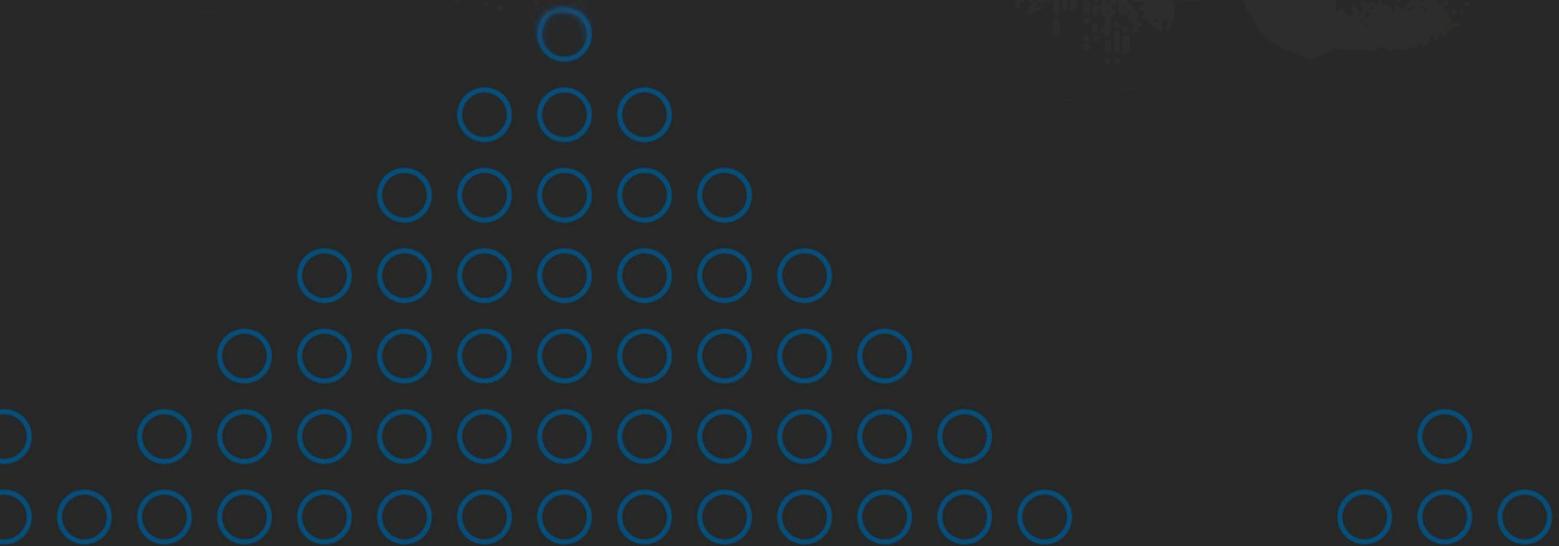




# <sup>THE</sup> **Miracle Multiplied**

21 DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.”

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

# THE Miracle Multiplied

Spring Meadows is in the midst of a milestone in our history called the Miracle Multiplied Campaign. Together, we are praying earnestly for what's next in our church. At the heart of the campaign is a personal 21-Day Spiritual Journey. The resource you are holding is your guide. It's a journey all of us at Spring Meadows will be taking together. It will be a time to deepen our relationship with God and grow our heart for God's mission for the church.

The 21 Day Spiritual Journey has two components: a devotional and a prayer. The devotional provides an opportunity for us each to seek God through scripture and reflection. Prayer provides an opportunity for us to pray for God's power to move through Spring Meadows. Over the next three weeks, we will reflect on God's Word, approach God in prayer, and practice spiritual disciplines designed to draw us closer to the heart of Christ.

Each day, you will be invited to take a step deeper in your faith, exploring new aspects of your relationship with God. As with any meaningful journey, the path might have its challenges, but it will also have moments of profound clarity. Approach the 21 Day Journey seeking refreshment and with a listening posture. God is ready to move in and through YOU! Together we are one church.

# THE Miracle Multiplied

## SPRING MEADOWS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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-  springmeadows.org
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21-DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY  
OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 1 2025

2025



2028

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-11

## MY COMMITMENT

Please check on **BOTH** sides what you are willing to commit to.

### FOUNDATIONAL COMMITMENT:

- |               |                          |   |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Community     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend church weekly  |
| Bible Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow the Miracle Multiplied 21-Day Devotional Guide       |
| Prayer        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow the Miracle Multiplied 21-Day Prayer Guide           |
| Fasting       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow a Basic Fast from the 21 Day Spiritual Journey Guide |
| Outreach      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Write my story  |

### "STRETCH" COMMITMENT:

- |               |                          |   |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Community     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Participate in Prayer Meeting and/or a Sabbath School Class |
| Bible Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> | Memorize one verse each week from the Devotional Guide      |
| Prayer        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer walk my neighborhood and my community                |
| Fasting       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow an Advanced Fast from 21-Day Spiritual Journey Guide |
| Outreach      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Share my story and/or Participate in an SMC Outreach        |

NAME

PHONE

## MY REMINDER

21-DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

October 11 - November 1

A Digital Version of the 21 Day Spiritual Journey Guide is Available Under "The Miracle Multiplied" Tab at [www.springmeadows.org](http://www.springmeadows.org)



# How to Use This Guide

Each Section has resources to help you in your 21-day journey. Take a look at each section and the resources to put together your personal 21-day spiritual journey. There is a calendar checklist in the back of this book, to help plan each day.

## **21-Day Devotional Guide..... Pages 1-44**

Read the daily devotional from the 21-Day Reading Plan.

## **21-Day Prayer Guide..... Pages 45-50**

Each day the 21-Day Prayer Guide will provide you with ways you can be praying for our church, yourself, our community and the world.

## **Weekly Fasting Guide.....Page 51**

Review the Quick Guide to Fasting and learn how to make a fasting commitment during the 21-Day Spiritual Journey.

## **Weekly Prayer Walk Guide..... Pages 52-53**

At least once a week, over the next three weeks, prayer walk your neighborhood. The Prayer Walking Guide will provide you with helpful prompts.

## **My Story: Writing Your Testimony.....Pages 54-55**

This is an opportunity to articulate your experience of accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior in order to share with others what He means to you and the difference He has made in your life.

# **21 Day Devotional Guide**

Reading: Genesis 12

**Faith begins where certainty ends. Have you ever felt frozen? Sometimes, our fear of the unknown holds us back. But if we desire blessings beyond what we have known, we must be willing to step into the unknown.**

Faith is an essential part of every believer's life, but when God challenges us to trust Him with everything we have, it's easy to let fear and uncertainty to freeze us in place. Abraham's story shows us how God can use the faith of an ordinary person to do extraordinary things. Abraham lived in Ur, a prosperous city though it was infested with idolatry. Abraham's life was secure. He had everything he needed. He was successful and happy, but God had plans to bless him beyond what he could ask or think.

When God called him to leave everything familiar for an unknown land, it was not just a daunting physical journey but also a profound act of trust in God's promise. Abraham demonstrated a faith that transcended human logic. Leaving his homeland and stepping into uncertainty demanded remarkable trust in God's plan and promises. Even when it appeared that God had delayed or forgotten His promise, Abraham remained steadfast in his faith.

*"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8, NKJV)*

Abraham trusted God with a faith that transcended human understanding. He believed in a God who would fulfill His Word, even when the evidence wasn't yet visible or obvious. You may have found yourself at a crossroads—a decision in your career, a shift in a relationship, or even a personal challenge—where the outcome was uncertain. It's in those times that we need to trust God, leaning not on what we can see or control but on the promises of His unfailing Word. *"For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'" (Rom 4:3, NKJV)*

The kind of faith that moves God isn't born from perfect people or circumstances, but from anyone who hears, believes, and acts on His Word.

As the scripture says, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*” (Romans 10:17, NKJV).

Reflection: Ask yourself this question as you meditate on the condition of your faith: What could happen if I let go of my fear and doubt and fully and completely trusted Him?

Trusting God is an act of worship. It acknowledges His sovereignty and goodness over every detail of our lives. As you pray today, ask God for the courage to believe His Word and the strength to act on it. Despite uncertainty and doubt, His promises are true and His plans for you are exceedingly abundantly above all you can ask or think.

