

LENT

REFLECTION



REPENTANCE



RENEWAL

40 DAYS

Jesus completely grasped the tumultuous path that he was sent to experience. It was a path that would lead him not only to be nailed to a cross but also to take on the sin of all humanity.

Anticipating what was ahead, Jesus entered the desert for 40 days where he prayed, fasted, and prepared.

Lent is 40 Days + 6 Sundays which culminates with celebrating the life-altering reality that Jesus is alive!!

step

This Lent devotion is based on the STEP framework. For the complete STEP guide, please visit [*tcconline.tv/step*](http://tcconline.tv/step).



scripture



think



engage



pray

God has given you everything you need to not only survive but also thrive in this life. He has provided the Bible as the perfect guide to help you navigate the twists and turns, including the mountaintop moments and the valleys you will encounter. The S.T.E.P. framework is designed to assist you in reading the Bible and, in doing so, to help you take steps forward in growing your faith.



DAY 01

S

JOEL
2:12-13

"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."

T

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today kicks off a 40-day + 6 Sunday journey where you will focus on **reflection** + **repentance** + **renewal**. I want to encourage you to lean into this season of preparation as you focus on celebrating the Risen King on Easter.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn and introspective day that creates space to stare at your sin that has broken and fractured your life. But don't stop there. You are committing to God and yourself to leverage this season of LENT (40 days + 6 Sundays) to seek God, repent from the sin that has had a stranglehold on you, and look towards the healing that Jesus so freely gives.

Focus on the word **return** as you read through Joel 2:12-13. And then take the bold, difficult, freeing, and revealing step: Name that sin that has a stranglehold on you. Repent. And **return** to God.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 02

S

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead

T

Is your deepest desire to know Jesus? If you answered yes, let me ask you another question: Are you passionately committed to living your life in reflection of Jesus?

You might want to separate or put these questions in some hierarchical order. But resist this temptation. Both of these questions are intrinsically connected to each other. I also encourage you to ask and evaluate these questions constantly.

The more you come to know Jesus, the greater you will desire to reflect what he taught and lived out. And the more you live your life in reflection of Jesus, the more expansive your knowledge of Jesus becomes.

Do you know what makes Jesus **smile**? Do you know what **angers** Jesus? Do you know what Jesus is **passionate** about? Do you know what Jesus **values**? Do you know what **frustrates** Jesus? Do you know who Jesus **cares** about? **Do you know ... Jesus?**

E

P

PRAY



DAY 03

S

ROMANS 3:22-24

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

T

The word "**ALL**" is immensely inclusive. It levels the playing field and has the power to bring people together. "**ALL**" signifies that there are no outliers, segregated circles, or hierarchical groupings. "**ALL**" includes you, and it includes me. "**ALL**" comprises the people we choose to include, and it also contains those individuals whom, if given the final say, we might not include.

"ALL" encompasses the lovable and the unlovable.

"ALL" includes the compassionate and the uncompassionate.

"ALL" embraces the genuine and the manipulative.

"ALL" consists of the authentic and the fake.

"ALL" recognizes the forgiving and the resentful.

"ALL" reflects the nice and the mean.

"ALL" acknowledges the servant and the power-hungry.

"ALL" equals "ALL."

My sins are as serious as your sins, and your sins are as serious as _____ (Feel free to fill in that blank with a name.)

ALL have sinned. **ALL**.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 4

S

MARK
2:17

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

T

The imagery that Jesus uses transcends generations, languages, and cultures. Regardless of how advanced humanity becomes, the experience of sickness is universal. Jesus had a simple yet powerful way of teaching timeless truths that continue to guide us today.

Jesus actively engages with you, not because you have everything figured out, but because you don't. He understands your fractured and broken soul. This daunting reality may weigh heavily on you. But know that He is the great physician— the only one who can bring healing to your sin-tattered soul.

Today, as you rest in gratitude for Jesus' amazing grace that breathes new life into you, remember this: **Jesus came for all people who are broken and fractured.** He desires to bring healing to all sinners. That is why the church, as a gathering of people, must continue to love like Jesus!

