider memorizing scripture related to self-control and the body as a temple.

1. **Plan Alternatives:**

it's essential to have a well-thought-out list of healthy alternatives that can help manage cravings for sweets. These alternatives should not only satisfy the craving but also contribute to your overall health, aligning with the goal of honoring your body as a temple. Here's a detailed list and some tips to guide you through:

**Fruits**

* **Fresh Fruits:** Apples, bananas, oranges, berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries), grapes, and peaches provide natural sweetness and are rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber.
* **Dried Fruits:** Raisins, dates, apricots, and figs are more concentrated sources of sweetness and are great for on-the-go snacking. Be mindful of portions as they are higher in sugar content.
* **Frozen Fruits:** Frozen grapes, cherries, or bananas can be a refreshing treat, especially in warmer weather.

**Nuts and Seeds**

* **Raw Nuts:** Almonds, walnuts, pecans, and cashews are not only filling but also provide healthy fats, protein, and fiber.
* **Seeds:** Pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, and chia seeds are nutritious options that can be added to yogurt or salads for a crunch.
* **Nut Butters:** Almond butter, peanut butter, or cashew butter can satisfy cravings when paired with fruit or whole-grain crackers.

**Vegetables**

* **Carrot and Celery Sticks:** These can be paired with hummus or a small portion of nut butter for added flavor and satisfaction.
* **Sweet Vegetables:** Bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, and cucumbers can serve as crunchy, sweet snacks.

**Whole Grains**

* **Oatmeal:** A bowl of oatmeal can be naturally sweetened with fruit or a small drizzle of honey and topped with nuts for extra texture.
* **Whole-Grain Crackers:** Paired with avocado or cheese, they provide a satisfying snack with a mix of textures.

**Dairy or Dairy Alternatives**

* **Greek Yogurt:** Opt for plain Greek yogurt and sweeten it with fruit or a dash of vanilla extract.
* **Cheese:** Small portions of cheese can provide satisfying savory flavors that help reduce sweet cravings.

**Healthy Sweets**

* **Dark Chocolate:** Choose dark chocolate with a high percentage of cocoa (70% or higher) for a small, satisfying treat rich in antioxidants.
* **Homemade Treats:** Create your own healthy sweets using ingredients like oats, nuts, fruits, and dark chocolate. Homemade energy balls or bars can be a great substitute for processed sweets.

**Beverages**

* **Herbal Teas:** Many herbal teas have a natural sweetness or comforting quality that can help manage cravings.
* **Water Infusions:** Infuse water with fruits like lemon, lime, strawberries, or cucumber for a refreshing and subtly sweet drink.

**Practical Tips:**

* **Portion Control:** Even with healthier options, be mindful of portions to avoid overconsumption.
* **Meal Planning:** Incorporate these healthy alternatives into your meal planning to avoid the temptation of reaching for sweets.
* **Mindful Eating:** Pay attention to your hunger and fullness cues. Eating slowly and without distractions can help you enjoy your food more and feel satisfied with less.

By incorporating these alternatives into your diet during a "No Sweets Fast," you can satisfy your cravings in a healthier way while staying true to the spirit of the fast. Remember, the goal is not just to avoid sweets but to nurture your body with wholesome, nourishing foods.

1. **Daily Reflection and Prayer:**

* Spend time each day in prayer and reflection, perhaps during the times you would normally indulge in sweets. Use this time to meditate on the scriptures mentioned above.

1. **Community Support:**

* Consider inviting others to join you in the fast for mutual encouragement and accountability**.**

**Conclusion:**

A fast from sweets is not merely a dietary challenge; it is a spiritual discipline that offers the opportunity to grow in self-control, honor God with our bodies, and focus on the sustenance that comes from God alone. As you embark on this fast, may you experience not only the health benefits of reducing sugar intake but also a deeper communion with God and a strengthened spirit.

**Daily Consecration Prayer Guide**

**Introduction:**

Setting aside daily time for prayer is a powerful spiritual discipline that allows believers to connect with God, seek His guidance, and grow in their faith. This guide is designed to help you establish a consecrated daily prayer routine, offering flexibility in duration to accommodate different schedules and commitments. Whether you have just a few minutes or an hour, each moment spent in prayer is valuable. Below, we provide suggested prayer times along with scripture for meditation to enhance your prayer experience.

**Available Prayer Times:**

* **7 minutes**
* **12 minutes**
* **20 minutes**
* **30 minutes**
* **40 minutes**
* **45 minutes**
* **60 minutes**

*You can select daily the duration that best fits your schedule and spiritual needs. The key is consistency and intentionality in seeking God’s presence every day.*

**Scripture for Meditation:**

As you begin each prayer session, start by meditating on a scripture to focus your heart and mind on God. Here are suggestions that align with the essence of daily consecration and communion with the Lord:

1. **Psalm 46:10 -** “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
2. **Philippians 4:6-7 -** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
3. **Matthew 6:6 -** “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”
4. **Jeremiah 29:12 -** “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.**”**
5. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 -** “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
6. **Psalm 145:18 -** “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”
7. **James 5:16 -** “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

**How to Structure Your Prayer Time:**

1. **Praise and Worship (2 minutes for shorter sessions, 5 minutes for longer):** Begin with acknowledging God’s nature, greatness, and love.
2. **Confession and Repentance (1-5 minutes):** Confess your sins and seek God’s forgiveness, aiming for a pure heart.
3. **Thanksgiving (1-5 minutes):** Express gratitude for God’s blessings, provision, and grace in your life.
4. **Supplication and Intercession (3-45 minutes depending on your chosen duration):** Present your needs and the needs of others before God, praying for guidance, healing, provision, and for God’s will to be done.
5. **Listening and Reflection (1-5 minutes):** Spend the final minutes of your prayer time in silence, listening for God’s voice, and reflecting on the scripture you meditated on at the beginning**.**

**Conclusion:**

**Prayer is a dynamic and intimate way to deepen your relationship with God. By consecrating time daily for prayer, you are opening your heart to receive God’s love, wisdom, and direction. Remember, the length of time is not as crucial as the sincerity and dedication of your heart. May this guide help you establish a fulfilling daily prayer practice that nurtures your spiritual growth and draws you closer to God.**

**Praying Scripture Guide: Finding Words When You Are at a Loss**

**Introduction:**

There are moments in our spiritual journey when words fail us in prayer—times of deep anguish, confusion, joy, or even in the silence of awe. In these times, the Psalms and other scriptures serve as a profound resource, giving voice to our hearts’ cries and praises. This guide aims to help you navigate through various emotional and spiritual landscapes by praying the scriptures. Below, find themes and corresponding Psalms to guide you in praying scripture when you're at a loss for words.

**Praying Scripture Resource:**

When words are hard to find, let these Psalms speak on your behalf, guiding your heart back to God’s presence and His truths.

1. **When we have messed up:** Psalm 32 - Find forgiveness and the joy of being cleansed from sin.
2. **When we are in trouble:** Psalm 27 - Seek courage, strength, and the assurance of God’s protection.
3. **When we are broken:** Psalm 42 - Express your deep longing for God in times of despair.
4. **When we are oppressed and need justice:** Psalm 9 - Affirm God’s sovereignty and His justice for the oppressed.
5. **When we are in the middle of a trial:** Psalm 28 - Cry out for deliverance and receive God’s strength.
6. **When experiencing relational conflict:** Psalm 133 - Pray for unity and the blessing that comes with harmony.
7. **When you want God’s blessing:** Psalm 1 - Meditate on the path to true prosperity and blessing through obedience to God.
8. **When you want to praise God:** Psalm 145 - Join in the chorus of creation, praising God for His mighty acts and loving character.
9. **When you don’t want to praise God:** Psalm 104 - Remind your heart of the reasons to praise God by reflecting on His creation and provision.
10. **When you want to live for God:** Psalm 15 - Contemplate the characteristics of those who dwell with God.
11. **When you need comfort:** Psalm 23 - Rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who provides and protects.
12. **When you need to be reminded of what Jesus did for us:** Psalm 22 - See the prophetic depiction of Christ’s suffering and the victory that followed.
13. **When you need forgiveness:** Psalm 51 - Confess and return to God with a contrite heart, seeking His mercy.
14. **When you need to cry out in desperation:** Psalm 88 - Bring your deepest despair before God, knowing He hears every cry.
15. **When you need to refocus:** Psalm 37 - Trust in the Lord instead of fretting over evildoers.
16. **When you need God’s help:** Psalm 57 - Take refuge in God’s unfailing love and faithfulness amid storms.
17. **When you feel God is distant or indifferent:** Psalm 139 - Remember that God is intimately acquainted with all your ways.
18. **When you feel God has forgotten you:** Psalm 13 - Share your feelings of abandonment and trust in God’s steadfast love.
19. **When you doubt your worth:** Psalm 8 - Marvel at the honor and care God gives to humanity, including you.
20. **When you doubt God’s goodness:** Psalm 19 - Witness the perfection of God’s laws and the sweetness of His statutes.
21. **When you doubt God’s love:** Psalm 103 - Recall the benefits and mercies of God, which are new every morning.
22. **When you doubt God’s forgiveness:** Psalm 130 - Wait for the Lord with hope, knowing He offers full redemption.
23. **When you doubt God’s ability to help:** Psalm 146 - Praise God for His help and hope, remembering His faithfulness through all generations.
24. **When you doubt God’s faithfulness:** Psalm 136 - Rehearse the steadfast love of the Lord that endures forever.

**Conclusion:**

Praying scripture is a powerful way to align our hearts with God’s heart, especially when our own words fall short. These Psalms serve as a reminder that no matter what we face, we can find solace, guidance, and communion with God through His Word. Let the timeless prayers of the Psalms lead you into deeper intimacy with God, transforming your heart and mind in every season of life.

**Theme: "The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey "**

 Week 1: Resurrection- He is Risen

* **This week's theme focuses on transformation and empowerment through faith in Jesus Christ, from embracing new beginnings and overcoming doubt to fulfilling our commission with joy, peace, and the hope of His return. Through personal reflection and prayer, we are called to deepen our faith, serve others, and live each day empowered by the Holy Spirit, grounded in the peace and joy of the Lord.**

Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ

* ***Day 8-14: Focus on post-resurrection appearances of Jesus (e.g., to the disciples, on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee). Use scriptures from the Gospels and 1 Corinthians 15.***

Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection

* ***Day 15-21: Explore different aspects of the resurrection's significance (e.g., victory over sin and death, promise of eternal life). Scriptures from Romans 6, 1 Corinthians 15, and 1 Peter 1 can be used.***

Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life

* ***Day 22-28: Reflect on how believers are called to live in light of the resurrection (e.g., living in hope, newness of life, spiritual growth). Consider passages from Colossians 3, Romans 12, and Galatians 2:20.***

Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit

* ***Day 29-35: Focus on Jesus’ ascension and the disciples’ waiting for the Holy Spirit. Use scriptures from Acts 1 and Luke 24:49-53.***

Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit

* ***Day 36-42: Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life (e.g., comforter, guide, empowering presence). John 14-16, Acts 2, and Galatians 5 are key passages.***

Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost

* ***Day 43-49: Reflect on the significance of Pentecost and the birth of the Church. Focus on Acts 2 and the epistles, discussing themes like unity, diversity, and mission.***

**Theme: "The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey "**

***Day 1: Resurrection - New Beginnings (John 20:1-16)***

***Day 2: Doubt to Faith (John 20:24-29)***

***Day 3: Embracing the Commission (John 20: 17–18)***

***Day 4: Empowered by the Spirit (Acts 1:8)***

***Day 5: Living in Joy (Philippians 4:4-7)***

***Day 6: Promise of Peace (John 14:27)***

***Day 7: The Power of the Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)***

***Day 8: Appearance to Disciples (John 20:19-23)***

***Day 9: On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)***

***Day 10: By the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14)***

***Day 11: Restoring Peter (John 21:15-19)***

***Day 12: To Thomas and Other Disciples (John 20:24-29)***

***Day 13: Appearance to 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6)***

***Day 14: Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)***

***Day 15: Victory Over Death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)***

***Day 16: New Life in Christ (Romans 6:4-5)***

***Day 17: Our Resurrection Hope (1 Peter 1:3-5)***

***Day 18: The First fruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)***

***Day 19: Resurrection and Justification (Romans 4:25)***

***Day 20: Living for Christ (Philippians 1:21-24)***

***Day 21: Heavenly Perspective (Colossians 3:1-4)***

***Day 22: Newness of Life (Romans 6:4)***

***Day 23: Spiritual Growth (Ephesians 4:15-16)***

***Day 24: Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)***

***Day 25: Putting Off the Old Self (Colossians 3:5-10)***

***Day 26: Living in Love (1 John 4:7-12)***

***Day 27: Serving Others (Galatians 5:13-14)***

***Day 28: Seeking Things Above (Colossians 3:1-2)***

***Day 29: The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)***

***Day 30: Waiting in Jerusalem (Acts 1:12-14)***

***Day 31: Choosing Matthias (Acts 1:15-26)***

***Day 32: Jesus' Promise of the Spirit (Luke 24:49)***

***Day 33: Unity in Prayer (Acts 1:14)***

***Day 34: The Role of the Spirit (John 16:7-11)***

***Day 35: Power from on High (Luke 24:49)***

***Day 36: The Comforter (John 14:26)***

***Day 37: Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)***

***Day 38: Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)***

***Day 39: Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)***

***Day 40: Walking by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18)***

***Day 41: The Spirit Intercedes (Romans 8:26-27)***

***Day 42: Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15)***

***Day 43: The Coming of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)***

***Day 44: Peter's Sermon (Acts 2:14-36)***

***Day 45: The Response (Acts 2:37-41)***

***Day 46: Life in the Early Church (Acts 2:42-47)***

***Day 47: Unity in the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6)***

***Day 48: Empowered Witness (Acts 1:8)***

***Day 49: Growing in the Spirit (2 Peter 1:5-8)***

***Day 50: Pentecost - Empowered to Witness (Scripture: Acts 2:1-41)***

***He is Risen***



**He is Risen**

**Apostle Allen H. Simmons & Lady Janice Y. Simmons**

Mt 28:5-7

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without the Resurrection, the belief in God’s saving grace and mercy through Jesus is void. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved His Divinity as the Son of God, and his works of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation. The resurrection was a real, physical, raising of Jesus‘s body from the dead. He is Risen!

Jesus was arrested and sentenced to crucifixion at the demand of the Pharisees. His body was hung on a cross between two thieves. After His death, Jesus’s body was wrapped in linen cloth and placed in a tomb, with a large stone rolled across the opening. On the third day, and early Sunday morning, the myrrh bearing women came to the tomb, and found it empty. Sitting on the rolled away stone was an Angel of the Lord, who told him to not be afraid, because Jesus has risen. As the women left to tell the disciples, Jesus Christ met them and showed them his nail pierced hands. He indeed is Risen!

Both the Old and New Testament, speak of the truth of Jesus being raised from the dead. Jesus testified of his resurrection before he died on the cross, and his disciples witnessed his body after the resurrection. He is Risen!!

**What does it mean?**

The words He is risen, remind us of the joyous news, we celebrate at Resurrection Day, or Easter, that Jesus, death was not in vain, and that He has the power to overcome death. Easter/Resurrection Day, clearly points out our great sin and our need for forgiveness, God’s abiding love for us, and the wonder and hope of the Resurrection.

He has risen, means that Jesus has defeated death and offers us to share in eternal life with Him. Christ conquered, death, hell, and the grave and to those who believe in Him, He grants, eternal life.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. Jesus is risen, and when he rose from the dead, he raised us up with him. Scripture says, if you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you shall be saved.

He is risen, allows us to share this incredible truth with each other. The Resurrection of Christ gives us hope for salvation, and for our own resurrection and eternal life.

At this special time of year, we the children of God, recognize that in Christ, He is calling us to a deeper relationship with Him.   Our prayer is that in this season is a time of reflection and celebration, that we will all come away with a new commitment, stronger than ever before, to live a loving, worshiping and to praise our risen King!