**Prayer:** *Father, help me trust You when I can't see the end result. I surrender my need for control and embrace Your plans for my life. Strengthen my faith so that I can walk boldly where You lead, even when the path ahead is uncertain. I put my trust completely in You.*

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Reading: Esther 4:10-17

**Courage is Not the Absence of Fear but the Willingness to Act Despite it. Have you ever felt like you were out of sync with God's plan? Take a moment to think back to a time when God gave you a personal challenge, but it seemed impossible. What happened?**

Maybe you stood strong with good courage and moved forward, but if you are like me, you probably struggled with the choice we are all faced with. You either take courage and answer the challenge, no matter the consequences, or shrink back and do nothing. And if we're honest, we have probably done both. Sometimes, we move forward; sometimes we try to talk God out of whatever He tries to get us to do. When God calls us to step out in faith, there's often a sense of losing something—whether it's comfort, approval, or even a sense of safety.

Esther's story is one of courage - a Jewish woman in Persia who faced a life-threatening decision when her people were marked for annihilation. Approaching the king without an invitation could have cost her life, even though she was the king's wife. In the natural setting, she had the appearance of being in the right position, as we often do in our own lives. She still needed to act with courage in facing death to fulfill God's plan for her life. Maybe our everyday decisions with God aren't life-or-death moments, but we can learn from Esther's bravery and self-sacrifice. She demonstrated faith that went above and beyond personal safety.

She trusted in God's sovereignty and stepped into her role as an advocate for her people, and as a result, God used her the same way He would use us if we took courage. Her story reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to trust God and take a step forward anyway. Her decision to stand up for her people was not without risk, yet she believed in the God who had placed her in that moment. Her actions demonstrate a powerful example of faith in action.

*"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, NKJV)*

**Reflection:** It's easy to focus on what we might lose when God calls us to step out in faith, but He wants us to trust that His plans are always for a greater purpose and, ultimately, our benefit. He wants to take us beyond our current circumstances and experiences. Reflect on where you may be hesitating and ask yourself: Am I willing to trust that God will equip me for this?

Esther's courage flowed from her faith in the One who holds all things together. As you reflect on her story, ask God to help you see through the challenges and see the opportunities He's placed before you.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I pray for wisdom, guidance and help to embrace the challenges in front of me. Help me to see the opportunities You've placed before me. Help me to act boldly in faith, knowing You go before me. "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid" (Joshua 1:9).*

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Reading: John 21

## Failure is not the end of your story. Have you ever found yourself weighed down by the memory of a mistake?

Perhaps there's a moment that replays in your mind—a decision made in fear, a word spoken in haste—and it feels like it defines you. I want you to know this: failure is not the end of your story. God's grace is greater than any stumble, and His love is stronger than our worst moments.

Peter's life paints such a beautiful picture of this truth. Peter was bold and passionate—a man who promised unwavering loyalty to Jesus. Yet, when the pressure mounted, fear overtook him. As Jesus was being tried, Peter denied knowing Him three times. When the rooster crowed, Peter's heart broke. Can you imagine the guilt and shame he must have felt? He had failed the One he loved most.

But here's the best part: Jesus wasn't finished with Peter. After the resurrection, Jesus met him on the shore and asked him three times, "Do you love Me?" With each response, Jesus gently restored Peter, commissioning him to "Feed My sheep." That moment wasn't about Jesus testing Peter—it was about grace. He wanted Peter to know that his failure didn't disqualify him; it positioned him to experience the depth of God's mercy.

*"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." —Colossians 2:13-14*

**Reflection:** God doesn't see your failure as the end; He sees it as an opportunity to pour out His grace and reveal His power in your life. Are you holding onto something from your past? Have you been believing the lie that your mistakes define you? Peter's story reminds us that God's forgiveness is complete, and His grace is enough.

Take a moment today to lay those burdens at the foot of the cross. Trust that the same Jesus who restored Peter stands ready to restore you. Your story isn't over.

God specializes in turning brokenness into strength and calling us into bold, purpose-filled living. His grace will help carry you beyond failure and will give you hope to continue the work He has called you to do.

***Prayer:*** Lord, thank You for Your grace that meets me in my failures. Help me to walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness, knowing that my past doesn't define me. Give me the courage to trust You more deeply and to live boldly for You. Amen.

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Reading: 1 Samuel Chapter 17

## **Victory comes not from your ability but your faith in God's ability. Are you standing in the shadow of a giant today?**

A giant represents anything we esteem as bigger, stronger, and more intimidating than ourselves. It can be a task that frightens us or a problem we feel we simply cannot face and conquer. Often, our giants manifest as overwhelming emotional barriers that we struggle to overcome. Our giants are invariably characterized by two feelings that grip our hearts: fear and doubt. When confronted with these powerful emotions, it's easy to either flee or become paralyzed—caught in a standoff that hinders our progress.

However, David's story reminds us that victory isn't determined by the size of the obstacle; it's about the strength of our faith in the living God. David was just a young shepherd when he stepped onto the battlefield to face Goliath, a giant who had left Israel's army paralyzed with fear. Armed with only a sling and five smooth stones, David's confidence was not in his own skill; it was in the Lord Almighty.

*“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.’” (1 Samuel 17:45, NKJV)*

What gave David such boldness? It wasn't bravado or youthful arrogance—it was trust forged in the quiet places. Long before he stood before Goliath, David learned to trust God while protecting his father's sheep from lions and bears. In the hidden, everyday battles, his faith was strengthened. David was able to overcome his fear of Goliath because he was fixing his gaze on the ability of God. He esteemed God to be the true giant. And that made Goliath very small.

**Reflection:** What giants are you facing today? Is there a battle you've been trying to fight on your own? David teaches us that faith isn't built in a moment; it's cultivated through daily reliance on God.

Perhaps God is using the challenge you're facing right now to deepen your trust in Him. Remember, the same God who gave David victory over Goliath walks with you today. Fix your gaze on the REAL giant who is bigger, stronger, and more powerful than every obstacle you may face.

Take time today to lay your burdens at the feet of the Lord. Surrender the outcome to Him, knowing that the battle is not yours to win by your own strength. God's power is perfected in our weakness, and He delights in using His strength to take those who trust Him beyond their fear and doubt.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I bring my giants before You today. Whether it's fear, doubt, or an impossible challenge, I trust in Your strength to bring victory. Help me to step forward in faith, knowing that You fight for me. Let me declare, as David did, "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47). Equip me for the battles I face and remind me that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Amen. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31, NKJV)*

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Reading: Mark 5:25-34

**Faith reaches beyond fear. Does shame sometimes prevent you from fully seeking Jesus? What might happen if you laid aside your shame and took bold steps to secure your breakthrough?**

The story of the woman with the issue of blood is a powerful testament to the kind of faith that pushes past barriers and refuses to give up. Her story reminds us that faith, no matter how fragile, can move mountains when placed in the hands of Jesus.

Jesus unexpectedly encountered the woman while traveling through a massive crowd to pray for the dying child of a religious leader. The need was urgent, and Jesus had difficulty navigating a crowd of sick people seeking a miracle.

For twelve long years, she endured relentless suffering—physically depleted, socially rejected, and financially drained. Doctors had no answers, and hope seemed out of reach. The religious notions of the day were isolating and shaming. She was forbidden to mix with others in public and had been legally quarantined to live, separated from public contact.

Yet, amid her desperation, faith urged her to take action. This woman didn't allow her physical pain, fear of isolation, or public shaming to keep her from Jesus. She believed that if she could reach Jesus, she would be healed. Her miracle began when she set aside shame and took her first steps toward the light. As she pressed through the crowd, she was convinced that even the slightest connection to Jesus' power could change everything. *“For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’” (Mark 5:28, NKJV)*

The moment she touched the edge of Jesus' robe, she felt God's healing power flow through her body. While Jesus did not consciously initiate the miracle, He immediately knew that healing power had gone out from Him. He turned, not to scold but to acknowledge her courageous faith: “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction!”

Jesus didn't just heal her body; He restored her identity. By calling her "daughter," He gave her a place of belonging, love, and acceptance. Her encounter with Jesus was more than a miracle of healing—it was an invitation to experience the fullness of God's grace and compassion.

