

22 Day Prayer Guide

DAY 1: JANUARY 10

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” – Psalm 46:10

During these first 7 days we ask that you begin to look inward and allow God to point out things in your heart and life that He is calling you to lay down or to bring to Him in surrender. Use this time to **self evaluate**. In life, it is so easy for us to become self-deceived. We may think we are in one place spiritually, but in reality we may have drifted far from the places that we think we are. Take these 7 days and come before the Lord in humble surrender and ask Him to reveal to you where you are, and where He wants to take you. You will be amazed at the answer.

Also, my daughter brought to my attention the fact that if we were to go one more day, it would be 22 days of prayer and fasting to start off 2022. Immediately I thought of one of the scriptures that has defined Life Gate since our inception, Isaiah 22:22, and I decided that we would go an extra day and make it 22! Are you ready? Let's go!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 51:10-12: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Daniel 6:10: Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

REFLECTION:

- What special time will you set aside during the next 22 Days to press into God to talk and listen for His voice to speak over your life and our church?
- After reading Daniel 6:10, what are your thoughts about Daniel and his commitment to the Lord?

PRAY:

- Pray for God to create in you a desire to dwell in His presence.
- Ask God to increase your desire to commune with Him in prayer.
- Thank the Lord in advance, for speaking to you while you dwell in His presence and for new capacity to receive what He will say and the revelation that will come.
- Come into agreement with the Father, that He will reveal one person that needs a compassionate interaction this week.

Blessings, everyone! Enjoy praying and fasting!

Day 2: JANUARY 11

Today is 2/11/22. Two elevens make twenty-two. I believe this is a double portion season and that this year of 2022 is an accelerated time of multiple birth. A friend of mine recently shared with me that this was a time of twins, or “twinning”. Right on the heels of that word, another friend told me this story that just happened last week. It was breakfast time and my friend got a new carton of eggs out of the refrigerator. He proceeded to crack an egg into a bowl, and to his surprise it had two yolks. A double yolk is unusual, with only a 1 in 1,000 chance of it occurring. In fact, if you had 12 hens constantly laying eggs every day, they might possibly produce two (2) double-yoked eggs in an entire year.

So, my friend cracked a second egg in the bowl, and to his surprise it was a double yolk as well! Here’s where it begins to get crazy. He cracked a third egg and it was a double, a fourth egg, and it too was a double yolk. In fact, he cracked the entire dozen eggs and all but one had double yolks! Eleven (11) out of twelve with twin yolks...be prepared for one touch from God to bring forth double! It’s a double blessing year and we must stop looking behind us, because our Father in heaven is doubling down on our behalf and wanting us to come up higher with Him. It’s a new day! Things are not going to be done the way they were done in the past, and the way we functioned yesterday will not be the way we function tomorrow. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit and he received what he asked for. Likewise, we should not be afraid to come boldly to Jesus and ask Him for forgiveness, seek Him for a fresh anointing, and thank Him for a double portion!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 24:3-4: Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

Psalm 32:5: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

REFLECTION:

- According to Romans 2:4, what leads us to repentance?
- Is repentance something that you regularly do in your life? Why or why not?

PRAY:

- Spend some time allowing God to search your heart today. Confess your sins to Him and repent.
- Praise God for His forgiveness and grace. Thank Him that because of the cross there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

DAY 3: JANUARY 12

I was reading recently and the author, Gordon Franz, said, “Have you ever been in a dangerous situation and wondered if you would ever get out of it alive?” My answer was a resounding “Yes!”, because there have been numerous times throughout my life that I had those thoughts. But in every case, God protected me and provided what I needed. The pinch of the circumstance didn’t disappear, but in the middle of the trouble I was able to thank God and praise Him.

I believe that’s what kept David, in the Bible, going in his dangerous and hard times. Where was his focus and what were his priorities in life? Psalm 27 recounts David’s primary heartfelt desire to worship the Lord even in the middle of warfare. According to Franz, some of the Psalms of David have superscriptions that give the historical circumstances that prompted David to compose the psalm. In Psalm 27 the superscription states “le-David” in Hebrew and is translated, “to or by David.” The Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible adds the words: “before he was anointed.” If this addition is historically accurate (and I strongly believe that it is), the question is raised: “Which anointing?”

David was anointed on three separate occasions during his life. The first time he was anointed was by Samuel in Bethlehem before the battle with Goliath in the Elah Valley (1 Sam. 16:13). The second time was after the death of Saul when the men of Judah anointed David in Hebron (2 Sam. 2:4). The final time was seven and a half years later when he was anointed king over all of Israel in Hebron by the elders of Israel (2 Sam. 2:11; 5:3).

If Psalm 27 was before the first anointing, his dangerous times were the lion and the bear. If Psalm 27 was before the second anointing, it would be when he was running and hiding from a jealous and demonized Saul. Either way, David’s main desire in life was to dwell in the house of the Lord in order to worship Him. He wanted to behold His beauty and meditate on His Word (27:4), and yet he is battling enemies around him that prevent him from accomplishing his goal. He expresses confidence in God that one day this goal would be attained, but until that day his desire for worship would sustain him as he navigated the conflicts in his daily life...in other words, ***worship in the middle of warfare.***

David describes the Lord three different ways in the first verse. First, he says the Lord is “my light”, which Jesus himself confirms when He says, “I AM the Light of the World” in John 8:12 and 9:5. Then he says, “...and my salvation...” which is translated “yeshua,” the Hebrew name of Jesus! The third description is that he is the “strength of my life.” Strength is the Hebrew word *maoz* and is often translated fortress or stronghold. In Psalm 31:3, David describes the Lord as his Rock (*zor*) and Fortress (*maoz*). David then asks two rhetorical questions, “Whom shall I fear?” and “Of whom shall I be afraid?” The obvious answer for David was “no one”, because the Lord is his light, salvation, and fortress.

Today, as we pray and fast, let's worship! Why? Because there isn't anyone or anything that we should be afraid of because our wonderful, powerful King Jesus is our light, our salvation, and our fortress! He's the Captain of, and the Lord of, heaven's hosts, the One and only who has NEVER lost a battle...ever. I think this is a perfect time to praise Him!

*Note: During these 22 days of fasting and prayer, along with this prayer guide, I am reading a portion of **Psalm 119** (did you know that there are 22 divisions in chapter 119?), **a chapter from Proverbs** (each of the 31 chapters coincides with a day of the month), and **a chapter from the book of Revelation** (why yes, there just happen to be 22 chapters).*

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 111:1: Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 27:8: My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

REFLECTION:

- How does your worship of God look in the everyday mundane tasks of life? In the struggles or battles of life?
- Do people see your worship of God through the way you interact with them, work, or do every day common tasks?

PRAY:

- Take time today for personal worship. Express your love and thankfulness to God in prayer.
- Pray for your love of God to overflow in joy and be evident to all you come in contact with today.

DAY 4: JANUARY 13

Jane Hamon is one of my favorite speakers and writers, and some of the following quoted material is from one of her recent posts. At the beginning of every new year, new season or new cycle it is always positive and beneficial to take time to listen to the Lord to hear His heart for our lives and His ekklesia. But it is equally important to align with His purposes in the earth at the same time.

We are currently in the Hebraic year 5782 which began in September. If we focus on the last two numbers 8 and 2, pey (8) is the word for the number eighty, referencing the decade we are in, and bet (2) is the current year of the decade.

"Pey is the word for mouth, speech, and sound. It's the decade of the Voice...a time we

must hear the Voice of God as never before. However, we must also recognize we are in a voice war, with contending and competing voices all trying to control the narrative. We see this battle in our media and social media, especially with the current 'cancel culture' raging throughout our society and the world."

Bet is the word that means house. God is building His house for the future and we are becoming who we have been created to be...called, set apart, followers of Christ who decree and enact His purposes in the earth, with all authority, power and dominion. **God is building a house with a voice!** And the voice is His voice coming from our voices, the roar is His roar coming from our lips, and His breakthrough shout coming out of our shouts.

"Isaiah 30:31 tells us, "The Voice of the Lord will shatter the enemy!" I'm convinced that we will see some incredible victories in this decade as God helps us rewrite the narrative that is affecting regions and nations. But as the true church (ekklesia) we are emerging in this hour to take our place and legislate God's divine purposes like never before."

One last thought regarding the Hebraic year. 5782 is a shmita year, which is the seventh year in the agricultural cycle mandated by the Torah. It's considered a year of rest and release and carries an expectation of restored inheritance, supernatural provision and debt forgiveness. God has miraculous things in store for us this year! As we are pressing into all He is doing, we must remember not to forget to rest. In fact, we must work hard to enter into rest while in the midst of conflict and battling. Psalm 23 says that He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies; that's rest in the midst of battle.

"It seems rather obvious with all the 2's in the year 2022 that God would decree a Double Portion Year. However, when we look at the story of Elijah and Elisha we see the request for a double portion aligns with this current Hebraic year. The phrase 'double portion' in Hebrew is actually double pey. This aligns with the year 82, or pey + two or double. In Hebrew it literally means a Double Portion Year!

In the familiar story of 2 Kings 2 Elisha asked, "Please let a double portion (pey) of your spirit be upon me. And Elijah said, You have asked a hard thing, nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you then it shall be so, but if you do not see me it shall not be so." I believe in this double portion year God is telling us we cannot afford to lose our focus. If we will keep our eyes on Him in the midst of all the shaking, He will bring us, individually and corporately into the most supernatural, miraculous season we have ever seen, but we must stay focused in order to receive."