In His Favor

**Apostle Allen H. Simmons & Lady Janice Y. Simmons**

**He is Risen**

**Dr. Catherine Hezekiah Clark**

First let us begin with defining the Phrase HE IS RISEN" Luke 24:6-7 says an angel was at Jesus empty tomb and three women Mary Madalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James and they had come to anoint his body. The angel said to them, are you looking for Jesus, The Nazarene who was Crucified "HE IS Risen " The Death, Burial and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ it was 2000 years ago that Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God was beaten and Crucified on Calvary’s Cross HE shed his blood for you and me that the wrath of God would pass over us as long as we stay under the Blood.  On that day Jesus was beaten  all night long, they pulled the hair from his beard, they punched him in the face, they spit upon him, then they dragged  him out into the open courtyard and there HE was tied to a whipping  post his hands were tied above his head and he was beaten  repeatedly  with a flagellum.(a flagellum were pieces of metal) Every time  this flagellum came down across  the back of Jesus flesh was Ripped from his body “But he never said a mumbling word" HE endured the beating because  He looked down through time  and saw you and me every time the Whip came across  His back "I like to believe that he said that one is for  me" that one is for  you " I like to believe he said I am shedding my blood so the wrath of God  will  pass over you and  me all you  have to do is stay  under the Blood "After they  beat him all night long after they pulled  the hairs out of his beard, spit on him, After they placed a crown of thorns on his head. They placed upon his shoulders  The  Cross beam  the Cross Beam was called a Platibullium Thks Cross beam weighed  about 80 lbs. they made him carry  it up Golgotha's Hill, every time he stumbled  from the weight of the cross He was kicked and beaten even the more, Thank God for Simon of Cerene that for a moment was able to give  Jesus a little rest with His back Bloody and  open from the flesh being  Ripped from it, they laid Him on the ground and nailed him to the Cross, His  hands began to draw up like claws, His feet began to draw up. He didn’t have to go to Hell because he had Hell all in his Body. At about 3:00p.m. in the afternoon The Bible says He gave up the Ghost. There on Calvary Cross JESUS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF DIED! When He died on Calvary’s Cross the Cohorts  of Hell began to Rejoice  no doubt Death said I got the Victory " And with no doubt the grave said, “I'll hold Him here" No doubt the devil said see I am the greatest. " But suddenly the earth began to shake and the grave lost its grip, Death Realized it didn't have the victory, The gates of hell flew opened and in walked Jesus! He looked at death, right in the face and said, “Oh death, where is your sting?” He looked at the grave and said, “Oh grave, where is your victory?” He looked at the devil, took the keys of death and hell and said, “All power is in heaven and earth is in my hands.” The he rose from the dead. The bible says he led the captives, he freed them from the stronghold of Satan because Jesus is not dead. He is Risen! Because he is risen my sins have been forgiven. Because he is risen, I am delivered. Because he is risen, I am healed. Because he is risen, I am free. Because he risen, I know he know he holds my hand. Because he is risen, I know that he loves me. Because he is risen, I have joy unspeakable and full of glory because he is risen from the dead. Because he is risen, I can walk in victory. Because he is risen, there is no need for you and me to be bound. Because I know he walks with me and he talks with me. Because he is risen, I can be whatever I want to be. With Christ all things are possible. Because he is risen, I am not guilty. Because he is risen, I am more than a conqueror. Because he is risen, I know I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil. Because he is risen, I am justified by faith. Because he is risen, my life is worth living. Because he is risen, ever day is sweeter than the day before. Because he is risen, I will praise him and give him glory and honor him. I will magnify His Holy and Righteous name. Because he is risen, I will love him with all of my heart, with all of my strength, and with all of my mind. I will love him with every fiber of my being and with every breath in my body. Because he is risen, I will serve him for the rest of my life. Because he is risen, we can have eternal life.

**Week 1: Resurrection- He is Risen (Days 1-7)**

**Day 1: Resurrection - New Beginnings** - **Scripture:** John 20:1-16 *(The story of the resurrection)*

***20****The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.* ***2****Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.****3****Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.* ***4****So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.* ***5****And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.****6****Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,****7****And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.****8****Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.****9****For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.* ***10****Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.* ***11****But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,* ***12****And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.* ***13****And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.* ***14****And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.* ***15****Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.* ***16****Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.*

**Reflection:**

The narrative of Jesus' resurrection as depicted in John 20:1-16 is a powerful testament to the dawn of new beginnings. Mary Magdalene's journey from the despair of the crucifixion to the astonishment of the empty tomb and finally to the joy of recognizing the risen Jesus speaks volumes about the transformative power of the Resurrection. This passage invites us to reflect on the empty tombs in our lives—situations we thought were dead ends, relationships we believed were beyond repair, dreams we had buried. Jesus' resurrection is a profound reminder that with God, nothing is truly dead. In Christ, we are offered new beginnings, a chance to rise above our past failures, our sins, and our disappointments. As we encounter the risen Lord in our daily walk, we are called to embrace the hope and renewal He offers. This moment with Mary Magdalene challenges us to seek Jesus with the expectation of encountering Him in unexpected places and to be ready to hear Him call our name, inviting us into a life renewed by His love and power.

**Prayer Starter:**

Risen Lord, in the quiet of this moment, I stand in awe of the miracle of Your resurrection and the new beginnings it signifies for me. Like Mary Magdalene, I come seeking You, sometimes in despair, often not knowing where to find You. Yet, you reveal yourself to me in the most unexpected ways, calling me by name and inviting me into a deeper relationship with You. Help me to recognize Your presence in my life, even when I am blinded by my circumstances. Teach me to look beyond the tombs of my past—my failures, my doubts, and my fears—and to see the hope of the resurrection.

Empower me to embrace the new beginnings You offer me each day with courage and joy. Let Your resurrection life flow through me, transforming every aspect of my being and enabling me to live fully in the light of Your love and grace. As I witness Your power at work in my life, inspire me to share the story of this new beginning with others, that they too may come to know the hope and transformation found in You.

Guide me in this journey of faith, that I may walk in the newness of life You have promised, ever mindful of Your love, your mercy, and Your power to make all things new. May my life be a testament to the reality of Your resurrection, bearing witness to the joy and freedom that comes from living in communion with You. Amen.

Personal Reflections**:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

D**ay 2: Doubt to Faith** - **Scripture:** **John 20:24-29 (Thomas doubts and then believes)**

***24****But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.* ***25****The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.* ***26****And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.* ***27****Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.* ***28****And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.****29****Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

**Reflection:**

Thomas's story is a powerful reminder that doubt does not disqualify us from faith; rather, it can be a stepping stone to a deeper and more resilient belief. When Thomas heard of Jesus' resurrection, he refused to believe without seeing Jesus with his own eyes. His demand for proof mirrors our own moments of skepticism, where faith seems to falter under the weight of life's realities. Yet, Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for his doubt; instead, He offered His wounds as evidence of His resurrection, inviting Thomas to believe. This encounter teaches us that God is patient with our doubts, willing to meet us where we are and lead us into a stronger faith. It encourages us to bring our questions and uncertainties to God, trusting that He will reveal Himself to us in ways that fortify our belief. As we reflect on Thomas's journey from doubt to faith, let us be reminded that our doubts do not define our faith journey; rather, our willingness to seek truth and embrace God's revelations does. May we, like Thomas, have the courage to voice our doubts and the openness to be transformed by the truth of Christ's presence in our lives.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, when doubts arise, remind me of Your eternal truth. Strengthen my faith as I seek to understand and grow closer to You. Help me to see my doubts not as failures, but as opportunities to deepen my faith. Grant me the courage to seek You with honesty and openness, trusting that You will reveal Yourself to me and guide me into all truth. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 3: Embracing the Commission** - **Scripture:** John 20: 17 – 18

***17****Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.* ***18****Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

**Reflection:**

In this profound passage, Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Christ. Jesus instructs her not to cling to Him but to go and tell the disciples of His resurrection. This moment is pivotal, symbolizing not just a personal encounter with the divine but also the commissioning of every believer to bear witness to Christ's resurrection. Mary's transition from clinging to proclaiming speaks to our journey of faith, where personal encounters with Jesus must translate into a mission. We are reminded that our relationship with Christ is not for our holding alone but is a gift to be shared with the world. This narrative invites us to consider how we, like Mary, are called to go and tell others of our experiences with the risen Lord. It challenges us to move beyond our comfort zones, carrying the message of hope and transformation to those around us. As carriers of this glorious news, we're empowered to be active participants in God's redemptive story, echoing Mary's proclamation, "I have seen the Lord!"

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord Jesus, just as You commissioned Mary Magdalene to share the news of Your resurrection, I sense Your call to bear witness to Your life-transforming power in my life. Instill in me the courage and zeal of Mary, that I may not keep the joy of encountering You to myself but share it with enthusiasm and clarity. Help me to navigate the complexities of this mission with wisdom and sensitivity, always led by Your Spirit. Teach me to articulate my experiences with You in ways that resonate with the hearts and minds of those around me, drawing them closer to You.

Grant me the boldness to step out of my comfort zones, to break the barriers of fear and hesitation, and to proclaim Your resurrection and lordship with unwavering faith. Let my life reflect the depth of Your love and the hope of Your resurrection, that in seeing my faith, others might be drawn to seek You. May my testimony, like Mary's, become a catalyst for transformation in the lives of others, contributing to the unfolding of Your kingdom here on earth. In sharing the story of Your resurrection, let me also embody Your compassion, Your grace, and Your love, being a tangible representation of Your presence in this world. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 4: Empowered by the Spirit** - **Scripture:** **Acts 1:8 (Promise of the Holy Spirit)**

***8****But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**Reflection:**

The promise of the Holy Spirit is a cornerstone of our faith, offering us the power to be effective witnesses for Christ. This empowerment is not just for extraordinary moments but infiltrates our everyday interactions, decisions, and challenges. The Holy Spirit works within us to transform us more into the likeness of Christ, guiding us in truth, and enabling us to overcome obstacles and fears that might otherwise hinder our witness. Reflecting on how the Spirit is at work in our lives, we recognize the subtle nudges, the strength in times of weakness, and the words when we ourselves are at a loss. The Holy Spirit's presence is a testament to God's faithfulness, ensuring that we are never alone in our mission and that we have the divine power necessary to fulfill our calling.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, I invite You to fill me anew with Your power and presence. Empower me to be a bold and faithful witness for Christ in every situation I encounter. Teach me to rely on Your strength and guidance, especially in moments of uncertainty or fear. Show me how to listen for Your voice and to follow Your leading, that I might serve as an effective ambassador of Christ’s love and truth. Stir in me a passion for the Gospel that overflows into every conversation and interaction, drawing others to the beauty and salvation found in Jesus. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 5: Living in Joy** - **Scripture:** Philippians 4:4-7 (Rejoice in the Lord)

***4****Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.* ***5****Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.* ***6****Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* ***7****And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**Reflection:**

Joy in the Lord is a profound strength, transcending the fleeting happiness tied to circumstances. This joy is rooted in the unshakeable reality of God's love, presence, and sovereignty, offering peace and contentment regardless of life's ups and downs. It is a testament to our trust in God, a choice to focus on His goodness and faithfulness. Living in this joy does not mean ignoring life's challenges but facing them with the confidence that God is in control. This divine joy becomes a witness to others, a beacon of hope and stability in a turbulent world. As we choose to rejoice in the Lord always, we open ourselves to the peace of God, which guards our hearts and minds, anchoring us in His perfect security.

**Prayer Starter:**

God, I ask You to saturate my heart with the deep, abiding joy that comes from knowing You. Teach me to find joy in Your presence, even amid trials and hardships. Help me to rejoice always, not as a denial of pain or difficulty, but as a testament to Your goodness and faithfulness. Let this joy be a source of strength and a light to those around me, demonstrating the hope and peace that come from a life anchored in You. Cultivate in me a spirit of gratitude and praise, that I may always find reasons to celebrate Your love and grace. Amen. 

 Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 6: Promise of Peace** - **Scripture:** John 14:27 (Jesus promises peace)

***27****Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

**Reflection**:

In a world rife with conflict and anxiety, Jesus offers a peace that is unlike anything the world can give. This peace is a deep-seated assurance of God's love, presence, and sovereignty over our lives, providing comfort and security in the midst of turmoil. It's a reminder that our circumstances do not dictate our inner state of being when we are anchored in Christ. This divine peace enables us to face the challenges of life with a calm and confident heart, knowing that we are held in the hands of a loving God. It's a peace that also calls us to be peacemakers, reflecting God's reconciliation in our relationships and interactions with others. As we embrace and live out this peace, we testify to the transformative power of God's love and the reality of His kingdom here on earth.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord Jesus, I come before You longing for the peace that only You can give. In a world that feels chaotic and uncertain, let Your peace reign in my heart, surpassing all understanding. Teach me to trust in Your promises and to rest in the assurance of Your care and sovereignty over my life. Help me to embody this peace in my interactions with others, that I might be a conduit of Your tranquility and hope. Where there is strife, let me sow peace; where there is anxiety, let me bring Your calm. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 7: The Power of the Ascension** - **Scripture:** Acts 1:9-11 (The Ascension of Jesus)

***9****And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.* ***10****And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;* ***11****Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

**Reflection:**

The ascension of Jesus marks a pivotal moment in Christian history, signifying the completion of His earthly ministry and the beginning of a new era for His followers. It is a powerful reminder that while Jesus may not be physically present with us, His Spirit empowers us to continue His work. The ascension also points us toward the hope of Jesus' return, encouraging us to live with purpose and anticipation. It challenges us to lift our eyes above our current circumstances and to focus on the eternal kingdom we are called to advance. As we reflect on the ascension, we are reminded that our daily lives and actions should be shaped by this eternal perspective, motivated by the hope of Christ's return and committed to serving Him faithfully in every area of our life.

**Prayer Starter:**

"Heavenly Father, as I contemplate the ascension of Jesus, inspire me with the hope and purpose it signifies. Fill me with a sense of mission, knowing that Jesus, who ascended to You, has entrusted us to continue His work on earth. Help me to live with an eternal perspective, eagerly awaiting Christ’s return, while diligently working to spread Your kingdom here and now. Empower me to serve with joy and dedication, reflecting Your love and grace to all I meet. May my life bear witness to the truth of the Gospel and the hope of our future reunion with Christ. Amen."

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Encounters with the Risen Christ**



**Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ (Days 8-14)**

**“Encounter means to come upon face-to-face, or to come upon unexpectedly.”**

The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) recorded different accounts of what happened that Sunday morning when Jesus rose from the dead. The sight of the empty tomb and the heavenly messenger created various emotions. There was confusion as people haste to spread the news, each from their own perspective. The one thing that all the gospels agreed upon was that the tomb was empty, and that Jesus the Christ had risen.

Accordingly, very early that morning several women, including Mary Magdalene, approached the tomb to complete burial customs on behalf of Jesus, just to find the stone rolled away and an empty tomb. Panicking that someone had stolen Jesus, Mary Magdalene along with others ran to tell Peter and John that Jesus’ body was stolen (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; John 20:1-2). Later two other women saw an angel outside the tomb and another angel inside the tomb who informed them that Jesus had risen and desired to be reunited with his disciples in Galilee. The two rushed off to where the disciples were and shared the news of Jesus’ resurrection and his desire to see them. Peter and John arrived at the tomb to confirm Mary’s story and went back to the other disciples.  Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb alone and began weeping when she saw two angels and then turned around and saw a man she did not recognize. When she discovered that it was Jesus she clung to him not wanting to let go. Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father,” but go and tell his disciples what he had told her (John 20:16-17). Jesus later appeared to the other women who also told the apostles.

Then on the road to Emmaus Jesus appeared to two other disciples who also did not recognize him. First, Jesus explained the scriptures to them and, then sits at a table with them and celebrates the Eucharist. The two disciples hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the apostles and other disciples of their encounter with Jesus. While the disciples were together discussing these miraculous appearances, Jesus suddenly appeared among them calming their fears by showing them his scarred flesh body and bones.  He ate fish, showing that his body had normal physical functions (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-20).  Jesus commissioned them to take his message to all nations.