*"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV)*

**Reflection:** Faith often requires us to step out despite fear. Like the woman in this story, we might feel hesitant, unworthy, or uncertain. But Jesus' response reminds us of an unchanging truth: when we reach for Him in faith, He meets us with grace. What challenge are you facing today? What fear or doubt might be holding you back from embracing a bold faith? Remember, Jesus isn't distant or preoccupied. He is near, attentive, and ready to respond to your faith. Take a moment to bring your worries to Him.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for seeing me and loving me just as I am. Help me to reach out to You with bold and unwavering faith. Grant me the courage to trust You with my fears and burdens, knowing You are always near and provide for my every need, far beyond my own understanding. Thank You for Your healing power and the peace that comes from Your presence. Amen. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28, NKJV)*

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Reading: Nehemiah Chapters 1-2

**Compassion without action is merely sentiment. Have you ever faced a challenge so overwhelming that it felt impossible to overcome? Maybe it's a broken relationship, a daunting task, or a burden that weighs heavily on your heart.**

If you've been there—or are there now—you're not alone. Nehemiah's story reminds us that God often calls us into situations beyond our strength, not to leave us there, but to show us what His power can accomplish through a willing heart.

Nehemiah was living comfortably as a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes in Persia when news reached him of Jerusalem's broken walls and vulnerable people. The city lay in ruins, and Nehemiah's heart broke. But he didn't let the enormity of the task paralyze him. He fasted. He prayed. And then, moved by God's compassion, he sought the king's permission to return and rebuild.

His journey wasn't easy. There was resistance at every turn—mockery, threats, and obstacles. Yet Nehemiah pressed on, not because of his abilities, but because of his faith in God's promise. He encouraged the people with these words:

*“Then I said to them, ‘You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.’”*  
—Nehemiah 2:17 (NKJV)

Nehemiah didn't just feel compassion; he acted on it. He stepped out of his comfort, stood in the gap for his people, and trusted God to guide each decision. His faith was more than words—it was lived out in obedience and courage.

**Reflection:** Are there areas in your life where God is calling you to rebuild? Maybe it's a relationship that needs mending, a spiritual practice that's been neglected, or a call to give that feels far beyond your means. Remember, God doesn't call us to act alone or in our own strength. He equips and walks with us as we step out in

obedience. Take time today to sit with the Lord and ask, “What are You calling me to build?”

Perhaps He’s stirring your heart to deepen your time in prayer or to reach out with love to someone who needs encouragement. Whatever it is, trust that the God who empowered Nehemiah is the same God who stands with you now.

As a church, God has given us a commission to once again build for the coming harvest. Building for a future that is yet to come requires great sacrifice. But as we respond to God’s calling, the Lord always shows up in surprising ways. Our sacrifices today become a foundation for our blessings tomorrow.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness in every season. When I face challenges that feel overwhelming, remind me of Your strength and provision. Give me the courage, like Nehemiah, to step out in faith and build what You have placed on my heart. I trust You to guide me, one step at a time. Amen.*

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## **Sometimes God calls us to do the very thing we do not want to do. Is there something in your life where you've been reluctant to obey God?**

Jonah, a prophet of Israel, was called by God to deliver a message of repentance to Nineveh, a wicked city known for its brutality. Instead of obeying, Jonah fled, choosing to give in to his disdain for the people of Nineveh and his own comfort over God's command. He took a ship in the opposite direction only to end up captive in the belly of a whale. But in that dark, desperate place, Jonah's heart turned back towards God. And when his repentance was complete, he was spit up on a beach near the road to Ninevah.

While Jonah's disobedience nearly led to his destruction, God offered him another chance. When Jonah finally delivered God's message, the impact was profound. The entire city turned to the Lord, repented of their sins, and was saved from annihilation. Jonah's story illustrates that one cannot run from God. His power surpasses our understanding, and despite being stubborn and reluctant, God uses imperfect individuals to fulfill His perfect will.

Jonah's story also reminds us how patient God is with us, even when we resist His calling. It's not always easy to follow where God leads, especially when He calls us to confront issues we would rather avoid. Like Jonah, we may find ourselves running—not because we don't love God but because the task feels too hard, too uncomfortable, or too much for us to handle. However, if we get back on track and obey the Lord, we find that His mercy can restore both us and those He wants us to help.

**Reflection:** Even in Jonah's disobedience, God pursued him with love and mercy. The truth is, God doesn't abandon us when we struggle or resist. Instead, He gently redirects us, showing us that His plans are always for our good and His glory. What is your struggle? Perhaps it's forgiving someone who has hurt you, stepping into a role you feel unqualified for, or surrendering an area of your life where you've been holding on too tightly. Take a moment to reflect on how God might be lovingly calling you to trust Him in that area.

Jonah's story also reminds us that God works through our imperfections. He doesn't call us because we're perfect or ready. He calls us because He is faithful and wants us to experience the joy of walking in step with Him. If you've been resisting something, consider how God's grace might meet you there, equipping you for the very thing you feel unprepared to do.

**Prayer:** *Lord, if there are times or places in my life where I resist what you are calling me to do, help me to trust that Your plans are always for my good and Your glory. Teach me to step out in obedience, knowing that You equip those You call. "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29, NKJV)*

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Reading: Judges Chapter 6

## **Could it be that God sees something in you that you don't see in yourself? Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough?**

Like God might have the wrong person when He calls you to something bigger than yourself? If so, you're not alone. Gideon knew that feeling well.

When we first meet Gideon, he's threshing wheat in secret, hiding from the Midianites. He's afraid, uncertain, and full of self-doubt. But then, something incredible happens—the Angel of the Lord appears and greets him with words that must have felt entirely out of place:

*“The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!” —Judges 6:12 (NKJV)*

Mighty man of valor? Gideon probably looked around, wondering if the angel was speaking to someone else. He didn't perceive himself that way; he saw himself as weak, the least in his family, and completely unqualified for the task ahead. Yet God saw something different. He recognized what Gideon could become, not just who he was in that moment.

Even after hearing this, Gideon still wasn't convinced. He kept asking for signs and doubting God's plan. But here's the amazing part—God was patient with him. He didn't scold Gideon for his fear but simply continued calling him forward, step by step. In the end, with only 300 men, Gideon defeated an enemy too numerous to count, proving once again that God's power is perfected in weakness.

**Reflection:** Gideon's story reminds us that God sees beyond our fears, insecurities, and doubts. He doesn't call us based on our qualifications—He calls us based on His power working through us. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same God who called Gideon calls you. The same God who gave Gideon victory despite the odds is walking with you right now.

Take a moment today to quiet your heart and ask: What is God inviting me to trust Him with? Where is He calling me to step forward in faith?

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” – Romans 8:28 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, I confess that sometimes I feel just like Gideon—weak, unsure, and afraid. Yet, I know that You see something in me that I don’t always see in myself. Help me to trust You, to take that step of faith, and to rely on Your strength rather than my own. No matter what I’m facing, remind me that You are with me, equipping me for what You’ve called me to do. Amen.*

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Reading: 2 Kings 19:14-37

## Faith shines brightest in the darkest hours. Where are you feeling the weight of battle in your life today?

Hezekiah's story reminds us of the power of prayer and trust during life's most overwhelming challenges. It invites us to bring our burdens, no matter how heavy, to the throne of grace. When faced with what seemed like certain destruction, Hezekiah didn't let fear consume him. He confronted the threat of desolation as Assyria besieged Jerusalem. Yet, he went beyond his fears and turned to the One who holds all power and authority, laying the enemy's threats before the Lord.

Instead of panicking or forming alliances, Hezekiah sought God in prayer. His response to the crisis demonstrated faith that went beyond. By placing his trust entirely in God, he witnessed a miraculous deliverance as the Assyrian army was defeated without a single sword drawn.

*"And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said: 'O Lord God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.'"* (2 Kings 19:15, NKJV)

Life's battles may come in many forms: the weight of financial pressures, the heartache of strained relationships, or the uncertainty of health challenges. In these moments, it's tempting to rely on our own strength, to problem-solve, or to let anxiety take over. But God gently calls us to do as Hezekiah did, to pause, to pray, and to trust in His power. He doesn't ask us to have all the answers; He invites us to surrender and rest in His care.

When we pray, we're not merely presenting our needs; we're also reminding ourselves of who God is. Hezekiah's prayer began with worship, acknowledging God's greatness, sovereignty, and faithfulness.

