



**proving**  
**it** Impacting Kids  
for Generations  
to Come



 **Bethany**  
bethanyba.church

**21-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY**

## 21-DAY DEVOTIONAL

# proving it

Impacting Kids  
for Generations  
to Come

“One generation  
commends your works to another,  
they tell of your mighty acts.  
They speak of the  
glorious splendor of your majesty—  
and I will meditate  
on your wonderful works.”

Psalm 145:4-5 NIV

A large portion of the content for this devotional was taken from the royalty free offering by INJOY Stewardship Solutions and Realife Church in Greenfield, IN; that portion was written by Mardena Detamore. It has been altered to some degree in-house for the purposes of Bethany Church.

# PROVING IT!

## INTRODUCTION

Over the next 21-days, we will be challenged to prove it! The Merriam—Webster dictionary says that *to prove* is to establish the existence, truth, or validity of by evidence.

The Bible instructs us through Paul regarding faith, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

The book of James tells us “...I will show you my faith by my works. But do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?” James 2:18,22

The writers of Hebrews and James go on to tell us that the earliest followers of God “obtained a good testimony” through faith (Hebrews 11:2, James 2:23-24). We are also instructed that “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6).

So it is with this in mind that we begin a 21-day prayer journey. By faith, we believe that God will reward those of us who diligently seek Him. As a body of believers, we want God to plant His desires in our hearts for the role each of us will play to further the good news of Jesus Christ through Bethany Church! We believe, that through this faith-filled journey, we will obtain a good testimony. In fact, we believe that God is able to do immeasurably more than our human minds can conceive.

Let God’s “...kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-13. Let us partner with God to build *His* kingdom. Let us prove our faith by our works.

Bethany Church has been **Proving It** for sixty years... Your kids matter to God and us, and *together...* we will continue **Proving It!**

## HOW TO USE THIS 21-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY:

This prayer journey is organized into five key areas of focus for reflection and prayer:

1. PROVING IT ...through Repentance
2. PROVING IT ...through Sacrifice
3. PROVING IT ...through Vision
4. PROVING IT ...through Listening
5. PROVING IT ...through Perseverance

At the end of each focus is a "Faith Thought", which is designed to help you merge the power of faith with the challenges of repentance, sacrifice, vision, listening, and perseverance in the Kingdom of God.

Each day includes a Bible reference, brief meditation and a prayer focus. You are encouraged to pray aloud, if possible. When we hear ourselves speaking God's Word and praying, it becomes a declaration to penetrate our inner-most being and builds our faith.

We want to draw your attention to the *Day of Fasting* page in the back of the book. You are encouraged to read this on Day 1, post it where visible, and prayerfully consider ways to implement fasting in your journey. We will have a corporate Day of Fasting on Friday, October 6th. We invite you to join us.

Let's begin the journey! With God all things are possible...and Bethany Church is **PROVING IT!**

Joel 2:12-13

NLT

“...Turn to me now, while there is time.  
Give me your hearts.  
Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.  
Don’t tear your clothing in your grief,  
but tear your hearts instead.”  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.  
He is eager to relent and not punish.”

# proving it ... THROUGH REPENTANCE

"Repentance isn't only sorrow for past sin,  
it's also a determination  
to *now do* the will of God  
as He reveals it to us."

- A.W. Tozer  
*Emphasis added*

# **PROVING IT THROUGH REPENTANCE**

## **Day 1**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

### **Today's Thought**

It is difficult to be honest—even with ourselves. Our pride justifies mistakes, minimizes them, or even denies their existence. When we take the same approach to sin, it is spiritually devastating. How can we imagine the beautiful truth God has for us when our lenses are smudged with lies about our spiritual condition? "Search me, oh God..." Let's allow Him to do that today. Let's honestly open our hearts to His examination, honestly humble ourselves, and honestly ask for mercy. Just like King David, a man after God's own heart.

### **Prayer Focus**

Ask the Lord to shine the light of the Holy Spirit into your life  
To reveal sin that will affect your relationship with Him.  
Pray for a humble spirit to accept what He shows you  
and a willing heart to obey.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH REPENTANCE**

## **Day 2**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
A broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

Psalm 51:17 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

When an item breaks, we throw it away. A weak or broken item is no longer useful to us. Therefore, it is challenging for us to understand this biblical concept of brokenness. In the Bible, we learn about a woman who bought a costly perfume to show her love for Jesus. The perfume was contained in an alabaster box that she broke open to anoint Jesus. After the alabaster box was broken, a lovely fragrance must have filled the room. What beautiful fragrance will fill our lives and our world if we humbly go to Jesus, broken with sadness over our sin?