E

P

PRAY

HUMBLE YOURSELF

EPHESIANS 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

This week, the focus is on humility. It involves intentionally lowering oneself before a holy and sovereign God and choosing to relinquish control. This position serves as a foundational posture for building your faith and relationship with God.

SUNDAY



DAY 05

S**JAMES**
4:7-10

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

T

I must confess: the word **submit** evokes a feeling like fingernails being dragged methodically across the world's largest chalkboard. Just the thought of submitting generates a sense of unease and nausea that I can't shake off. I realize that part of my issue, or perhaps the entire issue, stems from the fact that submitting directly contradicts my personality.

If you are familiar with the Enneagram, I identify as an Enneagram 8. One of the core fears for type 8s is the fear of being controlled by others, and submitting implies that someone else is in control. This is indeed a significant challenge for me. I am fully aware of this reality, and I have spent a considerable amount of time discussing it with God. (God consistently reminds me that this is entirely my issue.) What I know is that the only way to resist the devil is by submitting to God's leading, guidance, and power. Moreover, the only path to growing closer to God is through total submission to Him.

Today, say this out loud: **"God, I submit to you with 100% of me."** Then, allow God's presence to envelop you, trusting that He has you completely.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 06

S

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

T

Four intentional actions that move God to work powerfully in your life. These actions have the potential to change the entire course of your journey and allow you to witness God's power at its fullest.

HUMBLE: Choose to submit your decisions, preferences, and desires to God.

PRAY: Seek to hear from God as He guides and directs your life.

SEEK: Trust in your always-present and personally connected Heavenly Father.

TURN: Repent from the sins that create a separation between you and a gracious God.

Four intentional actions for you to embrace, today.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 07

S

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

T

When was the last time you used the word **exalt** in an everyday conversation? More than likely, the answer is never—or at least you can't remember when. **Exalt** is a powerful word that evokes a strong image. It means to lift up or elevate something (or someone) to the highest place.

Over the past several days, the focus has been on submitting and humbling ourselves, which is an action that goes against our broken human nature. However, these actions are essential for our relationship with God. The truth is, you cannot exalt God without first humbling yourself. These two actions—**exalting** and **humbling**—are intrinsically connected. In fact, the more you exalt God in your life, the easier it becomes to submit and humble yourself.

The Apostle Paul addressed this idea in his letter to the church in Philippi. Take some time today to reflect on his words.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 8

S

PSALM 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

T

Do you enjoy waiting for your food to be delivered? How about waiting for your child to be born? Do you like waiting to listen to Christmas music? Or perhaps waiting for a vacation? What about waiting for your online purchase to arrive? Do you enjoy waiting in line?

Do you like to wait?

Let me guess your answer: NO! Waiting is something that nobody, regardless of personality type, enjoys. This is why I appreciate how the Psalmist expresses this sentiment: "We wait in hope for the Lord." God's timing is rarely the same as ours, and that's okay.

Waiting in hope is what can help you through any season. It fosters anticipation for what God might do in your life and encourages you to lean towards Him, trusting that He will show up in expected and unexpected ways. Waiting in hope will challenge you to trust God at a level you may not think is possible.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 09

S

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

T

Embrace each word that Zephaniah carefully wrote. Each thought provides life-shaping insights into who God desires to be in your life.

Every thought relates directly to your relationship with God. Take the time to read Zephaniah 3:17 and focus on each specific aspect. Reflect on how these insights can shape your life:

God is with you.

God is a Mighty Warrior.

God delights In you.

God loves you.

God rejoices over you.

And when you are done, **thank God** for being engaged and present in your life.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 10

S

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

T

Don't approach God with timidity.
Don't approach God with arrogance.
Don't approach God with uncertainty.
Don't approach God with caution.
Don't approach God with uneasiness.

Go for it!

Approach God with confidence.
Approach God with boldness.
Approach God with all certainty, knowing that God wants you to experience the **full extent** of His mercy and grace.
Think about that.

