

# ON TO MATURITY



*Destiny*  
CHURCH

**21 days of prayer & fasting**  
A Daily Prayer and Devotional Guide





# WELCOME TO 2026!

We are beyond grateful for all that God has done over the past year, and for all that He is doing and will do in 2026.

Thank you for joining us in this time of prayer and fasting. There is no better way to start the year.

*Andrew Owen*

# WHAT IS FASTING?



Fasting is a spiritual discipline in which we intentionally abstain from food (and sometimes liquids) for a period of time. We are suppressing our natural desires, humbling ourselves before God, and taking time to focus on Him and listen to what He wants to say to us.

Fasting should always be accompanied by dedicated times of prayer and study of God's Word, as we seek to align ourselves with His will.

Fasting is not an attempt to change God or gain His approval, but it often precedes a move of God or significant breakthroughs, as it increases our sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

# BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

The Bible gives us several examples:



Moses  
Old Testament

He was seeking a spiritual breakthrough, spent forty days alone with God without eating or drinking until he received the Ten Commandments.

(Exodus 24:18)



David  
Old Testament

He sought a personal breakthrough as he fasted to keep himself humble.

(Psalm 35:13)



Daniel  
Old Testament

He fasted and prayed as he sought a breakthrough for the exiled people living in rebellion against their God.

(Daniel 9:3-4)



Jesus  
New Testament

He entered a forty-day fast before launching his public ministry.

(Matthew 4:1-2)

# GETTING STARTED

Before beginning this journey, take time to prepare yourself and decide how you will fast. Write down the results you are believing God for. The more prepared you are as you enter these twenty-one days, the more you can expect God to do.

Decide on the fast you feel God leading you to take, and stick to it.

Some people may also wish to abstain from certain things over these twenty-one days. While fasting primarily relates to food (see the booklet "Fasting" by Ps Andrew Owen), abstaining includes going without other things like TV, social media or other practical things. Some people may also choose to abstain from certain liquids such as soft drinks, coffee etc.

Please exercise caution if you have a medical condition, are pregnant or breastfeeding and seek professional medical advice where appropriate."

This fasting period, I feel led to do a...

01.

FULL FAST

Abstain from all food for the  
full duration of the  
twenty-one days fast.

02.

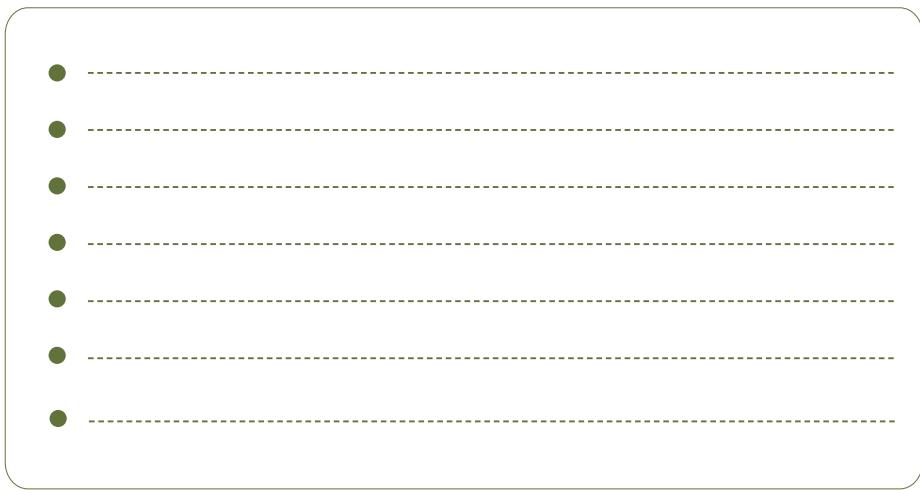
PARTIAL FAST

Abstain from one or two  
meals each day, or fast for a  
few days each week.

# GOAL SETTING

## Set Some Goals

Write down what you are believing God for over the next twenty-one days. Begin with the goal of knowing God more intimately and hearing His voice more clearly. If there are areas in your life where you need a breakthrough, commit them to God and believe that He can work in your life as you fast and pray. Most importantly, remain open to whatever God wants to speak and do as you seek Him!