**Reflection:** Today, let your prayers begin with a moment of worship and reflection. Before you share your worries, pause to consider His unchanging character. Remember, He's been faithful in the past and

allow that to strengthen your trust in what He will do now. Is there an area where you've been holding on too tightly, trying to control what only God can manage?

He invites you to place that situation in His hands, trusting Him to work in ways beyond what you can imagine. Write down one challenge or fear that's been heavy on your heart and, like Hezekiah, bring it before the Lord in prayer. Declare His faithfulness over your life, and allow His peace to fill your heart.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I bring my fears and struggles before You in prayer. Thank you for being my refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. Help me to walk in faith, and to trust that Your hand is working, even when the outcome isn't clear. I praise You for Your faithfulness, and I trust that You will bring deliverance in Your perfect way and timing. In Jesus' name, Amen. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).*

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Reading: 1 Kings Chapter 18

## **Faith boldly proclaims God's power. Have you ever felt alone in your faith?**

Maybe you're the only one in your family, workplace, or friend group who truly trusts God. It's not always easy to stand firm when you feel outnumbered or when doubts creep in.

Elijah knew that feeling well.

At a time when Israel had turned to idol worship, Elijah faced a dramatic showdown on Mount Carmel. He—one prophet of God—confronted 450 prophets of Baal. The challenge was straightforward: whichever god answered by fire would be proven to be the true God. The prophets of Baal prayed, cried out, and even cut themselves in desperation, but nothing happened. Then, Elijah stepped forward. He soaked the altar in water and then prayed.

*“Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.”—1 Kings 18:38 (NKJV)*

In an instant, God revealed His unmatched power. The people who had once wavered in their faith fell on their faces, declaring, “The Lord, He is God!” (1 Kings 18:39).

**Reflection:** Elijah's story reminds us that God's power isn't limited by our circumstances. The same God who sent fire from heaven is still at work today. Maybe you're facing a situation that feels overwhelming. Maybe you are challenging yourself in your giving, and everyone in your life is calling you foolish for trusting God with your money.

Elijah's story teaches us this: when we fully trust in God, He moves in ways far beyond what we can ask or imagine. So, where in your life do you need to trust God more boldly? Is there an area where He's asking you to step forward in faith? Elijah's story invites us to pray big prayers, to believe in God's power, and to trust that He is able to go beyond and do the impossible.

*“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped.” —Psalm 28:7 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, grant me the boldness to stand for You, even when it’s difficult or unpopular. Help me to trust in Your power, to step forward in faith, and to believe that You are still performing miracles today. Thank You for being faithful, strong, and mighty. Amen.*

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Reading: Joshua Chapter 8

**God’s promises require our obedience and courage. Have you ever felt God nudging you to take a bold step of faith, but fear or uncertainty held you back?**

Perhaps it’s stepping into a leadership role, making a difficult decision, or trusting Him with your giving. If so, you’re not alone. Joshua knew exactly what that felt like.

After Moses’ death, Joshua was called to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land—a task demanding immense faith and courage. The land was filled with powerful enemies and fortified cities, yet God had already assured Joshua of victory. All he needed to do was trust and obey.

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” —Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)*

Joshua trusted God at His word, which led him to guide the people to miraculous victories—such as witnessing the walls of Jericho collapse. His life serves as a powerful reminder that when we believe in God’s promises and take steps forward in faith, He acts in ways we never could on our own.

**Reflection:** Leadership—whether in your family, workplace, or ministry often requires stepping into the unknown. It’s not just about taking on responsibility; it’s about trusting God’s plan, even when the road ahead isn’t clear. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to step out in faith?

Maybe it’s leading in a new way, embracing a challenge that feels overwhelming, or trusting Him with a decision that requires courage. Like Joshua, our strength doesn’t come from our own abilities but from the promise that God is with us.

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?” —Romans 8:31 (NKJV)*

Take a moment to examine your heart:

- Are there areas where fear or hesitation are holding you back?
- What “Promised Land” has God set before you that you’ve been afraid to step into?
- How might your faith today inspire those around you to trust God more deeply?

Bring those questions before the Lord, asking Him to replace fear with faith and hesitation with trust. Let His presence strengthen you as you step forward, knowing that He has already gone before you.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for the assurance of Your presence and promises. Help me to lead with courage and faith, trusting that You go before me. When fear tries to hold me back, remind me that You are my strength and my guide. Give me the boldness to step into all that You’ve called me to, knowing that You are always with me. Amen.*

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Reading: Matthew 10:35-45

**True greatness comes from serving others. Have you ever found yourself craving recognition?**

Perhaps you've wanted to be acknowledged for your efforts, appreciated for your hard work, or given the credit you believe you deserve. It's a natural feeling—we all want to feel valued. James, the brother of John, understood what it was like to desire honor. He and his brother were so passionate and bold that Jesus nicknamed them the "Sons of Thunder." At one point, they even asked Jesus for the highest places of honor in His kingdom—one at His right hand and one at His left. But Jesus gently corrected them, teaching that in His kingdom, greatness isn't based on status or authority—it's rooted in serving others.

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." —Mark 10:45 (NKJV)*

James' journey didn't end with ambition. After Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit, he was transformed. Instead of seeking personal glory, James became a bold witness for the Gospel. His story is a powerful reminder of how God's grace can take a heart once filled with pride and shape it into one of humility and service.

*"If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." —Mark 9:35 (NKJV)*

**Reflection:** James' transformation challenges us to examine our own hearts. In a world that constantly promotes self-promotion and the love of money, Jesus calls us to a different kind of greatness—one rooted in love, humility, and service. Humility isn't about thinking less of yourself; it's about trusting that your worth is already secure in God. When we rest in that truth, we can focus on serving others rather than striving for recognition. Ask Him to show you ways to grow in humility today. Perhaps it's through an act of service or fully committing to something that God has placed on your heart.

Humility isn't a one-time decision—it's a daily posture of the heart as we follow Jesus' example.

*“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”  
—James 4:10 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for transforming lives through Your grace. Help me to see greatness the way You see it—not in seeking recognition, but in serving others with humility and love. Shape my heart to reflect Your example. May my life glorify You and draw others closer to Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

God can use what you give to provide beyond your understanding. Have you ever felt like you didn't have enough—enough resources, enough strength, enough faith—to give when God asked you to?

It's easy to believe that what we have isn't sufficient to matter. But what if God is simply asking for our yes? What if He can take the little we have and turn it into more than enough?

The widow at Zarephath understood what it meant to give from a place of lack. During a severe drought, when resources were scarce, God sent the prophet Elijah to her with a surprising request:

*“Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink. And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, ‘Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’” —1 Kings 17:10-11 (NKJV)*

The widow's response was filled with raw honesty. She had just a handful of flour and a little oil—barely enough to make one final meal for herself and her son. After that, she expected death. Yet, Elijah assured her:

*“Do not fear... For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” —1 Kings 17:13-14 (NKJV)*

She obeyed in faith, giving what she had, and God honored her willingness. The flour and oil never ran out. Day after day, God provided enough for her, her son, and Elijah.

**Reflection:** God's provision often begins with our willingness to give sacrificially. The widow gave the last of what she had, trusting that God would somehow take care of the rest.

And He did—beyond her understanding.

- Are there areas in your life where you feel like you don't have enough to give?
  - Has God been asking you to trust Him with something small that feels too costly?
- How might God prepare to provide for you in unexpected ways when you step out in faith?

God doesn't ask us to give what we don't have. He asks us to trust Him with what we do have, even if it seems insignificant. The widow's handful of flour and a small amount of oil became a miracle that sustained her household. Her willingness to give positioned her to receive God's provision and made her an active participant in His plan.

Sometimes, the breakthrough we're waiting for is on the other side of a small step of obedience. When we give—whether it's our time, resources, or talents—God multiplies it in ways we never expected. His provision doesn't always look like abundance upfront; sometimes, it's daily bread, just enough for each moment, but it's always enough. *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.”*  
—Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

God's math is different from ours. What seems like subtraction in the moment—giving when we feel like we have little—is actually an invitation for God to multiply His blessings in our lives and to push us beyond our ability to comprehend.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I trust that You can do more with what I give than I can imagine. Help me to obey You, even when it feels like I don't have enough. Remind me that You are my provider and that when I give from what I have, You supply what I need—beyond my understanding. I believe that as I trust You, You will show Yourself faithful in every area of my life. Amen.*

*“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*  
—Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

Reading: Exodus 3

## **God equips those who feel unqualified. Have you ever felt as though you're just not the right person for the job?**

Perhaps God has placed something on your heart—a calling, a giving challenge, an opportunity—but your first thought is, Surely, not me. I'm not ready. I'm not capable.