An Elisha Church is rising! As Elisha received Elijah's mantle, Jesus and His Church receive the Holy Spirit. Elijah went up and his mantle came down. Elisha picked it up and was empowered to do miracles he had never done before. When Jesus ascended, His mantle came down in the form of the Holy Spirit and we, the ekklesia, are empowered to live in the supernatural with signs, wonders and miracles. What we have

received from Christ is far greater than what Elisha got from Elijah!

*“Even in Elisha’s limited authority he still broke a curse off a city and saw it transformed. He prophesied to kings, released multiplied financial provision for the widow, opened a barren womb, raised the Shunamite’s dead son, healed the poisonous stew, multiplied bread so all could eat, released healing to Naaman, the Syrian commander, from leprosy, made an ax head float (recovering the cutting edge), revealed the traps of the enemy, caused blindness to fall on his enemies and prophesied the end of the besiegement of Samaria. JEZEBEL was defeated during the time of Elisha and time and again he shifted the power in the nation. Even after his death a dead man’s bones thrown in on top of his bones...the man came alive! There is an Elisha generation arising with the same type of power and authority, yet far greater because our mantle comes from the Holy Spirit which dwells within us. We must arise and put the Double Portion to work!” **C'mon!***

Here are a couple of keys to putting the Double Portion to work. One, we must stay under His roof, in His presence, close to Him. Two, we must continually gaze on and worship Him in His beauty. Three, we must never give up seeking Him in His temple. Our quick obedience always unlocks our acceleration into what He has for us. Yesterday I was sent an offer to purchase a locksmith’s lock picking kit to open jammed or closed locks. The kid in me wanted to buy it so badly, but the older, wiser man in me said “No.” However, that incident reminded me that spiritually we are constantly looking for ways to pick locks, or to work our way around things that are locked.

But in 2022, we need to remember Isaiah 22:22 that says, “Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.” It is His pleasure to give us the keys to the kingdom. It’s His delight to give us the keys and access to unlock things for the new season...to unlock authority, to unlock the heavens, to unlock resources and favor. Closed, locked gates are being opened so the King of Glory may come in! Things once thought inaccessible are being unlocked, and access is being given! Jane Hamon had a vision where Jesus had a ring of keys for her. And He said to her, “I want to unlock more IN you so I can unlock more FOR you then unlock more THROUGH you!”

As we fast and pray, don’t be shy with God. Ask Him questions, seek answers from Him, but above all pull away from the things of earth that distract and draw close to Him, because He wants to unlock more IN you so He can unlock more FOR you, then unlock more THROUGH you!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 27:4: 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.

Psalm 37:4: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

REFLECTION:

- What does “taking delight in the Lord” look like in your life?
- According to Matthew 6:33 what should you seek first? Is this something you do well?

PRAY:

- Pray for God to reveal what is most important to you. What has the potential to steal your deepest affection from God?
- Spend some time simply enjoying God’s presence today. Enjoy Him through His Word, your favorite worship music, or simply sitting and listening for His voice.

MY DECREE:

Father, I say this out loud before You today. I decree this will be my double portion year. I receive a new mantle for this new day. I take off the old mantle of limitation and fear and instead I activate courage to step into the supernatural in a brand new way. I will stay focused to receive fresh dunamis power from Holy Spirit within me. I stir up my most holy faith. Miracles are my portion. Signs and wonders are my way of life. Giants are my bread! I receive greater authority to represent you and your Kingdom to the world around me. I receive my double portion of blessing and increase in every area. This will be my year of breakthrough in 2022!

DAY 5: JANUARY 14

Some excerpts from Psalm 119:33-37 say, ***“Give me revelation about the meaning of your ways (vs.33)...give me an understanding heart (vs. 34)...guide me into the paths that please you (vs. 35)...cause my heart to bow before your words of wisdom (vs. 36)...help me turn my eyes away from illusions (vs. 37)...”***

The Psalmist is asking God for several things here, but each thing actually points to the fact that he’s searching for wisdom. How does it come? How do we gain it? Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it this way. **WISDOM** is knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life. Obviously, this is true on a strictly earthly experiential level, however, wisdom doesn’t just come from study or knowledge acquired from books or experience. I know a lot of incredibly intelligent people, with a great deal of knowledge, but they seriously lack wisdom.

In my life I’ve experienced many things, read books, taken classes, and done a lot of life, and you can attain a measure of understanding and sense through all of that. However, I regularly ask God for help...for wisdom...to know what to do, how to say it, and gain the strategy I need.

Proverbs 9:10 NIV says that ***“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”*** ***The Amplified version reads, “The [reverent] fear of the LORD [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent***

part of wisdom [its starting point and its essence],” Holy Spirit, we want the fear of the Lord! Let the fear of the Lord fall on us, on our families, and on our nation!

Isaiah 11:2-3a speaks about one of the seven Spirits of God as being Wisdom. “**2 And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 He will delight in obeying the Lord...**”

Come Holy Spirit and rest on us! John speaks in Revelation 5, verse 12 about myriads and myriads of angels with thunderous voices singing and declaring that Jesus Christ, the Lamb has received “**...power, riches, wisdom, might (strength), honor, glory and blessing (praise).**”

That’s why Proverbs 2:6 says that “**the Lord** gives wisdom; **from His mouth** come knowledge and understanding.” John says He, Jesus the Lamb, has received it...along with power, riches, might, honor, glory and praise. And He is willing to give what He has to us, according to James. “**But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**” (James 1:5)

Daniel said it this way, “**To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for You have given me wisdom and power; even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, for You have made known to us the king’s matter.**”

I can’t speak for anyone else but myself when I say that I need wisdom that comes from a higher place. I lack wisdom, and I need it to function in the full capacity I know God is asking me to walk in. I ask the Spirit of God to illuminate and guide me, and bring me into His presence, so that I might receive what I need. So go ahead and ask...He’s ready, willing, and able!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 43:3: Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

Ephesians 1:17-18: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and the incomparably great power for us who believe.

REFLECTION:

- The passage above speaks of God giving us the Spirit of wisdom. Will you ask Him for wisdom? He promises to give it to you when you ask.
- What are some ways you have hindered the Spirit’s move in your life as He’s tried to lead you in wisdom?

PRAY:

- Bring every frustration, challenge, doubt, and trouble to God in prayer today. Name your burdens out loud and then lay them at His feet.
- Pray for wisdom. Pray for the humility to trust God's plans over your own.

DAY 6 – JANUARY 15

The word prudent means, "Showing good, or careful judgment...cautious, sensible, or sound judgment". How often do I think I'm sensible or sound in my thinking, moving in and about my life presuming that I'm judging things well, or even handling things accurately? My answer would be "almost all the time." Obviously, I can't say ALL the time, because I've had my share of moments where I've not been as careful or cautious, or maybe acted or reacted in a not so sound manner. But in my best estimate, I'm 95% sound.

Then why am I spiraling down in some areas of my life? Surely my 95% good judgment is enough, right? To be truthful, no it isn't. In fact, my assessment is tragically skewed and inaccurate from the beginning. How can I say that I'm prudent, when areas of my life are like a stalled jet dropping out of the sky? The proof that I'm not a good judge of my prudence is that things aren't functioning very well in my life. Jesus said, "***I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.***" (John 15:5 NASB) That last line out of the Contemporary English Version says it even more clearly, "***...But you cannot do anything without me.***"

Proverbs 15:24 says, "***The life-paths of the prudent lift them progressively heavenward, delivering them from the death spirals that keep tugging them downward.***"

What life-paths am I on that have me spiraling down? What paths, if I walk on them, will lift me up and take me higher? Jesus was telling his disciples what was necessary and expedient for them to do if they wanted to prudently put things in order so that their lives would be full and blessed. He was also giving them the instructions for how to defeat the enemy and all his distractions and attacks. We must remain in Him!

It doesn't matter how hard you work, the time you spend with your family or the good deeds you do in your neighborhood, if you aren't diligently attached to the true vine, Jesus, then you will be attached to something else that will not be as life-giving. If we get caught up in all the day-to-day, ongoing life-paths emanating from a world and a culture that is bent on us flowing with them, receiving from them, and believing what they are projecting, then we will find ourselves separated from the one thing that we can't live without...Jesus, the way...Jesus, the truth...Jesus, our life. The very Source of life is asking us to remain in Him, to stay attached to Him, to drink from His fountain...

His vine.

That's why these precious times of recalibration and prayer are vital for us. It's why we all need to lay aside our own assessments of ourselves and present our lives...every part of them...to the Master. Let's be like David when he said in Psalm 139:23, "**Search me, God, and know my heart; put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;**". Could we be willing to let Him scan us with His Divine judgment, with His accurate eye and see if there are any ways or paths that aren't beneficial or sound?

Stay with me...let's be prudent. Here's Psalm 139:23-24 in the Passion Translation. "**God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart. Examine me through and through; find out everything that may be hidden within me. Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious cares. See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on, and lead me back to your glorious everlasting way—the path that brings me back to you.**"

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 61:3 & 5: For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

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.

REFLECTION:

- What areas of your life are not bearing fruit and can be pruned?
- Where will you find time in your schedule to stay connected to the Vine?

PRAY:

- Think through your schedule. Pray for God to help you discern what you should and should not be involved in for the sake of your spiritual health.
- Pray for spiritual hunger to make you crave connection with God daily.

Thank You, Father for Your patience and mercy. We're blessed by Your love that never gives up. Holy Spirit, we need Your help. Build in us a new desire, a new hunger to be attached to You. Where we've failed before, let us succeed. Where we've been inattentive, sharpen our focus. Lead us back to You, adjust our perceptions, and help us be re-attached to You. Amen.

DAY 7: JANUARY 16

Psalm 119:55, 56 – "Throughout the night I think of you, dear God; I treasure your every word to me. All this joy is mine as I follow your ways!"