### **Prayer Focus**

Seek God today for a broken and humble spirit  
and ask Him to make something beautiful  
out of your brokenness.



# **PROVING IT THROUGH REPENTANCE**

## **Day 3**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"If anyone, then, know the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

James 4:17 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

At the end of a day, it is spiritually healthy to consider any sins or wrongs we may have committed that day and ask God to forgive us. But the Bible throws something else at us: the sin of omission.

Omission: a failure to do something.

Synonyms: negligence; neglect. (dictionary.com).

Now chew on that for a while. The wrongs we commit are sometimes easy to list, but imagine how big the sin of our negligence might be! What have we knowingly failed to do? What word went unsaid? What aid did we fail to offer? What person was ignored? What ministry was neglected?

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray today for God to open your eyes to any sin of negligence  
And ask for forgiveness.

Pray He will take away any selfishness or stinginess  
that keeps you from doing the good  
He wants you to do.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH REPENTANCE**

## **Day 4**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"He will reply,  
'True I tell you, whatever you did not do for one  
of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"

Matthew 25:45 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

Yesterday we looked at the sin of omission after reading James 4:17; however, Jesus speaks of this sin much more thoroughly and strongly in Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus says that when we do good for the "least" of our society, that we are doing good to Him. He also says that when we do not do good to the hungry, the sick, the hurting, the isolated, we have neglected Him. He says those who neglect Him will be sent away into "everlasting punishment."

Strong words "Proving it". Where is Jesus in your world?  
When have you neglected Him?

### **Prayer Focus**

Today we ask the Father for forgiveness  
for the times we could have given needed provision,  
the times we could have shown His love and attention,  
but didn't.

Pray that He would open your eyes  
to see Him in every hurting child,  
every needy soul that crosses our path,  
in every person who comes through the doors of  
Bethany Church.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH REPENTANCE**

## **Day 5**

### **Faith Thought**

#### **Today's Scripture:**

"This righteousness is given through faith  
in Jesus Christ to all who believe..."

Romans 3:22 NIV

#### **Today's Faith Thought**

A time of reflection and repentance may lead to self-loathing and discouragement, but that is not God's plan. Satan condemns; God forgives. There is a wonderful story in the Bible that reveals how Jesus can turn the negative of sin and failure into something positive. A woman, who was washing Jesus' feet and weeping for love of Him, was singled out as a sinful woman by the host in whose house Jesus was visiting. Jesus turned to the host and asked him who would love the man more: a person who owed him a small amount of money and was forgiven the debt, or a person who owed him much money and was forgiven the debt? The man, of course, answered that the one who owed much would love him the most for the forgiven debt. Jesus then explained that this woman whose sins were many, loves much. Turning to this broken woman, Jesus said, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." Though your sins may be many, have faith in Jesus Christ. Go in peace.

#### **Today's Prayer of Faith**

Thank the Lord today for His forgiveness.  
Ask Him to help you take your stand on His Word that says  
you are "being justified freely by God's grace  
through the redemption of Christ Jesus."  
Pray for the faith to receive this righteousness  
and to then love much!



Philippians 4:18-19  
ESV

“Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the Lord.”

# proving it ... THROUGH SACRIFICE

"Sacrifice alone, bare and unrelieved,  
is ghastly, unnatural, and dead;  
but self-sacrifice, illuminated by love,  
is warmth and life;  
it is the death of Christ, the life of God,  
and the blessedness and only proper life of man."

- Frederick W. Robertson

# **PROVING IT THROUGH SACRIFICE**

## **Day 6**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Then He called the crowd to him, along with His disciples and said, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take-up their cross and follow me'."

Mark 8:34 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

Jesus is asking anyone who follows Him to share in His sacrifice. There is no manipulation with Jesus. He is honest: "Lose life to save it." "Take up your cross and follow me." "Love your enemies." "Blessed are the persecuted." He told His followers from the start that following Him may make others—even family—hate them. Jesus' wraps the "good news" in the ugliest of wrappings, knowing that once someone opens the package, even hesitantly, they will find the most beautiful of gifts!

It is the paradox of the Gospel: Death leads to life. Loss leads to gain. The last become first. Sharing Christ's suffering leads to the power of His resurrection.

