

Lent

*Devotional*

*2021*

# Fasting Information

## Improper Fast

Prayer and fasting are improper when they:

- Attempt to manipulate God.
- Are conducted while intentionally continuing to sin.
- Seek to promote false piety, legalism, or religious duty.
- Are attempted without sufficient seriousness and respect.
- Draw attention to personal glorification.
- Are attempted without sufficient seriousness and respect.
- Are conducted while continuing to pursue selfish desires in pleasure and business.
- Are conducted while promoting or continuing injustice, oppression, or impropriety.

## Godly Fast

Prayer and fasting are godly when they:

- Focus on Him and honor Him. *(Although you will receive spiritual blessings, these are not proper motives for fasting.)*
- Have spiritual purposes. *(Although you may realize certain physical benefits, these are not proper motives for spiritual fasting, e.g. for weight-loss purposes.)*
- Causes individuals to humble themselves and submit to the authority of God and His Word.
- Causes individuals to acknowledge and repent of sin.
- Deprive our natural desires and lusts to focus on the spiritual.

## **Types of Fasts**

### **Disciples Fast**

*Fasting to break addictions*

*Matthew 17:20 – 21*

### **Ezra Fast**

*Fasting to solve problems and seek protection*

*Ezra 8:21-23*

### **Samuel Fast**

*Fasting to win people to Christ and to get God to pour Himself out on mankind*

*1 Samuel 7:1 – 8*

### **Elijah Fast**

*Fasting to break yokes*

*1 King 19:2-18*

### **Widow's Fast**

*Fasting so the needs of others are met*

*1 Kings 17:12*

### **Pauline Fast**

*Fasting for wisdom and insight from God*

*Acts 9:19 – 20*

### **Daniel Fast**

*Fasting for good health and obedience to God's word.*

*Daniel 1:12 – 20*

### **John the Baptist Fast**

*Fasting for a stronger testimony and influence*

*Matthew 3:4, Luke 1:15*

### **Esther Fast**

*Fasting for protection from the evil one*

*Esther 4:16*

## Day 1

### Title: A Strong Name

#### Scripture:

**Proverbs 18:10** The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

#### Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, let me not operate in my own strength and abilities but let me put all my trust in you.

#### For Your Consideration:

A young man went to the bank one day to secure a loan. He had never had any credit and needed a co-signer. He thought long and hard on who the co-signer could be. He went to his father to ask him if he would do it. The father said, "I knew this day would come." When they went to the bank the loan officer told the young man his loan could be for any amount because of who his co-signer was. With God we stand in his strength and He allows us to receive His choice blessings because of who He is.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 2

### Title: Choose Joy

#### Scripture:

**Nehemiah 8:10** Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

#### Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, let me find joy in you. Although my circumstances and trials are many I rejoice in having you as my Lord and Savior.

#### For Your Consideration:

Grief is a natural response to loss. We all know that we grieve over the death of our loved ones but we also grieve at the loss of jobs, relationships and even things that were of great value to us. Grief is natural but so is joy. It is sometimes difficult to find joy in the midst of life circumstances but at all times we must trust Him. You have a choice you must make daily—grief or joy! The only way to have joy is to have it in Christ!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 3

### Title: Prayer Makes A Difference

#### Scripture:

**Phillipians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

#### Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, allow my prayer to be strengthen as I grow in my knowledge and understanding of you. It is my desire to pray about everything and worry about nothing.

#### For Your Consideration:

What will tomorrow hold? What will happen to you in your health, finances or career? These are questions all of us grapple with daily. If left unchecked they can and will cause us undue stress and problems. If we shouldn't worry about these things what should we do? Pray about them! Yes, pray about every little thing you can think of. Never think that your prayer is a waste of time or that God is unconcerned. His desire is that you live a life free of worry and stress and put all your trust and care in Him. He has never and will never fail you!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 4

### Title: Focus on the Adventure

#### Scripture:

**Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

#### Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, let me not be found fearful in anything but in your power and strength achieve all that you have predestined for me!

#### For Your Consideration:

With new things comes the fear of the unknown. It is human nature to be afraid of the things we have yet to experience. If you reflect back on your life there were times when the excitement of a new adventure helped remove the fear of the unknown. Your first days of school or a first job. With this new season in your life, focus on the excitement of the new adventures and what God has instore for you. Do not focus on the fear. Fear is the enemy of faith!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 5

### Title: Time Waits For No One

#### Scripture:

**Ecclesiastes 3:1** There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

#### Prayer Focus:

Dear Lord, thank you that you are a God of time and seasons. Please help me to know the times and the seasons of my life and your purpose for me.