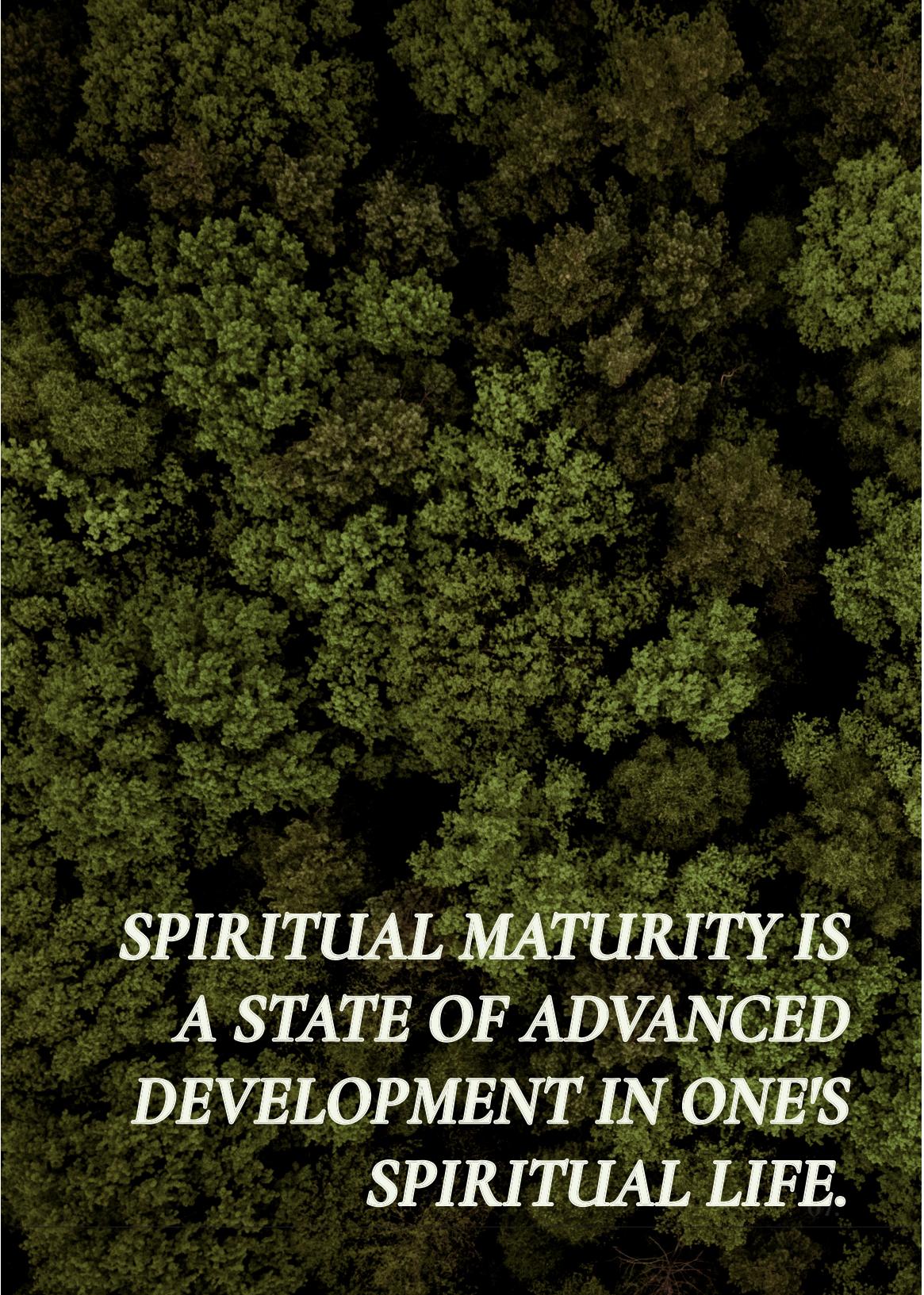


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## Share Your Journey With Someone

As we embark on the next twenty-one days as a Church, we are doing this together! Find someone - your spouse, a close friend, or someone from your small group - and walk through your devotional journey together. Commit to sharing with each other what you sense God is speaking to you or doing in your life over the next three weeks. Sharing your fast with others will also help you persevere when you might feel like giving up.

We have found that these twenty-one days always have a profound effect, both individually and as a Church.



**SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS  
A STATE OF ADVANCED  
DEVELOPMENT IN ONE'S  
SPIRITUAL LIFE.**

# WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

Spiritual maturity is not:

- *About age*

Like the bumper sticker that says, “I might be getting older, but I will never grow up”, spiritual maturity takes time, energy, and effort. It is possible to be a fifty- or sixty-year-old spiritual baby, yet also likely to be a very young, mature person.

- *About achievements*

Paul makes this very clear: he was a high achiever, yet he counted it all as nothing in comparison to knowing Christ.

Those accomplishments were impressive, but they were not necessarily marks of a spiritually mature person. Remember, the Pharisees knew a lot of Scripture and had a trophy room full of achievements, yet lacked intimacy with God, godly maturity, and spiritual discernment. God was walking amongst them in the person of Jesus, and they didn’t even know it.

- *About appearance*

Some people may “look the part.” In football, this is called “passing the eye test.” Yet many who pass the eye test are not necessarily good football players. Similarly, there are Christians who “pass the eye test,” but this does not indicate spiritual maturity.

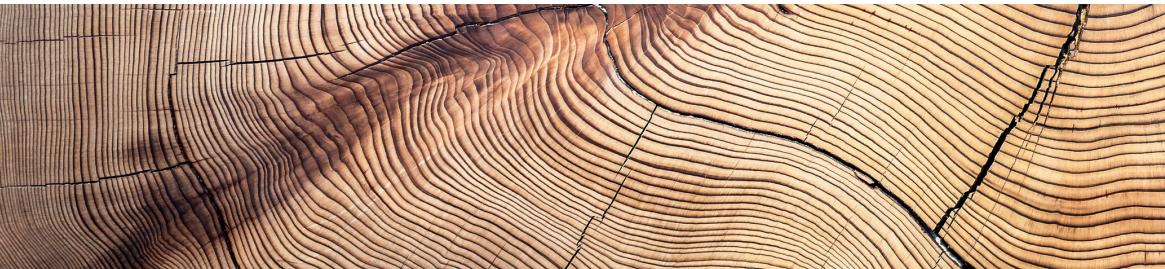
Here are some definitions of Christian maturity:

It is an ongoing, intentional process of growth rather than a finished product, aiming toward Christlikeness and effective living in accordance with God’s will.