### **Prayer Focus**

Sacrifice and surrender are not very appealing,  
but we want to follow You at all costs.  
You call us to follow you whole-heartedly.  
Give me strength to embrace the cross, even as You did.  
Make it clear what You want me to sacrifice  
for the love of You and Your kingdom.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH SACRIFICE**

## **Day 7**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where moth and rust do not destroy,  
and where thieves do not break in and steal."  
Matthew 6: 20 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

Let's think about the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-27. He asked Jesus how to attain eternal life. The Bible says that Jesus looked at him and loved him. Through His love, Jesus asked for sacrifice (quite possibly the opposite of what we might ask from someone we love). Jesus asked him to sell everything he had, give it to the poor, and follow Him. The young man left... because the sacrifice was too high. What if he had sold all he owned and followed Jesus? We might know his name. There might be another epistle in the Bible to read... another Peter, James, John, or maybe Paul! Instead, we simply know him as someone too attached to his stuff to respond to the greatest invitation he ever received. Wealth, in itself, is not sinful. But when the attachment to wealth, pleasure, comfort, or time, keeps you from being obedient to a call to sacrifice, then it is a problem.

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for understanding  
that my life, my loved ones, and my possessions are on loan.  
I don't want to be like the rich young ruler.  
Help me detach from anything  
that might keep me from having an eternal perspective.  
I want to store treasures in heaven.



# **PROVING IT THROUGH SACRIFICE**

## **Day 8**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."  
John 8:36 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

Yesterday we considered the rich young ruler. We can be pretty hard on this fellow; but honestly, how easy would it be to sell everything we own if Jesus asked us? Would Jesus ask so much from a person He sees through eyes of love? Jesus knows that true freedom comes from total surrender. Jesus didn't hesitate to ask for extreme sacrifice from those He called, because he loved them! The rich young ruler asked how to attain eternal life. Jesus gave him the secret: total surrender. Our Lord came from the other side of that sacrifice; He knew the reality of an eternal dimension we can only imagine. When you have experienced how much Jesus loves you, sacrifice becomes easier. It gives freedom!

### **Prayer Focus**

Ask for a willingness to Surrender to the Lord,  
and to trust Him in whatever He may ask you to sacrifice.  
Ask to fully understand that sacrifice is simply a doorway  
to true happiness and freedom.  
Pray that your eyes stay focused on His power  
and *not* your problems.  
Remember: we can trust Him!

# **PROVING IT THROUGH SACRIFICE**

## **Day 9**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, nor about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothing? ... But seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:25,33 NIV

### **Today's Thought**

We face decisions every day: tea or coffee? Chocolate or vanilla? Beach or mountains? Watch TV or read? Some decisions are more difficult than others; but all are real. Some have little impact on our life; others have tremendous impact. The challenge is that the choice may be between two things that are good. The question becomes 'what am I willing to give up for something that is better?' This becomes part of our relationship with God when we take our walk with Him seriously. What is most important? How can my life reflect those values and priorities?

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for strength  
to surrender your dreams and wants to the Lord.  
Pray for clarity  
in decisions that they will be pleasing to God.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH SACRIFICE**

## **Day 10**

### **Faith Thought**

#### **Today's Scripture:**

"When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly....

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord!

Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor,  
and if I have cheated anybody out of anything,

I will pay back four times the amount.'"

Luke 19: 5, 6, 8 NIV

#### **Today's Faith Thought**

Zacchaeus was a 'sinner' but he wanted to see Jesus. He was small in stature, so he climbed a tree to see Him. Most important in this story is that Jesus saw him! The result of the encounter with Jesus is that Zacchaeus was willing to give... and to give generously to causes close to Jesus' heart.

A true encounter with Jesus makes sacrifice easy! A true encounter with Jesus builds our faith and enables us to trust Him. We clearly see that He will take care of every detail of our lives when we completely surrender to Him.

#### **Today's Prayer of Faith**

Pray for courage  
to open our hands and release our fears into His care.

Pray for courage  
to make a sacrificial gift to the Lord,  
and to honor that commitment.



Habakkuk 2:2-3  
ESV

“And the Lord answered me:  
‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
So he may run who reads it.’  
For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
It hastens to the end—it will not lie.  
If it seems slow, wait for it.  
It will surely come, It will not delay.”