#### For Your Consideration:

We often hear this scripture read at funerals of our friends and loved ones. It is used to comfort the mourners as they grapple with the death of their loved one. Many times we focus on the scripture about living and dying but the scripture also outlines the time **when other things**. What we must do is focus on the succeeding scriptures as well. We must plant, harvest, build, tear down, mourn and dance. Neither of these extremes should be a place where ones stays. There are times for all emotions and actions. Make it a priority to not dwell on the negative too long. Ask God to help you deal with life's circumstances.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 6

**Title:** I Shall Not Be Moved!

### **Scripture:**

**Psalm 55:22** Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

### **Prayer Focus:**

My God and my father I want you to cast all my cares, concerns, issues and problems unto you. I want to learn to trust you in all things and not to try to handle things on my own.

### **For Your Consideration:**

I shall not, I shall not be moved. One of the spiritual songs that have sustained generations before us. Many times we focus on the virtue of not being moved only, but we must understand that the confidence in not being moved was based on their unwavering trust in God and Him alone. Their faith and resolve to not being moved was based on casting all their cares and burdens on the Lord. You can have this peace as well—cast your burdens on Him.

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 7

### Title: Pursue Purpose

#### Scripture:

**Psalms 33:11** But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

#### Prayer Focus:

Oh God My Father, I know that the plans and purpose you have for my life. Continue to speak to me in this season and for my life. Let me clearly hear Your voice and direction for my life.

#### For Your Consideration:

What on earth are you here for? That is the question all people ask as we seek to ensure that our life will have an eternal meaning beyond the years that we live. The greatest joy any of us can have is that the plans and purposes of God supersede our actions and failures. In spite of our shortcoming the calling, plans and purposes of God are without repentance. At this point in your life, don't allow the enemy or even yourself to talk you out of God's purpose for your life. It is time now to get busy pursuing your purpose!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 8

### Title: Focus on the Adventure

#### Scripture:

**Psalm 34:10b** Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

#### Prayer Focus:

Oh God, today I seek your face and ask your blessing and grace of all that do. Let my life be a reflection of your care and concern for your children.

#### For Your Consideration:

There is no greater love than that of a parent and a child. A parent will go without to ensure the child has all that they need and most of what they want. If this is true for our earthly parents it is even more true of our heavenly father. As we seek the face of God, He has promised us that he will not withhold any good thing from you. Do you believe that? When you seek God, He will withhold no good thing from you! Believe it!!!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 9

### Title: Pursue Purpose

#### Scripture:

**Psalms 33:11** But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

#### Prayer Focus:

Oh God My Father, I know that the plans and purpose you have for my life. Continue to speak to me in this season and for my life. Let me clearly hear Your voice and direction for my life.

#### For Your Consideration:

What on earth are you here for? That is the question all people ask as we seek to ensure that our life will have an eternal meaning beyond the years that we live. The greatest joy any of us can have is that the plans and purposes of God supersede our actions and failures. In spite of our shortcoming the calling, plans and purposes of God are without repentance. At this point in your life, don't allow the enemy or even yourself to talk you out of God's purpose for your life. It is time now to get busy pursuing your purpose!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 10

**Title:** Focus on the Adventure

### **Scripture:**

**Psalm 34:10b** Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

### **Prayer Focus:**

Oh God, today I seek your face and ask your blessing and grace of all that do. Let my life be a reflection of your care and concern for your children.

### **For Your Consideration:**

There is no greater love than that of a parent and a child. A parent will go without to ensure the child has all that they need and most of what they want. If this is true for our earthly parents it is even more true of our heavenly father. As we seek the face of God, He has promised us that he will not withhold any good thing from you. Do you believe that? When you seek God, He will withhold no good thing from you! Believe it!!!

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 11

### Title: A Desired Place

#### Scripture:

**Psalms**

27:4 4 One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

#### Prayer Focus:

Oh Lord, our Lord, How excellent is thy name. As I seek your face in your temple I realize your love and care for me surpasses all worry, disappointment and trials I may face. I rejoice knowing you will keep me in all situations.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever concerned how great it would be to be in the presence of God all day, every day? The truth is we are. He is omnipresent and we dwell in His divine presence at all times. If we truly considered this, would we think, talk and act the same.