I read a post by Jenn Johnson today and she said she was sitting in a restaurant with her husband, with “Everglow” by Coldplay playing, when she said a wave of the goodness of God hit her. And it’s true how these little moments with the Lord just hit us like a wave. Suddenly you feel the joy of following Him! Here’s what she said...

“Life is difficult and complicated but don’t give up in the hard times. Deep dive with the Lord. Don’t escape or avoid. Spend time in the presence until you come away changed. Sometimes God will lead you into a wilderness. It’s not because he’s punishing you...it’s so you hear Him clearer, He can heal you and re align you to who you are and what you’re called to.”

Isn’t that what we’re doing? We’re taking time to hear Him clearer, we’re re aligning, and we’re feeling His healing pouring into our souls.

The seventh section of Psalm 119, is verses 49-56, and the seventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet is zayin or zain. The original meaning for zayin is a *sword or sharp weapon*, but the root means *sustenance or nourishment*. The pictograph shape of the letter looks like a sword; the top is the handle and the vertical piece is the blade, but the classic Hebrew letter is a vav crowned with a large crown on its head, making it actually more like a “crowned” sword or scepter. In either case it’s a symbol of authority and strength. The Hebrew word *lezayen*, a derivative of zayin, has come to mean “*to arm*”.

This year is a 7th year, which is considered to be a Shemitah year, which is a year for the land to rest and lie fallow. In resting, the land is not only recovering, it is becoming more fertile because it’s regenerating. Fallow ground is simply ground or soil that has been left unplanted or taken out of crop rotation for a period of time.

Why is this important? Because allowing the land or soil to have a rest period gives it time to replenish nutrients which can be leached from certain plants or regular irrigation. Potassium and phosphorus from deep below rise toward the soil surface where it can be used by crops later. Fallowing also raises levels of carbon, nitrogen and organic matter, improves moisture holding capacity, and increases beneficial microorganisms in the soil. A field allowed to lie fallow for just a year produces a higher crop yield when it is planted again.

For Israel, however, there was more than just crop rotation in the mind of God for the 7th year Shemitah. When the Israelites were in the wilderness of Sinai, God miraculously supplied manna to eat for 6 days out of every 7 for a total of 40 years. During that period, on the sixth day, God supplied twice as much manna to get them through the next day, which was the Sabbath when none would appear. Once inside the Promised Land, the Lord would similarly provide an increase in their crops to get them through the Shemitah year with no difficulty. In fact, the Lord promised that the crop of the sixth year would be so bountiful that it would supply them with food for 3 full years. They trusted God for their lives and their provision!

Another powerful aspect of the Shemitah, was also an elimination of debt within the economy. It was a God-given remission of debts where every creditor released what they had loaned to their neighbor because the Lord's remission had been proclaimed.

Okay, I want us to let a wave of the goodness of God begin to wash over us. It's time to praise Him and worship Him because His provision is going to eliminate our indebtedness. It's our opportunity to rest in Him and regenerate, receiving new levels of what we need. Whatever was planted in our lives in the last season is finished, now it's time to be revived and receive manna from heaven.

Today, we "arm ourselves" with the goodness of God! This day we take our sharp weapon and we wage war for our sustenance and our nourishment. We're going to fight for a place in His presence and nothing will deter us, distract us, or defeat us. This is not a time to give up or give in to the surge and pressing of the enemy, in fact, we need to "deep dive" into the presence of our Father and rest there until He releases clarity and strategy. We're being crowned today to engage in warfare for the promises of God.

"Lord, never forget the promises you've made to me, for they are my hope and confidence. In all of my affliction I find great comfort in your promises, for they have kept me alive! No matter how bitterly the proud mockers speak against me I refuse to budge from your precepts. Your revelation-light is eternal; I'm encouraged every time I think about your truth!" (Psalms 119:49-52 TPT)

THIS IS OUR TURNAROUND YEAR!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 139:24b: ...lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 18:36: You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way.

Psalm 37:23: The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.

Psalm 44:18: Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.

REFLECTION:

- What areas of your own life are you holding back from God?
- Are you willing to surrender your plans to discover and live out His plans for you?

PRAY:

- Confess the areas of your life that you are holding back from God. Ask for forgiveness and thank Him for the boldness to truly surrender to Him.
- Pledge today that God's plans will be your plans. Pray for the strength to carry this commitment out.

Day 8 – January 17

Focus Outward

Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Over the next week, let's begin to turn our focus outward and ask God to guide us individually and guide us all corporately as a church. We desire that He would begin to cultivate a heart for those outside of the church. We will begin to see that God's heart is for all people to be connected or reconnected to Him, and every follower of Jesus has a part to play in that plan. In our faith, there are times we get so focused on what's immediately in front of us that we miss the bigger picture that God is presenting to us. Let's take these next days and come before God, asking Him to reveal clearly where and how He's working nearby. But then, let's begin to get involved in His work that He's already doing all around us.

Today we remember Martin Luther King Jr., a man who focused outward. Our nation has set aside this special day and I would encourage us to take a few moments during our own fasting and prayer to read about him and thank God for his life and efforts. Dr. King was not perfect, obviously no man is...however, he was a man that exemplified the words of Paul in Philippians 2:3-4 and attempted to walk them out as he became the focal point of a very difficult time in our history as a nation. His faith, strength and courage helped drive back a demonic ideology that had dominated the world for many years.

As we're entering another week I want us to clearly and intently look closer and glean from the Lord and His ideas. May our hearts and eyes be open to Holy Spirit's leading .

SCRIPTURE:

Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

1 Corinthians 13:4: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

REFLECTION:

- What is the purpose of Spiritual fruit in your life?
- Who might God be trying to reach through the fruit He is bearing through your life with Him?

PRAY:

- Prayerfully consider the qualities listed in the scriptures above. Ask God to reveal what must develop in your life in order to love others in a Christ-honoring way.
- Pray for the Father to stir awareness in your spirit for those who need to experience His love through you.
- Ask God for His help to be gracious like Jesus. Examine your heart. Is it full of grace for the brokenness in people around you? How should God increase your graciousness today?

DAY 9: JANUARY 18

“You have done many good things for me, Lord, just as you promised.” – Psalm 119:65 NLT

This verse comes from the 9th section of Psalm 119, entitled Teth, or Tet. Tet is the number 9 which is called a “perfect” number, or a “true” number. This is because any multiple of nine will give a number which, when you add the digits, will also give 9. For example:

$$9 \times 137 = 1233$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 3 = 9$$

Here’s why that’s important. When using the word ‘true’ in past times and cultures, it had a wider meaning than today. It was not only the opposite of false or the opposite of lies, but its usage could mean to make a surface straight, or to make an arrow straight. Even in modern English usage, something can be said to be making it ‘true.’ The same for the flight of an arrow, if it is on target, the flight is said to be ‘true.’

In more ancient cultures, if a person was known for always telling the truth and never telling lies, that person was reckoned to be good. The same for a person who always kept their promises no matter what. This was so important that, in those days, people were very reluctant to make promises at all, because they wanted a good reputation.

Andris Stanga, in his blog on Psalm 119, says this about ancient culture, “In past times, even if a man lost everything in life, he was still held to be of value if he was known to be a man of his word. If he was not known as such, then if he lost everything else, he would be considered worthless. And so, people would even avoid saying to family or friends that they would do this or that, even though not making promises. They would even not use the word ‘might’ for the sake of avoiding confusion, even to the point of not saying that they might do something.”

Jesus spoke of the need to be trustworthy simply by your words, without promises...

“Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord. But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.” - Matthew 5:33-37 CSB

There is only One who is true, who always keeps His promises, that never uses the words ‘might’ or ‘maybe’, and who in all senses of the word is completely true and completely trustworthy in every way. Jesus is the strong rock we can drive our confidence into. He’s a fortress in a time of storm. His “trueness” lets us believe in Him without any doubt, so when He says something you can count on it being accurate.

That’s why it’s vitally important for us to comprehend that He hears every one of our prayers, He understands our weaknesses, and He wants to be a part of our lives. He loves people so much, us included, that He died for our sins that we might be saved. And when His word says in 1 John 1:9 that ***“If we confess our sins, he’s faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***, that’s a ‘true’ word that we can believe!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 18:2: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 16:11: You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Acts 16:31 (AMP): Believe in and on the Lord Jesus Christ—that is, give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping, and you will be saved; [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.

REFLECTION:

- Who have you prayed for recently to be saved or delivered? Who has God placed on your heart?
- In your prayer life, is it hard to turn your heart towards the salvation of others?

PRAY:

- Pray, by name, for the people in your life who need to know the saving power of Jesus Christ. Pray they can understand Jesus is the only truth path of life, the only real source of lasting joy, and the only refuge from this chaotic and broken world.
- Ask God to give you eternal perspective today. Pray for help to see that eternal matters should be our highest priority, and that the problems of today are nothing more than distractions that move our focus away from what really matters in life.

Jesus, I believe that You are the Truth, in every aspect of the word...undisputed truth with no exceptions. Thank You for that, Lord, because that means I can count on You and what You say. Forgive me for not being able to receive that

important fact. From this moment forward I will do my best to believe what You say, what Your word says, and what Holy Spirit says. Amen.