Spiritual maturity is a state of advanced development in one’s spiritual life, characterised by a deep understanding and integration of spiritual values and principles.

Spiritually mature people are fruitful. They focus on making a difference rather than merely gathering information.

Spiritually mature people are always strongly connected to others, actively making disciples every day.



The Bible often speaks about maturity, with verses such as these:

***'But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.'***

Hebrews 5:14 (CSB)

***'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.'***

2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

***'Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.'***

Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for being able to discern weather patterns but not the signs of the times. We read:

***'He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.'***

Matthew 16:2-3 (NKJV)



Maturity always leads to good discernment; it helps us understand the urgency of the hour.

Maturity does not come accidentally but intentionally.

Over these next twenty-one days, we pray that we will all grow up into ALL that God has in mind for us.

We want to grow in:

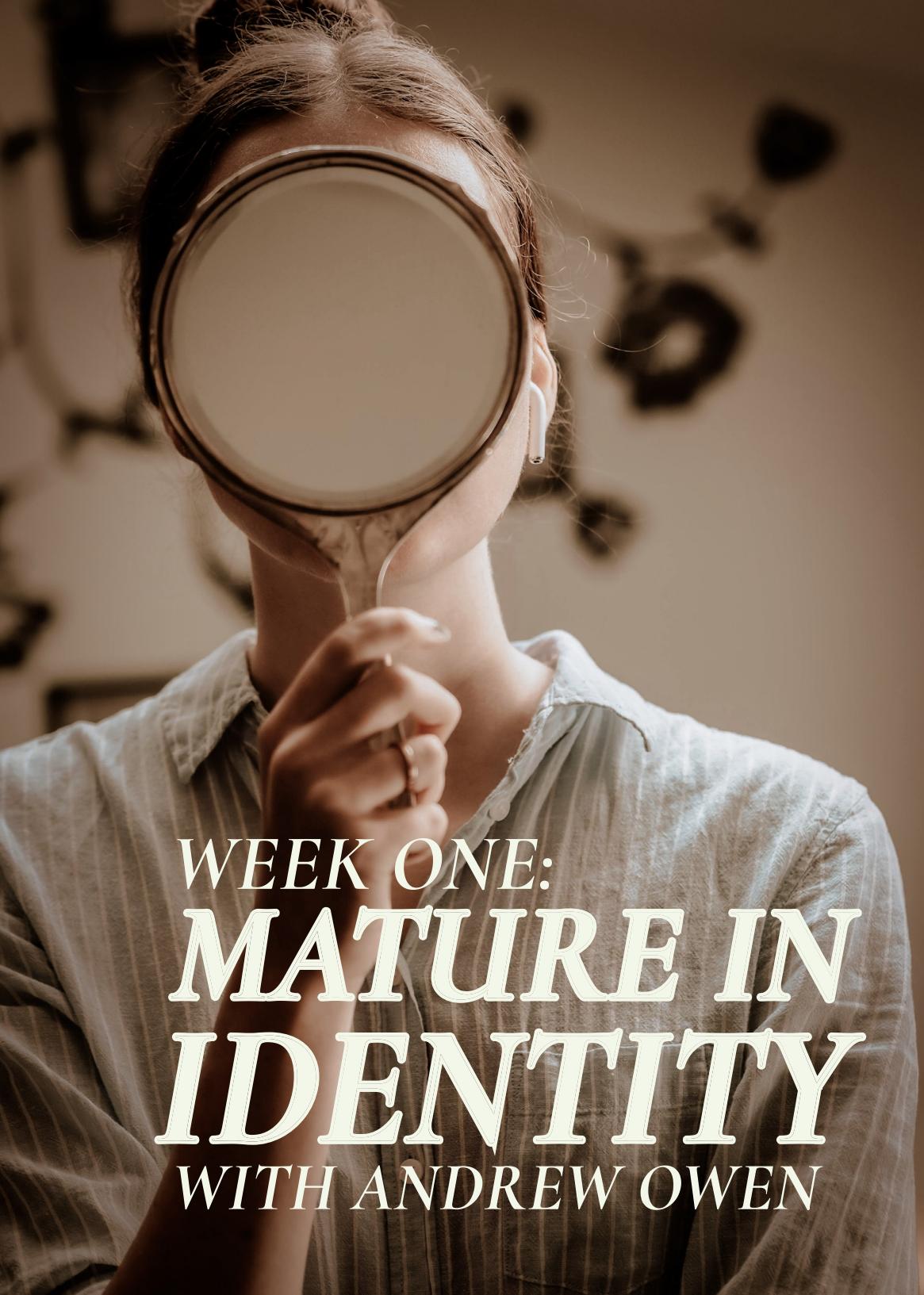
*IDENTITY* - knowing who we are and who Jesus has made us to be.

*FAITH* - knowing how to appropriate all the benefits of the wonderful things Jesus has done for us.

*PURPOSE* - clearly recognising our part in the great plans and purposes for which He has called us and going on to bear much fruit for His glory.

Take time each day to read the daily Scriptures in this devotional, reflect on and answer the questions, write down your thoughts, and pray with us each day. Remember, you are not doing this alone; many others are journeying with you.

Get ready and enjoy the adventure!