Amazing, isn't it?! God desires for you to be with Him as He knows precisely what you need.

E

P

PRAY

FOCUS ON JESUS

EXODUS 3:14-15

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" 15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

Moses asked a straightforward question, and God answered with an eternal reply: "My name is ... I AM." Jesus recognized the spiritual significance of this name and deepened its meaning by making it personal. This week, we will concentrate on six of Jesus's "I AM" statements.

SUNDAY



DAY II

S

JOHN
8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

T

Who is afraid of the dark?

The dark basement always filled me with a sense of overwhelming angst. The haunted house kept me on edge, my heart racing in anticipation. As the sun quickly set while I navigated an unfamiliar hiking trail, I felt my pace quicken. The darkness of the house during a power outage left me feeling isolated.

There is something about the dark that we all understand on some level. It captures our attention, and it's something we often want to avoid.

That's why Jesus' words are life-giving and filled with strength. Why? Because we recognize that there is a darkness lurking within all of us, and we know where it can lead. Jesus' promise is a source of hope. All we have to do is follow Him, and His light will dispel the darkness.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 12

S

JOHN
10:11, 14-15

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

T

Jesus is the good shepherd.

He watches.

He protects.

He defends.

He guides.

He cares.

He feeds.

He sees.

He understands.

He knows.

He's present.

He's attentive.

He's engaged.

He's for you.

He's good.

And **he lays down his life.**

E

P

PRAY



DAY 13

S

JOHN
6:35

"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

T

What do you crave?

There's a small, hole-in-the-wall Mexican food joint in Las Vegas called Faustos, and it serves some of the best and most authentic Mexican food I've ever had. The bonus? It's incredibly cheap. Did I mention how good it is? I always order a bean and cheese burrito and a cheese quesadilla, but then I'm faced with the hard decision of what else to get. After much deliberation, I settle on a bag full of food. I never manage to eat it all, which means I get to enjoy the leftovers the next day! Every time I think about that place, my cravings intensify.

Let me ask you a slightly different question: *What do you crave within your soul?*

Everyone experiences a hunger and thirst that only the presence of Jesus can truly satisfy. There is a void that can only be filled by following Him and a longing that can only be met by leaning into His presence.

Today, take the time to feed your spiritual cravings and feel truly satisfied.

(And if you find yourself in Las Vegas, don't forget to satisfy your other cravings too!)

E

P

PRAY



DAY 14

S

JOHN
15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

T

Pruning is not an enjoyable process; it often causes discomfort that we tend to avoid. It has the ability to surface a tension that wells up within us. However, it's important not to shy away from it. The pruning that the Heavenly Father performs is driven by His love for you and His desire to help you grow into the person He has designed you to be.

Allow Him to prune your thoughts—taking captive those negative thoughts that are destroying you.

Allow Him to prune your ability to forgive—choosing to forgive those who have deeply hurt you.

Allow Him to prune your generosity—living a life marked by generosity fosters a faith-filled trust.

Allow Him to prune your service—actively seeking opportunities to extend Jesus' love to others.

Allow Him to prune your encouragement—finding ways to breathe life and hope into those around you.

Allow Him to prune your love—loving first is the means through which others can lean into Jesus.

Ask God to prune your life and commit to not back away when it becomes uncomfortable. As He **prunes**, you will see your life **produce** more fruit.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 15

S

JOHN
14:6

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

T

Jesus is the way through paralyzing thoughts.
Jesus is the way through overwhelming uncertainty.
Jesus is the way through daunting situations.
Jesus is the way through debilitating insecurity.
Jesus is the way through challenging relationships.
Jesus is the way through overpowering addiction.
Jesus is the way through unrelenting doubt.
Jesus is the way through unforgiving feelings.
Jesus is the way through underlying bitterness.
Jesus is the way through fractured relationships.

Jesus is the way.

Are you **surrendering** to his way? How are you **following** Him?