DAY 10: JANUARY 19

Psalm 119:73 – ***“Your hands made me and fashioned me;...”*** NASB

Wait...let's read that same verse in The Passion Translation. ***“Your very hands have held me and made me who I am;”***

That idea is just powerful! His hands held us and made us who we are! It's amazing that we are created in His image and we have hands just like He does. We touch, and reach, and feel just like Him. We hold our babies, pet our animals, and cook our food with hands like His. Sometimes I can almost tangibly feel His hand on me, and it's thrilling. I remember the first time I held my new girlfriend, Glenda's, hand...it was electric! I also have a distinct memory of hitting my thumb with a hammer, which was electrifying in another more painful way...lol

There's a beautiful picture of me holding hands with my mother just before she went to be with the Lord. It's very precious to me, because as a little boy I loved to hold her hand. Our hands are very special in many ways, but none more special than the myriad ways that we find to create things. We build, we plant, we caress, and we bandage and serve. All of which are wonderful extensions of His hands.

But His hands. Oh, my! The same hands that made us are the same hands that held little children on his lap, but they were also the hands that were hammered to a cross for us. What kindness...what love...what wonderful hands!

David can't get over it either. In Psalm 139 he elaborates in detail...

“Lord, you know everything there is to know about me.

You perceive every movement of my heart and soul, and you understand my every thought before it even enters my mind.

You are so intimately aware of me, Lord. You read my heart like an open book and you know all the words I'm about to speak before I even start a sentence! You know every step I will take before my journey even begins.

You've gone into my future to prepare the way, and in kindness you follow behind me to spare me from the harm of my past. You have laid your hand on me!

This is just too wonderful, deep, and incomprehensible! Your understanding of

me brings me wonder and strength.

Where could I go from your Spirit? Where could I run and hide from your face?

If I go up to heaven you're there! If I go down to the realm of the dead, you're there too!

If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you're there! If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting!

Wherever I go, your hand will guide me; your strength will empower me.

It's impossible to disappear from you or to ask the darkness to hide me, for your presence is everywhere, bringing light into my night.

There is no such thing as darkness with you. The night, to you, is as bright as the day; there's no difference between the two.

You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother's womb.

I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex! Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking. It simply amazes me to think about it! How thoroughly you know me, Lord!

You even formed every bone in my body when you created me in the secret place; carefully, skillfully you shaped me from nothing to something.

You saw who you created me to be before I became me! Before I'd ever seen the light of day, the number of days you planned for me were already recorded in your book.

Every single moment you are thinking of me! How precious and wonderful to consider that you cherish me constantly in your every thought! O God, your desires toward me are more than the grains of sand on every shore! When I awake each morning, you're still with me."

This is our tenth day of prayer and fasting, so let's consider how special it is to be able to spend time seeking Him and getting to know Him better. We're focusing outward this week, but we still want to not forget that He created us for this time and hour. He knew we would be alive at this time in history and He knew our situations and circumstances, and He personally and individually created us with His own hands, so that we would know how special and how wanted that we are.

If we fast forward a few verses in Psalm 139 we find these gems...

“God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart. Examine me through and through; find out everything that may be hidden within me. Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious cares.

See if there is any path of pain I’m walking on, and lead me back to your glorious, everlasting way—the path that brings me back to you.”

Let’s lift our hands and worship Him! Let’s celebrate the work of His hands in every individual and person we come into contact with, and let’s be His hands extended to a lost and hurting world that needs to know His love and affection.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 92:1: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High.

Mark 12:31: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Philippians 2:3: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

REFLECTION:

- How do you value others above yourself in your life?
- Do you regularly reach out and engage others to invite them to church, a small group, or to your home for a meal? Why or why not?

PRAY:

- Pray for your neighbors today. Pray for opportunity to interact with them, bless them, and to show them the Father’s love.
- Ask God to give you a “gathering heart.” Pray that God would create in you a desire to see people connected to each other and confronted with the Gospel.

Day 11: January 20

If asked about what their purpose in life is, most people would probably say, “I don’t know.” That’s unfortunate, because we’re so complex, intricate, and beautiful and we’re not here by some random explosion or accident. The very desire that we must find meaning in things points to the fact that we’re not here by accident, but rather completely and wholly on purpose.

God said it to Jeremiah when He said, ***“...I know the plans I have for you...”*** Our Father designed it to be so. From the most microscopic details, to the vastness of the ever-growing universe, there is intelligent design and purpose...especially with each of

us. In Psalm 139 in the Passion Translation, David says, ***“You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother’s womb. I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex!”*** The next verse then says that God even formed every bone in our bodies, listen to this, ***“...when you created me in the secret place; carefully, skillfully you shaped me from nothing to something.”*** That’s intelligent creation with a plan and a design!

Proverbs 20:24 TPT goes on to confirm, ***“It is the Lord who directs your life, for each step you take is ordained by God to bring you closer to your destiny.”***

We’ve all been created and engineered by our Master for more. Whatever level we’ve been operating on, there’s more to be discovered and realized. When we think that we’ve reached the top of the mountain of achieving or learning, or even our relationship with Him, we must come to grips with the fact that there’s more!

What a blessing! When we come to the end of ourselves...there’s more. When our bodies are afflicted and hurting...there’s more than all that discomfort and pain. That’s why we never have to remain broken, or defeated, or disappointed, because His very wisdom and purpose for every one of us is to help us move higher and further into all He has planned and constructed for us.

Even when we sin, He is merciful and gracious and kindly provides a way out of the choices we’ve made. His ways are higher than ours and He continually pulls us up to His way of thinking and living. Let’s not fight it, but embrace it...or rather let’s embrace Him. ***“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”*** (Matthew 11:28 NASB)

Let me propose one more thing. Out of the love He extends to us, we are fully able to likewise extend that love to others. His purpose is more than just a few privileged ones living higher and fuller. He desires, and has planned for, everyone to know Him and all to receive wholeness. Let’s do our best to be aware of those around us, and to look for ways to help and come alongside. Not only do we need each other, but there’s a whole world out there that is in desperate need of what we have.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 107:20: He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Psalm 147:3: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Galatians 6:2: Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

REFLECTION:

- How does God use His people to help others?

- What does it look like to carry a burden with someone who is struggling in life? Who in your life may need a burden lightened so they can see Jesus better?

PRAY:

- Bring the burdens of others to God today. Do you have loved ones who need healing? Do you have friends in crisis? Share all of these troubles with God on behalf of the people in your life.
- Pray for God to use you as an intercessor (one who intervenes on behalf of another) in prayer. Thank Him for the privilege of praying on behalf of your loved ones.

Day 12: January 21

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind is a powerful book written by Bill Johnson. The publisher's description that follows describes briefly what one might expect should they read it.

“Moving in the spiritual realm should be as much a part of our routine as prayer, worship and reading Scripture. Yet all too often, Christians practice an intellectual faith, which lacks any supernatural punch. Healing, deliverance and signs and wonders are an inheritance for all followers of Jesus Christ. *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind* teaches you how to remove the blinders of religious limitation to redeem the lost and transform communities. You too can tap into an abundance of miracle-working authority and unleash the power of God's glory.”

If you haven't read it, you will want to now, right? I share the excerpt above because of the wonderful word usage that is so very accurate. I completely agree that moving in the spiritual realm should be as much a part of our routine as prayer, worship and reading Scripture. In fact, I also believe that the “spiritual realm” includes, but is not limited to, gifts of the Spirit AND fruit of the Spirit. We are human beings, with physical bodies operating in a physical world that is all about seeing, feeling, touching, and experiencing. However, in Acts Chapter 2 a deposit was made from heaven into this physical earth realm, that unlocked the unseen spiritual realm encouraging all believers to ask for and desire more...Holy Spirit had come!

I want to implore us to strengthen ourselves in the fruit of the Spirit referred to in Galatians...

“But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures (never quitting, ever tapping), kindness (sweetness) in action, a life full of virtue (goodness), faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit (many versions use the word self-control, but that would be a weak translation, the word is actually ‘lordship’ or ‘spirit-strength’). Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to

be limitless." (Galatians 5:22-23)

The Passion Translation's author, Brian Simmons, says in his notes that this translation "has chosen to supply ***action*** (my emphasis) to these virtues, for they are not meant to be abstract virtues, but made visible with actions." Also, the Greek literally translates "against such there is no law" as "**there is no law set against these things**".

As we are seeking the Lord, don't be afraid to ask Him for help and strength. It has been promised to us and is our heritage, our legacy, as believers in Christ. We are to heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead and there are no laws set against these things. In fact, it's normal behavior! Let's be bold and be strong, and ask Holy Spirit to empower us and impart His wisdom, revelation, and fruitfulness to us.

The last line of the description of Bill's book says, "*You too can tap into an abundance of miracle-working authority and unleash the power of God's glory.*" **I couldn't agree more!**

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 12:4: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

Ephesians 4:12: to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Romans 12:6: We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

REFLECTION:

- How has God gifted you to build His kingdom?
- What ways might He be calling you to get more involved in your church and in your community?

PRAY:

- Pray for God to reveal His spiritual gifts in your life. Do you already know your gifts? Ask God to reveal how you might use those gifts to build His Kingdom.
- Pray for opportunities to use your gifts specifically with your church family at Life Gate. Pray for opportunities to use your gifts to serve your community.

DAY 13: JANUARY 22

I found the following article written by @christianhistoryinstitute that was shared by Paul Manwaring, a man I admire greatly.

“In 1948, 31-year-old Billy Graham was coming off a successful stint as a Youth for Christ evangelist and entering a period of independent ministry that would last almost six decades. His revival team included Bev Shea, Grady Wilson, and Cliff Barrows. The quartet was young and charismatic.

As Christianity entered its heady postwar boom, Americans flocked to revivals. Some were looking for salvation, but others had different sights and focus. Politicians saw the revivals as a hedge against communism; entertainers saw a chance to promote themselves. Temptations loomed everywhere, so to guard against allegations or the actual abuse of money, sex, and power that had taken out previous evangelists, the Graham team decided to take concrete steps to avoid the slightest whiff of controversy.