A close-up photograph of a person's face, with a large magnifying glass held over their eyes, obscuring the gaze. The person has light-colored hair and is wearing a light-colored, striped shirt. The background is blurred, showing some dark shapes.

# WEEK ONE: MATURE IN IDENTITY WITH ANDREW OWEN

# DAY 1

## Who Am I?

*'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

These days, we are frequently asked for proof of identity. We cannot even access our own bank accounts without first establishing who we are. It might be a password or facial recognition, but nothing opens until identity is established.

It is the same in our walk with God. If you do not know who you are, or whose you are, everything that is already yours in Christ might remain shut.

As we pray this week, we are coming into God's presence and the way we come is hugely important.

What makes you think He hears you? Is it because you are sincere? Or perhaps because you are making some serious effort with fasting?

Some believe that prayers of commitment make the difference: "I promise to be better, try harder, love God more."

Yet none of these works. Come the wrong way, and your prayers may not rise any higher than the ceiling. The only thing that opens heaven's door is your identity.

The opening verse has two small but important words

IF – anyone is in Christ. It is a big 'IF'. Are you in Christ? Have you given your life to Him? Do you know for certain? If you are not sure, you can be. Today is the day. Pray the prayer below.

IN – If I am IN Christ, then Christ surrounds me. If I am in a house, you will only see the house. When God looks at me, what does He see? My faults? Failures and shortcomings? No – He sees Christ.

When I come to heaven's door and seek access, my facial recognition, retina scan, and fingerprints all pass because I am in Christ, they are all His.

Martin Luther, the great reformer, having grasped these truths, used to say about prayer: "Come boldly, or do not bother coming at all."

# REFLECT & RESPOND

## 1. Are you in Christ?

Can you remember the time you gave your life to Christ? If so, think back to that moment, remember it, and thank God for it. If not, why not pray this simple prayer:

*Dear God, I thank You that you loved me enough to send Jesus to die for me. Today I surrender my life to You and for You. I receive Your forgiveness for my sins and the wonderful gift of being right with You through Jesus. Lead me, help me, and guide me from this day forward. Amen.*

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## 2. Reflect on identity:

What does the Bible say about you now? What is this 'new creation'?

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### 3. Pathways to prayer:

How do you approach God when you come to pray?

Many open their prayers with repentance, acknowledging their recent failures. That is how religion teaches us to pray. Yet how did Jesus teach us to pray in the Lord's Prayer? It was identity first. "Our Father" – we are children of God.

Write out that verse here (find it in Matthew 6:9).

## 4. Identity crises

The New Testament mentions that we are IN Christ more than 200 times. However, we often lose sight of our identity. What 'mindsets' should we reconsider or modify as we pursue God during these times together?

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5. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank you, Father, for making me a new creation in Christ Jesus. Help me walk in the goodness of all that you have done for me. Thank You that my old life is gone and that the new life has come. Thank You that I am solid, safe, and secure in Christ.*

# DAY 2

## Position Before Condition

*'He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.'*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

The Passover lamb was examined for four days before it was acceptable for sacrifice (Exodus 12:3-6). The lamb was to be chosen on the 10th of the first month and sacrificed on the 14th day. Only a lamb without blemish would do. Jesus likewise was examined at several hurried trials, and in conclusion Pontius Pilate said, "I find no fault in him." He was the spotless Lamb of God.

Notice that the priest had to examine the lamb, not the people, for an appropriate sacrifice sufficient to atone for their sins.

Yet religion teaches us to always examine the people before we press into God's presence. We become very concerned about our condition when God is looking at our position.

A Puritan writer, Thomas Brooks, said: "Now Satan will tempt the soul to look up and see God angry, and to look inward and see conscience accusing and condemning, and to look downwards, and see Hell's mouth open to receive the impenitent soul."

The good news is that there has been a great exchange. Because Jesus was examined and found perfect, I don't need to be examined and then found wanting. In this identity exchange, Jesus took my sin, and I received His righteousness. Not some of it, but all of it. While our lives are always a work in progress, what Christ did is finished. Like Luther of old, we also say, "So, help me God, here I stand; I can do no other."

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. How do you think God sees you?

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2. As you pray and fast today, ask yourself: Are you standing on your own efforts for prayer results, or are you standing solely on your new position in Christ?

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3. Reflect on the sure certainty of your new position before God. How do you think Satan responds to that? How should you respond?

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4. How do you think your conscience — that inner voice — should respond to this new truth about you, the Christian, becoming the righteousness of God?

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5. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank You, God, for this new position You have given me. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. With full authority and confidence, I will pray prayers with unhindered faith. I know that the accuser has been hurled down forever.*

# DAY 3

## Mirror — Mirror

*'If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face as it was in the beginning. You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin.*

James 1:23-24 (TPT)

Many homes have a mirror in the hallway, designed to take one last look before you leave the house and go out into the world. Here you make your final adjustments to your hair or your coat.

The Bible is your mirror. In it you see the reflection of your new identity — the person that God has made you to be. Some say that a more literal translation of James 1:23 is "he forgets his genesis face." God has re-created you, given you a new genesis; you are a new creation.

What does this new person look like? What do you see in the mirror of God's Word? Whatever it is that you see, you need to see it often and make daily spiritual adjustments in line with it before you go out into the world.