We as Christians are part of that nation. Although we have not experienced a face-to-face encounter with the Risen Christ, we are blessed because we have not seen but believe through faith in Him. We are promised the incredible blessing of eternal life because he died for our sins and rose again, conquering sin and death for our salvation and for the glory of God. (1 Pet. 1:8-9)

Continued blessings

Dr. Dolores W. Simpson

NBSOP Associate Pastor

**Day 8: Appearance to Disciples** - **Scripture: (John 20:19-23)**

***19****Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.* ***20****And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.* ***21****Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* ***22****And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:* ***23****Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

**Reflection:**

In this profound moment of fear and uncertainty, Jesus appears to His disciples, greeting them with a message of peace and imparting to them the Holy Spirit. This encounter highlights the transformative power of Christ's presence, turning fear into courage and equipping the disciples for the mission ahead. It reminds us that, in our moments of doubt and fear, Jesus offers us His peace, a peace that transcends understanding and empowers us to face our challenges with confidence. This passage invites us to open our hearts to the peace of Christ, allowing it to calm our fears and strengthen our resolve as we continue on our spiritual journey.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord Jesus, in my moments of fear and uncertainty, I seek Your peace. Just as You breathed Your Spirit onto the disciples, breathe Your Spirit onto me, transforming my fear into courage and equipping me for the mission You have set before me. Help me to hold fast to Your peace in every circumstance and to share that peace with others. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 9: On the Road to Emmaus** - **Scripture (Luke 24:13-35)**

***13****And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.* ***14****And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.* ***15****The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?* ***16****And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?* ***17****And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.* ***18****Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it?* ***19****It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.* ***20****And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God?* ***21****It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.* ***22****And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.* ***23****Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,* ***24****Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.* ***25****When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:* ***26****Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.* ***27****But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.* ***28****There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.* ***29****And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.* ***30****And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.* ***31****The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.* ***32****And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.* ***33****Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.* ***34****O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!* ***35****Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

**Reflection:**

The journey to Emmaus is a beautiful metaphor for our own spiritual journeys, often filled with questions and doubts. In this story, Jesus walks alongside two disciples, engaging with their doubts and eventually revealing Himself in the breaking of bread. This narrative teaches us that Jesus is present with us in our doubts and confusion, patiently revealing Himself through Scripture and in the moments of our everyday lives. It encourages us to remain open to encountering Christ in all situations and to recognize the ways in which He is continually at work in our lives, often in the most unexpected ways.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, in the journey of my life, I invite You to walk beside me, especially in times of doubt and confusion. Open my eyes to Your presence in all aspects of my life and reveal Yourself to me in Your Word and in the breaking of bread. Strengthen my faith and deepen my understanding of Your love and grace. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 10**: **By the Sea of Galilee** - **Scripture: (John 21:1-14)**

***21****After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.*

***2****There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples* ***3****Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.* ***4****But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.* ***5****Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.****6****And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.* ***7****Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.* ***8****And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.* ***9****As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.*

***10****Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.* ***11****Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.****12****Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.****13****Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.* ***14****This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.*

**Reflection:**

This narrative of Jesus appearing to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee illustrates the Lord's intimate knowledge of our needs and His provision for them, even in our moments of discouragement and failure. The miraculous catch of fish symbolizes not only Jesus' lordship over creation but also His ability to guide us to abundance where we see only scarcity. This story invites us to trust in Jesus' direction and provision in our lives, especially when our own efforts seem futile. It calls us to recognize Jesus in our daily work and to be open to His guidance and blessings, even in the most ordinary circumstances.

**Prayer Starter:**

Jesus, my Provider, in times of discouragement and when my efforts seem in vain, remind me of Your presence and provision. Guide me in my daily work and help me to trust in Your direction, knowing that with Your guidance, I can find abundance where I once saw scarcity. Teach me to recognize Your hand in all areas of my life. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 11:** **Restoring Peter** - **Scripture (John 21:15-19)**

**15**So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. **16**He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. **17**He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. **18**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. **19**This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

**Reflection:**

The restoration of Peter is a powerful demonstration of Jesus' unconditional love and forgiveness. Despite Peter's denial, Jesus reaffirms His love for Peter and commissions him to "feed my sheep." This encounter underscores the concept that our failures are not final in the eyes of the Lord. It serves as an invitation for us to come to Jesus with our own failures and receive His forgiveness and restoration. This passage encourages us to embrace God's grace, allowing Him to use even our weaknesses for His greater purpose and to commit ourselves anew to serving Him faithfully.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, in my failings and moments of weakness, I come to You for restoration and forgiveness. Just as You restored Peter and called him to serve, restore me and use me for Your purpose. Teach me to lean on Your grace and to serve You faithfully, bearing witness to Your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 12: To Thomas and Other Disciples** - **Scripture (John 20:24-29)**

***24****But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.* ***25****The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.* ***26****And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.****27****Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.****28****And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.****29****Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

**Reflection:**

Thomas's demand to see and touch Jesus' wounds before believing is a deeply human response to doubt. Jesus' compassionate response to Thomas, offering him the evidence he needs to believe, reveals God's understanding of our need for tangible signs of His presence. This passage invites us to bring our doubts to Jesus, trusting that He will meet us where we are and provide us with the assurance we need. It challenges us to move beyond skepticism, embracing faith that seeks understanding and recognizes the risen Christ in our lives.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, in my moments of doubt, help me to seek You with honesty and openness. Provide me with the assurance I need to believe and strengthen my faith. Like Thomas, may I declare you as my Lord and God, fully trusting in Your resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 13:** **Appearance to 500** - **Scripture (1 Corinthians 15:6)**

***6****After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

**Reflection:**

The appearance of Jesus to over 500 people at once is a powerful testament to the reality of the resurrection, offering collective witness to this foundational event of the Christian faith. This mass appearance underscores the widespread impact of Christ's resurrection, not limited to a few but shared among many, providing a solid foundation for our faith. It reminds us that we are part of a larger community of believers, past and present, all witnesses to the transformative power of Christ's resurrection. This communal aspect of our faith encourages us to share our own experiences of encountering the risen Lord, contributing to the collective testimony of His life-changing presence.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the testimony of the many who witnessed Your resurrection. Strengthen my faith through their witness and help me to be a witness to others, sharing the life-changing reality of Your resurrection. Connect me with the wider community of believers, that together we may proclaim Your death and resurrection until You return. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 14: Great Commission** - **Scripture (Matthew 28:16-20)**

***16****Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.* ***17****And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.* ***18****And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* ***19****Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* ***20****Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Reflection:**

The Great Commission is not just a final instruction but a perpetual mandate for all believers to make disciples of all nations. This charge underscores the global scope of Jesus' mission and our role in that mission as bearers of the Gospel. It challenges us to move beyond our comfort zones, empowered by Jesus' authority and presence, to share the message of salvation with a world in need. This passage reminds us of the promise of Jesus' continual presence with us, providing the courage and strength we need to fulfill our calling. It invites us to participate in the divine mission of spreading God's love and grace to every corner of the earth.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, empower me to fulfill the Great Commission, making disciples of all nations. Remind me of Your continual presence with me, giving me the courage and strength to share Your love and truth. Help me to live out this mission in my daily interactions, always ready to witness to the hope I have in You. Amen.

 Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Understanding the Resurrectio****nWeek 3: Understanding the Resurrection (Days 15-21)**

**Pastor Stanley Shepherd**

The journey from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ to Pentecost is a profound 50-day spiritual odyssey deeply rooted in Scripture, inviting believers to reflect, renew, and be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. This period describes the essence of Christian doctrine, emphasizing the significance of Christ's victory over death and its implications for believers’ lives.

At the forefront of this journey is the Resurrection, a testament to Jesus' triumph over the grave. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 is foundational, affirming that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day, all in accordance with the Scriptures. This pivotal event is not only a historical milestone but also the bedrock of our faith, assuring us of the promise of eternal life and our reconciliation with God.

The story of Jesus appearing to his disciples after his resurrection, as recounted in John 20:19-23, sets the stage for the disciples' transformation and preparation for the mission ahead. When Jesus breathes on them, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit,” it prefigures the empowering event of Pentecost and underscores the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding and sustaining the believer's life.

The period leading to Pentecost is a call to spiritual renewal, echoing Romans 6:4, which invites us to live a new life in the glory of the Father, just as Christ was raised from the dead. This scripture urges believers to embody the transformative power of the Resurrection, challenging us to turn away from sin and embrace a life that reflects the risen Christ.

Pentecost itself, celebrated 50 days after Easter, marks the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), empowering his followers to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, as narrated in Acts 2, signifies the birth of the Church and the beginning of its global mission. This event illustrates the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, enabling believers to proclaim the gospel with boldness and clarity.

The journey from Easter to Pentecost is not merely a commemoration of past events but a living experience that invites believers into a deeper relationship with God. Acts 2:42-47 offers a glimpse into the life of the early Christian community, characterized by devotion to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. This scripture paints a picture of a vibrant community living out the implications of the Resurrection and Pentecost, sharing their possessions, and attending to the needs of the poor, thus embodying the love and power of the risen Christ.

Throughout this 50-day journey, believers are encouraged to engage in prayer, fasting, and the study of Scripture, fostering a posture of openness and expectancy for the work of the Holy Spirit. It is a time for personal and communal transformation, inviting us to reflect on our lives, considering the Resurrection, and to prepare our hearts for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

This scriptural journey from the Resurrection to Pentecost is a transforming experience that calls believers to walk in the newness of life promised through Christ’s resurrection. It provokes us to embrace the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to live out our faith dynamically and witness to the world the hope and love found in Jesus Christ. Through this journey, we are invited to participate in God's redemptive work, embodying the essence of the gospel and the mission of the Church in the world.

**Day 15:** **Victory Over Death -** **Scripture:(1 Corinthians 15:54-57)**

***54****So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.****55****O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?* ***56****The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.****57****But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Reflection:**

Paul's triumphant declaration in 1 Corinthians 15 celebrates the ultimate victory over death achieved through Jesus Christ. This passage not only affirms the resurrection as the cornerstone of Christian hope but also underscores the transformative power of this victory in the believer's life. Death, once a source of fear and uncertainty, has been swallowed up in victory, leaving us with a profound sense of freedom and courage. This victory over death empowers us to live boldly for Christ, knowing that our ultimate destiny is eternal life with Him. It challenges us to view our earthly struggles through the lens of this victory, encouraging us to persevere in faith and service, buoyed by the certainty of our resurrection hope. This perspective shifts our focus from the temporal to the eternal, anchoring us in the promise of what is to come.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the victory over death achieved through Jesus Christ. Let this truth fill me with hope, courage, and a boldness to live for You, knowing that death has lost its sting, and my future is secured in You. Empower me to live each day in the light of Your victory, with my eyes fixed on the eternal. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 16:** **New Life in Christ** - **Scripture: (Romans 6:4-5)**

***4****Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* ***5****For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

**Reflection:**

In Romans, Paul speaks to the profound transformation that occurs through baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. This symbolic act represents not just a cleansing of sin but an invitation into a new life characterized by the resurrection's power. As believers, we are called to walk in this newness of life, a life that mirrors Christ's own resurrection. This new life in Christ is marked by freedom from sin's dominion, empowering us to live in a way that reflects our new identity in Christ. It calls us to leave behind our old ways and embrace a life of righteousness, one that bears witness to the transformative power of the gospel. This passage challenges us to examine our lives in light of our baptismal identity, encouraging us to live out the reality of our new life in Christ daily.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord Jesus, immerse me in the reality of my new life in You. Help me to walk in the newness of life that Your resurrection provides, leaving behind the old self and embracing a life that reflects Your love, grace, and righteousness. Empower me to live out my baptismal identity each day, as a witness to Your transformative power. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 17:** **Our Resurrection Hope -** **Scripture: (1 Peter 1:3-5)**

***3****Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ***4****To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* ***5****Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**Reflection:**

Peter's letter offers believers a vibrant hope, rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This hope is not ephemeral or uncertain but is living, enduring, and grounded in God's power. It assures us of an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us. This hope sustains us through life's trials and challenges, reminding us that our faith's outcome is the salvation of our souls. It invites us to view our present sufferings in light of our future glory, encouraging us to persevere with joy and confidence. This resurrection hope is a testament to God's mercy and a source of strength and comfort, guiding us through the darkest valleys with the promise of eternal life.

**Prayer Starter:**

Gracious God, thank You for the living hope I have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Strengthen my heart with the assurance of my eternal inheritance and help me to navigate life's challenges with joy and perseverance, knowing that You are safeguarding my future glory. Let this hope be the anchor for my soul, steady and sure. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 18:** **The First Fruits**- **Scripture: (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)**

***20****But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.* ***21****For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.* ***22****For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

**Reflection:**

Paul uses the imagery of first fruits to describe Christ's resurrection, highlighting its significance as the first instance of a new creation that believers will also partake in. Just as the first fruits guarantee the harvest's full bounty, Christ's resurrection assures us of our future resurrection. This concept not only connects us with the historical event of Christ's rising from the dead but also with the cosmic reality of new life that it inaugurates. It positions believers within a larger narrative of redemption and restoration, promising that death's defeat in Christ's resurrection will extend to all who are in Him. This assurance transforms our present reality, infusing it with hope and purpose, as we live in anticipation of the full realization of God's redemption in the resurrection to come.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance of the resurrection, demonstrated through Christ, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Help me to live in the light of this promise, filled with hope and anticipation for the day when death will be swallowed up in victory. Guide me to live a life that reflects the reality of Your kingdom and the hope of the resurrection. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 19:** **Resurrection and Justification -** **Scripture: (Romans 4:25)**

***25****Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

**Reflection:**

Paul succinctly captures the essence of the gospel: Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. This statement not only underscores the purpose behind Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection but also elucidates the mechanism of our salvation. Christ's resurrection is the divine affirmation of His victory over sin and death, and it is the basis for our justification before God. Through faith in Christ, we are declared righteous, not because of our own merits but because of Christ's atoning sacrifice and victorious resurrection. This profound truth invites us to live in the freedom and joy of our justified status, encouraging us to approach God with confidence and to serve Him with gratitude, knowing that our relationship with Him has been restored through Christ's resurrection.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, I am in awe of the gift of justification that comes through Jesus' death and resurrection. Help me to grasp the depth of Your love and sacrifice, and to live freely and joyfully as one who has been made righteous in Your sight. May my life be a response to the grace I have received, serving You with a grateful heart. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 20:** **Living for Christ** - **Scripture: (Philippians 1:21-24)**

***21****For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* ***22****But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.* ***23****For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:* ***24****Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*

**Reflection:**

Paul's declaration in Philippians reflects a profound commitment to Christ, asserting that to live is Christ and to die is gain. This sentiment captures the essence of Christian living: a life so intertwined with Christ that every moment is an opportunity to glorify Him. Paul's struggle between desiring to depart and be with Christ and remaining in the flesh for the benefit of others highlights the tension believers navigate between the already and the not yet of the Christian life. It invites us to consider our own lives in light of this tension, challenging us to live in a manner worthy of the gospel, whether through our continued presence in this world or our hope of eternal life with Christ. This perspective reshapes our priorities, goals, and actions, aligning them with God's purposes and the mission of the gospel.

**Prayer Starter:**

Jesus, let my life reflect the truth that to live is Christ and to die is gain. Help me to navigate the tension of the Christian life with grace and purpose, seeking to glorify You in all things. Whether through my life or death, may Your name be exalted, and may my existence contribute to Your kingdom's advancement. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 21:** **Heavenly Perspective**- **Scripture: (Colossians 3:1-4)**

***3****If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* ***2****Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.* ***3****For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.* ***4****When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

**Reflection:**

In Colossians, Paul exhorts believers to set their hearts and minds on things above, not on earthly things. This heavenly perspective is not an invitation to disengage from the world but a call to live with eternal values in view. By focusing on Christ, seated at the right hand of God, we are reminded of our true identity and calling as citizens of heaven. This perspective shapes our priorities, influences our decisions, and governs our interactions, enabling us to live in the world as representatives of Christ's kingdom. It challenges us to consider the transient nature of earthly pursuits and to invest in the eternal, cultivating a life that reflects our heavenly citizenship and anticipates the full revelation of our life with Christ.

**Prayer Starter:**

Father, help me to set my heart and mind on things above, where Christ is seated at Your right hand. Teach me to live with a heavenly perspective, prioritizing eternal values over transient earthly pursuits. May my life reflect my citizenship in heaven, and may I eagerly await the revelation of my true life with Christ. Guide me to live each day in anticipation of Your kingdom's full realization. Amen.

 Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Living the Resurrected Life**



**Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life (Days 22-28)**

**Mother Annabelle Wright**

Living a resurrected life with Jesus encapsulates embracing the transformative power of Jesus dying on the cross. It extends beyond mere observance, but is actually daily reality. It begins with recognizing the newness of life that Christ's resurrection offers—a life liberated from sin and filled with purpose. This journey entails continual spiritual growth, akin to the blossoming of spring, where believers strive to embody the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Central to this transformation is putting off the old self—a relinquishment of attitudes and behaviors contrary to Christ's teachings. Instead, believers are called to live in love, imitating Jesus's sacrificial love for humanity. This love propels us towards serving others selflessly, mirroring Christ's servant-hearted nature. Living the resurrected life guides us show humble acts of compassion, generosity, and forgiveness. It pushes us to love others with a Godly love.