Sometimes in life we have to be reminded of the beauty of the Lord and all His wondrous acts toward us. When we consider all that He has done it should cause us to rejoice and declare that our desire is to be in His divine presence now and always.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 12

### Title: A Test of Faith

#### Scripture:

**Hebrews 10:32** But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

#### Prayer Focus:

You are my God and my strength. I depend on you for the strength, courage and grace to endure all of life's journey.

#### For Your Consideration:

Sometimes it is good to look back but be careful when gazing in the rear view mirror as things sometimes aren't remembered as they occurred. All of us can remember a time when our desire was to grow closer to God but do you remember what happened after that. Quite possibly all hell broke loose. The devil has always hated for believers to have a close walk with God but we must strive to please God in spite of. The trials, tribulations and struggles were just a test.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 13

### Title: FAITH

#### Scripture:

Hebrews 11:1 ESV  
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

#### Prayer Focus:

My Father and My God, today I come asking you to stir up my faith. I know that faith pleases you and my desire is that I operate in faith and obedience to You and Your Word.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever researched how an internal combustible engine works? Have you taken the time to understand how the beam and support system works to keep a building standing? I know the answer is probably no because you trust that the people who designed and built it knew what they were doing. Why do you worry so much about your life? The Person who designed and built it will take care of it. That's what faith is—trusting that what it was made to do it will do. Do you have faith today?

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 14

### Title: A Wonderful God

#### Scripture:

**Isaiah 40:28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, I can search for all eternity and still not understand all that you are. I am thankful that you showed yourself to us through your Word.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever been tired? I mean really tired and maybe even frustrated and bewildered. It is ok you were in good company with the rest of humankind. The great thing is God is never tired, frustrated, bewildered, confused, conflicting or absent. He is always alert, present and powerful. He is so alert that He sees you have no strength he will give it to you just when you need it the most.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 15

### Title: Knowing What to Do

#### Scripture:

**James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord I pray for knowledge and wisdom. Let the mind that is in Christ be in mind. I pray that I make Godly decisions and that they all be pleasing in your sight.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever wondered what's the difference in knowledge and wisdom? What's all the fuss about anyway? That's an age old question with a simple answer. My grandfather broke it down like this— knowledge is what you know and wisdom is how you use what you know. In other words we have all heard of people who have book sense but no common sense. That means they have the knowledge but not he wisdom. Both are vitally important. Wisdom is earned while knowledge is gained. You may have to catch that in your driveway.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 16

### Title: A Wonderful God

#### Scripture:

**Romans 12:12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, I take pleasure in the joy and hope of my salvation. I rejoice knowing that my trials are temporary and your joy is eternal.

#### For Your Consideration:

The above text mentions three things hope, tribulations and prayer. It lists them in a specific order as well. Therefore beloved, we should always rejoice in the hope of the Lord, we must endure tribulations and above all be committed and devoted to prayer.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 17

### Title: Peace Makers

#### Scripture:

**Matthew 5:9**, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord let me a peace maker as you were a peacemaker. That does not mean I am a push over or weak but it means that I seek peace with all people and in all things at all times.

#### For Your Consideration:

Everyone knows the hellraisers wherever you are. Whether you are on your job, family or in the neighborhood everyone knows those who will get things started for no apparent reason. They also know who will not tolerate foolishness and who will fight if needed to have peace. I pray you are the latter as the World and our communities need more peace makers. We need people who will stand in the face of trials and frustration and speak peace to every situation.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 18

### Title: Purposeful Prayers

#### Scripture:

I **John 5:14** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

#### Prayer Focus:

Father God I come to you in faith knowing that whatever I ask in your name and in accordance with your will shall be done. It is so!

#### For Your Consideration:

There are those who say they can name it and claim it. Well we've seen how that has worked out. What we can do is seek God, study and know His word and pray in confidence that God will hear and answer our prayer. God is an awesome God. All you have to do is know the Word, pray the Word and believe the Word and you can name it and claim it as the Word will not return to him void.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 19

### Title: Be Strong and Courageous

#### Scripture:

**Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord give me Holy boldness to walk into everything you have destined for me. I am not afraid of the tricks of the enemy for they shall not prosper!