# proving it ... THROUGH VISION

"People of vision gauge decisions on the future;  
the story of the past cannot be rewritten."  
– J. Oswald Chambers

# **PROVING IT THROUGH VISION**

## **Day 11**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Don't you have a saying,  
'It's still four months until the harvest'?  
I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields!  
They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35

### **Today's Thought**

Jesus told his disciples to open their eyes, to look at the fields. He was not speaking literally about the agriculture surrounding them. He was making an analogy to lost humanity. Jesus went on to say, "The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life" [NLT].

Day to day living makes us very blind most of the time. All we see is the to-do list. We rush through it so frantically that we don't see what our heavenly Father wants us to see: sin-sick souls heading toward disaster, heading toward eternal death. Do you see them? More than ever, Jesus is telling us, "Open your eyes!"

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray that our eyes would be opened  
to see the people all around us  
who need to hear the good news of eternal life.  
Pray for the most effective ways  
to reach out to our community.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH VISION**

## **Day 12**

### **Today's Scripture:**

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

### **Today's Thought**

I wonder what the disciples thought when they saw the crowds? Oh great! We'll be here all day. How in the world will we move Jesus through this crowd? Will He want us to find food for everyone? Perhaps they were more generous than some of us would be. However, Matthew tells us what Jesus thought when He saw the crowds. He thought about how much these helpless people needed Him. He could heal them, save them, and change their eternities. But before He had compassion on them, he saw them. He saw their histories, their failures, their sickness. He saw their broken hearts, their hopelessness, their confusion. And He was moved with compassion.

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray that the eyes of our hearts would be opened that we would see those around us with eyes of compassion.  
Pray that each of us would look for ways to share the hope of Christ in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools.



# **PROVING IT THROUGH VISION**

## **Day 13**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"And Elisha prayed, 'open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." 2 Kings 6:17

### **Today's Thought**

Through God's divine revelation, the prophet Elisha told the King of Israel that Syria was planning to overtake Israel. The Syrian King was pretty upset about it and sent armies to surround the city of Dothan and capture Elisha. Elisha's servant was very afraid, and he said, "Oh no, master! What shall we do?" Elisha prayed, "Open the eyes, Lord, that he may see." God opened the servant's eyes, and he saw a supernatural army of angels surrounding them! There is a realm that we do not see with our human eyes, but that doesn't make it any less real. If we could truly see the omnipotence of God and His heavenly warriors, we might be able to have a vision for what He can do in us and through us.

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray that our spiritual eyes would be opened that we would see with eyes of faith God's supernatural power and spiritual forces that are at work.

2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of God."

Pray that God would open the eyes of unbelievers that they would be receptive to the Gospel.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH VISION**

## **Day 14**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"So then, King Agrippa,  
I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven."  
Acts 26:19

### **Today's Thought**

Paul gave his powerful testimony to King Agrippa. He told the king how he was blinded by an incredible light and heard the voice of Jesus speaking directly to him while he was on the way to Damascus to kill and persecute more Christians. This vision from God changed Paul drastically and ultimately accelerated the spread of Christianity. But it wasn't just the vision that changed Paul. It was his obedience to the vision. As we allow the Holy Spirit to enlarge our capacity to see, He may blind us with a powerful vision. Will we be able to stand with Paul and say, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision?"

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray that God would give us a heavenly vision,  
and that He would reveal how we  
can further His kingdom here on earth.  
Pray that we would act in obedience  
to the vision that God gives.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH VISION**

**Day 15**

**Faith Thought**

## **Today's Scripture:**

"Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for  
and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1

## **Today's Faith Thought**

We cannot talk about spiritual vision without talking about faith. Faith is seeing through spiritual lenses when our human eyes see nothing. Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the power of faith in human terms. He told them that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, it could move a mountain! In his masterpiece, *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis uses fictional demons to offer a unique perspective of spiritual truths. Screwtape – a master demon – writes letters to his nephew to instruct him on how to make Christians fail. In one chapter about prayer, Screwtape encourages his young demonic nephew to make sure that humans do not let their "picture" of God go beyond the pictures of Jesus that one finds hanging on their walls or in their children's Bibles. He argues that if a Christian sees the God that demons know exists – in all His omnipotent heavenly glory – the Christian's faith would be too powerful. Oh, believer, don't limit your vision of God and what God can do!

## **Today's Prayer of Faith**

Pray that God would increase our faith,  
and that He would heal our spiritual blindness  
as He healed those who were physically blind.



Psalm 85:7-9  
NIV  
*Emphasis added*

“Show us your unfailing love, LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.  
*I will listen* to what God the LORD says;  
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—  
but let them not turn to folly.  
Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.”