Moreover, living a resurrected life entails seeking things above—prioritizing heavenly values over earthly pursuits. It's a shift in perspective that directs our focus towards eternal truths and guides us to have a deeper intimacy with God. By fixing our gaze on Christ, we as believers find strength to navigate life's challenges and align our aspirations with God's purposes.

In essence, living a resurrected life with Jesus encompasses embracing newness, nurturing spiritual growth, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, shedding old patterns, embodying love, serving others, and setting sights on heavenly realities—a journey of continual transformation and alignment with the resurrected Christ.

As we walk in the newness of the resurrected life, we recognized the powerful work that was done on the cross. We understand that Jesus’s life and sacrifice was for us. Because of that we are new creatures in Christ. We have a different walk, a different attitude, we love people different, and we understand that the obstacles that we face here on earth are temporary and God did not leave his to bear them alone.

**Day 22:** **Newness of Life** - **Scripture: (Romans 6:4)**

***4****Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

**Reflection:**

Paul's message in Romans 6:4 captures the essence of the Christian transformation, highlighting our union with Christ in both His death and resurrection. This union is not merely symbolic but a tangible shift from the old self-bound by sin to a new creation alive in righteousness. Baptism represents this profound change, marking our transition into a life that reflects Jesus' own resurrection power. This newness of life challenges us to live differently, embodying the values and virtues of the Kingdom of God in our daily actions. It calls us to shed the behaviors and attitudes that belong to our old nature and to embrace a lifestyle characterized by holiness, service, and love. Living in this newness of life means continually aligning our will with God's, allowing His Spirit to transform us from the inside out.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, immerse me in the reality of the new life You offer through Christ. Help me to walk daily in the freedom and righteousness that come from being united with Him in His death and resurrection. Teach me to embody this newness of life in all that I do, reflecting Your love and grace to those around me. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 23:** **Spiritual Growth** - **Scripture: (Ephesians 4:15-16)**

***15****But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:* ***16****From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love*.

**Reflection:**

Ephesians 4:15-16 speaks to the heart of spiritual maturity, emphasizing growth that occurs through love and truth. Paul encourages believers to speak the truth in love, fostering an environment where growth is not just individual but communal, contributing to the body of Christ's overall health and unity. This passage challenges us to assess our contributions to our faith communities, urging us toward a maturity that reflects Christ in every aspect of our lives. Spiritual growth is marked by an increase in love, a deeper understanding of God's truth, and a commitment to building up others in faith. It's a journey that requires humility, patience, and dedication, as we learn to lean not on our understanding but on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, guide me in my journey of spiritual growth, that I may speak the truth in love and contribute to the unity and maturity of Your body, the church. Help me to grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ, drawing from His strength and being fitted and held together by His support. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 24:** **Fruit of the Spirit** - **Scripture: (Galatians 5:22-23)**

***22****But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ***23****Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**Reflection:**

The fruit of the Spirit outlined in Galatians 5 represents the visible manifestation of God's work in a believer's life. These virtues—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are not self-generated but are cultivated by the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. Exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit signifies a life in harmony with God's will, showcasing the transformative power of the Gospel. This passage invites us to reflect on our lives, examining areas where the Spirit's fruit is evident and areas needing growth. It calls us to surrender more fully to the Spirit's leading, allowing Him to shape us into the likeness of Christ, who is the perfect embodiment of these virtues.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, cultivate in me the fruit of Your presence. Let my life reflect the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that flow from living in alignment with Your will. Help me to remain connected to You, the source of all goodness, that I may bear fruit that glorifies God. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 25:** **Putting Off the Old Self** -**(Colossians 3:5-10)**

***10****And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:* ***11****Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.* ***12****Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;* ***13****Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.* ***14****And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.* ***15****And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

**Reflection:**

Colossians 3:5-10 confronts us with the stark choice between clinging to our old self, marred by sin, and embracing the new self, renewed in the image of its Creator. This passage is a call to action, urging us to actively rid ourselves of behaviors and attitudes that contradict our identity in Christ. Putting off the old self involves more than mere avoidance of sin; it's a deliberate effort to cultivate virtues that reflect our new life in Christ. This transformative process is grounded in the knowledge of God and His will for us, challenging us to live lives that are not only morally upright but also deeply rooted in love for God and others.

**Prayer Starter:**

Father, empower me to put off my old self with its practices and to embrace the new self, renewed in knowledge in the image of my Creator. Help me to recognize and abandon the sins that entangle me, replacing them with virtues that reflect Your character. Guide me in this journey of transformation, that I may live a life worthy of You. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 26:** **Living in Love** - **Scripture: (1 John 4:7-12)**

***7****Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.* ***8****He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.* ***9****In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.* ***10****Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* ***11****Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.* ***12****No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

**Reflection**:

1 John 4:7-12 beautifully articulates the central role of love in the life of a believer. This passage reveals that love originates from God Himself and that knowing God is intrinsically linked to loving others. It challenges us to reflect on the depth and authenticity of our love, reminding us that love is not a feeling but an action—evidenced by God's ultimate act of love in sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Living in love means actively seeking the good of others, embodying God's love in our daily interactions, and being conduits of His grace and mercy. This divine love transforms relationships, communities, and hearts, calling us to love not in word or talk but indeed and truth.

**Prayer Starter:**

God of love, fill me with Your unfailing love, that I may love others as You have loved me. Help me to see others through Your eyes and to serve them with a heart of compassion and kindness. Let my life reflect Your love, demonstrating its depth and authenticity through my actions and interactions. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 27:** **Serving Others -** **Scripture: (Galatians 5:13-14)**

***13****For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.* ***14****For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

**Reflection:**

Galatians 5:13-14 reminds us that freedom in Christ is not an excuse for self-indulgence but an opportunity to serve one another in love. This service is the natural expression of our faith, an outpouring of gratitude for the freedom we've received. Serving others is not about fulfilling obligations or earning favor but about embodying the love and humility of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. This passage challenges us to look beyond our interests and to consider how we might contribute to the well-being and edification of those around us. In serving others, we fulfill the law of Christ, which is rooted in love and seeks the good of our neighbor.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the freedom You've given me through Your sacrifice. Teach me to use this freedom to serve others in love, reflecting Your heart of service and compassion. Show me where I can be a blessing to those around me, using my gifts and resources to uplift and support them in Your name. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 28:** **Seeking Things Above**- **Scripture: (Colossians 3:1-2)**

***3****If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* ***2****Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

**Reflection:**

Colossians 3:1-2 calls believers to a higher perspective, urging us to focus our minds on things above, where Christ is, rather than on earthly concerns. This heavenly perspective is not about disengaging from the world but about reorienting our priorities, values, and pursuits to align with God's kingdom. It challenges us to live in the present with an awareness of the eternal, making choices that reflect our ultimate citizenship in heaven. Seeking things above means valuing what God values, pursuing righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, and letting our lives be guided by the eternal truths of God's Word. It's a reminder that our true treasure and hope are found not in the transient things of this world but in the lasting reality of God's kingdom.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, help me to set my mind on things above, not on earthly things. Guide me to live each day with eternity in mind, making choices that honor You and reflect my citizenship in Your kingdom. Teach me to value what You value and to seek Your will in all things, that my life might be a testament to Your eternal truth and grace. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Ascension & Waiting for The Spirit**

**The Ascension & Waiting for the Spirit (Days 29-35)**

**Elder L. Adams**

In our Christian tradition, the period following Easter that transitions from the celebration of the Resurrection to an event of equally monumental significance—the descent of the Holy Spirit (the birth of the Church), weaves a profound narrative. This 50-day journey on the Road to Pentecost is a time of waiting, expectation, and preparation.

At the heart of this narrative lies the Ascension of Jesus Christ, an event that marks both an end and a beginning: the conclusion of Jesus’ earthly ministry and the precursor to the empowerment of His followers through the Holy Spirit. The Ascension, chronicled in Acts 1:9-11, unfolds as a moment of awe and mystery, with Jesus being taken up into heaven before the very eyes of His disciples. As He ascended into heaven, He entrusted His disciples with the mission to spread the Gospel to all nations. Yet, He did not leave them alone. He promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to empower them for the task ahead and urged His followers to wait in anticipation of this divine gift.

The Ascension itself is a testament to the glorified Christ, affirming His divine sovereignty and the continuation of His ministry through a spiritual presence. It reassures believers of our eternal hope and destiny, affirming that life on earth is a journey towards eternal communion with God. The narrative invites followers of Christ to lift our eyes heavenward, anchoring our hope in of Jesus' Kingship and the assurance of His intercessory role in heaven.

After the Ascension, thus begins the period of waiting on His promise; a space in time filled with hope and preparation for what is to come. It is characterized by prayer, reflection, and vibrant anticipation, signifying unity in faith and purpose (and faith in action), among the believers. This act of waiting embodies a deep trust in Jesus' promises and a commitment to spiritual readiness, illustrating the essence of faith—believing in the unseen and trusting in the fulfillment of divine promises. Just as the disciples gathered in the upper room to pray fervently, we too are called to deepen our prayer life during this season. It is a time to seek God's guidance, to repent of our sins, and to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. We are called to come together as one body, supporting and encouraging one another along the way. Through fasting, meditation on Scripture, and acts of service, we prepare ourselves to receive the fullness of God's Spirit. And through shared worship, study, and fellowship, we strengthen our bonds as members of the body of Christ.

The period between the Ascension and Pentecost is emblematic of life's spiritual seasons of waiting and preparation. It mirrors our journey of faith, where periods of waiting on the Lord are opportunities for growth, reflection, and deeper communion with God. Waiting on the Spirit requires patience and faith. Like the disciples, we may experience moments of doubt and uncertainty, yet, we are reminded of Christ's promise: "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8, NIV). It is a time for believers to ready their hearts for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, preparing to be vessels of divine grace and power. With this promise in mind, we wait expectantly for the fulfillment of God's plan in and for our lives. The Spirit equips us with gifts and talents to edify the body of Christ and to fulfill our calling as ambassadors of God's Kingdom and underscores the transformative power of God's presence. It signifies the breaking of barriers, and the universal call to witness the gospel.

This narrative arc from the Ascension to Pentecost is a spiritual journey that encapsulates faith and continues to shape and transform us today. We are reminded of God's faithfulness and His promise to be with us always. It teaches the importance of trust in divine timing, the value of prayer and preparation, and the transformative impact of the Holy Spirit's empowerment. It is an invitation to “embrace the wait”. Through this narrative, believers are called to live out their faith with anticipation and is a reminder that, in every season of waiting, there lies the promise of divine fulfillment and spiritual renewal.

As Pentecost draws near, our anticipation grows. We anticipate the same outpouring of the Spirit in our midst, empowering us for service and witness.

May we journey together in faith, unity, and expectation, as we await the coming of the Holy Spirit on this road to Pentecost.

**Day 30:** **Waiting in Jerusalem -** **Scripture: (Acts 1:12-14)**

***12****Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.* ***13****And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.* ***14****These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

**Reflection:**

The disciples' wait in Jerusalem, as instructed by Jesus, underscores a period of obedient anticipation for the promised Holy Spirit. This waiting was not passive but active, marked by prayer and communal unity. It teaches us the value of spiritual readiness and communal dependence on God's timing and promises. This narrative invites us to embrace periods of waiting in our own lives not as idle times but as opportunities for deepening our faith, strengthening our bonds with fellow believers, and preparing our hearts for what God is about to do. Waiting in Jerusalem becomes a model for Christian living, emphasizing the importance of prayer, unity, and expectant hope in God's promises. It challenges us to trust in God's perfect timing, to seek Him together with others, and to ready ourselves for the outpouring of His Spirit in our lives.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, in my seasons of waiting, teach me to wait with purpose and expectation for Your promises to unfold. Help me to use these times to deepen my prayer life, to foster unity among my brothers and sisters in Christ, and to prepare my heart for the work You have for me. Cultivate in me a spirit of obedience and anticipation, trusting that Your timing is perfect and that You are always at work, even in the waiting. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 31:** **Choosing Matthias** - Scripture**: (Acts 1:15-26)**

***15****And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)* ***16****Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.* ***17****For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.* ***18****Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.* ***19****And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.* ***20****For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.* ***21****Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,* ***22****Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.* ***23****And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.* ***24****And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,* ***25****That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.* ***26****And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

**Reflection:**

The selection of Matthias to replace Judas among the Twelve Apostles highlights the early church's reliance on prayer and divine guidance in making decisions. This process underscores the importance of community discernment and seeking God's will in leadership and ministry roles. It illustrates a foundational principle for Christian communities: the need for God's direction in all decisions, particularly those affecting the community's spiritual direction and witness. This narrative invites us to consider how we seek God's guidance in our decisions and the role of communal prayer and discernment in our churches and Christian organizations. It challenges us to prioritize God's will over our preferences or wisdom, ensuring that our choices align with His purposes and contribute to the mission and unity of the church.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, guide me in making decisions that reflect Your will and serve Your kingdom purposes. Teach me the value of seeking Your direction through prayer and communal discernment, especially in matters of leadership and ministry. Help me to trust in Your guidance, knowing that You lead Your people in paths that further Your mission and strengthen the unity of Your church. Instill in me a heart that seeks Your will above all, confident in Your sovereign plan for my life and the life of Your church. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 32:** **Jesus' Promise of the Spirit** - **Scripture: (Luke 24:49)**

***49****And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to His disciples in Luke 24:49 is a cornerstone of Christian faith, signifying the empowerment and indwelling presence of God among His people. This promise is not just for the disciples but for all believers, marking the transition from Jesus' physical presence to His spiritual presence within us. It underscores the significance of the Holy Spirit in guiding, teaching, and empowering us to live out our Christian faith and witness. This promise invites us to live in reliance on the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to transform our lives and to work through us in reaching the world with the Gospel. It challenges us to open our hearts to the fullness of the Spirit's work, embracing His gifts and fruit in our lives, and to live in the power and guidance He provides, as we carry out Christ's mission on earth.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, I welcome Your presence and power in my life, as promised by Jesus. Fill me anew, that I may live in the fullness of Your empowerment, bearing witness to Christ with boldness and grace. Teach me to rely on Your guidance and strength in every aspect of my life and use me as a vessel of Your love and truth in the world. Help me to embrace the gifts and fruit You bestow, that my life may reflect the beauty and power of the Gospel to all around me. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 33:** **Unity in Prayer** - **Scripture: (Acts 1:14)**

***14****These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

**Reflection:**

The unity in prayer exhibited by the early disciples in Acts 1:14 serves as a powerful model for the Christian community today. This collective prayer was marked by a shared purpose and anticipation for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit. It highlights the strength and spiritual dynamism found in united prayer, drawing believers together in heart and purpose. This passage invites us to consider the depth and quality of our communal prayer lives, urging us to seek not only individual communion with God but also collective encounters with His presence and power. It challenges us to prioritize prayer as a foundational practice within our communities, recognizing its role in fostering unity, spiritual growth, and preparedness for God's work. As we unite in prayer, we mirror the early church's dependence on God and open ourselves to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit among us.