#### For Your Consideration:

We have many examples of courageous individuals in scripture and in our lives. God didn't stop at telling Moses, Joshua, David, Ezekiel, Matthew, Peter, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Fredrick Douglas, W. E. B. Dubois, Claudette Colvin, Medgar Evers and others to be courageous he commanded you to be strong and courageous as well. Be strong in the power of His might and do all you can to pursue His purpose for your life. It will not be easy but you can do it through Him.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 20

**Title:** A Listening God

### **Scripture:**

**Jeremiah 29:12** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

### **Prayer Focus:**

Jehovah Shammah! I thank you for being ever present and for always hearing me when I call you!

### **For Your Consideration:**

Have you ever considered how close God is to the believer? He is so close that He hears and answers our prayers even if we don't believe He can or He will. How glorious it is to consider that God is ever present with us. There is nothing we go through that God is not with us. Even still He not only goes through with us He knows where he plans to take us!

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 21

### Title: You Are My Strength

#### Scripture:

**Ephesians 6:10**, Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, there is no searching of your promise of strength all I have to do is ask of you and you will grant it to me. Lord I ask that you grant me strength today and always.

#### For Your Consideration:

Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus about a variety of things. After telling them to put on the whole armor of God he ends it by saying finally be strong on the Lord. What an awesome command to the believer and to all of us. Be strong! He didn't say try to be strong or I hope you are strong he said **BE STRONG!** If you lack strength ask for it and God will freely give it to you!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 22

### Title: We're In This Thing Together

#### Scripture:

**Colossians 3:13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

#### Prayer Focus:

Oh Lord I pray that you give me the strength and wisdom to forgive my neighbors as you have so freely forgiven me.

#### For Your Consideration:

Life is hard! Let me say that again—LIFE IS HARD. It doesn't come with a instruction book or a user guide it is OJT (on the job training). People will make mistakes and sometimes those mistakes can hurt us. We cannot allow the shortcomings of others to stop us from receiving the blessings of God. Forgive them as Christ has forgiven you.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 23

### Title: Peace Perfected

#### Scripture:

**Isaiah 26:3,**  
You will keep in perfect peace  
those whose minds are steady,  
because they trust in you

#### Prayer Focus:

Jehovah Shalom, you are my  
peace. You have always been my  
peace and I pray you continue to  
be my peace as I put all my faith  
and trust in you!

#### For Your Consideration:

One of the names of God is Jehovah Shalom meaning the God of peace. He has promised us that even in World of turmoil, pain and suffering that He will indeed grant us peace. How do we get this peace you might ask—we obtain it by guarding our minds and our thoughts. Keep your hearts and minds on Christ as He has promised that we do that He will give us supernatural peace.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 24

### Title: Love and Harmony

#### Scripture:

**Colossians 3:43** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, may your love, peace and harmony rest, rule and abide with me all the days of my life. Let your love rest on everyone I know so that we all live in harmony.

#### For Your Consideration:

People have often asked what would stop all the violence in the World. Have you ever considered a World without wars, conflict and strife? I have and I know it is obtainable if we seek God and Him alone. Through God we can have peace within ourselves and peace with others. How do we get this peace—love! Love God and love ourselves then we will be able to love others and peace will reign.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 25

### Title: Run Christian Run

#### Scripture:

I Corinthians 9:24, Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord let me run the race that you have given to me. I compete against no one except myself and I plan to run faster and with greater assurance each day.

#### For Your Consideration:

When running long distances runners are taught to pace themselves to conserve their strength for the entire race. One of the worst things an individual can do is pace themselves too fast or against a runner who is faster than them and they end up not being able to finish the race. Many believers do this by measuring their growth or lack thereof against other people. If you are going to pace or measure yourself against anyone it should be God. He is the author and finisher of our faith. The only person we should be better than is the person we were yesterday.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 26

### Title: Our Posture In Prayer

#### Scripture:

**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.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, I come boldly before your throne to obtain mercy and to find grace to help in my time of need.

#### For Your Consideration:

Lord, I come boldly before your throne to obtain mercy and to find grace to help in my time of need.