The team gathered in a hotel room in Modesto, California. They drew up a compact that became known as the ‘Modesto Manifesto,’ though they produced no written document. The manifesto included provisions for distributing money raised by offerings, avoiding criticism of local churches, working only with churches that supported cooperative evangelism, and using official estimates of crowd sizes to avoid exaggeration. These policies would help Graham and his team avoid charges of financial exploitation and being accused of using aggressive or questionable methods of selling or peddling in a manner to get something.”

That’s a picture of character! This kind of integrity is actively displaying the kingdom in earth, and we should all take note of what it took to pull that off.

First, they had to be very aware. Aware of their situation, of their vulnerability, and of their humanity. That kind of knowing and awareness is extremely important. **Samson** is one of the most recognizable of the judges, and the last judge who ruled over Israel before the time of the kings. He was a Nazarite, yet broke many rules of the Nazarite vow. God gifted **Samson** with incredible strength, but he lost his strength when Delilah betrayed him to the Philistines, who blinded and enslaved him.

Had Samson been aware like these men who gathered in Modesto, he would have been almost invincible, or at the very least profoundly used by God as an honored vessel. Can you imagine what kind of a judge he would have been, if he hadn’t compromised on so many things? He was a man of the flesh and his many mistakes serve as a warning to all not to play with fire. (Judges 13-16)

Secondly, they had to be humble and accountable. Without accountability, none of them would have experienced the success and breakthrough that they did. The things accomplished by, and through, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association are legendary and examples of God’s favor upon those who seek to put Him first. BGEA is still having a worldwide influence because of the manifesto!

Third, they had to trust God and be willing to let Him lead them. There are way too many pitfalls, whether we’re a high-profile evangelist or cleaning houses for a living, snares are constantly being laid for us and without the Holy Spirit we will be trapped.

By our very nature of being human, we are extremely vulnerable to the infringement of the enemy. And he absolutely HATES us. His desire is to “steal, kill, and destroy,” no matter the age, the status, or the intelligence.

Psalms 119:97-104 is absolutely powerful today, and don't forget Proverbs 13! Every verse of both chapters is a gem, but here are a couple of highlights from Psalm 119...

Verse 98 – we can have an edge over our enemies if we take seriously what God says.

Verse 101 – when temptation presents itself, we must refuse to bend our morals!

Verse 102 – we must position ourselves strongly and not turn away from difficult truths.

I bless each of you as you answer the questions below and read the Word, because He wants to touch you, heal you and bring you into alignment with His way of thinking.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 16:7b: The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Proverbs 4:23: Above all else, guard your heart. For EVERYTHING you do flows from it.

Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they will see God.

REFLECTION:

- Do you value integrity?
- Why does God choose to look at the heart of a person?
- How might God use your integrity to impact the people around you?

PRAY:

- Ask the Spirit to examine your heart. What are your actions revealing to those close to you?
- Pray for love, grace, justice, and truth to flow from your heart to the people around you.

Day 14: January 23

I believe we are in a time of true transformation, and God is giving us time to turn our ships around. Over the last few years many things have changed, some things have died, and still other things have gone and are not coming back. The good thing is that in the middle of such great consternation and turmoil, our Father has mercifully allowed some things to remain; although what remains may be significantly diminished or different than it was before. Revelation 3:2 prods us to action... ***“Wake up! Strengthen that which remains...”***

It's true, that after the last few years many churches are smaller, many families have suffered loss, and the whole world is reeling from evil men with dark schemes. However, the even greater truth is that our incredible God has a plan! We're emerging from a time like the prophet wrote about in Habakkuk 3 when he said, ***"Though the fig tree fails to blossom, and no fruit is on the vine..."*** But he doesn't stop there, he goes on to say ***"Yet, will I praise Him...I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."*** A song was written from these very verses that appeared on the 1993 Integrity's Hosanna album, My Refuge.

"Yet will I praise Him, even in the night; Even in the midst of the storm. Yet will I praise Him, even in the night; Even in the midst of the storm. I will rejoice in You, my Lord. I'll joy in the God of my salvation. I will rejoice in You, my Lord...my God, my strength and my song."

It's time for us to recognize that in this shmita year something powerful is rising and a new strategy from the Lord is being presented. This is a twinning, double portion, season where the key of the House of David is resting squarely on our shoulders. Jesus, our Key of David, and his anointings, his blessings, and his Spirit are laying on us like a mantle!

Lana Vawser, a powerful prophetic voice from Australia, said this a few hours ago...

"I heard the Lord say 'It may look small but it is birthing a monumental movement.' He is speaking to many right now about new assignments and new pathways. He is speaking about new directions and new blueprints and the leading of His Spirit into ways that look completely different and the 'way' has never been 'done before'. It's a pioneering trail." "My precious ones, I want you to pay attention to the 'small' things that I am asking you to do. Do not overlook the 'small', because it may look like a 'small beginning' but what I am having you do, the way I am having you walk, the new strategy I am speaking to you in the 'smallest of details' are going to be places where you will see the birthing of a monumental movement."

"I began to see these seeds that the Lord is leading many to sow that look or may seem 'insignificant' into the ground, are actually containing the very heart and blueprint of God that is going to bring EXPLOSIVE movement. As I saw this I was struck by how important it is right now to PAY ATTENTION to the small things the Lord is asking you to sow and you to do. Do NOT overlook the small things, do NOT look at or despise the day of 'small beginnings' for there is an explosive move of God that is about to come forth out of the 'smallest' of places."

"It is an unexpected move of my Spirit and container of my glory. Some of the most explosive demonstrations of my power and moves of my Spirit are going to be seen in what may seem insignificant or in the smallest of spaces and places."

That's powerful! Let's pull the drawstring now. Habakkuk's name can be translated

“Clinger” in English. It means someone who holds onto something and won't let go. What the prophet clung onto was God and not any other person or matter. Even though he faced great problems that caused him to trouble and sigh within him, he chose to bring all the difficulties in his heart before God, crying out and inquiring of God about them.

Psalm 119:107 says, “...**Revive me, O Lord, according to your word.**” I see it happening as we deep dive into His word and worship. We are being revived and awakened to Him in fresh, new ways. As we are awakening, we're thirsty and hungry for the things of the Spirit; we're desirous of His movement and His working in and through us. His presence is stirring us in new ways and revealing new blueprints for future breakthrough, so let's stay humble and continue to seek Him with repentance and true love for the One who first loved us.

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 10:37-39: For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Psalm 25:18: Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

Nehemiah 1:6b, 8-9 (NIV): I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, **but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.**'

REFLECTION:

- Imagine what our community would look like if a true transformation occurred among Christ followers. What are some things that would look different?
- Will you join us and pray for an awakening to begin in us?

PRAY:

- Pray for awakening to occur in your own life. Pray for God to utterly transform you into a humble and willing servant, empowered by the Holy Spirit, living on mission in your community.
- Pray for awakening to occur in the people of Life Gate International. Pray that revival would sweep through our church family and set our hearts on fire with the urgency of the Gospel.

DAY 15: JANUARY 24

Focus on the Vision

Proverbs 29:18 - "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."

There's no doubt about it, we are better together. As the church, His ekklesia, we have the privilege to worship together, declare together, and reach out to the world with the hope that is found in the message of the Gospel! What is your part in our vision to **Come to worship, Come to pray, and Come to Life**? Like Abraham, is it to go to a new place that He will show you to share the Gospel with a people who have never heard? Is he calling you to care for people? ...or teach people or the Bible in creative and compelling ways? Whatever He is calling you to; we know from scripture that He is calling you there through the context of a local body. Spend these next 8 days praying for our Life Gate leadership. Also spend time praying that God would continue to pour a fresh energy and passion into our body as we seek to honor and follow Him into the future. We have seen God move in some incredible ways over the course of this year but He's not done with us. Let's ask Him to continue to use us for His glory!

T.E. Lawrence once said, "All men dream but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds awake to the day to find it was all vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for the many act out their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible..."

I would like to add my own post-script to Lawrence's assessment....

...However, dreamers by the Spirit are conquering men, undefeatable men, for dreams inspired by the Holy Spirit transform unworthy, unlikely candidates into formidable, overcoming heroes that accomplish staggering things. (Kingsley Walker, 2022)

There are several points I would submit to us today...

First, as people who have the same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead in us, we must begin to act like it, and we must also cast out fear. Fear is a detrimental component that will unravel the best dreams and visions and literally bury us beneath its weight.

Second, we need solid, clear vision for today to propel us into our future.

I read a story submitted by Lynn Anderson yesterday. About 400 years ago a shipload of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year they established a town site. The next year they elected a town government. The third year the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness.

In the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government because they

thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway?

Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But in just a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision. With a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great. Without it, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries.

And third, it's time for us to remember who we are...**and whose we are**. Our identity is not in our employment, or our children, or any of the wonderful abilities God has given us. Identity is found in Christ. He is our worth, He is our value, and He is our purpose.

The Chicago Tribune recently wrote that Facebook provides more than 50 options beyond "male" and "female" for users to describe their gender identity, from "gender questioning" and "neither" to "androgynous."

Seriously? What are they thinking? We were created male and female in His image! But now with everyone choosing what they want to identify as, the lines are getting really blurred. Psalm 119:121-128 is the 15th section of Psalm 119. The 15th letter of the Hebraic alphabet is ayin. Some ayin words are color, conceit, sight eye, face, fountain, resemblance, well, countenance, look, looks, knowledge, outward appearance, presence.