**Prayer Starter:**

Father, knit my heart with those of my brothers and sisters in Christ as we unite in prayer. Teach us to seek You collectively with one mind and spirit, anticipating the outpouring of Your Spirit in our lives and communities. Use our united prayers as a foundation for spiritual growth, unity, and mission, that together we may experience Your presence and power more fully. Guide us in praying with one accord for Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, strengthening the bonds of fellowship and purpose among us. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 34:** **The Role of the Spirit** - **Scripture: (John 16:7-11)**

***7****Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.* ***8****And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:* ***9****Of sin, because they believe not on me;* ***10****Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;* ***11****Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

**Reflection:**

In John 16:7-11, Jesus outlines the pivotal role of the Holy Spirit in convicting the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. This passage reveals the Spirit's work in illuminating truth and divine standards, challenging both believers and non-believers to confront their spiritual realities. The Holy Spirit acts as the divine advocate and guide, leading us into all truth and enabling us to live lives that reflect God's righteousness. This teaching invites us to deepen our dependence on the Holy Spirit for understanding and navigating the complexities of faith and morality in our world. It challenges us to be open to the Spirit's conviction and guidance, allowing Him to transform our hearts and minds, and to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel in our lives. The role of the Spirit is indispensable in our journey of faith, providing the clarity, conviction, and power we need to live in alignment with God's will.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, I acknowledge Your role as the guide and conviction in my life. Lead me into all truth, convicting me of sin, guiding me in righteousness, and reminding me of the judgment to come. Open my heart to Your transformative work, that I may live in alignment with God's divine standards and bear witness to His truth. Empower me to navigate the complexities of my spiritual journey with wisdom and clarity, relying on Your strength and guidance to reflect Christ's righteousness in my life. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 35:** **Power from on High** - **Scripture: (Luke 24:49)**

***49****And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

**Reflection:**

Luke 24:49 emphasizes Jesus' promise to clothe His followers with "power from on high," highlighting the essential role of the Holy Spirit in equipping believers for their divine mission. This power is not merely for extraordinary feats but for the daily living out of the Gospel, enabling us to overcome personal weaknesses and to engage effectively in God's work. The promise of the Holy Spirit is a testament to God's provision for His church, ensuring that we are never left to rely on our strength. It invites us to lean into this divine empowerment, embracing our identity as witnesses of Christ in every context of our lives. This power from on high transforms our understanding of what is possible, pushing us beyond our limitations and into the realm of God's limitless strength and potential. It challenges us to live expectantly, prepared for the work God has called us to, and confident in the Spirit's presence and power within us.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, I stand in awe of the promise of power from on high. Clothe me with Your Holy Spirit, that I might be equipped for every good work You have prepared for me. Let this divine empowerment enable me to transcend my limitations, to witness boldly for Christ, and to engage in Your mission with confidence and courage. Teach me to rely fully on Your strength, not my own, and to live in the expectancy of the great things You will accomplish through me. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Role of the Holy Spirit**



**Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit (Days 36-42)**

**Elder Thomassina Simmons**

On Pentecost we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Acts 2:2-4

**Who is the Holy Spirit**

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but spirit gives birth to spirit…. John 3:6

God is three persons in one, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, His physical presence left the earth, but He promised to send the Holy Spirit so that his spiritual presence would still be among humankind.  The Holy Spirit first became available to all believers at Pentecost. Acts 2.  Where as in the Old Testament days the Holy Spirit empowered specific individuals for specific purposes at specific times, now all believers always have the power of the Holy Spirit available to them.

**Why was the coming of the Holy Spirit so important.**

But very truly I tell you, it is good for you that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. John: 16:7. Unless Jesus did what He came to do, we would have no Gospel. If He did not go back to the Father, the Holy Spirit would not come. Jesus’ presence on earth was limited to one place at a time, but His leaving meant he could be present to the whole world through the Holy Spirit.

***Three important tasks of the Holy Spirit…***

When He comes, he will prove the world to be wrong about sin and righteousness and Judgement; about sin because people do not believe in me, about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you see me no longer. And about Judgement because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

John 16:8-11

**Why did God send the Holy Spirit**

On one occasion while He (Jesus) was eating with them, He gave them this command: Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-5

 The Holy Spirit was sent so that God would be with the followers after Jesus returned to Heaven. The spirit would comfort them and us in these times (the same Holy Spirit), guide them to know his truth, remind them of Jesus’ words, give them the right words to say and fill them with power.

 His role and work in believers’ lives….

At Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) the Holy Spirit was made available to all who believed in Jesus. We receive the Holy Spirit, or are baptized with him, when we receive Jesus Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit must be understood in the light of his total work in Christians.

1. Receiving the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of the Christian experience. We cannot be Christians (belong to Jesus Christ) without His spirit; we cannot be united to Jesus Christ without His spirit; we cannot be adopted as God’s children without His spirit; we cannot be in the body of Christ except by baptism in the Spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit provides the unique power of our new lives. He begins a lifelong process of change to make us more like Jesus. When we receive Jesus by faith, we begin an immediate personal relationship with God. Throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit works in us to help us maintain a life like Christ.
3. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as an advocate, counselor, or comforter who helps us to understand the message God has given us in the Bible. He knows us and connects us to Jesus.
4. The Holy Spirit unites the Christian community in Christ. He can be experienced by all, and He works through all.

God bless you to seek and know the power and works of the Holy Spirit!

**Day 36:** **The Comforter** - **Scripture: (John 14:26)**

***26****But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

**Reflection:**

In John 14:26, Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit as the Comforter, a profound designation that reveals the Spirit's role in the believer's life. The Holy Spirit isn't just a distant force but a present and active source of comfort, guidance, and teaching. This promise from Jesus came at a time when His disciples were grappling with fear and uncertainty about the future. Today, we find ourselves in similar situations, facing challenges and uncertainties that can overwhelm us. The Holy Spirit, as our Comforter, reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles. He brings peace to our troubled hearts, wisdom in our confusion, and strength in our weaknesses. This divine Comforter is always with us, helping us navigate the complexities of life and guiding us into all truth. He transforms our trials into testimonies and our fears into faith, assuring us of God's constant presence and unfailing love.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, my Comforter, I thank You for Your constant presence in my life. In moments of fear, uncertainty, and loneliness, remind me that I am never alone. Comfort my heart, guide my steps, and teach me Your ways. Fill me with Your peace that transcends understanding and help me to rely on Your strength in every challenge. Empower me to be a source of comfort to others, sharing the peace and love I have received from You. Teach me to listen to Your voice and to follow Your leading with confidence and trust. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 37:** **Spirit of Truth** - **Scripture (John 16:13)**

***13****Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

**Reflection:**

Jesus' promise of the Spirit of Truth in John 16:13 speaks to the essential role of the Holy Spirit in guiding us into all truth. In a world where truth often seems relative and elusive, the Holy Spirit acts as a beacon, illuminating the path and revealing the reality of God's kingdom. This guidance is not merely about doctrinal correctness but involves a deeper transformation that aligns our lives with God's will and purposes. The Spirit of Truth challenges us to question our assumptions, to discern wisely, and to embrace the fullness of life in Christ. He equips us to navigate life's complexities with integrity, making decisions that reflect God's love and justice. As we open our hearts to the Spirit's leading, we find clarity in confusion, direction in doubt, and confidence in decision-making, enabling us to live authentically as followers of Christ in a changing world.

**Prayer Starter:**

Spirit of Truth, guide me into all truth. In a world filled with confusion and deception, be my clarity and conviction. Help me to discern Your will in every situation, to embrace Your teachings with my whole heart, and to reflect Your truth in my words and actions. Illuminate my mind with Your wisdom, and fill my heart with Your love, that I may live a life that is pleasing to You. Grant me the courage to stand firm in Your truth, to speak it in love, and to be a beacon of Your light in the darkness. Lead me in the way everlasting and use me to bring glory to Your name. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 38:** **Fruit of the Spirit** - **Scripture: (Galatians 5:22-23)**

***22****But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,****23****Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**Reflection:**

The Fruit of the Spirit, as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23, represents the visible manifestation of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit. These attributes—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are not achievements we can attain through self-effort but are the natural outcome of the Spirit's work within us. They reflect the character of Christ and the essence of the kingdom of God. Living by the Spirit means allowing these virtues to permeate our thoughts, decisions, and actions, influencing our relationships and shaping our witness to the world. The cultivation of the Fruit of the Spirit challenges us to surrender daily to the Holy Spirit's leading, allowing Him to transform our character and conduct. As we grow in these virtues, we not only experience a deeper intimacy with God but also become instruments of His grace and love in a broken world.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, cultivate in me the Fruit of Your presence. May love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control flourish in my life, reflecting the beauty of Your character. Help me to yield to Your work in me, transforming my heart and mind, that I may live in harmony with Your will. Let these virtues guide my interactions and be the testimony of Your grace in my life. Strengthen me to resist the temptations that war against the Spirit and empower me to live a life that bears witness to Your transformative power. In every moment, let me be an embodiment of Christ's love to the world. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 39:** **Gifts of the Spirit** - **Scripture: (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)**

***4****Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.* ***5****And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.* ***6****And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.* ***7****But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.* ***8****For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;* ***9****To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;* ***10****To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:* ***11****But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

**Reflection:**

The diversity of spiritual gifts, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, showcases the Holy Spirit's manifold grace in equipping the Church for its mission. These gifts, ranging from wisdom and knowledge to faith and healing, are not for personal accolade but for the common good, designed to build up the body of Christ and to advance the kingdom of God. This passage invites us to embrace our spiritual gifts with humility and to seek the Spirit's guidance in using them effectively within our communities. It challenges us to view these gifts through the lens of stewardship and service, recognizing that each one is a vital part of God's redemptive work in the world. Engaging with our gifts in cooperation with the Spirit fosters unity, edifies the church, and bears witness to the dynamic presence of God among His people.

**Prayer Starter:**

Father, thank You for the gifts of the Spirit bestowed upon Your church. Help me to recognize and embrace the gifts You have given me, using them not for my glory but for the common good and the advancement of Your kingdom. Guide me in serving with humility and strength, contributing to the unity and edification of the body of Christ. Teach me to value the diversity of gifts within Your church, celebrating how they reflect Your manifold grace. May my life be a testament to Your work in the world, as I steward the gifts You have entrusted to me for Your glory and the benefit of others. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 40:** **Walking by the Spirit -** **Scripture:(Galatians 5:16-18)**

***16****This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* ***17****For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would* ***18****But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

**Reflection:**

Walking by the Spirit, as urged in Galatians 5:16-18, is a call to live in constant reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power. This way of life contrasts sharply with following the desires of the flesh, leading instead to freedom, holiness, and spiritual vitality. Walking by the Spirit involves a daily commitment to surrender our will to God's, allowing the Spirit to direct our thoughts, decisions, and actions. It's a journey marked by growth in holiness and a deeper experience of God's presence and peace. This passage challenges us to evaluate our walk with God, encouraging us to seek the Spirit's leading in every area of life. As we do, we discover the true freedom that comes from living according to God's ways, finding that the Spirit's guidance is not a burden but the source of our greatest joy and peace.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, lead me in walking by Your guidance every day. Help me to discern and resist the desires of the flesh, choosing instead to follow Your promptings. Teach me to surrender my will to Yours, that I might experience the freedom and life that come from living in step with You. Transform my walk, that it may be characterized by holiness, love, and the fruit of Your presence. Let my life reflect the beauty and peace of Your leading, drawing others to discover the joy of walking by the Spirit. In every decision and action, may I be attuned to Your voice, following You with wholehearted devotion. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 41:** **The Spirit Intercedes**- **Scripture: (Romans 8:26-27)**

***26****Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* ***27****And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

**Reflection:**

Romans 8:26-27 reveals the profound ministry of the Holy Spirit in interceding for believers, especially in moments when words fail us. This intercession is deeply personal, aligning our prayers with God's will and ensuring that our deepest needs are brought before the Father. The Spirit's groanings, too deep for words, remind us of the intimate relationship we share with God, who knows our hearts better than we know ourselves. This passage offers comfort and assurance that we are never alone in our struggles or prayers; the Spirit Himself advocates on our behalf, transforming our sighs of despair into prayers of faith. It challenges us to lean into this divine support, trusting that the Spirit intercedes for us in perfect harmony with God's will, bringing peace and confidence in God's attentive care for every aspect of our lives.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, I am profoundly grateful for Your intercession on my behalf. In moments of weakness, when my words fall short, thank You for carrying the groans of my heart to the Father. Teach me to rely on Your intercession, trusting that You are praying for me in perfect accordance with God's will. Comfort me with the knowledge that I am never alone in my prayers, but that You are always advocating for me. Let this assurance deepen my faith and peace, knowing that my deepest needs and concerns are known and held by You. Guide me in my prayer life, that even when I don't have the words, my heart might remain open to Your interceding presence, resting in Your care and guidance. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 42:** **Spirit of Adoption -** **Scripture: (Romans 8:15**)

***15****For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

**Reflection:**

In Romans 8:15, Paul introduces the concept of the Spirit of Adoption, a transformative reality that shifts our relationship with God from one of fear to one of intimacy and affection. This Spirit of Adoption testifies to our new identity as God's children, heirs alongside Christ, imbued with the inherent dignity and love that this status confers. This profound truth redefines our understanding of ourselves and our relationship with God, inviting us into a life marked by freedom, security, and a deep sense of belonging. The Spirit's witness to our spirit that we are God's children encourages us to approach God with confidence and love, rather than fear or uncertainty. It challenges us to live out this identity, embracing the rights and responsibilities it entails, and to reflect God's love in our relationships with others, bearing witness to the transformative power of the Spirit of Adoption in our lives.

**Prayer Starter:**

Father, I thank You for the Spirit of Adoption, which assures me of my place in Your family. Help me to fully grasp and live out my identity as Your child, knowing I am loved, valued, and secure in Your care. Teach me to approach You with the confidence and affection that come from knowing I am Yours. Let this truth permeate every aspect of my life, influencing how I see myself and how I relate to others. May the reality of my adoption into Your family inspire me to live with freedom and purpose, reflecting Your love and grace to the world around me. Strengthen me to embrace the rights and responsibilities of this precious relationship, living as a true heir of Your kingdom, and bearing witness to the transformative power of Your Spirit in my life. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Preparing for Pentecost**



**Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost (Days 43-49)**

**HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH PREPARE FOR PENTECOST**   
**Pastor Y. Wigfall**

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they {the disciples of Jesus) were all with one accord in one place.

(Acts 2:1)

We know how to prepare for the other big Christian holidays. Christmas is preceded by Advent, a time to anticipate the birth of Jesus. There's shopping, carols, maybe an Advent calendar. Advent gets us prepared for Christmas, so it's hard to miss that holiday.

Easter is preceded by Lent, a time for introspection, culminating in Maundy, Thursday, and Good Friday, when we recall Jesus' gruesome death. Lent gets us prepared for Easter, so it's hard to miss that holiday.

Pentecost isn't preceded. Nothing precedes it. No Advent, no Lent, therefore, most of us don't know how to prepare for Pentecost.

**Firs**t we can prepare for Pentecost by doing work that needs to be done. Preparation is essential for business that might get between us and the work of the Holy Spirit. That's what Jesus' earliest followers did. When Jesus left, an angel said, "Why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky?"

*"So, they left the mountain," the story says, "and returned to Jerusalem," to "the upper room they had been using as a meeting place." When they got there, they figured out a way to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus and then taken his life by suicide. (Acts 1:11)* We can prepare for Pentecost by doing work that needs to be done. Preparation is important.

**Second**, we pray — for ourselves and for others. That's what Jesus' earliest followers did.

When they got to that upper room in Jerusalem, they prayed. Not happenstance prayers. Not occasional requests. "They devoted themselves all together in prayer." *They came together in unity which gave them strength*. (1 Peter 3:8-12).  We can prepare for Pentecost by praying constantly for ourselves and for one another. When we can come together, we confess our faults one to another and pray one for another.

Preparation is spiritual. (James 5:16)

T**hird**, we get over our petty hang-ups about who can do what in the church. There was a state of emergency in the early church. Jesus was gone! It was no time for propriety, no time to decide whether women could pray or not, whether women could preach. Of course, they could.  They did! So, the line about prayer continues: "They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included." Men and women, praying women and men together. (Acts1:12-13)

**Fourt**h, we wait for the promise - When the day of Pentecost had fully come (10 days later), they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2: 1) Jesus commanded us to "Wait for the promise of the Father." But waiting does not mean doing nothing. Waiting isn't passive; it is active. VERY ACTIVE! We need to be active in our waiting... active in our praying. What are we waiting for, The Holy Spirit. Bottom line: The Day of Pentecost is a powerful day. But you can't just show up and have Pentecost. To have the power of Pentecost, we must prepare for it over these next few days.

 We can prepare for Pentecost by realizing there is a state of emergency in our world - in our churches, too — so we can't stall over the usual issues that bothers us. Preparation is urgent.

Pentecost is approaching and we must get ready. Pentecost is the fulfillment of all Christ's work on earth. It is the day that "all truth" was revealed to mankind. It is something known as the" second Incarnation" in that the Church became the Body of Christ on Pentecost.

 So how do we prepare for Pentecost?

* ﻿﻿We take care of business. That's essential.
* ﻿﻿We pray. That's spiritual.
* ﻿﻿We set our priorities straight. That's urgent.
* ﻿﻿We wait for the promise of the father.

Do this, and on Pentecost Sunday, you'll be ready for a mighty move of God. The Anointing will flow like never before, the Holy Spirit, will spread through the sanctuary. Souls will be saved, bodies will be healed and delivered.

**Bishop Des. Christian Simmons**

**Preparing for Pentecost**

Pentecost holds profound significance in the Christian faith, representing the culmination of Jesus Christ's promise to send the Holy Spirit to empower and guide His followers. This sacred event marks the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, igniting the birth of the early Church.

Preparation for Pentecost involves a spiritual readiness, anticipating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. As believers gather in expectancy, they reflect on the significance of Pentecost—a celebration of the giving of the Law in the Old Testament and now the bestowal of spiritual power.