What more needs to be said. Go in peace!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 27

### Title: Walk The Walk

#### Scripture:

**Philippians 4:9**, Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

#### Prayer Focus:

My Father and My God let me practice what I preach, sing and pray. Please Lord allow me to be a living Epistle so that men may come into the saving knowledge of Christ through my witness.

#### For Your Consideration:

Consider your ways and what impact they might have on others. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to follow his lead. People cannot follow you if you are not actually leading. As believers we are suppose to ensure our lives in such a way that people will see God in us. What would Christ say if he examined our lives? Would He see us as an example of Him or would we look like the world?

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 28

### Title: Pray in Faith

#### Scripture:

I John 5:15, And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, thank you for hearing and answering our prayers. You have always listened attentively to my prayers and answered them according to your will.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever considered how great it is to have a God who hears and answers prayers? What a mighty God we serve! I know for years we thought that prayer had to be dramatic and thematic but it is not. Your prayers are based on your faith and trust in Him not how well you speak or the words you use. If you expect your prayers to mean anything to God they must mean everything to you!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 29

### Title: Strength for the Journey

#### Scripture:

**Psalm 18:32**, It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

#### Prayer Focus:

Father God thank you for knowing my faults, failure and shortcoming and giving me strength to endure. I also thank you that my way is known to you.

#### For Your Consideration:

Have you ever felt weak? You are not alone. In fact Christ Himself felt weak in the garden when He felt disconnect from His Father for the first time. He did just what we must do at those time—PRAY. When you are weak is the perfect time to pray. Tell God how you feel and that you need more strength and help to make it through. He will do for you what He did for Jesus and give you what you need for the journey. After all as the scripture says He knows the path you are on and has given you everything you need to be successful.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 30

### Title: My Brother/Sister Keeper

#### Scripture:

**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.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, help me to be a true believer and be there to help my brother and sister in their time of need. Give me wisdom to help them be restored to the place you intend for them to

#### For Your Consideration:

There is something powerful about connection. God created the family unit before he ever established corporate worship, the temple or the church. He did so because the family and connections are the foundation of our community. As such we are to be there for one another. No person should feel that they are alone in this world. We must be ready and willing to forgive and restore as God has done for each of us.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 31

**Title:** The Heart of God!

### **Scripture:**

**Colossians 3:12**, So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

### **Prayer Focus:**

Lord give us your heart!

### **For Your Consideration:**

How awesome would it be if all people walked in the holiness and humbleness of God? What an awesome world we would live in if people would love like Christ? Not this circumstantial and controversial love we have for people based on what we think about them but that we would love like genuinely and fully. What kind of church would we have if people loved like Christ? We could end wars, famine, healthcare debates and conflict if we learned to love and agreed that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 32

### Title: A Love Worth Sharing

#### Scripture:

**Luke 6:27-28**, But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, I confess it I am not perfect but I want to love like you. Work on me until I can love everyone including my enemies as you have commanded.

#### For Your Consideration:

There are some people who don't like you just for being you. There are people who hate you for no apparent reason. They talk about you, lie on you and make your life difficult. It is cleansing to acknowledge it and then lay them at the altar. It is even more difficult then to do as Christ has commanded and that is to love them. Not just in lip service but truly love them as Christ has loved you.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 33

### Title: Holy Boldness

#### Scripture:

**2 Timothy 1:7**, For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord let me stand in your presence as a proud child and not a meek slave. You have given me boldness to pray and operate in the gift you have given me. Lord, please never allow me to forget!

#### For Your Consideration:

You have the given authority by God to pray in boldness for the things He has said are yours. You don't have to ask with uncertainty or curiosity but you can ask in confidence knowing God will answer prayer. A young man went to purchase a vehicle. As is the custom the sales person approached him and asked what he was looking for. The young man said he wanted a certain make and model of a car. The salesman asked if he was sure. He said yes and then was showed the car. The salesman in his tradition let him know about other less expensive cars the young man said I know what I came to get and I have a check to pay for it. Don't let life, people or circumstances talk you out of what has promised you.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 34

**Title:** Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready

### **Scripture:**

**I Peter 4:7**, The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

### **Prayer Focus:**

Lord, let me prepare myself and others for your imminent return. Let us be serious about your business knowing that time is short for us to prepare the hearts of man to receive you.