There are at least 200 direct reflections of your new 'genesis face' in the New Testament alone. Every time you read "in Christ" or "in Him," that is exactly who you are. They include:

- Chosen (1 Peter 2:9)
- God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
- Condemnation free (Romans 8:1)
- Bold and able (2 Timothy 1:7-8)

But notice the BIG point of our key verse today: don't read the Word and then fail to live out the message. Religion always wants to place behaviour before believing, so when such people read the Word, they do not see who they are — they only see what they ought to be. With God, believing comes first, with behaviour flowing naturally and following on in hot pursuit.

Read who you are. Know who you are. Confess who you are. Be who you are.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Pick up the mirror of God's Word and focus on one reflection that you feel may be particularly pertinent to you, such as boldness, being condemnation free, or another attribute you need the most. Ask God to help you see it, speak it, and live it.

I am:

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2. If you are a new creation, write a short list comparing the old you and the new you.

I was:

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But I now am:

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3. Before you go out into the world today, make some final adjustments to your spiritual image. Remind yourself who you are, and walk confidently in your new identity

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4. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Lord, I pray that as these weeks of prayer and fasting continue, You will help me find and see my new creation image. I pray that I will live out what I see and know. God, help me become aware of the areas that need the biggest shift or adjustment, and that daily I will see a difference.*

# DAY 4

## In This Together

*'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'*

Matthew 11:29-30 (NASB)

The yoke is an implement for harvest, designed to hitch two beasts together for greater pulling power.

The Levitical laws had rules concerning the use and abuse of such implement. They taught that differing animals were not to be placed in the yoke together. You could not place a donkey with an ox, for example (Deuteronomy 22:10), because that would make the yoke unworkable, the animals would frustrate and injure one another. As with all Levitical laws, there was a significant spiritual point — God does not like mixture.

Yet we read Jesus inviting “take My yoke upon you.” In other words, He is on one side, and we can be on the other.

Firstly, Jesus, knowing these laws, was making a BIG point. Not only did He humble Himself to become like us — a man — but He was elevating us to become like Him.

He did not see us as “different” once we are in a relationship with Him. Hebrews tell us that both Jesus and the Christian are one and come from the same source (Hebrews 2:11). Jesus is called the Firstborn among many brothers and sisters (Romans 8:29).

As you go out into this day, realise your privileged position: you and Christ are hitched together to see great things done. All tasks and endeavours are not undertaken alone but in a perfect partnership with God. As Jesus said, the outcome is a rest-filled, stress-free mission. You will burn out fast **working for God**, BUT **working with God** is a different matter. The power behind you is greater than the task ahead of you.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Use your imagination to get a vivid picture of you and Jesus in this yoke together. What difference will that make to your approach to today's challenges and opportunities?

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2. Often, an older ox was hitched to a younger one so that the younger ox would learn quickly not to fight the yoke but to work with it. What would an older you say to a younger you about working together with Jesus?

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3. Tests and research have shown that when animals are hitched, they do not just double their pulling power but can increase it by a factor of five or more. What is impossible for one becomes easy for two. What new possibilities are created as we pray and fast and realise our unique position in Christ?

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4. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank you, God, for being in this partnership with me. Today, help me be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He leads me forward.*

*Help me surrender the struggles I am not meant to carry alone and help me get right behind the mission and tasks that You are leading me into.*

*Help me live out the reality of Your promise, that I will indeed find rest for my soul while walking ahead.*

# DAY 5

## Limited God, Unlimited People

*'Now to Him who is able to carry out His purpose and do superabundantly more than all — infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams — according to His power that is at work within us.'*

Ephesians 3:20 (AMP)

Since creation, God has not worked alone. He has always, ever, and only worked through people.

He created Adam and Eve with His own hands, then gave them His blessing and authority over the earth. From that point on, God chose to limit Himself to working through people.

This key verse today not only tells us how big God is, but also how big we have now become. His power works according to the power that is at work within us.

Even when He wanted Jesus to come into this world, He needed a willing young teenage girl to say, "May it be done to me according to Your word." Look at any miracle in the Bible, and there is always a person involved. It is not that the power is theirs — it is God's power — but God has chosen to work through people.

The first Adam gave away that authority and power to Satan. He fell, failed, and died.

The last Adam, Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:45), walked, won, and gives us life — and life in all its fullness. God is sovereign, but out of His sovereignty He made a choice: He will work through us. Nothing of God will happen in your city without God using someone through whom He can do it. So why can't that someone be YOU? It might be your prayers, your witness, your faith, or your act of kindness.

Even as we pray and fast, we are making it possible — as earth dwellers — for God to move. God will not do anything without people.

Man needs God's power — but God needs manpower.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. If God needs someone through whom He will move on this earth, is He moving you? Reflect on the prompts He has given you, the words He has released to you, and the ideas He has birthed in you. What are they?

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2. How do you think God intends to use your church to make a difference in the lives of people in your community?

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3. How can you become more aware of what God wants to do through you?

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4. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Father, I am astonished that You do amazing things through ordinary people like me. Help me tune in to Your opportunities and divine appointments. Give me the courage to step up and get involved, and help us as a Church fulfil all that Your heart intends.*

# DAY 6

## Authority Versus Power

*'Behold, I have given you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'*

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

The newest police officer in our country can confidently step into traffic and raise his hand, knowing that even the largest of trucks must stop.