Central to Pentecost is the account of Peter's sermon in Acts 2:14-36. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly proclaims the Gospel, explaining the significance of the events unfolding before them and linking them to the prophecies of Joel. His sermon emphasizes the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation, calling listeners to repentance and faith.

The early Church, infused with the power of the Holy Spirit, exemplified unity in diversity. They lived in harmony, sharing resources, and worshiping together. Their lives were characterized by a profound sense of community and devotion to the teachings of the apostles, breaking bread together and praying fervently.

Furthermore, Pentecost empowers believers to grow in the Spirit, leading to spiritual maturity and a deeper understanding of God's will. It fosters a life of continual transformation, as individuals yield to the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, producing spiritual fruit and manifesting the gifts bestowed upon them.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, believers are emboldened to witness for Christ, sharing the good news of salvation with boldness and conviction. They testify to the transformative power of Jesus Christ, impacting lives and advancing God's kingdom on earth.

Our personal preparation for Pentecost involves spiritual readiness, anticipation of the Holy Spirit's outpouring, reflection on the significance of the event, and alignment with God's purposes. Our preparation encourages us to embrace unity in the Spirit, to grow in spiritual maturity, and be empowered to boldly witness for Christ—a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world and His faithfulness to His people.

**Day 43:** **The Coming of the Spirit**- **Scripture:(Acts 2:1-4)**

***2****And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place* ***2****And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.* ***3****And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* ***4****And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

**Reflection:**

The arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was a pivotal moment in the life of the early Church, marking the fulfillment of God's promise and the empowerment of the disciples for global mission. This event signifies more than a historical moment; it represents the birth of the Church and the beginning of a new era of God's interaction with humanity through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit's descent as tongues of fire and the disciples' subsequent speaking in various languages symbolize not only the power of God but also the unity and diversity within the body of Christ. This passage invites us to reflect on the significance of the Holy Spirit's presence in our own lives, encouraging us to seek a deeper filling of the Spirit and to embrace our role in God's mission with renewed zeal and courage. The coming of the Spirit challenges us to be open to the transformative work of God within us, empowering us to witness to the truth of the gospel across cultural and linguistic barriers.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who came powerfully upon the disciples at Pentecost and continues to dwell within Your Church today. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit, that I may be empowered to serve Your kingdom with boldness and love. Open my heart to the transformative work of Your Spirit, that I might embrace my role in Your mission with courage and creativity. Help me to transcend barriers of language and culture to share the gospel, reflecting the unity and diversity of Your kingdom. May my life be a testament to the power and presence of Your Spirit, drawing others to discover the hope and salvation found in You. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 44:** **Peter's Sermon** - **Scripture (Acts 2:14-36)**

***14****But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:* ***15****For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.* ***16****But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;* ***17****And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:* ***18****And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:* ***19****And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:* ***20****The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:* ***21****And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* ***22****Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:* ***23****Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:* ***24****Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.* ***25****For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:* ***26****Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:* ***27****Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* ***28****Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.* ***29****Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.* ***30****Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;* ***31****He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.* ***32****This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.* ***33****Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.* ***34****For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,* ***35****Until I make thy foes thy footstool.* ***36****Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

**Reflection:**

Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost stands as a powerful declaration of the gospel, rooted in the fulfillment of prophecy and the lordship of Christ. His bold proclamation, enabled by the Holy Spirit, cut to the heart of those who heard him, showcasing the Spirit's power not only to embolden witnesses but to convict listeners of the truth of Jesus Christ. This sermon models the essential components of gospel proclamation—biblical foundation, Christ-centeredness, and a call to response. It challenges us to consider how the Holy Spirit might be calling us to bear witness to Christ in our contexts, equipped with the truth of Scripture and a deep conviction of Jesus' lordship. Peter's example encourages us to lean into the Spirit's empowerment for mission, trusting that God will use our words to draw others to Himself.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, embolden me by Your Spirit as You did Peter on the day of Pentecost. Grant me clarity of speech and depth of conviction as I bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help me to root my proclamation in the truth of Scripture, to center my message on Christ, and to invite others to respond to the grace You offer. Use me as a vessel of Your word, trusting in the Spirit's power to convict and convert hearts. May my words reflect Your love and truth, drawing others into a transformative relationship with You. Equip me for this mission, Lord, and let Your will be done through me. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 45:** **The Response** - **Scripture: (Acts 2:37-41)**

***37****Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* ***38****Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* ***39****For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* ***40****And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.* ***41****Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

**Reflection:**

The immediate response to Peter's sermon at Pentecost—repentance and baptism by thousands—illustrates the Holy Spirit's convicting power and the readiness of hearts to embrace the gospel when faithfully presented. This dramatic turning to God signifies the essence of the Church's mission: to call people from every nation to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The passage challenges us to reflect on our own response to the gospel and our role in inviting others to experience the transformative power of God's grace. It encourages us to participate actively in the mission of the Church, equipped by the Holy Spirit and grounded in the truth of Scripture, to extend the invitation of salvation to all. The responsiveness of the crowd at Pentecost reminds us of the urgency and importance of our witness to the world, urging us to engage in this divine calling with hope and perseverance.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, I am in awe of the transformative power of Your gospel, as seen in the response of those who heard Peter at Pentecost. Stir my heart afresh with the truth and grace of Your word, leading me to deeper commitment and faithfulness. Equip me with the Holy Spirit's power to invite others into the life-changing relationship with You. Give me opportunities to share the gospel, courage to speak, and wisdom to guide conversations toward Your love and salvation. Let my life be a beacon of Your grace, drawing others to You with the promise of forgiveness and new life. Instill in me a sense of urgency and purpose in participating in Your mission, that I might see many come to know You and rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.

 Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 46:** **Life in the Early Church** - **Scripture: (Acts 2:42-47)**

***42****And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* ***43****And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.* ***44****And all that believed were together, and had all things common;* ***45****And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.* ***46****And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,* ***47****Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

**Reflection:**

The early Church's life, as depicted in Acts 2:42-47, offers a compelling vision of Christian community characterized by devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. This vibrant community life, marked by awe, generosity, and mutual care, serves as a model for the Church today, challenging us to cultivate deep relationships with one another, rooted in Christ. The passage invites us to examine the quality of our communal life and to strive for a community that reflects God's love and grace in every interaction. It encourages us to commit to living in a way that bears witness to the transformative power of the gospel, fostering a sense of unity and purpose that draws others to Christ. The description of the early Church challenges us to prioritize the practices that foster spiritual growth and communal bonds, ensuring that our churches are places where God's presence is tangibly felt, and His love is actively demonstrated.

**Prayer Starter:**

Gracious God, inspire me to live in the spirit of the early Church, devoted to Your teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Help me to cultivate a community that reflects Your love, grace, and power, where believers are nurtured, and seekers find a home. Encourage us to live in generosity and mutual care, demonstrating Your kingdom's values in our relationships. Let our communal life be marked by Your presence, drawing others to You through the beauty and authenticity of our fellowship. Guide us to build a church that bears witness to the transformative power of the gospel, uniting us in purpose and mission. Strengthen our commitment to the practices that foster spiritual growth and unity, that we may be a beacon of hope and a testament to Your love in the world. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 47:** **Unity in the Spirit** - **Scripture: (Ephesians 4:1-6)**

***4****I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,* ***2****With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;* ***3****Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* ***4****There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;* ***5****One Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ***6****One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

**Reflection:**

Ephesians 4:1-6 calls believers to a life worthy of their calling, emphasizing unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace. This passage highlights the foundational elements of Christian unity—one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. It challenges us to actively pursue and maintain unity within the body of Christ, recognizing that our shared identity and purpose in God transcend any differences. This call to unity is not a passive acceptance but an active endeavor to live in love, humility, patience, and gentleness, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. It invites us to reflect on our attitudes and actions toward fellow believers, encouraging us to foster relationships that reflect Christ's love and to work together in harmony for the advancement of God's kingdom.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, I pray for the unity of Your Church, that we may live in a manner worthy of our calling, bound together by the Spirit in peace. Help me to embody humility, gentleness, patience, and love in my interactions with fellow believers, actively seeking and maintaining the unity You desire for Your body. Remind me of our shared identity in Christ and our common mission, that I may prioritize harmony and collaboration over personal preferences or disagreements. Empower Your Church to reflect Your love and grace to the world, demonstrating the beauty of unity in diversity. Strengthen our bonds of fellowship, that together we may stand as a testament to Your transformative power and love, advancing Your kingdom in a spirit of unity and purpose. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 48:** **Empowered Witness** - **Scripture: (Acts 1:8)**

***8****But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**Reflection:**

Acts 1:8 is a powerful mandate from Jesus, promising the Holy Spirit's empowerment for the disciples to be His witnesses "to the ends of the earth." This promise extends to all believers, calling us to a life of bold witness and missionary endeavor, fueled by the Spirit's power. It challenges us to step beyond our comfort zones, relying on the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us as we share the gospel across cultural, linguistic, and geographical barriers. The passage invites us to reflect on our role in God's global mission, encouraging us to seek the Spirit's filling for the courage and wisdom needed to make Christ known. It's a reminder that our witness is not based on our abilities but on the power of the Holy Spirit within us, enabling us to participate in the spread of the gospel with confidence and joy.

**Prayer Starter:**

Heavenly Father, empower me by Your Holy Spirit to be a bold witness for Christ, just as You promised the disciples. Fill me with courage and wisdom to share the gospel, transcending barriers and reaching hearts for Your kingdom. Guide me in Your global mission, using my life to make Your love and truth known to the ends of the earth. Teach me to rely not on my strength but on Your Spirit's power, that I may faithfully proclaim Your word and live out Your love in every aspect of my life. Stir in me a passion for Your mission and equip me with everything I need to be an effective ambassador for Christ. Let my life reflect the beauty and power of the gospel, drawing others to discover the hope and salvation found in You. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 49:** **Growing in the Spirit** - **Scripture: (2 Peter 1:5-8)**

***5****And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;* ***6****And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;* ***7****And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.* ***8****For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Reflection:**

2 Peter 1:5-8 encourages believers to diligently cultivate virtues such as faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love, as evidence of spiritual growth and effectiveness. This passage underscores the active role believers must play in their spiritual development, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It's a call to intentional discipleship, emphasizing that growth in the Spirit is not passive but requires effort, commitment, and the application of God's divine power in our lives. This deliberate pursuit of spiritual maturity not only strengthens our faith but ensures that we are fruitful in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. The passage challenges us to assess our spiritual growth, inviting us to deepen our relationship with God through the cultivation of these virtues, resulting in a life that more fully reflects Christ to the world.

**Prayer Starter:**

Lord, I seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, diligently cultivating the virtues You value. Empower me by Your Spirit to develop faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Help me to be intentional in my spiritual development, applying Your divine power to every aspect of my life. Guide me in this journey of discipleship, that I may not be ineffective or unfruitful in my knowledge of You. Strengthen my resolve to pursue spiritual maturity, that my life may reflect the beauty and depth of Your character. Let my growth in these virtues be a testament to Your transformative work within me, drawing others to Your love and grace. In every step, let me be guided by Your Spirit, growing ever closer to You and more like You. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 50: Pentecost - Empowered to Witness** - **Scripture: Acts 2:1-41 (The Day of Pentecost)**

***2****And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* ***2****And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.****3****And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.****4****And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.****5****And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.****6****Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.* ***7****And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?* ***8****And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?* ***9****Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,* ***10****Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,* ***11****Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.* ***12****And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?* ***13****Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.* ***14****But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:* ***15****For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.* ***16****But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;* ***17****And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:* ***18****And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:* ***19****And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:* ***20****The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:* ***21****And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* ***22****Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:* ***23****Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:* ***24****Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.* ***25****For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:* ***26****Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:* ***27****Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* ***28****Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.* ***29****Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.****30****Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;* ***31****He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.* ***32****This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.* ***33****Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.* ***34****For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,* ***35****Until I make thy foes thy footstool.* ***36****Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* ***37****Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* ***38****Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* ***39****For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* ***40****And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.* ***41****Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

**Reflection:**

Pentecost stands as a beacon of transformation, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and heralding the birth of the Church. It was a moment that transcended time, embedding itself into the fabric of Christianity as a demonstration of divine power and grace. This event wasn't merely a spectacular display but a profound equipping of the disciples, transforming them from followers into leaders, from listeners into proclaimers. The ability to speak in various tongues symbolized the universal nature of the gospel message—a message intended for every nation under heaven. As we reflect on Pentecost, we are reminded that the same Spirit who empowered the early Church indwells us, offering guidance, strength, and the boldness to share the gospel in our contexts. The ongoing reality of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives calls us to a deeper reliance on His power, urging us to live out our faith with a dynamism that echoes the early disciples' experience. Pentecost challenges us to embrace the fullness of the Spirit's presence, allowing Him to work through us in spreading the gospel's transformative message.

**Prayer Starter:**

Holy Spirit, on this day of Pentecost, I invite You to fill me anew with Your power and presence. Just as You empowered the early disciples to boldly proclaim the gospel, equip me with the same boldness and clarity to be Your witness in the world today. Let the reality of Your work in my life be evident in my words, actions, and decisions. Guide me in every step, that I may live out the gospel with authenticity and passion. Teach me to rely on Your strength, not my own, and to be open to Your leading, however unexpected it may be. Transform me into a fearless messenger of Your grace and truth, using my life to draw others to the beauty and salvation found in Christ. Let Your presence in me be a source of light and hope to those I encounter, reflecting the love and power of the gospel in a world in desperate need of both. Empower me to be an effective instrument of Your love, that through my life, others may come to know the joy and freedom of a life surrendered to You. Amen.

Personal Reflections:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7-Week Companion Guide for Church Deacons:**

**"The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey"**

This guide is designed to help church deacons effectively lead their groups through a meaningful seven-week spiritual journey. Each week, deacons are encouraged to meet with their members for a focused session lasting between 45 minutes to an hour. These sessions are structured to foster spiritual growth and reflection, centered around key themes that will be explored through discussion, prayer, and scripture.

**Weekly Meeting Structure**

***ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)***

**Purpose**: To start the session on a personal note, helping members connect through shared experiences.

**Activity:** Share a moment from the past week that resonated with the concepts of new beginnings or transformation. Discuss how this moment has influenced your view of your spiritual path.

***OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)***

**Recap:** Briefly review the previous week’s session, focusing on key insights and learnings.

**Discussion Questions:** Use the provided questions to guide a discussion that deepens understanding and reflection on last week's themes.

***DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)***

**Purpose:** To connect the weekly theme with scripture, providing a solid foundation for the discussion.

**Activity:** Discuss a specific scripture passage that supports the theme for the upcoming week, encouraging members to reflect on its relevance to their lives.

***APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)***

**Objective:** To translate the week's theme into actionable insights for personal spiritual growth.

**Activity:** Discuss the main takeaway from the previous week’s devotion. Explore how these insights can serve as a foundation for the current week's focus.

***PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)***

**Focus:** On building a supportive spiritual community through prayer.

**Activity:** Share specific prayer requests related to the discussion topics or personal spiritual needs. Conclude the session by praying for one another, seeking the Holy Spirit's empowerment in your lives.

**Additional Notes**

***Discussion Questions:*** Each week, the guide provides discussion questions tailored to the theme. These are designed to engage group members in thoughtful discussion, helping them to explore their beliefs and experiences more deeply.

***Takeaways:*** At the end of each session, summarize key points that members can reflect on during the week. These takeaways aim to deepen understanding of the weekly theme and prepare members for what lies ahead.

***This 7-week guide is a structured yet flexible framework designed to facilitate meaningful spiritual discussions and growth among church members. By following this guide, deacons will lead their groups through a journey of reflection, learning, and personal development, fostering a deeper connection with their faith and with one another.***

**Week 1: Resurrection - He is Risen (Days 1-7)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Share a moment this past week that reminded you of the concept of new beginnings or transformation. How did it impact your perspective on your spiritual journey?

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Briefly summarize the essence of the Resurrection, focusing on new beginnings and empowerment through faith in Jesus Christ.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. How has the idea of resurrection as a new beginning challenged or changed your perspective on life and faith?
2. Which aspects of this week's devotion on the Resurrection resonated most with your experience?
3. Reflect on John 20:1-16 and other resurrection verses. How do they inspire you in your current spiritual walk?

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Read John 20:1-16 together. Discuss how the Resurrection shapes our understanding of Christ's victory and our call to live empowered lives.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Reflect on the transformative power of the Resurrection in your personal life. How does it empower you to overcome challenges and live with hope?