E

P

PRAY



DAY 16

S

JOHN
8:58

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

T

Jesus' statement sent shockwaves throughout Palestine. The weight of just two words—**I AM**—left people paralyzed and filled with an uneasy wonder. His carefully chosen words were designed to help people begin to understand who he truly was.

Everyone was familiar with the story: it was told repeatedly from a young age. Moses encountered a bush that was on fire but not consumed by the flames. This surreal moment drew Moses closer, and soon, a voice began to speak to him—a voice coming from the bush. (Moses likely thought, "I didn't expect this day to become any more bizarre.") When Moses asked the voice for its name, the response was both simple and profound: **"I am who I am."** (Exodus 3:14)

"I AM" signifies God's eternal existence and reveals His everlasting power. With those two words, Jesus proclaimed that He was God.

Today, take a moment to reflect on this incredible truth: God chose to become man, all for you.

E

P

PRAY

HOLD ONTO HOPE

ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is the source of hope in a world that often seems hopeless. It is His presence, power, and peace that inspire hope even in the darkest moments. Regardless of how challenging life becomes, hope will arise when you trust in a God who is always present and walks alongside you.

SUNDAY



DAY 17

S

ROMANS 12:11-12

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

T

JOYFUL IN HOPE

Hope is not about our current circumstances or how we perceive the future may unfold. It is fundamentally about whom we choose to trust. The Apostle Paul expressed this beautifully: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13).

PATIENT IN AFFLICTION

What challenges are you facing right now? Are they pushing you to your limits? In moments of pain, the instinct is often to find an escape. However, instead of trying to avoid pain, consider leaning into it. James, the brother of Jesus, advised: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4).

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

No matter what you encounter, always keep praying. Engage in a conversation with God that is direct, authentic, and completely honest. The Apostle Paul encourages us with these words: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6).

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 18

S

1 PETER 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

T

Cast is a verb that means to throw or place something upon. It is God's desire to lift the heavy burdens that are suffocating you and causing you stress. But you must let go and hand them over to Him!

Cast your job stress and pressures on Him.

Cast your financial struggles on Him.

Cast your brokenness on Him.

Cast your longing to find the right person on Him.

Cast your medical concerns and uncertainties on Him.

Cast your depression on Him.

Cast your relational pain and hurt on Him.

Cast your uncertain future on Him.

Cast your addiction on Him.

Cast your loneliness on Him.

Cast your overwhelming thoughts on Him.

Cast your insecurities on Him.

Cast your _____ on Him.

Cast "all," which means "all," on Him! Why? Because ***He deeply cares for you.***

E

P

PRAY



DAY 19

S

PSALM 27:13-14

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

T

Waiting is never easy. It doesn't matter whether you are anticipating a long-needed vacation or the birth of your first child; the wait often seems to drag on, making the excitement feel overwhelming.

However, **waiting is necessary**. There is a unique growth that occurs when you embrace the season of waiting that God is guiding you through. Instead of trying to hasten the process, take time to notice how God is working within you.

How is God developing you?
How is God stretching you?
How is God strengthening you?
How is God shaping you?
How is God helping you?
How is God speaking to you?
How is God nudging you?
How is God directing you?
How is God leading you?
How is God teaching you?

Embrace the **wonder** as you **wait**!

E

P

PRAY



DAY 20

S**MATTHEW**
11:28–30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

T

Have you ever gone to bed for 7, 8, or even 12 hours, only to wake up feeling tired? Have you taken an entire weekend to rest and relax, yet still felt completely exhausted when Monday morning came?

Lately, I've been experiencing a period where I just don't feel rested. No matter what techniques or disciplines I try to implement, weariness continues to overwhelm me daily. I often feel like giving up. I recognize that this isn't just a physical issue or something that can be solved by simply going to bed earlier.

What I'm dealing with—perhaps you are too—seems to be **spiritual** and **emotional exhaustion**. This type of fatigue cannot be remedied with quick tips and tricks; it reflects a deeper, soul-level weariness. So, what is the solution? Lean into Jesus. Take a deep breath and focus on Him. Invite Him into your weariness and ask for His help in finding true rest. Instead of searching for a quick fix to escape this constant exhaustion, embrace a rest that begins to grow within your soul.