If we ask who has the most power — the policeman or the truck — the answer is, of course, the truck. It has far more weight and momentum than a new recruit. But if we ask who has the most authority, it's the policeman. The King's crown is on his hat and on lapels — he serves under the Crown. Should anyone disobey him, he can call upon all the resources that the Crown has to offer.

We serve under the Crown of King Jesus, and He has authorised us to act in His name. Serpents and scorpions are synonyms for demonic forces — they know who Jesus is, and it is God's intention that they also know who you are.

There are over 2.7 billion Christians on planet earth. What if each one exercised jurisdiction over their own area? Can you imagine what the world would look like?

Jesus told us to go to the ends of the earth — but it starts at our end. Sadly, many Christians do not yet know who they are, or the authority that has been given to them.

Sometimes authority is exercised when we **pray**, remembering the promise Jesus made — that whatever we ask the Father in His name, He will do it. But sometimes authority is exercised when we **say**. We are not told to pray for the sick, but to heal the sick. That happens when we speak to the sickness and command it to go in Jesus' name.

Jesus told His disciples to speak to their mountains, not to speak about their mountains (Mark 11:23). As earth dwellers, it is God's intention that we have jurisdiction here — you are authorised to act.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. The policeman's authority lies not in his size but in the Crown he serves under. You serve under the Crown of King Jesus. Take a moment to submit yourself afresh to God's authority over your life — especially in the areas you might find more challenging.

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2. Do you see yourself as someone with authority? Have you learned how to use it?

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3. Where do you need to exercise godly authority now?

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4. In today's verse, Jesus made a great promise: as we go on the offensive, "nothing shall by any means hurt you." Thank God for His protection, and pray that covering over yourself, your family, and your Church.

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5. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Father, I thank You that You have given Your Church authority to act over all the power of the enemy. I am part of that Church, so help me to act accordingly. I submit myself afresh to You, expecting that together we can do great things today.*

# DAY 7

## The Practice of the Presence of God

*'And looking at them, Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."'*

Matthew 19:26 (NASB)

It is possible to read the Bible and mishear what you read at the same time. For years, I misheard this verse. What I thought it said was, "But **for God** all things are possible."

Everything in me would agree — of course everything is possible for God; He can do anything. But that is not what Jesus said. He said, "**WITH GOD** all things are possible."

This Greek word translated "with" is *para* — from which we get parachute or paraglider. It means alongside, in the vicinity of, in proximity to.

Since the Spirit of God now lives within me, He cannot get any closer. Paul wrote that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV).

Perhaps the greatest promise God ever made was, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6 and 18, KJV). That means every second of every day, "with God" is a living reality.

Religion once taught me that God would leave me if I failed or messed up, and that I would then need to travel a long, penitent road to get the Holy Spirit back. But He never left — He is far, far more faithful than that.

Hundreds of years ago, a monk called Brother Lawrence wrote a short book titled The Practice of the Presence of God. He said, "We ought to act with God in the greatest simplicity, speak to Him frankly and plainly, and implore His assistance in our affairs."

When we do that, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, the natural can become supernatural, and the mundane can turn out to be exceptional.

You may be on your own as you go about your business today — but you are never alone.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Get into the habit of inviting God's involvement and help in everything you do. Practise the presence of God. What do you need God to engage with today?

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2. You are not alone — tune in and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. If you have asked for His help expect His response, which may well be a direct instruction.

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3. Today's key verse specifically refers to people coming to Christ. The disciples thought that was impossible, but Jesus said, not when God is involved. Ask God to give you one divine appointment — at least one opportunity to speak with someone about Jesus today.

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4. This is what God is telling me today

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank you, Father, that You will never, ever leave me. Today I lean on You and lean into You. May I be led by the Holy Spirit every step of the way throughout this day. I make myself available to You and for Your purposes.*



WEEK TWO:  
**MATURE IN  
FAITH**  
WITH MIKE MCKEEVER



# DAY 8

## Faith is a Muscle

*'Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.'*

James 4:7 (NASB)

All muscles grow through resistance. I once worked in a hospital for adults with disabilities. Some had never used their muscles due to chronic paralysis. The underdevelopment of their arms and legs was staggering — so slight and desperately thin.

We cannot be spiritually strong if we do not use our faith. Just as our muscles grow physically and help us lift greater weights, so it is spiritually. As we resist the devil and his ways, we grow from strength to strength, from grace to grace, and from faith to faith.

Remember, grace to grace means you are not in this alone — God, the Holy Spirit, is there with you, empowering you. Faith to faith means you begin by growing in faith yourself, and then you will be able to help others grow in their faith also.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Can I see a measurable growth in my faith?

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2. Am I intentionally growing my faith through actions, such as giving and praying for the sick.

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3. Have I become more aware of the power and assistance of the Holy Spirit?

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4. What faith challenges am I currently facing, and what is my strategy to overcome them?

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5. Am I helping others grow in their faith?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Lord, thank You that we are not alone in this, but by the empowerment of Your Holy Spirit, we can surely grow in our faith as our forefathers did. Lead us this year into great spiritual growth and maturity.*

# DAY 9

## Faith Has a Focus — What Are You Focusing Your Faith On for the Year Ahead?

*'And He took him outside and said, 'Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'*

Genesis 15:5 (NASB)

Faith and vision work hand in hand. This famous Scripture shows how God inspired the father of faith, Abraham, to take hold of the dream and task ahead by giving him a vision of the vastness of the sand and stars. This did not just happen just to Abraham, but to all who followed God and accomplished great exploits.