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share specific prayer requests related to embracing new beginnings or areas needing transformation. Pray for each other, asking for the Holy Spirit's empowerment

**Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ (Days 8-14)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Discuss an encounter with God this past week that strengthened your faith or provided clarity in a situation.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Share insights from reflecting on Jesus' post-resurrection appearances.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. Which post-resurrection appearance of Jesus challenged or enlightened you the most this week?
2. How have these encounters with the Risen Christ influenced your understanding of His presence in your life?
3. Discuss the impact of specific scriptures, like Luke 24:13-35, on your faith journey.

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Explore Luke 24:13-35. Consider how Jesus reveals Himself in our daily walk and the breaking of bread.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Identify ways Jesus' presence and revelation in scripture have transformed your approach to challenges and spiritual growth.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share prayer needs related to experiencing Christ's presence more deeply. Pray for revelations and encounters that strengthen faith.

**Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection (Days 15-21)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Share a personal story of victory or overcoming that reminds you of the resurrection's power over sin and death.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Someone summarize the significance of the resurrection discussed this week.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. Which aspect of the resurrection's significance, such as victory over sin or the promise of eternal life, impacted you most this week?
2. How does understanding the resurrection deepen your faith and daily walk with God?
3. Reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:54-57. How does this passage inspire hope and courage in your life?

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Read Romans 6:4-5 together. Discuss how our lives are meant to reflect the power and hope of the resurrection.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Consider how a deeper understanding of the resurrection influences your approach to life's challenges and your interactions with others.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share specific requests related to embracing and living out the power of the resurrection. Pray for each other, seeking renewed hope and strength.

**Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life (Days 22-28)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Discuss an area of personal growth or transformation you've experienced that mirrors the concept of "newness of life" in Christ.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Briefly share insights from this week's focus on living in light of the resurrection.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the reality of the resurrection shape your daily decisions and lifestyle?
2. What does "newness of life" (Romans 6:4) mean to you in practical terms?
3. Discuss a scripture from this week that particularly challenges or encourages you to live a resurrected life.

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Explore Colossians 3:1-4 as a group. Reflect on how setting our minds on things above influences our earthly actions.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Identify specific changes or commitments you feel called to make in order to better reflect the resurrected life Christ offers.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share prayer requests focused on areas where living the resurrected life feels challenging. Pray for transformation, empowerment, and the Spirit's guidance.

**Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit (Days 29-35)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Share a time of waiting in your life that led to spiritual growth or a deeper understanding of God's plan.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Summarize key insights from reflecting on Jesus' ascension and the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does Jesus' ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit comfort or challenge you?
2. What does waiting on the Holy Spirit look like in your own spiritual journey?
3. Reflect on Acts 1:9-11. How does this passage influence your perspective on Jesus' current reign and our mission?

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Read Acts 1:14 together. Discuss the importance of unity and prayer in waiting for the Holy Spirit's empowerment.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Identify ways you can actively wait on the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment in your life and ministry.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share specific areas where you're seeking the Holy Spirit's power or guidance. Pray collectively for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit on your lives and ministry.

**Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit (Days 36-42)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

Share a moment when you felt led or comforted by the Holy Spirit. How did that experience deepen your relationship with God?

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Reflect on the various roles of the Holy Spirit encountered this week.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. Which role of the Holy Spirit discussed this week was most meaningful to you, and why?
2. How has your understanding or experience of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life grown this week?
3. Reflect on John 14:26 and John 16:13. How do these verses shape your understanding of the Holy Spirit as both Comforter and Spirit of Truth?

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Look at Galatians 5:22-23. Discuss how the fruit of the Spirit is evident in your life or how you desire it to be more manifest.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Identify one aspect of the Holy Spirit's role that you wish to explore or experience more deeply. Share how you plan to pursue this in your life.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share requests related to experiencing the Holy Spirit's work more fully. Pray for each other, asking for a deeper filling, guidance, and manifestation of the Spirit's fruit in your lives.

**Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost (Days 43-49)**

**ICEBREAKER (10 Minutes)**

What does Pentecost mean to you personally? Share any traditions or experiences that have shaped your understanding of this day.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (10-15 Minutes)**

* **Recap:** Discuss the significance of Pentecost and its impact on the early Church and us today.
* **Discussion Questions:**

1. How has preparing for Pentecost changed your perspective on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church and your life?
2. Reflect on the events of Acts 2:1-4. What does the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost teach us about God's plan for His Church?
3. Considering the unity and diversity displayed at Pentecost, how can we better embody these principles in our church community?

**DIGGING DEEPER (5-10 Minutes)**

* Explore Acts 2:42-47. Discuss how the early Church's example of fellowship, prayer, and communal life can inspire our church today.

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)**

* **Main Takeaway:** Reflect on how you can live out the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in your daily life, especially as Pentecost approaches.

**PRAYER TIME (30-40 Minutes)**

* Share specific ways you wish to experience or witness the Holy Spirit's power this Pentecost. Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit on the church, enabling you to live and witness boldly for Christ.

This guide aims to provide a structured yet flexible framework for church deacons to engage their classes in a meaningful journey through "The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey," fostering deeper understanding, communal growth, and spiritual transformation 

***Family Corner***



***7-Week Companion Guide for Children/Youth: "The Road to Pentecost: A 50-Day Spiritual Journey*"**

Introduction

Welcome to an exciting spiritual adventure for children and youth, designed to walk them through the significant events leading up to Pentecost. This guide is crafted to inspire young hearts and minds to explore the depths of their faith, understand the power of Jesus' resurrection, and embrace the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Over the course of seven weeks, participants will engage in daily activities that include reading scripture, reflection, prayer, and a variety of interactive and creative tasks.

How to Use This Guide

Parents and youth leaders play a crucial role in guiding children through this journey. Here's how you can make the most of this guide:

* **Daily Engagement**: Set aside time each day for the activities. Consistency helps build anticipation and deeper understanding.
* **Interactive Learning**: Encourage kids to fully participate in the crafts, discussions, and reflections. Ask open-ended questions to facilitate deeper thinking.
* **Prayerful Support**: Join children in prayer, reinforcing the lesson that God is always listening and ready to engage with them.
* **Create a Safe Space**: Ensure that children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, questions, and feelings about the topics discussed.
* **Celebrate Progress**: Acknowledge the completion of each week's journey with a small celebration or recognition of what has been learned.

Weekly Overview

**Week 1: Resurrection - He is Risen!**

* Focus on the joy and meaning behind Jesus' resurrection through crafts, story time, and discussions.

**Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ**

* Explore how Jesus proved His resurrection to His friends and how He makes His presence felt in our lives today.

**Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection**

* Dive into why Jesus' resurrection is a cornerstone of our faith, symbolized through creative activities like butterfly crafts.

**Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life**

* Discover practical ways to live out our faith, showing the world that Jesus is alive through our actions and choices.

**Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit**

* Learn about Jesus' return to Heaven and the anticipation of the Holy Spirit's arrival, using crafts and games to illustrate these events.

**Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit**

* Engage with the concept of the Holy Spirit as a helper and guide in our lives, facilitated through experiments and crafts.

**Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost**

* Get ready to celebrate Pentecost, understanding its significance as the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

"The Road to Pentecost" is more than just a guide; it's an invitation for children and youth to embark on a meaningful spiritual exploration. By participating in this journey, young believers will deepen their understanding of Jesus' resurrection, experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, and recognize their place within the broader story of the Church. Parents and leaders, your involvement is key to unlocking the full potential of this adventure, as you guide and nurture the faith of the next generation.

**7-Week Companion Guide for Children/Youth:**

**"The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey"**

**Introduction**

Welcome to an exciting spiritual adventure for children and youth, designed to walk them through the significant events leading up to Pentecost. This guide is crafted to inspire young hearts and minds to explore the depths of their faith, understand the power of Jesus' resurrection, and embrace the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Over the course of seven weeks, participants will engage in daily activities that include reading scripture, reflection, prayer, and a variety of interactive and creative tasks.

***How to Use This Guide***

Parents and youth leaders play a crucial role in guiding children through this journey. Here's how you can make the most of this guide:

**Daily Engagement**: Set aside time each day for the activities. Consistency helps build anticipation and deeper understanding.

**Interactive Learning**: Encourage kids to fully participate in the crafts, discussions, and reflections. Ask open-ended questions to facilitate deeper thinking.

**Prayerful Support**: Join children in prayer, reinforcing the lesson that God is always listening and ready to engage with them.

**Create a Safe Space**: Ensure that children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, questions, and feelings about the topics discussed.

**Celebrate Progress**: Acknowledge the completion of each week's journey with a small celebration or recognition of what has been learned.

Weekly Overview

**Week 1: Resurrection - He is Risen!**

Focus on the joy and meaning behind Jesus' resurrection through crafts, story time, and discussions.

**Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ**

Explore how Jesus proved His resurrection to His friends and how He makes His presence felt in our lives today.

**Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection**

Dive into why Jesus' resurrection is a cornerstone of our faith, symbolized through creative activities like butterfly crafts.

**Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life**

Discover practical ways to live out our faith, showing the world that Jesus is alive through our actions and choices.

**Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit**

Learn about Jesus' return to Heaven and the anticipation of the Holy Spirit's arrival, using crafts and games to illustrate these events.

**Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit**

Engage with the concept of the Holy Spirit as a helper and guide in our lives, facilitated through experiments and crafts.

**Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost**

Get ready to celebrate Pentecost, understanding its significance as the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit.  "The Road to Pentecost" is more than just a guide; it's an invitation for children and youth to embark on a meaningful spiritual exploration. By participating in this journey, young believers will deepen their understanding of Jesus' resurrection, experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, and recognize their place within the broader story of the Church. Parents and leaders, your involvement is key to unlocking the full potential of this adventure, as you guide and nurture the faith of the next generation.

**Week 1: Resurrection - He is Risen! (Days 1-7)**

**Theme:** Exploring the joy and wonder of Jesus rising from the dead and what this means for us.

**Activities:**

* **Craft:** Create a "He is Risen!" banner with colorful papers and markers.
* **Story Time:** Read the Easter story from a Children's Bible, emphasizing Jesus' victory over death.
* **Discussion:** How does knowing Jesus is alive make you feel? What new beginning can you start because of Jesus?
* **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for His love and for being our living friend who is always with us.

**Week 2: Encounters with the Risen Christ (Days 8-14)**

**Theme:** Discovering how Jesus showed He was alive to His friends and how He shows up in our lives today.

**Activities:**

* **Role-Play:** Act out the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples. Use simple costumes to bring the story to life.
* **Craft:** Make a "Road to Emmaus" shoebox diorama.
* **Discussion:** When have you felt Jesus with you? Share stories of seeing Jesus in everyday life.
* **Prayer:** Invite Jesus to show Himself to us in new ways this week.

**Week 3: Understanding the Resurrection (Days 15-21)**

**Theme:** Learning why Jesus' resurrection is important and how it changes everything for us.

**Activities:**

* **Craft:** Create resurrection butterfly crafts to symbolize new life.
* **Game:** Resurrection scavenger hunt. Find symbols around your home or church that remind us of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
* **Discussion:** What does it mean that Jesus beat death? How does this give us hope?
* **Prayer:** Thank God for the hope and new life we have because of Jesus.

**Week 4: Living the Resurrected Life (Days 22-28)**

**Theme:** Figuring out how we can live differently because Jesus is alive.

**Activities:**

* **Activity:** Plant seeds to watch new life grow, discussing how we can grow in our faith.
* **Craft:** Make "Fruit of the Spirit" bracelets or bookmarks.
* **Discussion:** What are ways we can show Jesus' love to others? How can we live like Jesus is alive every day?
* **Prayer:** Ask God to help us live in a way that shows the world Jesus' love and life.

**Week 5: The Ascension and Waiting for the Spirit (Days 29-35)**

**Theme:** Learning about Jesus going back to Heaven and how His friends waited for the Holy Spirit.

**Activities:**

* **Craft:** Ascension scene with cotton clouds and a paper Jesus lifting off.
* **Game:** "Waiting for the Gift" hot potato, thinking about what the disciples might have felt waiting for the Holy Spirit.
* **Discussion:** Why is it important to wait patiently for God? What can we do while we wait for God's promises?
* **Prayer:** Pray for patience and excitement as we wait for God to move in our lives.

**Week 6: The Role of the Holy Spirit (Days 36-42)**

**Theme:** Discovering who the Holy Spirit is and how He helps us.

**Activities:**

* **Experiment:** Use wind to move objects and explain how the Holy Spirit moves us.
* **Craft:** Create a dove craft to symbolize the Holy Spirit's peace and presence.
* **Discussion:** What does it feel like to have the Holy Spirit help and guide us?
* **Prayer:** Invite the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives, guiding, teaching, and comforting us.

**Week 7: Preparing for Pentecost (Days 43-49)**

**Theme:** Getting ready to celebrate the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**Activities:**

* **Baking:** Bake a "Pentecost cake" and decorate it with flames and doves.
* **Craft:** Make a "tongues of fire" headband or hat.
* **Discussion:** Why is Pentecost important for us today? How can we be part of the Church's mission?
* **Prayer:** Thank God for His Church and ask for boldness to share His love like the first disciples.

"The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Spiritual Journey" (Youth/Children’s Edition) involves breaking down the themes into digestible, interactive, and engaging daily activities and reflections suitable for younger audiences. The goal is to guide children and youth through understanding the significance of Jesus' resurrection, the empowerment by the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church at Pentecost, encouraging them to see how these events impact their lives today.

**Family Corner cont.**

**"The Road to Pentecost: A 50 Day Adventure for Kids and Teens"**

**Introduction**

Welcome to a fantastic journey! Over the next 50 days, you're going to discover amazing stories, learn about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and how you can live a life filled with joy, courage, and adventure because of God's love for you. Each day, you'll read a little bit of the Bible, think about what it means for you, pray, and do something fun that helps you remember what you've learned. Are you ready? Let's go on this adventure togetherShape

**Week 1: Resurrection - He is Risen! 🌟**

**Day 1: Jesus is Alive!**   
**Read:** John 20:1-16   
**Reflect:** Imagine you were Mary Magdalene discovering the empty tomb. How excited would you be to tell everyone that Jesus is alive?   
**Pray:** Thank Jesus for being alive and always with us.   
**Do:** Draw a picture of the empty tomb with the stone rolled away.

**Day 2: Doubt to Faith**   
**Read:** John 20:24-29   
**Reflect:** Thomas doubted Jesus was alive until he saw Him. Sometimes we doubt too, and that's okay. Jesus helps our doubts turn into faith.   
**Pray:** Ask Jesus to help you believe even when you can't see.   
**Do:** Write down something you wonder about God and discuss it with a family member or friend.

**Day 3: Embracing the Commission**

**Read:** John 20:17-18   
**Reflect:** Just like Mary was excited to tell the disciples about Jesus, God wants us to share our happiness about knowing Him with others.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you share your joy and the stories of Jesus with your friends or family.   
**Do:** Make a "Good News" card. Draw a picture or write a message about Jesus' love and give it to someone.

**Day 4: Empowered by the Spirit**

**Read:** Acts 1:8   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit gives us power to do big things for God, even as kids!   
**Pray:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you strength and courage to be kind and helpful.   
**Do:** "Power Boost" Jar - Write down or draw pictures of ways you can help or encourage others. Pull one out each day and do it!

**Day 5: Living in Joy**

**Read:** Philippians 4:4-7   
**Reflect:** Joy is like a superpower that God gives us, even when things aren't perfect.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the happiness that comes from knowing Jesus.   
**Do:** Create a "Joy Journal." Each day, write or draw one thing that makes you happy and thank God for it.

**Day 6: Promise of Peace**

**Read:** John 14:27   
**Reflect:** Jesus gives us peace, not like the peace we find in napping or no homework, but a deep peace knowing He's always with us.   
**Pray:** Ask for Jesus' peace in a situation that makes you feel worried or scared.   
**Do:** Peace Dove Craft - Cut out a dove shape from paper, decorate it, and write "Peace" on it. Hang it in your room as a reminder.

**Day 7: The Power of the Ascension**

**Read:** Acts 1:9-11   
**Reflect:** Jesus went up to heaven but didn't leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, guide us, and help us do amazing things!   
**Pray:** Thank Jesus for His promise to always be with us through the Holy Spirit.   
**Do:** Ascension Scene - Use cotton (for clouds) and a small figure (to represent Jesus) to create an Ascension scene. Explain it to someone.

**Day 8: Appearance to Disciples**

**Read:** John 20:19-23   
**Reflect:** Imagine how surprised the disciples were to see Jesus! He showed them He was alive and gave them peace.   
**Pray:** Pray for Jesus to help you feel His presence and peace when you're scared or alone.   
**Do:** Secret Message - Write a message of peace using white crayon on white paper. Paint over it with watercolors to reveal the message. Share it with someone.