P.S. You should aim for more sleep. You should exercise. You should eat healthily. Taking care of your physical well-being will support your spiritual health.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 21

S

LAMENTATIONS 3:24-26

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." 25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; 26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

T

GOD IS GOOD

Nahum 1: 7 The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

Mark 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."

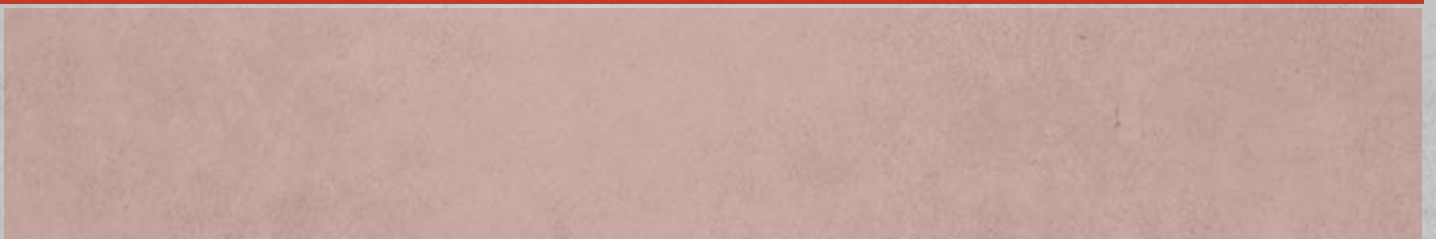
Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 86:5 You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psalms 100:5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

GOD IS GOOD.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 22

S

ISAIAH
40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

T

The hope we find in God is not a fluctuating percentage or a mere "good chance." Instead, the hope revealed in the Bible is a **complete confidence** rooted in the understanding that **God is who He says he is and will fulfill all His promises.**

This kind of hope cannot be sourced from anything in this world; it is an eternal hope that comes from the strength and presence of Almighty God, who loves you deeply.

This type of hope provides an unending source of strength.

This type of hope fosters rest in the depths of your soul.

This type of hope gives you the confidence to keep moving forward.

This type of hope helps you overcome any obstacle in your path.

This type of hope guides you through the darkest moments of life.

This type of hope will lift you up, allowing you to soar.

E

P

PRAY

EMBRACE HIS STRENGTH

PSALM 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

The profound truth that God is always with us and is the source of everything we need is essential for thriving in life. God's presence is all we need to overcome any obstacles we may face. This week, we will focus on the strength that God provides in our lives.

SUNDAY



DAY 23

S

PSALM 73:23-26

Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

T

In March of 2020, the world was engulfed in a season of profound uncertainty. I remember sitting on the couch in my basement, wrestling with my intense emotions while seeking clarity from God on how to spiritually lead His church forward. I was overwhelmed by conflicting thoughts, and my soul felt suffocated by unrest.

Then, a newly released song brought everything into perspective as God's presence and peace enveloped me. Here are the words of the chorus.

May His favor be upon you // And a thousand generations // And your family and your children // And their children, and their children // May His presence go before you // And behind you, and beside you // All around you, and within you // He is with you, he is with you // In the morning, in the evening // In your coming, and your going // In your weeping, and rejoicing // He is for you, he is for you // He is, He is // Amen. (The Blessing by Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes, Elevation Worship)

God's **presence** is with you. His **power**. His peace. His **promises**. And that is all you need.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 24

S

2 TIMOTHY 1:7-8

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

T

Are you dealing with a challenging decision or situation?

It might involve a business choice that carries serious consequences, a health issue filled with uncertainty, or a leadership challenge with difficult outcomes. Perhaps you're facing a relational gap that needs to be bridged or a personal struggle that is disrupting your life.

The Apostle Paul was writing to a young leader named Timothy, who was leading a church in Ephesus. This church was experiencing significant challenges and internal conflicts. Paul understood the hardships of church leadership, so he shared words with Timothy that he likely repeated to himself for encouragement.