Moses saw a delivered people, David saw the tabernacle of worship restored, and Paul saw the Macedonian. This gave these heroes of faith a focus, which they so valiantly pursued.

One great truth to notice is that God's visions are always big — much bigger and wider than we could ever imagine. Thankfully, when God gives that vision, He also supplies the grace, courage and strength to pursue and fulfil it.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Are you currently working towards the fulfilling of a God-given vision?

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2. Paul said, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Paul received his vision from God, and so must we. Where did you receive your vision from?

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3. Life has many distractions, that is for sure. You will need to focus diligently on your vision to see it accomplished.

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4. Abraham, David, and Paul must have been initially daunted by the sheer size of what they perceived. But step by step, they took hold of it. Break your vision down into measurable, bite – sized steps.

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Open our eyes, Lord, and let us see the God-given vision as Abraham did. At this beginning of the year, show us Your will and plans, and grant us the grace to co-labour with You until year-end and beyond. By faith and patience, we will inherit these great promises of our God.*

# DAY 10

## What Are We Focusing on as a Church and Ministry for the Year Ahead?

*'Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundred times as much. And the LORD blessed him.'*

Genesis 26:12 (NASB)

Isaac saw the coming year. He sowed, watered, tended, and saw a mighty return. Begin with the end in mind, just as he did — what do you see at the end of this year? Commit to the process.

Farmers are not discouraged when the seed is in the ground and no growth is yet visible. They believe in the process, and growth surely comes. At the start of this year, prepare the ground, remove the weeds and rocks, plant your seed, water it, and believe for that one-hundred-fold return.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Is my soil prepared? What preparation can I do to better prepare myself?

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2. Removing all rocks, weeds and distractions is a critical part of fruitful farming. Identify the weeds and rocks that threaten to inhibit your harvest and remove them.

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3. What seed will you sow? Your seed is your ministry into this Church and world. Every farmer knows what he has planted and expects. So, for yourself and your ministry, be intentional in exactly what seed you will sow and what harvest you expect.

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4. Scripture is clear that it is through faith and patience we inherit the promises. Set your mind to tend and water the seed. Be mindful of the seasons that all harvests go through.

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# PRAYER FOCUS:

*Bless us as holy ground and soil to receive God's good seed. In diligence we will prepare our ground, sow our seed, and reap a mighty harvest. Give us wisdom in how to prepare ourselves and nurture the seed. We thank you in advance for a great harvest.*

# DAY 11

## How to Activate Your Faith

*"Every place on which the sole of your foot steps, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses."*

Joshua 1:3 (NASB)

I was once involved in moving individuals out of long-term institutional care into independent community accommodation. One man who had spent his life in an institution was rehoused, and his carer came in to find him sitting in the dark! The team thought they had taught him everything, but they had forgotten that, in the hospital, the lights were controlled by others. The man had to be taught how to activate the power.

So it is with faith; it needs to be activated in several practical ways. We can speak out in faith — faith can be activated by what we say and do. The Israelites had to put their feet on that ground. Likewise, when it comes to activating our faith, we must be careful not only about how we think, but that our confession and our actions are all in alignment with God's Word and promise.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Write down the faith goals you are believing for in 2026.

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. How will you activate your faith towards fulfilling these?

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3. How can your words and actions accelerate the fulfilment of the vision and promises?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*May we be sure-footed as we walk with you, Lord. Paul walked sometimes in fear and trembling — but he walked, and God sustained him. So now, as we step out in faith, sustain us also, we pray, with boldness and faith.*

# DAY 12

## Faith Will Be Tested

*'Now it came about after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love —Isaac—and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."*

Genesis 22:1-2 (NASB)

Without a doubt, this is history's most famous example of faith being tested.

The New Testament epistle of James says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (James 1:2-3). How is spiritual endurance cultivated? Through the testing of our faith!

In order to truly flourish, we must face — rather than avoid — the spiritual challenges that come before us. Instead of allowing trials to turn us away from the Lord, they can teach us to run to Him.

Like Joseph, you may be planted in Pharaoh's prison, but you can rise and become the prime minister of Egypt. Like Daniel, you may be planted in the lion's den, but you can rise and become the advisor to the king of Persia. And like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you may be planted in the fiery furnace, but you can rise and witness to kings — because God is with you.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. How do you respond to circumstances that test your faith? Do you immediately give up, or do you fix your eyes on Jesus?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. Don't let trials turn you away from faith in God. Don't let the tests make your heart grow cold. Call upon the Lord for help and rely on His strength. Remember the reward that awaits you in Christ Jesus.

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3. Scripture teaches us to receive these tests as a pure joy. Why? Because after we pass the test, we know that the fulfilled promise awaits.

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thank You for the examples of faith and endurance we see in Scripture. Every test can prove us, mature us, and advance us. We pray that You increase our resolve to complete this great calling and commission.*

# DAY 13

## Faith Always Comes Through

*'By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did... And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.*

*By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death...*

*By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.*

*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.'*

Hebrews 11:4, 5, 7, 8 (NIV)

In this chapter of Hebrews, we find a long list of people whom we call "heroes of faith." These are descriptions of people whose faith in God showed in their actions as they lived out their everyday lives. Faith is intended to be lived out.