The reason I bring this to our attention, is that we were created in God's image, to have an uncanny resemblance to our Father, to look like Him, and to have His knowledge by His Spirit. We are to have eyes to see what He wants us to see, a face that reflects His glory and presence, and to be a fountain of living water for many to drink of and be sustained.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says, **“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”**

Let's reflect Him and remember who we are, while having eyes to see the clear vision He is giving us, and ears to hear His beautiful voice speaking to us, and a heart to understand that the Spirit is in us, with us, and empowering us!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 78:24: He rained down manna for the people to eat; he gave them the grain of heaven.

Habakkuk 2:1: I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me.

Proverbs 29:18: Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

REFLECTION:

- Why is it important for the local church to be rallied together around the vision God has given?
- Is there anything in your heart holding you back from jumping **all in** with vision God has given our church? What will it take for you to jump all in?

PRAY:

- Pray for God to make you **forerunner of the faith**. Pray that God would use your life to help people **find and follow Jesus**.
- Pray for your heart to be **all in** on the vision God has given Life Gate International.

DAY 16: JANUARY 25

Made For His Glory

“I am with you now, even close to you, so never yield to fear. I will bring your children from the east; from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, ‘Hand them over!’ and to the south, ‘Don’t hold them back!’ Bring Me My sons from far away, My daughters from the ends of the earth! Bring Me everyone who is called by My name, the ones I created to experience My glory. I myself formed them to be who they are and made them for My glory.”

(Isaiah 43:5-7 TPT)

Isaiah is speaking to Israel in these verses, but we must also note that as believers in Jesus Christ we are grafted into this same vine. These promises are for us too, which makes this a very powerful message to everyone who loves Jesus and is in pursuit of Him in 2022!

God is saying that there is a gathering in from all sides, and that He wants everyone called by His name to be brought to Him. Why? Because He created us to experience His glory! The Father wants us to be with Him, near Him, in His presence, because He created us to experience His glory. He is saying to Isaiah that He formed us to be who we are and He made us for His glory. It's not just that He wants us to have an experience...He made us to be able to enter and remain in His glory. We were made for glory! That's huge!

Refined In The Fire

Check out Proverbs 25:4...

4 Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel;

Isn't that what we're doing this month? We're removing any hindrances, any encumbrances and anything that may be holding us back, or away from God and His plan...we're skimming off the dross and allowing our good, good Father to produce a vessel out of silver refined in the fire. What an amazing plan!

Come Up Higher

Verse 7 of Chapter 25 says, ***“For it is better that it be said to you, ‘Come up here,’ than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince, who your eyes have seen.”***

Come up here...where have we heard that line before? It's used twice in Revelation 4:1, and Revelation 11:12, and it's an invitation to John to come up higher so that he might receive revelation and an understanding of things to come. It's also a call for John to come nearer to God's presence and glory. For us it's no different. The Refiner is skimming off the dross, the impurities, so that only the pure remains. Then what remains He will fashion into what He desires. I want to be willing to allow the fire to be turned up, so that the impure things can be revealed and removed.

One of my favorite “presence” scriptures is Psalm 27:4...

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)

A few weeks ago, I was praying in the sanctuary and found myself saying, “Don't ever take your Spirit from me...don't ever take Your Spirit from me.” I wasn't necessarily worried that He would, but just the thought of what it could be like was distressing to me. I just want to be where He is, see His beauty in whatever ways that He allows me to see it, and not miss an opportunity to be aware of His Spirit in me.

Honor and Yield To Holy Spirit

Talking about Hosting His Presence, Bill Johnson once said,

“The primary quest in my life is to learn how to host the Presence of God. There is no greater privilege than being a host to God Himself. Neither is there a greater responsibility. He is looking for people who will host His Presence without using it for personal gain, and He will give us the measure that we will jealously guard.

Jesus modeled a life fully yielded to the Holy Spirit and gave an incredible example to anyone who would say yes to the call to follow Him. In John 20, He said to His disciples, “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you” and then breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

He has entrusted us with His Holy Spirit, and it's not good enough to have His Presence

as a doctrine. We need to become aware of a Person. If we are carrying a dove on our shoulder and don't want it to fly away, every step we take must be made with the dove in mind, to protect what is of highest value."

The Spirit of the resurrected Christ lives in us, and He wants out! Wherever we go, He is looking for people who will encounter Him and for people who will host Him. Christ *in* you is the hope of glory, and the moment He took up residence in us, all of heaven began to look and see what we would do with what we had been given."

That's a great question. What are we doing with what we've been given? I can't answer that for anyone but myself, but I would encourage us all to be filled up with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to reveal the Father's heart and plans for reviving us and His church. And by the way, He's got plans!

"...‘You are My witnesses, My chosen servants. I chose you in order that you would know Me intimately, believe Me always, and fully understand that I am the only God. There was no god before Me, and there will be no other god after Me. I, only I, am Yahweh, and there is no Savior-God but Me. I am the only one who revealed this to you. I saved you, foretold the future, and brought it to pass. It was not some foreign god who did this! You are My witnesses that I am God, ‘ declares Yahweh. ‘From the very beginning, I am the only God! No one can be snatched from My hand. When I choose to act, who can reverse it?’ (Isaiah 43:10-13 TPT)

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 86:6: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Psalm 80:18-19: Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

REFLECTION:

- We want to be a body that seeks God in everything we do. How will you commit to pray for our church long after these 22 days are over?
- What areas do you sense the Lord calling **you** to become more involved in our body?

PRAY:

- Pray for the Spirit to reveal your connection and role in Life Gate's vision to...

Come to worship, Come to pray, Come to Life!

- Pray for God to heal our neighborhoods and communities in the St. Louis area. Ask Him to use us, the ones called by His Name, to bring that healing.

DAY 17: JANUARY 26

We are the House of God. Paul elaborated on this when he said in First Corinthians 3:16, ***“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”***

And in Ephesians 2:19-22, ***“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”***

We're the Church, the redeemed, and we're the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, the eternal dwelling place of God! Peter calls us “living stones” (1 Peter 2:4-5), fitly framed together, building the eternal dwelling place of God. C'mon, we are the House of God... it's us!

And God wants a house where He will dwell, where angels come and go, ascending and descending on assignment...and where the heavens are open over a people who abide in Him, meaning they stay connected in their affection and love for Him.

“God wants so much to invade this world with the reality of what was purchased on Calvary. But He waits for a people who will live the normal Christian life, putting themselves at risk, constantly tapping into the invisible resources of heaven that have been standing idle. This is how we function as the House of God.” – Bill Johnson, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*

I love this! But I also know that it takes many parts to build a house, and a good crew to build it. With all the parts necessary to build, it takes great purpose and desire. Smith Wigglesworth, in one of his messages quotes Ephesians 4:3, ***“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*** Then he says, “this was a very precious word to us because it meant that under any circumstances we would not have our own way but God's way.”

This is key because if we're the house, then we all have to work together with each other, and with God to see His kingdom come in earth as it is in heaven.

And ***“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,”*** helps us have God's way for the person and God's way for the church. In honor, we prefer one another, and we prioritize our Father and His kingdom.

I believe that God wants us to have a pure love, a love that always helps someone else at its own expense. ***‘There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in***

one hope of your calling.' (Ephesians 4:4)

Let's be confident in our identity as the House of God, because if we are, we can do incredible exploits. No power of darkness in any realm of creation can stop our fellowship with the Father. I'm declaring an open heaven over each of us, from the youngest to the oldest...the newest believer to the most mature. We have the exact authority Jesus has at the right hand of the Father...we are entitled and empowered to be His "House," his representation on this earth.

May I let you in on something? As a believer at this very moment, we have unrestricted absolute liberty and access to heaven and nothing can separate us from His love. But we can't be impressed with the devil's accomplishments or afraid of what he is doing. Let's open our heart gates to Him today, and let's pray for one another, blessing what He is doing in each of us.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 15:5-6: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17:20-21: My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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.

REFLECTION:

- The Bible talks a great deal about unity in the Body of Christ. Is this something you have spent any amount of time fighting for?
- How can you assist in creating more unity around the vision of our church?

PRAY:

- Pray for unity among the Life Gate family. Pray for grace in our differences, compassion for each other, and emphasis on what brings us together. Thank God for opening heaven over us and sending His glory.
- Ask God to make you a conduit of His unity. Ask Him to make you a person of peace among His people.

DAY 18: JANUARY 27

Early in my ministry, I was a busy youth pastor in a church of about 1,000. Our schedule was demanding and the youth group was growing and very active. Many evenings I found myself in meetings and activities, which made it difficult to assist in putting our two, small children to bed at night. Our son was a year old, barely walking,

and would go crawl in his crib by himself when it was time for bed. Our daughter was three, and ready to go to college!

Obviously, I'm kidding. But she was incredibly creative and motivated, and had an amazing vocabulary. She always had something going...real or imagined...and if there wasn't any excitement, she could generate it. She loved to entertain and plan events of any kind, and numerous times I would arrive home to find that she had created a new business card for herself, decorated for a party, or designed a new line of clothing (not kidding here). She always had a new idea, or a twist on an old one, and she was fiercely independent. In her mind, she wasn't three, she was ready for the world and the rest of us were holding her back and impeding her progress.

All the things I wanted to teach her, or lead her into, she found a way to teach herself before I could help. She learned to tie her shoes, ride a bike, and numerous other things...all without me. She even asked Jesus into her heart, in her Sunday School class with her teacher. An entrepreneur from the beginning, she figured out that change would fall out of people's pockets when they sat on our couch, so she would pull the cushions out after every meeting or family gathering and collect all the coinage. While relatives were waiting for holiday meals to be ready, she would entertain them by singing songs with different accents, then passing a hat for donations...what a girl!