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us **power**, **love**, and **self-discipline**."

If you find yourself in a difficult situation, it's important to read these words and apply them right away. Today, don't hold back. Approach the day with courage and determination, because God's Spirit is working within you and through you!

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 25

S

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

T

The sin that has its grip on you is not more powerful than God. The guilt causing chaos in your mind is not louder than God's voice of forgiveness. The darkness created by your sin is not stronger than the light that shines from God's grace. And the sin that makes you feel powerless is not as powerful as it seems. God is.

That's why God won't allow you to be tempted beyond what you can handle. He will not let your temptations overwhelm you. He will always provide you with a way out.

What sin keeps tripping you up? Look for the escape route that God is offering you. It might involve setting a password on an account or bravely sharing your struggle with a friend. The way out could require making significant decisions to protect yourself or choosing not to put yourself in that situation again. No matter what form your escape route takes, God is providing it. So take it and embrace the freedom that comes from breaking free from that sin's control over your life.

It's important to remember: this process may need to be repeated. There may be another sin lurking in the shadows, waiting to take advantage.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 26

S

PSALM 27:1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be
afraid? 2 When the wicked advance against me to devour
me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

T

What are you truly afraid of? I'm not just referring to the common fears, such as spiders, heights, the dark, or even clowns—though, to be fair, clowns can be quite unsettling. I'm asking about those deep-seated fears that lie just beneath the surface, holding your thoughts and emotions hostage.

Are you afraid of living life alone or of disappointing a friend? Does fear creep in when you think about your future and all you hope to achieve? Do you find that fear lurks just behind your self-confidence, whispering that you're not good enough and that you will never accomplish anything meaningful? Is fear shadowing you, undermining the courage you need to make crucial leadership decisions?

What are you really afraid of?

The fears that David faced were different from the fears we experience today. However, one thing remains true about fear: it is fear, regardless of its origin. Fear can be a paralyzing force that leaves you feeling stuck.

That's why placing complete trust in God as your source of light and strength can help you manage your fears.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 27

S

ROMANS
8:27

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

T

Everything is anchored to Jesus.
Anchored to Jesus' death.
Anchored to Jesus' burial.
Anchored to Jesus' resurrection.

And it is what God did through Jesus that we are more than conquerors.
Because He loves you endlessly, you can face today with bold resolve.

So go for it!

Scream from the top of your lungs:

"I am more than a conqueror because Jesus loves me!"

Now, go and seize the day!

E

P

PRAY



DAY 28

S

ROMANS 8:28-29

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

T

Take a moment and truly try to wrap yourself around this type of love. It's a love that pursues you, follows you, and is always ready to rescue you. It is a love that ignores the boundaries and restrictions that we seem to place on love. It is a love that actively searches and passionately seeks - no matter the cost.

Love like this is an **unstoppable force** that has the ability to **overcome** anything this dark world throws at you.

Nothing can overcome this love.
Nothing can suffocate this love.
Nothing can conquer this love.

This love is not of this world and can only be sourced from the Heavenly Father. The depth of love He has for you is difficult to fully comprehend, but it is a love that is the very definition of love.

And nothing, which means nothing, can separate you from God's love.

E

P

PRAY

FOLLOW HIS LEAD

ROMANS 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

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.

Life can be difficult and challenging. You will face pressures from all sides that may try to divert you onto a different path. The culture around us desires to jam you into its mold. It's important to resist this and instead follow the example of Jesus. He is the only one who leads us to true life.

SUNDAY



DAY 29

S

JOHN
16:33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

T

Trouble has a way of creeping in from the shadows, waiting for the perfect moment to surround and pounce on you. It whispers, "You are mine!" and then leaves you to fixate on what might happen. Trouble unleashes an unyielding weight upon your chest and seeks to assault you from all sides.

It is Jesus who shines a light on the reality that you will face trouble. This is a bold, clarifying, and revealing statement.