# proving it ... THROUGH LISTENING

"Prayer begins by talking to God,  
but it ends by listening to Him.  
In the face of Absolute Truth,  
silence is the soul's language."  
- Fulton J. Sheen

# **PROVING IT THROUGH LISTENING**

## **Day 16**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Whoever has ears, let them hear  
what the Spirit says to the churches..."  
Revelation 2:7

### **Today's Thought**

In the discipline of communication, students learn to redefine the word "noise". In that community, "noise" is anything that distracts and interrupts communication. Thoughts and images constantly flitting through our brains are considered "noise" just as much as literal sounds. Think about the noise in our world today; various social media send us messages 24-7, not to mention the constant distractions in the fast-paced busyness of 21st-century life. How in the world can we hear what God is speaking to us with so much noise? More than ever in the history of humanity we must make an effort to find solitude and silence to hear the most important messages we'll ever receive—words from the Spirit!

### **Prayer Focus**

Dear God,  
Your messages are the most important ones to me!  
Help me to carve out periods of time  
to shut out the noise, sit in Your presence,  
and wait to hear what you want to say to me.

# **PROVING IT THROUGH LISTENING**

## **Day 17**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me."  
Psalm 16:7

### **Today's Thought**

Tommy Barnett, successful Assemblies of God pastor who is known for thinking outside of the box to reach a hurting world, once said, "Despise not your own thoughts; they may be God's thoughts".

The Psalmist expressed that same belief, as we see in today's scripture. When we're quiet enough to listen, God begins to speak wonderful "counsel" to our hearts. He plants seeds of ideas and dreams that begin to grow from our inner-most being. Sometimes we doubt these dreams. We are afraid that they are not from God. Be not afraid. Go back to the Source and quietly listen to God's thoughts and plans that include you!

### **Prayer Focus**

Oh Divine Whisperer—whisper to my heart.  
Counsel me, Oh God! Plant ideas and imaginings in my heart  
and give me the courage to step out in faith.  
Give me the courage to act on these God-given dreams,  
so that I may do everything You want me to do...  
and be everything You want me to be!



# **PROVING IT THROUGH LISTENING**

## **Day 18**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"My sheep listen to my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
no one will snatch them out of my hand."  
John 10:27-28

### **Today's Thought**

Today's Scripture screams of intimacy! And this intimacy is created within a two-way relationship: the sheep listen...the Shepherd knows them...the sheep follow. And then, there is this response from the Shepherd that is beautifully protective: they shall never perish, no one will snatch them out of my hand. When we recognize that Jesus is our good, good Shepherd, we listen to His voice! We obey Him because when we listen, we recognize that no one knows us like Jesus. He knows us intimately—our past our struggles, our wins and our losses, our fears, our hopes, our strengths and our weaknesses. He knows us. He holds us close and becomes our Divine protector! Listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

### **Prayer Focus**

My dear, Good Shepherd!  
Above the din of many other voices,  
I desire to hear Your voice the most!  
Speak to me, oh loving, protective Shepherd!  
I will listen—yes Lord, I will listen!

# **PROVING IT THROUGH LISTENING**

## **Day 19**

### **Today's Scripture:**

"Blessed is the one...who delights in the law of the Lord,  
and on His law meditates day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2

### **Today's Thought**

We have the wonderful gift of sacred Scripture on which we can meditate. God often speaks to us through the Bible verses we read. The Greek term for God's written Word is logos, but the Greek term for God's spoken word is rhema. Sometimes, God speaks to us through His written word. The logos becomes the rhema for individuals at defining moments. Often, when we think about particular passages from God's Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit, it becomes the rhema Word of God in a very personal way. Like David, let's meditate on God's Word day and night, and allow God to speak to us through His Word.

### **Prayer Focus**

Lord, as I read and meditate upon Bible passages,  
let my spiritual ears be open to hearing  
what you are speaking to me.

Convict me, instruct me, direct me, equip me,  
and promise me through Your Word!

# **PROVING IT THROUGH LISTENING**

## **Day 20**

### **Faith Thought**

#### **Today's Scripture:**

"I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts."