Moses understood that feeling all too well. He started out boldly believing, he could deliver Israel through his own strength. However, after a failed attempt and 40 years of exile in the wilderness, that confidence had diminished. By the time God appeared to him in the burning bush, Moses was no longer a bold warrior—he was an 80-year-old shepherd who had embraced a quiet life.

*When God called him to go back to Egypt and lead His people to freedom, Moses' response wasn't excitement—it was hesitation. "And Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'"*  
—Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)

Moses had every excuse ready: *I'm not a good speaker. I don't have authority. I'm not the right person.* But God's answer was simple: *I will be with you.*

**Reflection:** We often fall into one of two traps: either we think we can handle things on our own, like Moses in his younger years, or we feel too weak and unqualified, like Moses later in life. Both mindsets miss the point—it's not about what we can do, it's about what God can do through us.

The truth is, God doesn't require us to be perfect—He just needs us to trust Him. His calling on your life isn't about what you bring to the table; it's about His power working through you. If He has called you, He has already equipped you in ways you may not even realize. The ability to go beyond in your life lies in accepting that He knows the end from the beginning, and He wouldn't ask you to do something He wasn't prepared to provide for.

*“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.” —2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for using ordinary people to fulfill Your extraordinary plans. Help me trust You, whether I’m feeling overly confident or completely inadequate. Remind me that my strength comes from You alone, and I can step forward in faith, knowing that You go before me. Amen.*

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Reading: Mark 10:17-22

## **Letting go to receive God's best. Have you ever felt like you were doing all the right things, yet still sensed something was missing?**

Maybe you've followed the rules, made good choices, and tried to live a life that honors God, but deep down, you know He's asking for more. That's exactly where the rich young ruler found himself. This young man came to Jesus with a sincere question:

*"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" —Mark 10:17 (NKJV)*

This man had what most people spend their lives trying to achieve: wealth. He held a position of influence and authority, having attained it all at a young age. Furthermore, he was spiritually passionate, living a morally upright life by adhering to God's commandments since his youth. It's interesting to note that despite his wealth, fame, power, and religious faith, he still felt something was missing. Even with all this success, he was driven to achieve more. He wanted to make his gains permanent and extend his quality of life beyond the grave. He desired to live forever.

In essence, the man was asking Jesus to provide him with the hidden keys that would enable him to advance to the next level. Jesus' response to his question is powerful: "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him...". Jesus recognized the young man as he was and loved him. What Jesus said next was not uttered from a heart of condemnation but from one of compassion. Jesus accepted the successful young man as he was. Moreover, Jesus knew that what he truly needed was not another ten steps to a more successful life; he needed to shift the young man's focus from external achievements to internal surrender.

The man sought to secure his life based on his own achievements rather than relying on the love of Jesus. In response, Jesus provided simple direction that would immediately challenge the man's faulty foundation: "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." (v. 21). The young man's reaction

to this challenge was both troubling and predictable; “and he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions...” (v.22). He desired eternal life, but he wasn’t prepared to relinquish what he valued most. His sense of security was anchored in his achievements and possessions, which he valued more than the unconditional love of Jesus and the life of following Him.

Jesus’ challenge was not meant to impoverish him. It aimed to free him from his bondage to materialism, allowing him to obtain what all his wealth could never buy: lasting peace and joy. It wasn’t about money; it was about what captured his heart’s devotion.

*“How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!” (v. 23).*

Wealth wasn’t bad, but for this man, it had become everything. He was more attached to his possessions than to God’s invitation. He had an opportunity to walk closely with Jesus, and be part of something eternal, yet he let temporary things get in the way.

**Reflection:** What’s holding you back from saying yes to God?

The rich young ruler sought eternal life, but he wanted it on his own terms. He was unwilling to let go of what was comfortable, familiar, and valuable to him. This illustrates the danger of distractions—they keep us attached to things that appear important while we overlook what truly matters.

- Are there areas in your life where you’re resisting God’s call because it feels too costly?
- Are you holding onto possessions, achievements, or relationships that compete for your heart’s devotion?
- What might Jesus be asking you to surrender so you can fully follow Him?

Jesus made it clear: *the cost of following Him is great, but the reward is greater.* When Peter reminded Jesus that the disciples had left everything to follow Him, Jesus reassured them:

*“There is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

—Luke 18:29-30 (NKJV)

God will never ask us to let go of something without offering us something far greater in return. The rich young ruler thought he would lose everything if he let go, but in reality, he was missing out on something far better.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me recognize where I might be holding onto things that prevent me from fully following You. I don't want to miss out on Your best because I'm clinging to what feels safe or familiar. Grant me the courage to surrender everything to You, trusting that what You offer is far greater than anything this world can provide. Amen. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" —Mark 8:36 (NKJV)*

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Reading: Luke 21:1-4

**Sacrificial giving is about the heart. Have you ever felt that what you have to offer isn't enough?**

Perhaps you've observed what others contribute—whether time, resources, or talent, and thought, what I have is too small to matter? Jesus answered that question when He noticed a widow in the temple.

As people approached to give their offerings, many wealthy individuals contributed large sums. However, a poor widow stepped forward and dropped in two tiny coins—barely worth anything by human standards. Yet Jesus didn't commend the wealthy for their generosity. Instead, He highlighted the widow and said:

*“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” —Luke 21:3-4 (NKJV)*

She gave everything. In God's eyes, that mattered far more than the large offerings of the wealthy. God isn't asking us to give what we don't have, or what others have. Instead, He urges us to give sacrificially. He considers not only what we give but also what we hold back. A wealthier person may contribute a larger sum, but if it's only a small percentage of their income, it's not a true sacrifice. God desires for us to give beyond our comfort: surrendering something of great value for something even greater.

**Reflection:** God isn't impressed by how much we give—He looks at the *heart* behind it. The widow's offering wasn't about the coins themselves; it was about her trust. She could have held onto those last two coins, reasoning that they weren't enough to make a difference.

But instead, she placed them in God’s hands, trusting that He would provide.

- Are there areas in your life where you’re hesitating to trust God completely?
- Do you ever feel like what you have to offer—whether your resources, time, or talents—isn’t enough?
- What would it look like to live with the kind of faith this widow had?

Jesus calls us to a life of trust, not calculation. This doesn’t mean being reckless with our resources, but it does mean holding everything loosely—our finances, our time, our gifts—knowing that when we give in faith, we position ourselves for God to move on our behalf.

Paul echoed this truth in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 when he wrote:

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Therefore, let each one give what he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, so that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

The widow didn’t give out of her extra—she gave from her lack.

Because of that, Jesus honored her. She trusted that God was her provider, and that kind of faith always moved His heart.

What is God asking you to surrender as we prepare to commit to the Lord’s work at Abundant Life? Whatever it is, if you place it in the Lord’s hands, He promises to watch over your sacrifice and multiply it for His Glory. When you surrender everything to Him, you will never be left empty-handed.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to trust You completely with all that I have. I don’t want to give just what’s easy or comfortable—I want to give with a heart of faith, just like the widow. Teach me to trust in Your provision and to surrender everything to You, knowing that You always take care of those who trust in You. Amen.*

*“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)*

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Reading: Daniel 6

## God's protection goes beyond. Have you ever encountered a situation where standing firm in your faith seemed risky?

Perhaps you felt pressured to compromise your beliefs in order to fit in, maintain peace, or avert conflict. It's challenging to stay faithful when the world around you resists, but Daniel's story reminds us that God's protection and power extend far beyond what we can perceive. Daniel was a high-ranking official in Babylon, serving under King Darius.

Even in a foreign land surrounded by people who did not worship God, Daniel remained steadfast in his faith. His daily commitment to prayer set him apart, and his integrity made others envious. In an attempt to destroy him, corrupt officials manipulated the king into signing a law that forbade prayer to anyone except the king.

But Daniel didn't waver—he continued to pray three times a day, just as he always had. When he was caught, there were no negotiations, no second chances—he was thrown into the lion's den. It was a certain death sentence. But God had other plans.