Why am I telling this story? Because from the moment she came into the world, my daughter has been amazing...and busy...and writing helps me remember. I don't want to forget her crying when she was born, and how when she heard my voice she immediately stopped crying and opened her eyes wide, blinking and looking right into my eyes as I talked to her. She knew my voice...and I never want to lose that moment in my mind. It's easy for us to forget things, and miss the vitality and life in our lives, the moments of joy, and the times of great importance. It's good to remember. We all need to adjust and recalibrate our minds to think about, and recall things that are important. Not just events that happened, but our mission and our purpose.

Bill Johnson tells the story of being in an airport in Vancouver, Canada, waiting in line at Starbucks. Like me, Bill loves coffee and all that comes with it...the aromas, the sights and sounds of the coffee shop, and the anticipation of that next cup of coffee. It's delightful, and mesmerizing.

Anyway, Bill is with a friend, but his friend is taking an unusually long time at the register with the cashier. It didn't occur to him that anything important was happening. He was simply there getting coffee as they waited for their next flight. Then he watched as his friend took the cashier's hand, and they closed their eyes and bowed their heads in prayer. When they had finished, his friend joined him and told him that as he was ordering he had seen a spirit of suicide on her, and he began to minister to her and broke that power. She told him, "God sent you in here today." Bill said, (and this is key) *"I was caught off guard because all I was thinking about was coffee! My mind had momentarily forgotten the more important things in life."*

It is so easy for our minds to slip into natural thinking only, for our faith to slide so subtly that we don't notice it happening. Listen to rest of what Bill says,

"Little by little we can begin to think 'practically,' leaning on natural wisdom instead of Kingdom reality. One of the great tools for keeping a Kingdom mindset is to meditate on and remember God's Word, devising ways of reminding ourselves of His promises to us, and then passing those promises and remembrances on to the next generation of believers. Without taking practical steps to remember and meditate on the truth, we will easily forget what God has promised. By degrees, we will become earthy minded, and that's what we must avoid if we're to successfully live the normal Christian life."

Think about this...in Eastern occult religions, meditation means emptying the mind. But biblical meditation is the opposite—it's filling the mind with God's truth. When we worship and turn our attention on Him, we are literally changing the atmosphere and shifting our minds to focus on and think about heavenly things. But more importantly, to remember Him! To remember all He is, all He is doing, and all He has done.

Jesus said it in Luke 22:19, **"...Do this in remembrance of me..."** and in actuality, the correct rendering is, "Every time you do this, remember me..." I know it would be hard not to remember Jesus, but the fact remains that we all too quickly forget and the Lord was saying, "Don't forget me. Don't forget what we've done and experienced the last few years. Don't lose track of how much I love you. Remember me."

"Remembrance is an important aspect of Christianity and our faith. As believers we are encouraged and strengthened by remembering the faith and deeds of those who have gone before us. We remember that our faith is an ancient faith, we remember the promises of God's word, and as we do our confidence is built in trusting God and living in His truth." (Jason Soroski)

Don't forget that when Jesus asked the disciples to "remember" they were eating the Passover meal. A meal that for centuries the Jewish people had observed every year in order to remember God's fulfillment of his promise. Every year they reenacted the preparation of fleeing Egypt, and being prepared for whatever came next. Jesus takes this concept to its completion as he reveals that he is the true fulfillment of the Passover. Jesus is commemorating, observing, and remembering what God has done, while simultaneously revealing what God is doing and will do.

God said he would **"keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on" Him** (Isaiah 26:3). Let's keep our minds on Him, remember Him...think about Him...and not forget His word and all He is. If we do, He will keep us in perfect peace. If we remember, we will have Shalom.

In my daughter's case, she considered herself more mature and capable than she actually was, but maturity was still a few years down the road. In Bill Johnson's situation, he was mature and capable, but he was distracted by everything around him and the experience he was having. In the disciple's circumstance, they were given an

assignment that would assist them in becoming more mature.

If we will let His Word light our way and remember all His benefits, all His miracles, and all His attributes, our memories will serve us well and our magnificent Father, by His Spirit will help us mature into all that He desires for us to be. Today, let's meditate on the Word and give ourselves every opportunity to remember what is true and what He has spoken to us!

SCRIPTURE:

2 Peter 3:18: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Psalm 119:105: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

REFLECTION:

- What does spiritual maturity look like? What does it mean to be "spiritually mature?"
- What are areas of your life do you sense the Lord calling you to grow in maturity?

PRAY:

- Ask the Father to grow the people of Life Gate in our development and discipleship. Pray that as we grow closer to God, we grow closer together.
- Pray for the ministries of Life Gate (small groups, care groups, children's ministry, student ministry, etc.) to truly foster growth in our church family as we disciple others and ourselves.

Credits:

Jason Soroski, The Magnificent Truth in the Command 'Do This in Remembrance of Me', Salem Communications contributing writer, July 19, 2020

Bill Johnson, The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. 2005

DAY 19: JANUARY 28

Proverbs 28:1-2 NASB is a wonderful scripture... ***"1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion. 2 By the transgression of a land many are its princes, but by a man of understanding and knowledge, so it endures."***

How about the same verses in the Passion Translation? ***“1 Guilty criminals experience paranoia even though no one threatens them. But the innocent lovers of God, because of righteousness, will have the boldness of a young, ferocious lion! 2 A rebellious nation is thrown into chaos, but leaders anointed with wisdom will restore law and order.”***

Powerful words as we come down the stretch. I believe God is calling all of us higher... to greater places of leadership, to vantage points that give us better perspective, and to expanded vision to expect and see the greater, miraculous things of a good, good Father. Our focus must adjust and our thinking recalibrate in order for us to see that servants aren't co-laborers; friends are.

In his book *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*, Bill Johnson references this. *“There are major differences between the mentality of a servant, and the mentality of a friend. A servant is task-oriented, wanting to know exactly what is required so he or she can do it. But a servant doesn't know the master's business from the inside.*

We don't have servants today, so it's hard for us to understand, but imagine that you did have people living in your household who served you and carried out your will. A servant would know certain things about you, like your hobbies, whether you liked going to baseball games or to be out fishing, what you liked for dinner, what time you wanted coffee in the morning. But a servant would not share personal times with you. He wouldn't comfort you in your down times; you wouldn't invite the servants in to discuss family problems or major business decisions, or even minor ones.”

Here's why that's important. God has brought us, or elevated us, from servant status to friend status. He literally invites us into a relationship that goes beyond employer-employee interactions. He is willing, and wants us to engage Him...to change His mind, to direct his ideas, to share in His unfolding creative work. He doesn't lack for ideas... He just enjoys our participation.

When we become a friend of God instead of a servant, our relational perspective adjusts. We obey and are humble, like a servant, but there's a point in our relationship with God where obedience really isn't the primary issue anymore. Think about it. As our levels of relationship with Him deepen, obedience is a given...like being on the ground floor of a tall building. It's where everything starts, but as we build and grow, in and with God, we begin to experience a friendship and closeness that allows us to more fully co-labor *with* Him, rather than labor *for* Him.

King David had a great idea for a temple. First Kings 8 tells the story of building the temple of Solomon, one of the most significant events in the Bible. At the dedication of the temple, Solomon says,

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build

a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.” Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the lord God of Israel.” (1 Kings 8:15-17)

So, let's grab this. God said, "I didn't choose a city, I chose a man, and the temple was in the heart of the man." It's like He was saying, "The Temple wasn't my idea. David was my idea." Isn't that incredible? David was creative and a worshiper, and those aspects and his desires fueled the writing of history because God got behind them and embraced them. It's hard for us to grasp this concept.

"We wait for instructions and work hard to suppress our own ideas. We think anything we do for God must flow directly from the Throne and be carried out to the letter, as if from a heavenly instruction booklet. God's approach is different. He has made Himself vulnerable to the desires of His people. History unfolds according to what we do, what we pray, what we don't do and what we don't pray. He gave us Kingdom principles that set up our parameters, and then He said, 'Dreamers...Come! Let's dream together and write the story of human history.'" (Bill Johnson)

The scripture, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." is a verse that I always thought meant, "If I go after God completely, then He will give me the desires of my heart...after He changes my heart's desires." But what the verse actually and literally means, is that God wants to be impacted by what we think and dream. He is after our desires. He's after intimacy with us. But He also likes throwing out His idea and waiting for our response. 2 Timothy 2:15 talks about presenting ourselves to God as one approved, but the deeper truth is that if we will be His friend and work on that true friendship, we won't need an approval, we'll already be in. A servant seeks approval and permission, but a friend is permitted instant connection and access.

Here's the tricky part, we don't know which of our desires come from God, and which are carnal, right? The word desire is made up of the prefix *de* meaning "of" and *sire* meaning "the Father." Desire is, by nature, of the Father. But before we come to Christ, our desires are corrupted because desire springs from what we commune with. If we commune with greed, then our desires will be greedy. If we commune with pornography, our desires will be for perversity. If we allow anger to be where we spend our time and energy, our desire will be for revenge. But when we commune with the Father, our desires are pure.

That's why Mark 11:24 is powerful... ***"Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*** *If our desires are pure.*

As we're praying and fasting, let's remember to bless one another and thank Holy Spirit for assisting all of us as we commune with the Father. And...thank God for clean hands and pure hearts and righteous desires.

SCRIPTURE:

2 Timothy 2:15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Proverbs 11:14: Where there is no guidance, a people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

REFLECTION:

- Do you pray for the leadership of the church? If not stop for a moment and pray for our leaders and staff that lead our church.
- How can you personally take ownership in the vision God has given our church?