Just think: what if He had stopped there? But He didn't. He shares such incredible hope in just five words: **"I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!"**

And because of that, you have **peace**.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 30

S

JOHN
1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

T

GRACE + TRUTH

Truth is what reveals sin.

Grace is what extinguishes sin.

Truth is what convicts.

Grace is what covers.

Truth is what holds you accountable.

Grace is what holds you in the Father's arms.

Truth is what highlights your need for Jesus.

Grace is what highlights Jesus' desire for you.

Truth is what keeps you relying on Jesus' power.

Grace is what keeps you thankful for Jesus' power.

Truth is the guardrails put in place for you to experience life to the full.

Grace is the gift extended to you so that you will embrace life to the full.

GRACE + TRUTH

Jesus perfectly and equally embodied both for you.

And He gives you the framework to extend both to each other.

Receive His TRUTH + GRACE. Extend His TRUTH + GRACE

E

P

PRAY



DAY 31

S

JOHN
17:20-23

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

T

Jesus' last recorded prayer is found in John 17, and it reveals several specific areas that He valued most. One part of Jesus' prayer that always resonates with me is when He focuses on the future. Jesus knew that through His death and resurrection, the church would be established, and its purpose would be singular: **to share the love and story of Jesus with everyone.**

This is why we, as the church, must strive for unity. How we strive for unity within the church will be a powerful force outside the church drawing people to Jesus.

Let us love as Jesus loved. Let us work towards unity and commit to being a bright light in this dark world. Remember, we carry the greatest message of hope, and it is one that must be shared with everyone.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 32

S

LUKE
6:27-29

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them."

T

I was sitting in the backseat of a car on my way to Yankee Stadium, listening to the meandering conversation happening in the front seat. Suddenly, the conversation turned serious, and I felt like I was overhearing a private discussion I wasn't invited to join.

The man driving shared his experiences with several church relationships that had left him feeling wounded and scarred. Unexpectedly, there was a deafening silence. He then said, "God knows that I only have the capacity to love one enemy at a time. Everyone else, I just have to forgive and move on from."

I'll never forget that statement. God knew I desperately needed to hear that truth at that exact moment. It resonated deeply: I can only love and pray for one enemy at a time. That's my limit.

What about you? How many enemies do you have right now? How many people do you hold hurt and bitterness against? **Let go** of all your other grudges and ask God to help you find the **capacity to love** that one enemy.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 33

S

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

T

There is a part of me that truly believes I can accomplish anything and overcome any obstacle in my way. This aspect of my personality drives me to lead, set ambitious goals, and stay focused. I constantly seek out and accept challenging opportunities that come my way.

However, during my spiritual journey, I have come to realize that I am not as strong as I once thought. Time and again, I confront my broken and sinful nature that tells me, "You are not that good. You are not that strong. You are not that... spiritual."

In those moments, Jesus whispers to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

Today, embrace these words from Paul—words that Jesus shared with him.

Today, accept Jesus' power that shines through in your weakness.

Today, receive His grace that surrounds you and strengthens you.

E

P

PRAY

RECEIVE HIS LOVE

JOHN 15:12-13

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life
for one's friends.

We have received a priceless gift that reflects the depth
and breadth of God's love. When we accept this gift,
we are also called to share this same love with others.

SUNDAY



DAY 34

S

JOHN
10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

T

There is a thief who seeks to destroy you. This thief is masterful and cunning, having spent millennia perfecting his craft, and now he has his sights set on you. His goal is to sneak into the dark corners of your soul and cause absolute chaos in your life.

Jesus is out to give you life. He is loving and persistent. He is perfect, and He has His sights set on you. Your name is on His lips, and there is no distance you can travel that He won't seek you out and find you. Jesus' ultimate desire is for you to experience a life that exceeds your comprehension.