*“My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” —Daniel 6:22 (NKJV)*

God miraculously protected Daniel, demonstrating to everyone—including the king—that His power surpassed any earthly law or decree. Oh, and my favorite part of the story comes next: The ones who plotted to betray Daniel were thrown to the lions. And this time there wasn't an angel to shut their hungry mouths.

**Reflection:** Daniel's story reminds us that God is always at work, even in the most impossible situations. It is one thing to trust God when life is going smoothly, but what happens when challenges arise? When does standing up for your faith require a sacrifice?

Are there areas in your life where fear or pressure has tempted you to

compromise your trust in God's commands?

The story of Daniel encourages us that when we remain faithful, God honors our trust in Him. And here's the best part: God's protection isn't solely about physical safety. Sometimes He delivers us from difficult situations, while at other times He delivers us through them. Either way, He is with us, working beyond what we can imagine.

*"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them." —Psalm 34:7 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, give me the strength to stand firm in my faith, no matter the circumstances. Help me to trust in Your protection and presence, just as Daniel did. Thank You for being my refuge and deliverer, working beyond what I can imagine. Amen.*

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Reading: Acts Chapter 7

**Faith shines brightest in the face of opposition. Have you ever felt like just when you're on the verge of a breakthrough, when you're finally stepping into what God has promised, you suddenly face obstacle after obstacle?**

It's frustrating, isn't it? You start wondering, why now? Why is everything getting harder just as I'm about to move forward? Here's something to consider: While God doesn't send the opposition, He may be using it to strengthen you, to teach you how to trust Him in the middle of the battle. Scripture tells us that we have an enemy, one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). But here's the good news: While God never promised a life without trials, He did promise to walk through them with us.

Stephen's life is a powerful example of unwavering faith in the face of fierce opposition.

He was among the first deacons in the early church, selected for his wisdom, faith, and profound devotion to God. He boldly preached the gospel, even when it risked his safety. In Acts 7, Stephen stood before hostile religious leaders and courageously declared God's truth, outlining His faithfulness throughout history and pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. That message ultimately cost him his life. The leaders were so furious that they dragged him outside the city and stoned him. Yet even in his final moments, Stephen remained steadfast. Instead, he lifted his eyes to heaven and beheld a breathtaking vision:

*"But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." —Acts 7:55 (NKJV)*

Jesus, who is typically described as sitting at the right hand of God, was standing in honor of Stephen's faithfulness. Even in suffering, Stephen knew he was not alone. His final breaths served as a testimony to the religious leaders who were taking his life. Including the ringleader of his execution, a man called Saul of Tarsus. When

you stand up for Jesus, He stands up for you.

**Reflection:** Stephen's story reminds us that faith isn't just about trusting God in the easy moments—it's about standing firm even when everything around us feels uncertain. Maybe you're facing a situation right now where standing for truth feels costly. Maybe you're experiencing pushback in your faith, at work, in your family, or in your finances. It can be discouraging. But Stephen's life reminds us that when we stand for God, He stands for us and carries us beyond our troubles.

**Prayer:** *Father, thank you for Your steadfast presence in my life. When I feel hesitant or afraid, remind me of Stephen's courage and Your promise to be with me. Help me to stand firm in my faith with humility and love. Strengthen my heart and guide me to live for You with an eternal perspective. Amen.*

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Reading: Matthew 8:5-13

## Great faith believes without seeing. Have you ever struggled to believe that God is working, especially when you can't see the outcome?

It's one thing to trust Him when everything is falling into place, but what about when circumstances seem impossible? The centurion's story is a powerful reminder of what real faith looks like. This Roman officer came to Jesus with a desperate request—his servant was suffering and needed healing. But instead of asking Jesus to come to his house, the centurion made a bold declaration:

*“Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.” He recognized Jesus' authority and knew that His spoken word alone was enough. No need for a visit, no need for proof—just faith. Jesus was amazed. “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.” —Matthew 8:10 (NKJV)*

Jesus honored the centurion's faith, saying, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” At that very moment, his servant was healed.

The centurion's faith went beyond the faith of any other person in Israel that Jesus had encountered in Israel. He understood that the power and authority of the spoken word were sufficient to achieve what needed to be done. His faith rested in the power of Jesus' spoken word and did not require Jesus' physical presence to believe in the miracle. This illustrates an important principle for unlocking God's miraculous power in our lives: the greater our faith in the spoken word of God, the greater our capacity is to receive a miracle.

**Reflection:** Do you believe that God's Word is enough, even when circumstances seem overwhelming? Faith isn't just wishful thinking—it's trusting the One who holds all things in His hands. Sometimes, doubt and unbelief creep in, blocking us from receiving what God has for us. James warns us about this:

*“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.” —James 1:6-7 (NKJV)*

Faith sees the promise before it becomes a reality. Faith trusts that God is at work, even when we don't see immediate results. Where in your life do you need to surrender control and trust Jesus completely? Are you holding onto worries, trying to figure things out by yourself, or waiting for proof before you believe?

*“Now faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” —Romans 10:17 (NKJV)*

As we approach the day of our commitment to the vision for our church, how is God asking you to exercise faith that goes beyond what you have known in the past? What would that look like in your giving?

**Prayer:** Lord, teach me to trust in Your authority and power. Help me to believe that Your Word is enough, even when I cannot see the outcome. Strengthen my faith so that I can rest in Your promises, knowing that You are always at work. Amen.

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” —Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

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## FINISHING STRONG – PAUL’S ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS

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DAY 20

Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

**Trusting in God and completing what we start. We all enjoy the start of a journey. We appreciate fresh starts and new beginnings.**

Often our initial joy in starting something new gives way to the harsh reality of daily life. Have you ever approached something with enthusiasm, only to struggle to see it through? Perhaps it was a commitment to serve, a financial pledge, or a promise made to God. It’s easy to begin with excitement, but when challenges arise, distractions come into play, or time passes, we can lose momentum.

Paul understood this, which is why he encouraged the Corinthians to complete the giving project they had eagerly started. They had committed to helping struggling believers, but their enthusiasm had diminished over time. Paul reminded them that generosity isn’t only about good intentions, it’s about following through with faith and trusting God to provide.

*“But now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.” –2 Corinthians 8:11 (NKJV)*

Paul pointed to the Macedonian believers, who, despite their own hardships, gave joyfully and generously. Their secret? They trusted in God’s provision. They understood that true generosity isn’t about having an abundance, it’s about having a willing heart. Perhaps you’ve felt God stirring your heart toward generosity, whether financially, in service, or in another area of commitment.

However, as time has passed, doubts, busyness, or financial pressures have made it challenging to follow through. Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthians reminds us that God isn’t only concerned with how we start, He desires to see us finish strong.

**Reflection:** As we go before the Lord in prayer, what is He asking us to do to go beyond what we have known and done in the past?

- Are there commitments you've made—either to God, or to others—that you need to consider?

What's holding you back from completing what you started? Is it fear, doubt, or simply distraction?

How can you step forward in faith, trusting that God will provide what you need?

Paul reassures us that God isn't asking for more than we can give—He's simply asking us to be faithful with what we do have:  
*"For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have."  
2 Corinthians 8:12 (NKJV)*

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for Your generous love and for providing all that I need. Help me to trust You as I step forward in faith to finish what I've started. Strengthen my heart to give joyfully, serve willingly, and trust that You will supply every need. Let my generosity be a reflection of Your abundant grace. Amen.*

*"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."  
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)*

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**Faith flows from perfect love.**

How does Jesus' sacrificial love shape the way you live out your faith? Jesus' life and ministry culminated in the most profound act of love in history—His sacrifice on the cross. In complete obedience to the Father, He bore the weight of our sins, giving Himself as the perfect sacrifice so that we could be redeemed. His death wasn't the end; His resurrection sealed the victory over sin and death, restoring our relationship with God and opening the way to eternal life.

*“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*

*John 15:13 (NKJV)*

It's hard to fully grasp a love like that. A love that forgives when we don't deserve it. A love that sees our flaws yet chooses us anyway. A love so powerful, so relentless, that Jesus willingly laid down His life for us.

**Reflection:** Jesus' love changes everything. It's not just something we receive—it's something that transforms us. God's love is limitless. It reaches beyond our past, our doubts, and our failures. And when we live in the light of that love, we can step forward in confidence, knowing He is able to do far more than we could ever imagine.