Exodus 31:3-5

#### **Today's Faith Thought**

Our creative God wants to fill us with creative gifts so that we may use them for His work. When He wanted the tabernacle built, He chose to fill Bezalel with wonderful skills and knowledge to construct it. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He still wants to fill us with creativity to further His kingdom. Perhaps you are a person who believes you don't have any gifts to offer in the building of God's church. If you are, then you underestimate a powerful, creative God. Steal away from the noise of life and allow God to fill you, as He did Bezalel. Do You want to give significantly in a special offering but don't have the money? Listen to God. He will convey creative ideas to generate funds. Do you have a unique skill that you don't think could be used for the Kingdom? Listen to God. He will reveal creative ways to use this talent for His glory. The list of possibilities could go on and on. Just imagine!

#### **Today's Prayer of Faith**

Lord, I come to You today an empty vessel,  
wanting you to fill me  
with creative thinking, with gifts, and skills.  
Make your voice very clear to me  
as I remove myself from all of the noise  
and open my ears to listen and receive from You!



Galatians 6:9  
NIV

“Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up.”

# proving it ... THROUGH PERSEVERANCE

“There is a call to spiritual perseverance.  
A call not to hang on and do nothing,  
but to work deliberately,  
knowing with certainty that  
God will never be defeated.”  
- Oswald Chambers

# **PROVING IT THROUGH PERSEVERANCE**

**Day 21**

**Faith Thought**

## **Today's Scripture:**

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne." Revelation 3:21

## **Today's Faith Thought**

In chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation, we see a parallel structure. Repeated several times is an admonishment: He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. However, an encouraging promise is repeatedly offered to the one who does listen and obeys. To the one who is victorious, he will eat from the tree of life. He will not taste of the second death. He will have hidden manna to eat. A name will be given to him that is intimately known by God alone. His name will be in the Book of Life, and his name will be written on one of the pillars of the Temple. The ultimate prize for the victorious believer is to share in Christ's heavenly seat. And it is because He was victorious that we can be, too! This Christian journey is challenging. We are reminded daily of our failures. God sometimes asks for great sacrifices. We strive to fight the good fight of faith, and we work hard to build God's kingdom. But, and there is a but, it will be worth it all! Oh soldier, do not become weary. There is a prize waiting for the one who is victorious!

## **Today's Prayer of Faith**

Oh victorious Jesus!  
My hope is in you.  
You are my strength when I find myself weak.  
Let me keep my eyes on You  
and the eternal victories we will share!





Psalm 71:17-19

ESV

“O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
So even to old age and gray hairs,  
O God, do not forsake me,  
until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
your power to all those to come.  
Your righteousness, O God,  
reaches the high heavens.  
You who have done great things,  
O God, who is like you?”

## **A Day of Fasting**

### **Friday, October 6th**

In Matthew 6, Jesus laid out the foundation of the three duties for every Christian: pray, fast, and give.

King Solomon wrote, "a threefold cord is not quickly (easily) broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NKJV). In the book *Fasting*, by Jentezen Franklin, he writes "when giving, praying, and fasting are practiced together in the life of a believer, it creates a type of threefold cord that is not easily broken".

In this 21-Day Journey, we will explore biblical truths and be challenged in our spiritual walk. The final strand in this cord is a biblical fast. A biblical fast isn't about rules, but about humbling our hearts before God. It is choosing *not* to gratify our flesh; but rather, pursue God...the *only one* who can truly satisfy.

Jesus goes on to tell us in Matthew 6:33 NLT, to "seek first the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Romans 14:17 NIV tells us that the Kingdom of God is a matter of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." All three are found in God alone. There is no substitute.

When we practice each strand of the cord, we are allowing the Kingdom of God within us to manifest through us. And we bring glory to God our Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us partner with God to build His Kingdom.

A Day of Fasting....How will you participate on October 6th?  
Never attempt a nutritional food fast or liquid fast without first consulting a healthcare professional. Be aware of your medical and nutritional needs. See the link below for more information about biblical fasting.

[cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/biblical-fasting](https://cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/biblical-fasting)



Psalm 63:1-8

NASB1995

The Thirsting Soul Satisfied in God.

*A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.*

“O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;  
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,  
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.  
Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips will praise You.  
So I will bless You as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands in Your name.  
My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,  
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.  
When I remember You on my bed,  
I meditate on You in the night watches,  
For You have been my help,  
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to You;  
Your right hand upholds me.”

Matthew 6:9-13

NIV

*The Lord's Prayer*

"Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one."

2 Peter 1:3-4

NIV

"His divine power  
has given us everything we need  
for a godly life  
through our knowledge of Him  
who called us by his own glory and goodness."

*...suggested reading through verse 11*



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