### **For Your Consideration:**

Sometimes we can get so content with life and the way things are going that we forget Jesus is soon to come. You heard that correctly Christ is coming again and very soon. Don't let Him catch you with your works undone. As a child my father worked the night shift and didn't ask for much except a clean house when he came home. We knew to clean it up before midnight as he would be home from work around 12:30. One night the house was in a mess and around 11 the door opened. He walked in from work and was very disappointed in the house. We said we would get it together in a few minutes. He reminded us if we kept it clean we wouldn't be caught with a dirty house. What a profound statement!

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 35

### Title: He's Praying For You

#### Scripture:

**Romans 8:26**, In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord I must confess that sometimes in life I grow weak and need your strength. I am grateful that you make intercession for me at all times.

#### For Your Consideration:

What do you do when you need help? Who helps the helper? It is God Himself that makes intercession for you at all times. You may not know you are in need of strength, peace or joy but He does. Because he knows you so well he is always praying with you and for you that you will become all that He has planned for you. Don't be dismayed you are only human. Take joy in know your Lord and Savior is praying for you!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 36

**Title:** A Wonderful God

### **Scripture:**

**John 15:13**, Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends

### **Prayer Focus:**

Oh Lord what a great sacrifice you made when you died for my sins. Thank you for the wonderful gift of salvation and let me never take for granted all that you endured to secure it.

### **For Your Consideration:**

What can we say about the love of Christ? We know it was perfected on Calvary when He died for us, but have you ever taken into consideration that He did not have to die? He was sinless and could have removed himself from the beating or the cross at anytime. Why didn't He do it? Because He knew you (yes, you) needed a savior. As he died for you He had you on His mind and if you were the only person who needed salvation He would have died just for you! He is worthy to be praised!

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 37

**Title:** LOL

### **Scripture:**

**I Corinthians 13:13**, So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

### **Prayer Focus:**

God, my father and my first love. You are the beginning and ending of love. Teach me to love like you and be all that you have called me to be.

### **For Your Consideration:**

Love, so many people use your name in vain. Love, those who have faith in you sometimes go astray. Love, through all the ups and downs the joy and hurt. Love, for better or worse I still will choose you first. Musiq Soulchild's lyrics are breathe of fresh air on this scripture. We are often focused on the wrong things. We cannot live this life and please God without love. We have hope and faith but without love these mean nothing. We must do all we can to ensure that we love like Christ. Remember love is an action word. Show it!

### **Your Reflections:**

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## Day 38

### Title: A Prosperous Life

#### Scripture:

III John 1:2, Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

#### Prayer Focus:

Father, thank you for your continual blessing upon my life and everything connected to me. I pray that as I grow in you that everything around me continues to grow!

#### For Your Consideration:

John bestowes a prayer of blessing upon those who read his book. His prayer is that they would prosper and be in good health. This blessing does come with some conditions though. He says he prays that they prosper as their soul prospers. How does your soul prosper? Your soul prospers as it grows and it grows when it is feed the word of God continually. This is a great prayer and promise to claim just ensure you hold your end of the promise.

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 39

### Title: This Hard Thing Called Love

#### Scripture:

**Matthew 5:44**, But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord help me to live and love like you. My desire is to genuinely love everyone as you have loved us with an everlasting love.

#### For Your Consideration:

People can be evil, mean and hateful and do some mean and evil things to you. This will be hurtful and our human response is to hate or dislike those who have done us wrong. That is the way of man. We are in the World but not of this World. Love is an action word and you can't love what you dislike. We are commanded and expected to love everyone especially our enemies. Throughout this journey of fasting and prayer you have to confront your own issues. If one of those was unforgiveness of your enemies now is the time to forgive them and love them so that you can be an example of the love of God!

#### Your Reflections:

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## Day 40

### Title: A High Mind

#### Scripture:

**Romans 12:3**, For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

#### Prayer Focus:

Lord, guard my heart and my mind so that I do all to please you. My desire is to be humble so that you can use me for your glory!

#### For Your Consideration:

How should you see yourself in light of all that God has done for you? We know we are blessed and highly favored and that would make you stand with your chest out and your head held high. But, wait just one minute you are where you are and who you are because of the God you serve. Therefore, approach life with a sound and sober mind/perspective. We are as blessed and prosperous as we are because of God. Let us keep our minds stayed on God!

#### Your Reflections:

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**MACEDONIA**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*Lenten Devotional*  
**2021**