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*—Romans 5:8 (NKJV)*

When we truly reflect on His sacrifice, it calls us to a deeper faith, a bolder love, and a greater trust in God's plan. How does His love inspire you today?

Are there areas in your life where you struggle to trust Him completely?

Are there places where you're being called to love others more selflessly?

How can His sacrifice motivate you to live with greater faith?  
As we approach our commitment to the Beyond vision campaign  
for our church, what sacrifice are you willing to make to reach the  
lost people that Jesus loves?

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for Your incredible love and the sacrifice You  
made for me. Help me to live a life that reflects Your love—trusting  
You fully, loving others selflessly, and walking in faith every day.  
Teach me to follow Your example and to rest in the truth that Your  
love is more than enough. Amen.*

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# 21 Days of Prayer

God will grow your faith through prayer. That is why the 21 day Spiritual Journey includes daily opportunities and several different ways to pray.

In the following pages you will...

- Learn why we should pray
- Be invited to pray daily using the 21-Day Prayer Guide
- Be challenged to Prayer Walk your neighborhood
- How to fast and pray



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# Why Pray?

I hear it all the time. Maybe you've even said it yourself, "If God is sovereign over all things - if God is going to do what He's going to do then why should I pray?"

- Let's see what the Bible has to say!
- There are 650 prayers recorded in the Bible!
- Jesus expects us to pray. In what's known as the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13),
- He instructed His disciples about how to pray.
- James said,

**The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16**

- Paul instructed the Thessalonian church to "... pray continually." - 1 Thessalonians 5:17  
Paul instructed Timothy:

**First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people. 1 Timothy 2:1**

- When you're anxious, Paul said,

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7**

- Through prayer God changes us. It increases our trust in Him. It draws us closer to Him. It changes our perspective. It focuses our attention on Him and the things that matter to Him. In short, it helps us "set our minds on things above." - Colossians 3:1
- Prayer is so important to God, that He offers His divine help. Paul described it this way:

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

So, even when we don't know what to pray or how to pray, when we come humbly before God, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in perfect harmony with the will of the Father.

Why pray? Because it will grow you. It will increase your faith. It will draw you closer to your heavenly Father. It will give you an eternal perspective. God will use it in your life and the lives of others.

# 21 Day Prayer Guide

This 21-Day Prayer Guide is intended to help you learn how to pray for our church and its mission and yourself and your mission.

Everyday you'll

- Read a prayer prompt,
- Read Scripture associated with that prompt, and
- Allow the Scripture to inform your prayer.

You might choose to include this prayer guide in your practice of fasting during these 21 days.

 THE  
Miracle  
Multiplied

# 1 #forthe gospel

Pray that the gospel will go forward through our church and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8

# 3 #formyheart

Pray that your heart will be pure.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. - Psalm 139:23-24  
(see also 2Tim. 2:20-21)

# 4 #forflorida

Pray that God would grant us favor with people and our community.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-43

# 6 #formyneighborhood

Pray for your neighbors by name.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. - 1 Timothy 2:1,3-4

# 2 #fornextgen

Pray that our church and people would continue to have a heart for the next generation.

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.  
Psalm 71:18

# 5 #fortheworld

Pray for God's protection for our missionary staff.

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.  
-2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

# 7 #forgenerosity

Pray that you and our church will have an understanding that all things belong to God and we are just stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

- 1 Chronicles 29:14

# 8 #forthegospel

Pray for God to equip you and others to work in the harvest.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. -Matthew 9:37-38"

# 9 #fornextgen

Pray that parents in our church would be empowered and equipped to disciple their children.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. - Deuteronomy 6:4-7

# 10 #formyheart

Ask God to check your heart for proper motives when you pray.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. - James 4:3

# 11 #forflorida

Pray that we will meet people at their point of need and bring the gospel into their circumstances.

To the weak I became all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings -1 Corinthians 9:22

# #formyneighborhood

# 13

Pray for ways to meet your neighbor's practical needs in faith a demonstration of God's love.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. -1 John 3:18

# 12 #fortheworld

Pray for open doors and clarity of the gospel.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. - Col. 4:2-4

# 14 #forgenerosity

Pray for God's leadership to invest in what is eternal.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matt. 6:19-21

# 15 #forthegospel

Pray that the sharing of the gospel will bear fruit.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. - John 15:16

# 17 #fornextgen

Pray that God would continue to bring children, youth, and families to our church.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14

# 19 #fortheworld

Pray for more workers to respond to God's call to the harvest field.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." - Luke 10:2

# 20 #formyneighborhood

Pray that God would bless your neighbors with the knowledge of Him.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives - Col. 1:9

# 16 #formyheart

Pray for humility and that God will help you to put others' needs first.

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. - Phil. 2:3

# 18 #forflorida

Thank the Lord for our outreach partners and ask that He would continue connecting us with more .

I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.. - Phil. 1:3,5

# 21 #forgenerosity

Pray that God will mature you into a cheerful, generous investor in the Kingdom of God.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Corinthians 9:6-7

# A Quick Guide to Fasting

Fasting is more than abstaining from food, it is a spiritual discipline designed to draw believers closer to God. Throughout Scripture, fasting is linked to prayer, repentance, humility, and seeking divine direction.

## Key Purposes:

Deepening your relationship with God (Matthew 6:16–18)

Repentance and humility (Joel 2:12–13)

Seeking guidance or a breakthrough (Acts 13:2–3)

Intercession and spiritual warfare (Mark 9:29)

Focus and clarity through spiritual discipline

## Biblical Examples of Fasting

Moses — Exodus 34:28: Fasted 40 days while receiving the Ten Commandments.

David — Psalm 35:13: Fasted in humility and repentance.

Esther and the Jews — Esther 4:16: Fasted for protection and favor.

Daniel — Daniel 9:3, 10:2–3: Fasted for understanding and deliverance.

Jesus Christ — Matthew 4:1–11: Fasted 40 days before His ministry.

Early Church — Acts 13:2–3: Fasted for direction before commissioning missionaries

## Types of Biblical Fasts

A. Complete Fast: No food or drink, only water (Esther 4:16). Usually short-term (1–3 days).

B. Partial Fast (Daniel Fast): Simple foods, no meat or sweets (Daniel 10:3). Often 10–21 days.  
(single or multiple meal fast): Choose one or more meals during one or multiple days.

D. Non-Food Fast (Soul Fast): Abstaining from media, entertainment, hobby or any other activity that can be set aside and replaced with prayer and Bible study in order to focus on God.

## How to Fast: A Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Set your purpose through prayer.

Step 2: Choose the type and duration (1, 3, or 21 days etc.).

Step 3: Prepare spiritually and physically.

Step 4: Focus on prayer and Scripture (Psalm 63, Isaiah 58, Matthew 6, Acts 13).

## Conclusion

Fasting is a sacred rhythm of grace that helps believers recalibrate their hearts toward God. When practiced with humility, sincerity, and prayer, it opens doors for renewal, revelation, and revival. The power of fasting lies not in what you give up, but in what you gain — a deeper connection with the heart of God.

# Prayer Walking

Perhaps one of the most famous prayer walks was actually a prayer ride around the city of Jerusalem. Following the Babylonian captivity, the walls and gates of Jerusalem were in ruins, and God dispatched Nehemiah to lead the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Upon his arrival, Nehemiah went on a prayer ride. This is how he described it, and how the Lord used it.

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.  
-Nehemiah 2:11-18

Here are a few observations about what Nehemiah's prayer walk (ride) was and what it did.

- It was a spiritual endeavor. God put a burden on Nehemiah's his heart.
- It was purposeful. Nehemiah wanted to assess the condition of the wall.
- It enabled him to assess reality. The walls and gates were in ruins.
- It clarified and reinforced his vision. God strengthened Nehemiah's vision to rebuild.
- It gave others vision. Others adopted the vision to rebuild.

Prayer walking is an intentional spiritual exercise that will increase your awareness and burden for your neighbors' spiritual condition and give you a vision for the impact of the gospel in their lives. But more importantly, it will align your heart with the heart of God.

Below is a guide about how you can prayer walk your neighborhood or another area in your community

While you're praying, be ready for:

- **Divine appointments.** View encounters with others as divine encounters. Be willing to engage them in a conversation. Ask them how you can pray for them. Ask permission to pray for them at that moment, and pray a simple 30-second prayer.
- **Divine promptings.** By faith, intentionally incline your heart to the Lord. Respond to ways that the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to pray.