The thief is not good, but **Jesus is**.
The thief is not that strong, but **Jesus is**.
The thief is not that wise, but **Jesus is**.
The thief is not for you, but **Jesus is**.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 35

S**ROMANS**
5:20-21

The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

T

What is your greatest sin? Which sin are you desperately trying to quit? What sin do you indulge in, even though you know it harms you and those around you? Which sin has its tentacles wrapped tightly around you? Which one haunts you and leaves you feeling spiritually exhausted?

Take a moment to reflect on these questions.

Don't worry; I'm not asking you to share it. I want you to focus on it. You see, the more you wrestle with your sin, the more you will appreciate God's unrelenting grace that pursues and covers you. This grace comes without strings attached or conditions to meet. It is a free gift! It is God's love and grace that compelled Jesus to carry the cross and die for you.

The next time you think that God won't forgive you for your sin, remember the ***grace revealed in the cross***.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 36

S

1 JOHN
1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

T

What is your greatest sin?

Did you miss Day 35? If so, please go back and read that day before continuing with Day 36.

Take a moment to go to God and confess your sin. When you confess, focus on your Heavenly Father, who loves you deeply. He accepts you just as you are, fully aware of your sin, brokenness, and struggles. God desires to envelop you in His grace.

However, He doesn't want you to stop there. Confession is not just about **admitting** your mistakes; it's also about leaning into God's strength to **overcome** your sin.

E

P

PRAY



DAY 37

S

JOHN
14:15–17a

“If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth.”

T

YOUR PART

Obey the commands of Jesus. Not out of obligation, guilt, or shame, but because your love for Him inspires you to do so. As your love for Jesus deepens, your desire to follow His guidance will grow stronger.

GOD’S PART

God has given you an incredible gift—His Spirit. Just think about that! The Spirit of God will guide you, lead you, and always be with you. You are not alone, and you don't have to navigate life on your own. His presence, strength, and wisdom serve as a constant source of help for you.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 38

S**JOHN**
13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

T

MAUNDY THURSDAY

"Maundy" is a word that we rarely, if ever, use. The only time we think about this term is once a year on Maundy Thursday. The word "maundy" comes from the Latin word "mandatum," which means "command."

After thousands of years of the Jewish people trying to live by and navigate the 613 Jewish laws, Jesus simplifies and elevates the law with one direct statement: Love. To fully understand how to love each other, we must grasp the extent of Jesus's love for us.

Jesus loves you even though you speak half-truths, make comments to manipulate, and outright lie. Jesus loves you even when you say divisive and abhorrent things about others. Jesus loves you despite the way your pride fractures relationships. Jesus loves you even when your self-centered decisions prevent you from living a life of generosity. Jesus loves you even when you use your power to marginalize those you lead. Jesus loves you even when you serve yourself and ignore the needs of others. Jesus loves you even when you choose not to forgive and allow bitterness to grow.

Jesus loves you, no matter what. Period. This is the kind of love that Jesus commanded us to extend to each other. Love everyone, even in difficult circumstances.

E**P**

PRAY



DAY 39

S

JOHN
19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

T

IT IS FINISHED!

Three words meant one thing at the moment but shifted dramatically days later.

Three words that first sounded like a statement of defeat but eventually became a shout of victory.

Three words that caused sorrow to surge but would soon become a source of unending hope.

Jesus understood something that no one else had grasped. He had to crawl upon that cross. He had to utter those three words. He had to take his last breath.

And those three words would lead to the three words that would change everything: **HE HAS RISEN!**

E

P

PRAY



DAY 40

S

JOHN
3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

T

Throughout this season, we have centered our attention on three specific areas:

REFLECTION: We have reflected on what Jesus did over 2,000 years ago and what He is actively doing in our lives today.

REPENTANCE: We have acknowledged the sin that disrupts our lives and separates us from God, while also recognizing the magnitude of God's grace and love that covers us.

RENEWAL: We have dedicated time and focus to experiencing God's renewing presence in the areas that have withered and shrunk within us, and we celebrate God, who makes all things new!

As we conclude this journey, let us focus on the words that encapsulate the story of Easter: "For God so loved the world ..." — John 3:16-17

E

P

PRAY