PRAY:

- Pray for the leaders of Life Gate International. Pray everyone in leadership positions would have wisdom, strength, and discernment to follow God boldly on behalf of our church family.
- Pray for new leaders to emerge at Life Gate. Pray that people in our church family would rise up and lead as new group leaders, worship leaders, social media influencers, greeters, media and technical leaders, youth and children's leaders, and all other roles that are vital to the vision of our church.

Credit: Bill Johnson, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*

DAY 20: JANUARY 29

I'm reading a book written by retired U.S. Navy Captain L. David Marquet, entitled *Turn the Ship Around!* It's an incredible book about how Captain Marquet took the nuclear submarine *Santa Fe* from worst to first in the fleet by challenging the U.S. Navy's traditional leader-follower approach. In an amazing turnaround, followers became leaders and each member of Marquet's crew became a leader that assumed responsibility for everything they did, from clerical tasks to crucial combat decisions.

One of the things that I've learned as I've been reading is that sometimes we all become action-averse because taking action in some cases results in errors. If we constantly run our lives by trying not to make mistakes, or holding back and letting someone else take the risk so we don't get blamed, we will find ourselves sapped of the lifeblood that flows from initiative and risk taking. Not to mention the Divine empowerment that comes when we step out and move in faith. Faith without works is dead, but faith with procrastination is still dead because of lack of engagement. It's time to rise up in our most holy faith!

Proverbs 29:25 TPT states, ***“Fear and intimidation is a trap that holds you back. But when you place your confidence in the Lord, you will be seated in the high place.”***

This is so very true! We aren't on a submarine defending our nation in the open seas, with 135 other sailors, but we do have to function together as a unit on our own war – ship (wor – ship) that is engaged in a higher warfare for the souls of men and the defeat of the evil one, Satan. As we tend our altar of worship together here at Life Gate, we must remember that our praise is changing the atmosphere, and the fire on the altar is shifting the heavenlies and displacing the demonic powers that have been given place and position in the second heavens and right here in the earth realm.

Vance K. Jackson says that *“The war is not against flesh and blood—this war is spiritual. What's trying to consume you? What's trying to consume your thoughts, ideas, and plans? What's trying to drain you of your time, energy and resources? For you are not wrestling against physical powers or might. The battle is spiritual.”* (YouVersion devotional)

In Ephesians 6:10-13 TPT Paul declares, ***“Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you. Put on God's complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser! Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.”***

Our focus at LGI isn't minimizing errors, although that's a byproduct of moving in excellence, but rather our target is Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We keep our eyes on Jesus, we worship for Jesus, we release our gifts and our talents for Jesus, we give to Jesus, we serve and love in the Church because we serve and love Jesus. **Our main thing and prime objective is to place our confidence in the Lord, to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, to love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and to tear the word *impossible* out of all of our dictionaries.** We are in a battle, a war, but our eyes are on Jesus!

My friend, Jim Garlow, in his book *Well Versed*, says, “There is no major world issue about which the Word does not provide basic and transcendent truths.” Jesus is the author and finisher and His Word is our sword.

That's why we can say...we don't have problems, we have opportunities. We don't

have conflict, we have adjustments to God's way of thinking. We must connect our day-to-day activities to something larger. The Father isn't looking for us to check off all the boxes every day, or to try and look good, or to even attempt to please one of our leaders. We need to see the ultimate purpose of our "house" and remember that it is a noble purpose, a Divine call, and directly connected to the rich legacy of Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross. We are doing all of this for Him and we wage war by enforcing His victory!

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 2:8: Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

1 Chronicles 16:24: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 119:153-160: Be my hero...Take my side and defend me...give me back my life again...breathe life into me again...every one of your righteous decrees is everlasting."

REFLECTION:

- Throughout scripture God has given a clear directive to His people; to spread His glory throughout the earth. Have you ever given thought to where you and your family might fit into this calling?
- Have you ever prayed an open-ended prayer? Asking God to show you where He would have you go, or what He would have you do, with no limits on His answer? Have you ever really put your "yes" on the table and told God to use you however HE wanted to, then listened?

PRAY:

- Pray for the boldness to put your "yes" on the table. Ask God for the courage to fully surrender to His plans.
- Pray for the discernment to clearly hear God's voice from among all the other voices competing for our attention.

DAY 21: JANUARY 30

Psalm 119:161-162 TPT – ***"The powerful elite have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart trembles in awe because of your miracle-words. Your promises are the source of my bubbling joy; the revelation of your Word thrills me like one who has discovered hidden treasure."***

I love His Word! My grandmother Alice used to read the Word out loud in her proper British tongue, and it was very powerful.

I've been thinking a lot about my parents and grandparents, all of whom are in the great cloud of witnesses praying for us, and cheering us on. I miss them...I long to hear their voices again, their laughter, and the sound of their prayers being released out loud. I'm not sitting here pining away and getting depressed, far from it. In fact, I'm reminded of Proverbs 13:22 that says, "**A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children...**" and I can honestly say that I am living in that reality. We are standing on what they built, what they prayed, and what they believed for and indelible marks were left on this world by my parents, my grandparents and their parents before them. I desire to do the same!

"Righteousness causes us to realize that our daily decisions affect several generations away. We must learn to sow into the welfare of a generation we may never live to see." – Bill Johnson

My relatives sowed well...not perfectly, but well! They prayed in faith, believed, and made decisions that set the course of my life and even saved me from destruction numerous times. Over the years I heard many stories of past exploits, adventures, and the miraculous interventions of an incredible God operating in this earthly, physical world. And you know what? They all believed God could do it, without exception.

I've observed first-hand God's provision and assistance, and His miraculous power, and I know that something was instilled in me from as far back as I can remember, a knowing...a belief...that God was not only real, but personal, and powerful, and a friend that would never leave me, no matter what. At my grandfather's funeral, I accepted the challenge to pick up the sword that he had laid down as he crossed over to his reward.

That's why I carry a mantle as an apostle of worship, and mantles for breakthrough, intercession, and for healing and miracles. One longtime friend calls me "The Miracle Man" because it always seems like God does miraculous things in my life. That sounds exciting, and it is, but there was a price paid for these things. My relatives devoted their entire lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and following His leading. It was hard work, long hours, poor (and sometimes no) pay, and lonely. There were multiplied hours of prayer and reading the Word, preparation for preaching, teaching, and classes, and criticism and rejection were constant as they honorably displayed what they believed it looked like to value the presence and work of God above the opinions and support of man.

As I've been praying and worshiping this month, I've been reading the Bible and books by Bill Johnson, Smith Wigglesworth, Jim Garlow, and retired Navy Captain L. David Marquet. After three weeks I'm convinced that it doesn't matter if we're a first-generation believer, or if our family has been in the church for generations. By revelation we have access to an inheritance that is beyond our wildest imaginations...

beyond our wildest dreams.

In a chapter in one of his books entitled, *Inheriting The Supernatural*, Bill Johnson says,

*“We owe it to the generations in the past to occupy that territory because they paid a great price to bring it to us. We owe it to our parents, our grandparents, and to our great-grandparents. We owe it to our children, and their children. Before Jesus returns there will be the community of the redeemed walking under the influence of their inheritance, **a city whose builder and maker is God**. There will be a generation that steps into the cumulative revelation of the whole gospel. There will be a generation that lifts their eyes and sees that supernatural season in which every single person is harvestable now, and have the anointing necessary to carry it out.”*

I think we can all say, “Amen” to that. I want to see these things in my lifetime...so I’m giving my life for it. I want to reach and experience those things prophesied and I want to fulfill my destiny that’s in the Book of Kingsley Walker’s Days. I want to be in the mixture of multiple generations of my progeny and enjoy the fruits of the blessing and outpouring of the Lord...together. I’m trusting we’ll all get there together. But if we don’t, please hear my voice: “You guys get there! Take it on! It’s real...He’s real! Don’t let people’s opinions shape you and mold you, but be shaped by the value and meaning of His presence. Value that above all things! Claim more territory for God. Win more battles for the Kingdom...any price you pay is more than worth it!

“He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.” - Matthew 10:41

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” – Genesis 15:1

“The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.” – Proverbs 22:4

MORE SCRIPTURE:

Amos 3:7: For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

Acts 2:17: And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

REFLECTION:

- What has God been speaking over your life as you've spent these last three weeks fasting and praying, turning your heart towards Him? Has there been a theme to these 21 days? What is it?
- What action steps are you committing to take?

PRAY:

- Pray that what God started in you over the last 2 days would continue in your heart and mind.
- Pray for faithfulness in prayer, fasting, and Bible study as the Lord leads you. Pray for faithfulness in your church family as well.

DAY 22: JANUARY 31

You made it!

It's been an amazing 22 days...and we made it! This isn't going to be long, because as we conclude our 22 days of prayer and fasting, it is important to ask, "Now what?" How can you remain committed to seeking Him?

Very simply, decide to love God and seek Him. That's right, decide. Look for opportunities to spend time with Him and to learn from Him. Daily.

Decide to chase after Him and not the things of this life that quickly distract us from Him. Daily.

Give Him your whole heart. Daily.

Look for Him in each day, through people, circumstances, the Bible, and creation. Daily.

It will take intention, effort, desire, and time; but it will be so worth it as your relationship with Him grows, develops, and you fall more and more in love with Him.

Hebrews 11:6 says that ***God will reward those who earnestly seek Him.*** Will you continue to earnestly seek after the God of this universe who loves you completely and desires to walk with you daily?

The reward will be great because God is great!

The Lord will bless you and keep you

The Lord will make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord will lift up His countenance upon you, the light of His face

And the Lord will give you His Shalom, His peace

Nothing missing, nothing broken, all complete
And the authority of chaos is broken, destroyed by His Shalom

Come to worship...

Come to pray...

Come to Life!