So put on your walking shoes, and put feet to your prayers.

## PRAYER WALKING GUIDE

### BEGINNING OF WALK

As you begin your walk, thank God for the blessings He has provided today.

### 5 MINUTES IN

Take in what's around you. What do you see? Pray for what you have learned from what you see. For example, toys in the yard mean kids are present. Handicap access means a resident might struggle with mobility. Pray for what you've learned from your observations.

### 10 MINUTES IN

Pray for the spiritual condition of people - growth for believers, salvation for non-believers.

### 15 MINUTES IN

Pray for God's blessing on your neighborhood, school, workplace or community.

### CLOSING PRAYER

Ask God to grant us favor with our community and that you and Grace Church might make Jesus known to those who do not yet know him.

# YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

## WRITE YOUR STORY

Why does your story matter? Because the people in your life are interested in it, they can relate to it, and it is hard to argue with. Your story matters because it shows what God has done in your life. Use the next page to write out your story. You can use the prompts below to guide you as you write.

### Before Christ

#### 1. Describe your life before you became a Christ-follower

**Example:** When I was in college, my parents got divorced. I felt abandoned and angry. The last thing I wanted to do was trust God to lead my life.

\*If you became a Christian at a young age, you can start with Question 2.

#### 2. What made you start thinking Christ could make a difference in your life?

**Example:** I began to see that I didn't have complete control of my life and that the anger I felt wasn't solving any of my problems. During this time my best friend really stuck by my side, and I saw how kind and different she was. I knew it was because she was a Christian. I began to wonder if Christ could make a difference in my life too.

#### 3. What was it that finally motivated you to trust in Christ?

**Example:** When I asked my best friend about God, she told me that I mattered to God and that He wanted to help me. I knew then that I needed God and that only He could take away the anger in my heart.

### Meeting Christ

#### 1. Describe the circumstances surrounding your decision to follow Christ. When was the moment you accepted Jesus?

**Example:** My friend invited me to pray with her. I asked Christ to forgive me and to be the leader of my life. I asked Him to forgive my anger and all my other sins and then to help me forgive my parents.

### After Christ

#### 1. How did your life begin to change after you came to Christ?

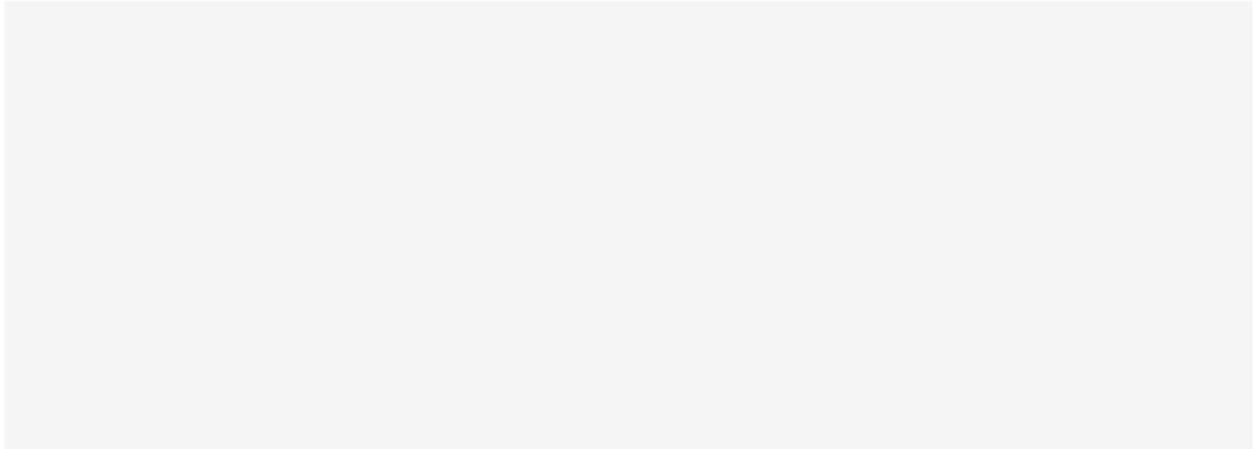
**Example:** It was so good to finally understand that God had forgiven me, that he would never abandon me, and that I could trust him. My life is no longer filled with anger.

**Note:** For those of you, who became Christians as children, compare your life now with what it might have been like if you had not come to Christ.

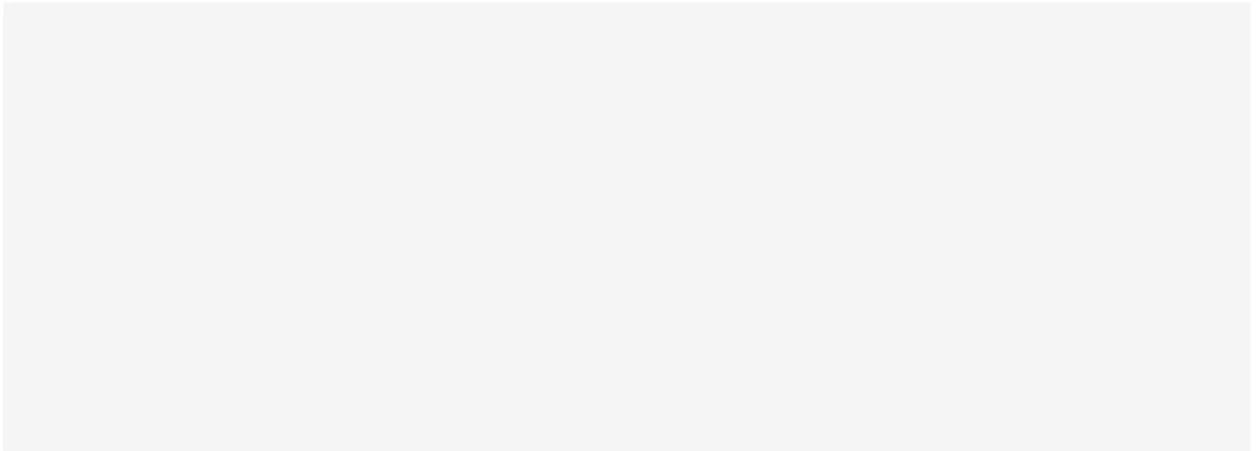
# MY STORY

**Write out your story below:**

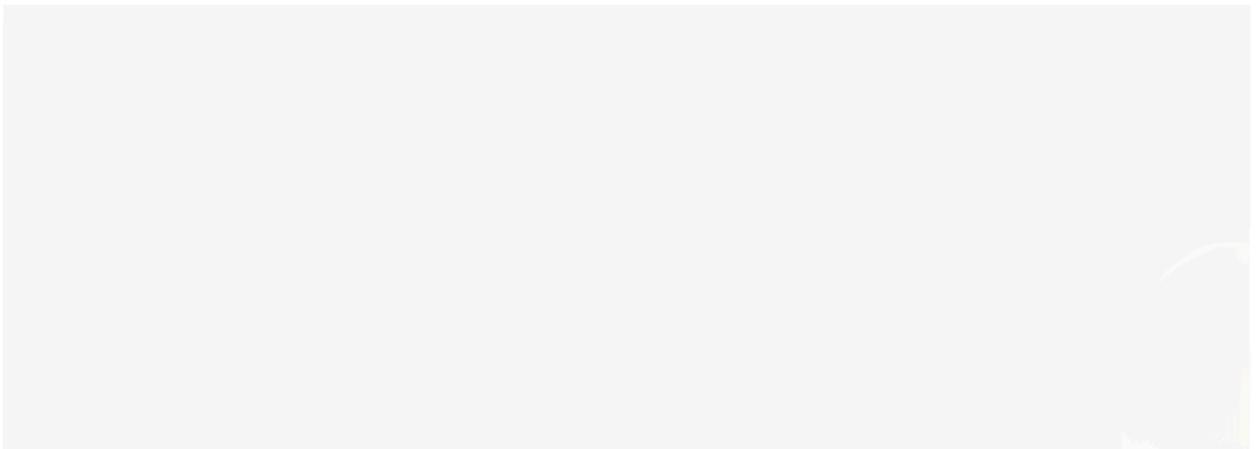
**Before Christ:**



**Meeting Christ:**



**After Christ:**





**SPRING MEADOWS**  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