**Day 9: On the Road to Emmaus**

**Read:** Luke 24:13-35   
**Reflect:** Jesus talked with two followers on the road, but they didn't recognize Him until He broke bread with them. Sometimes we might not see Jesus' work in our lives until we look closely.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you see Jesus' work in your life every day.   
**Do:** Road Map - Draw a map of your day or week. Mark places where you see or feel Jesus' presence, like in school, at home, or when you're with friends.

**Day 10: By the Sea of Galilee**

**Read:** John 21:1-14   
**Reflect:** Jesus helped His friends catch a lot of fish and then cooked breakfast for them. Jesus cares about us and helps us succeed.   
**Pray:** Thank Jesus for caring for you and for His help in your daily life.   
**Do:** Fish Craft - Create a fish out of paper plates or construction paper. On each fish, write a way Jesus has helped you or shown He cares for you.

**Day 11: Restoring Peter**

**Read:** John 21:15-19   
**Reflect:** Even when Peter made a big mistake, Jesus still loved him and had a special job for him. Remember, Jesus loves us no matter what.   
**Pray:** Thank Jesus for His forgiveness and ask for help to forgive others.   
**Do:** "Feed My Sheep" Activity - Make a simple sheep out of cotton balls and paper. On each sheep, write an act of kindness you can do for someone else, just like Jesus asked Peter to take care of His followers.

**Day 12: To Thomas and Other Disciples**

**Read:** John 20:24-29   
**Reflect:** Thomas had doubts, but Jesus showed him He was real. It's okay to have questions; Jesus helps us understand.   
**Pray:** Pray for Jesus to help you with your doubts and to strengthen your faith.   
**Do:** "Seeing is Believing" Binoculars - Decorate two toilet paper rolls as binoculars. Use them to find things in nature that remind you of Jesus' creation.

**Day 13: Appearance to 500**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:6   
**Reflect:** Jesus appeared to lots of people to show He was alive. We can be sure He's with us today because so many witnesses saw Him.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the many people who saw Jesus and shared their stories.   
**Do:** Witness Wall - Create a wall or a poster with pictures or names of people (from the Bible, history, or your life) who have shared Jesus with others.

**Day 14: Great Commission**

**Read:** Matthew 28:16-20   
**Reflect:** Jesus gave us a mission to tell everyone about Him. We can share His love with friends, family, and even new people we meet.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you be brave in sharing His love and the story of Jesus with others.   
**Do:** Mission Map - Make a map of places you go (like school, park, etc.). Mark each place with a heart where you can share Jesus' love.

**Day 15: Victory Over Death**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:54-57   
**Reflect:** Jesus beat death so we can live forever with Him! That's the best victory ever!   
**Pray:** Celebrate Jesus' victory in your prayer and thank Him for the promise of eternal life.   
**Do:** Victory Banner - Create a banner or flag that celebrates Jesus' victory over death. Use bright colors and maybe even some sparkle to show how special this victory is.

**Day 16: New Life in Christ**

**Read:** Romans 6:4-5   
**Reflect:** Just like a butterfly comes out of a cocoon, Jesus makes us new and gives us a beautiful new life.   
**Pray:** Thank God for making you new and ask for help to live this new, beautiful life every day.   
**Do:** Butterfly Craft - Create butterflies using coffee filters and markers to represent new life. On each butterfly, write something new you want to try or a way you want to grow in your faith.

**Day 17: Our Resurrection Hope**

**Read:** 1 Peter 1:3-5   
**Reflect:** Our hope isn't just for now; it's a forever hope that starts because Jesus rose from the dead.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the living hope we have because of Jesus.   
**Do:** Hope Stones - Paint small stones with words of hope and place them in your garden or give them to friends as reminders of the hope we have.

**Day 18: The First fruits**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-22   
**Reflect:** Jesus is like the first beautiful fruit of spring, showing us that life with God lasts forever.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the promise of new life and ask Him to help you live joyfully because of it.   
**Do:** First fruits Basket - Draw or make a basket and fill it with fruits or flowers from paper. On each piece, write a blessing or a promise from God.

**Day 19: Resurrection and Justification**

**Read:** Romans 4:25   
**Reflect:** Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can be friends with God. It's like getting a clean slate every day!   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and live in the freedom Jesus gives us because He made us right with God.   
**Do:** Clean Slate Board - Create a small board or use a piece of paper where you can write things you want to ask forgiveness for, then wipe it clean as a reminder of God's forgiveness.

**Day 20: Living for Christ**

**Read:** Philippians 1:21-24   
**Reflect:** Living for Jesus makes our lives really count. Everything we do can show others how amazing He is!   
**Pray:** Pray for your life to be a shining example of Jesus' love and goodness.   
**Do:** "For Christ" Bracelet - Make a simple bracelet with beads or paper. Wear it as a reminder that you are living for Jesus in everything you do.

**Day 21: Heavenly Perspective**

**Read:** Colossians 3:1-4   
**Reflect:** Imagine you're an astronaut looking at Earth from space. God wants us to see life from His big, loving perspective, not just our own.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you see things the way He does, focusing on what really matters.   
**Do:** Perspective Painting - Create a painting or drawing that shows a big picture of something beautiful in nature. Talk about how God sees even more than we can from our "space view."

**Day 22: Newness of Life**

**Read:** Romans 6:4   
**Reflect:** When we choose to follow Jesus, it's like hitting the refresh button on life. We get to start fresh with God's help!   
**Pray:** Thank God for the fresh start and ask Him to help you live your new life in a way that makes Him happy.   
**Do:** "Fresh Start" Jar - Decorate a jar and fill it with ideas of new, good habits you want to start. Pick one to focus on each week.

**Day 23: Spiritual Growth**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:15-16   
**Reflect:** Just like a plant needs water and sunlight to grow, we need God's Word and love to grow in our faith.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you grow stronger in your faith every day, just like a healthy plant.   
**Do:** Growth Chart - Make a "spiritual growth" chart with steps or milestones you'd like to reach in your faith journey. Include things like learning a new Bible verse or doing a kind act for someone.

**Day 24: Fruit of the Spirit**

**Read:** Galatians 5:22-23   
**Reflect:** The Fruit of the Spirit isn't real fruit, but it shows how we can grow to be more like Jesus in our actions and attitudes.   
**Pray:** Pray for God to help you show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.   
**Do:** Fruit of the Spirit Tree - Draw or craft a tree and add fruits labeled with each aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit. Each day, focus on showing one of these traits.

**Day 25: Putting Off the Old Self**

**Read:** Colossians 3:5-10   
**Reflect:** It's like taking off dirty clothes and putting on clean ones. God wants us to leave behind bad things and live in a good and new way!   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you leave behind things that aren't good for you and to live in a way that's clean and bright.   
**Do:** "Old Self, New Self" Flip Book - Create a flip book showing how you can change bad habits into good ones with God's help.

**Day 26: Living in Love**

**Read:** 1 John 4:7-12   
**Reflect:** Living in love means treating others with kindness and care, just like Jesus does with us.   
**Pray:** Pray to love others the way Jesus loves you, even when it's hard.   
**Do:** Love Notes - Write kind notes to family members or friends telling them what you appreciate about them. It's a great way to show love!

**Day 27: Serving Others**

**Read:** Galatians 5:13-14   
**Reflect:** Being a friend of Jesus means we get to help and serve others, not just think about what we want.   
**Pray:** Ask God to show you ways you can help others and to give you a happy heart when you do.   
**Do:** Service Scavenger Hunt - Make a list of small ways you can serve others at home or in your neighborhood. See how many you can do in a week!

**Day 28: Seeking Things Above**

**Read:** Colossians 3:1-2   
**Reflect:** God wants us to think about heavenly things—like love, kindness, and joy—more than just what we want right now.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you focus on what's truly important and to fill your mind with good thoughts.   
**Do:** "Heavenly Thoughts" Sky Art - Create a piece of art that represents "heavenly things" you want to focus on more, like peace or helping others.

**Day 29: The Ascension**

**Read:** Acts 1:9-11   
**Reflect:** Jesus went up to heaven but promised He'd always be with us through the Holy Spirit.   
**Pray:** Thank Jesus for being with you always, even though He's in heaven, and ask for help to feel His presence.   
**Do:** Ascension Craft - Make a simple craft of Jesus ascending into heaven, such as a cotton ball cloud and a paper Jesus on a string.

**Day 30: Waiting in Jerusalem**

**Read:** Acts 1:12-14   
**Reflect:** The disciples had to wait for the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we have to wait for things too, but God is always working.   
**Pray:** Ask God for patience while you wait for things and to help you trust Him during the wait.   
**Do:** Waiting Well - Make a "Waiting Well" list of things you can do that are good and helpful while you wait for something, like praying or helping someone.

**Day 31: Choosing Matthias**

**Read:** Acts 1:15-26   
**Reflect:** Just like the disciples chose Matthias to be part of their group, God has a special place for you in His family.   
**Pray:** Thank God for making you a part of His big, loving family and ask Him to show you how you can play your part.   
**Do:** Family Role - Draw a picture or write about what you think your role is in God's family. Are you a helper? An encourager? A friend?

**Day 32: Jesus' Promise of the Spirit**

**Read:** Luke 24:49   
**Reflect:** Jesus promised to send us a special helper, the Holy Spirit, to be with us always.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the Holy Spirit and ask Him to help you feel the Spirit's presence in your life.   
**Do:** Promise Poster - Create a poster showing Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit. Decorate it with symbols like a dove or flames to represent the Spirit.

**Day 33: Unity in Prayer**

**Read:** Acts 1:14   
**Reflect:** When Jesus' friends prayed together, they felt strong and united. Praying with others can make us feel the same way.   
**Pray:** Pray with a friend or family member today. Share something you each want to pray about.   
**Do:** Prayer Chain - Start a prayer chain with friends or family. Each person adds a prayer request, and you all commit to praying for them

**Day 34: The Role of the Spirit**

**Read:** John 16:7-11   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit helps us understand right from wrong and comforts us when we're sad or confused.   
**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make good choices and to comfort you when you need it.   
**Do:** Comfort Kit - Put together a small "comfort kit" with comforting items like a soft toy, a note of encouragement, and a Bible verse about the Holy Spirit.

**Day 35: Power from on High**

**Read:** Luke 24:49   
**Reflect:** Just like superheroes have special powers, God gives us His own superpower—the Holy Spirit—to help us be strong and brave.   
**Pray:** Thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit to give you power and courage.   
**Do:** Superhero Cape - Make a superhero cape and decorate it with symbols or words that remind you of the Holy Spirit's power in your life.

**Day 36: The Comforter**

**Read:** John 14:26   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit is like a comforting blanket that wraps around us, making us feel safe and loved.   
**Pray:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to comfort you whenever you feel lonely or scared.   
**Do:** Comfort Collage - Create a collage using pictures and words that make you feel comforted and loved by God.

**Day 37: Spirit of Truth**

**Read:** John 16:13   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit helps us tell truth from lies, guiding us like a wise friend who always knows the right path.   
**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you always tell the truth and to know when others are being truthful with you.   
**Do:** Truth Path - Draw a winding path on a piece of paper, and along the way, mark spots where the Holy Spirit helps you choose truth. Add pictures or stickers for visual interest.

**Day 38: Fruit of the Spirit**

**Read:** Repeat of Day 24, focusing on a different aspect of the fruit each day.   
**Reflect:** Pick a different "fruit" each day to focus on. How can you show that fruit in your actions?   
**Pray:** Pray each day for God to help you grow in that specific "fruit."   
**Do:** Fruit of the Day - Each day, draw or write about a way you showed or noticed the day's fruit in action. Collect these in a journal.

**Day 39: Gifts of the Spirit**

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11   
**Reflect:** God gives us special gifts through the Holy Spirit to help and serve others in cool and unique ways.   
**Pray:** Ask God to show you what special gifts He's given you and how you can use them to help others.   
**Do:** Gift Discovery - With a parent or mentor, discuss potential gifts you might have and plan a small project to use one of those gifts to serve someone else.

**Day 40: Walking by the Spirit**

**Read:** Galatians 5:16-18   
**Reflect:** Walking by the Spirit means letting God guide our steps every day, leading us to do good things.   
**Pray:** Pray for guidance to walk by the Spirit every day, making choices that please God.   
**Do:** Spirit Step Stones - Create paper "step stones" and write on each one a way you can walk by the Spirit. Place them in order as a path in your room to remind you.

**Day 41: The Spirit Intercedes**

**Read:** Romans 8:26-27   
**Reflect:** Sometimes it's hard to find the right words to pray, but the Holy Spirit helps by praying with us and for us.   
**Pray:** When you're not sure what to pray for, just ask the Holy Spirit to help pray for what you need most.   
**Do:** Prayer Box - Make a prayer box. When you can't find the words, write down your feelings or draw a picture and put it in the box, knowing the Holy Spirit understands.

**Day 42: Spirit of Adoption**

**Read:** Romans 8:15   
**Reflect:** Because of Jesus, we're all part of God's big, loving family, with God as our perfect Father.   
**Pray:** Thank God for adopting you into His family and ask Him to help you live like His child.   
**Do:** Family Tree - Create a spiritual family tree, including people in your life who have helped you grow in your faith. Add God at the top as the Father of all.

**Day 43: The Coming of the Spirit**

**Read:** Acts 2:1-4   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit came to the disciples in a powerful way at Pentecost, showing that God is always with us.   
**Pray:** Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be our helper and guide.   
**Do:** Wind and Fire Art - Create an art project using symbols of wind and fire to represent the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. Use streamers or tissue paper for wind and red/orange paper for fire.

**Day 44: Peter's Sermon**

**Read:** Acts 2:14-36   
**Reflect:** Peter was brave and spoke to a big crowd about Jesus because the Holy Spirit gave him courage.   
**Pray:** Ask God to give you courage to talk about Jesus with your friends.   
**Do:** Courageous Acts - Write a short story or draw a comic strip about a time you could be brave and share Jesus with someone, inspired by Peter.

**Day 45: The Response**

**Read:** Acts 2:37-41   
**Reflect:** Many people decided to follow Jesus after hearing Peter's words. We can help others know Jesus too.   
**Pray:** Pray for someone you know who doesn't know Jesus, and ask God to help you show them His love.   
**Do:** Kindness Cards - Make kindness cards to share with friends or family members, telling them something you appreciate about them and including a favorite Bible verse.

**Day 46: Life in the Early Church**

**Read:** Acts 2:42-47   
**Reflect:** The first Christians shared everything and took care of each other, just like a big family.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help your church be like a big family that loves and takes care of each other.   
**Do:** Sharing Jar - Create a "sharing jar" at home. Fill it with ideas of things you can share or ways to help others. Pick one each week to do as a family.

**Day 47: Unity in the Spirit**

**Read:** Ephesians 4:1-6   
**Reflect:** God wants all His children to get along and live in peace, just like brothers and sisters.   
**Pray:** Pray for peace and unity in your family, school, and church.   
**Do:** Peace Poster - Make a poster about unity and peace. Include ways you can help create peace and unity with friends and family.

**Day 48: Empowered Witness**

**Read:** Acts 1:8   
**Reflect:** Just like a battery gives power to a toy, the Holy Spirit gives us power to tell others about Jesus.   
**Pray:** Ask God to help you be bold in sharing your faith with others, just like the disciples.   
**Do:** Power Bracelet - Make a bracelet using beads or paper. Each color or bead represents a part of your testimony or story of faith to remind you of God's power in your life.

**Day 49: Growing in the Spirit**

**Read:** 2 Peter 1:5-8   
**Reflect:** Growing up means learning new things, including how to be more like Jesus every day.   
**Pray:** Pray for God to help you grow in faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love.   
**Do:** Growth Chart - Create a "spiritual growth chart" with milestones or goals for your walk with God. Decorate it with stickers or drawings as you grow.

**Pentecost Celebration: Day 50 🕊️**

**Read:** Acts 2:1-41   
**Reflect:** The Holy Spirit came like a mighty wind and flames of fire. Imagine being in that room! The Holy Spirit is still with us today, giving us power to be brave and share Jesus' love.   
**Pray:** Thank God for the Holy Spirit and ask Him to help you be brave in sharing His love.   
**Do:** Have a Pentecost party! Decorate with red, orange, and yellow. Share something you've learned about Jesus with your family or friends during the celebration.

A logo of a pentecost

Description automatically generated