Abraham and Sarah trusted God's promises to take them to a new land and to give them descendants. It took a long time for these promises to be fulfilled, but they trusted God, and He fulfilled them.

Moses trusted God to guide him in leading His people out of slavery in Egypt. It took a long time and a lot of hard work, and through a series of miracles, God delivered the people. Then Moses served God for many more years, bringing God's law to the people, setting up the worship of God, and teaching them how to live God's way (Exodus 12-40).

Rahab, an outsider, declared her faith in God and became one of His people when the Lord brought them back into the land promised to Abraham. She became one of the great, great... grandmothers of Jesus.

What an inspiration these lives bring! And we, today, serve the same God.

# REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Reflect on victories you have had in the past — victories where faith spurred you on to fulfilment.

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2. What lessons have you learned from enduring in faith? Each hero in Hebrews 11 teaches us a different lesson about enduring faith. Study each one and write down the specific lesson and blessing.

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*A friend of mine constantly says, "No matter what." The heroes of faith really show us that God, and faith in God, prevail "no matter what." So, no matter what situation you are facing, no matter the challenges, do not despair. Remember those who have gone before us and succeeded. Elijah was a man just like us, yet he accessed the power and interventions of God. And you can also — no matter what.*

# DAY 14

## Finishing the Race

*'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'*

2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

God has given each one of us our own race. I'm not running your race, and you are not running my race, but we are each running our own race. We aren't running against each other; we are just running against ourselves. Notice that in today's key verse, Paul didn't say, "I have won the race." He just said, "I have finished the race." In this race, every finisher is a winner.

God is not concerned with how fast you run, but how far you run. It is not how you start the race; it is how you finish the race that counts.

That should be our mindset when it comes to running the race God has given each of us — to finish the race and be faithful to the finish, keeping the faith.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Having completed two half marathons, I can tell you mind set is huge. You must be committed to finish what you start. As we step into this year and God's promises, set your mind on finishing well.

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. All running requires a warm-up time, or you can get injured. Christians warm up through prayer, fellowship, time in God's Word, and indeed fasting times like now. Take warm-up seriously — these practices may seem like basics, but they work.

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3. Paul reminds us of two things: the race and the faith. In other words, the race must be run in "the faith", according to the biblical principles we know and must adhere to. Take time to consider not just how far you run but "how"— are you mindful of the rules of this great race?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Lord, help us chose our race wisely — not the rat race or any other man-centred thing, but Your call onto a Godly and glorious race. Help us run with endurance and integrity toward the prize set before us. May this indeed be a year of sustained growth in faith and victories.*





WEEK THREE:  
**MATURE IN  
PURPOSE**  
WITH LIAM SMITH

# DAY 15

## Your Purpose in God Is Bigger Than You

*'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.'*

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

Your purpose in God didn't start with you — it started in Him. Before you were born, He designed a plan that would display His goodness through your life. This means your calling is not just about personal fulfillment or success, but rather about revealing Christ to the world. God invites you into something far larger than yourself — His unfolding Kingdom story. When we mature in purpose, we stop measuring our lives by what we can achieve and start measuring by how we are embracing His purpose for us — in His story!

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. How does knowing your purpose began in God (not you) change how you see your life?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. What plans might you need to surrender so that God's larger purpose can unfold?

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3. Are there any practical or life changes required on your part to align with this?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank God that His purpose for your life was prepared before time began. Ask Him to stretch your vision beyond your own needs and dreams, and to let you see your life as part of His eternal story. Pray in line with what Paul prayed:*

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."*

*Ephesians 1:18 (NASB)*

# DAY 16

## God's Purpose Gets You Out of Yourself

*'Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'"*

Matthew 16:24 (NASB)

Purpose matures when self-centred living ends. We grow when we stop asking, "What do I want?" and begin asking, "What does Jesus want through me?" God's purpose pulls you out of "me" thinking and "me" living and into God's dimensions of thought and action. It got the disciples to believe God for feeding at least 5000 and the early Church to reach for every nation on earth to hear the Gospel! Every time you lay down pride, preference, or comfort for the sake of obedience, the Kingdom expands within and through you.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What areas of your life might still be centred around your own comfort or goals?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. How is God inviting you to deny yourself for the sake of His greater plan?

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3. What could “taking up your cross” look like in practical, daily choices?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

Ask God to help you move away from small, self-focused living. Pray for a heart willing to obey, even when it costs something, trusting that His purpose always leads to true life for you and for many others

# DAY 17

## God's Purpose Gets You Connected to Others

*'From Him the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies... causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.'*

Ephesians 4:16 (NASB)

No one fulfills purpose alone. God designed His Church to function as a body, each part connected and vital. Isolation weakens calling; connection strengthens it. You carry a portion of God's grace that others need, and they carry what you lack. Maturity in purpose means learning to value others God joins us with. God is the "Master Connector" of right relationships, and the Kingdom primarily grows through those.

Paul valued this principle greatly. He even left Troas and went on to Macedonia because he could not find Titus there!

*"When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia."*

2 Corinthians 2:12–13 (NIV)

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Which key relationships has God given you to journey with and to lean into purpose together?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. Given the importance of this in maturing in purpose, are there any relationships you feel God is leading you to rekindle, strengthen, or change?

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3. How can you actively serve, encourage or build others up this week?

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# PRAYER FOCUS:

*Pray for divine connections and unity. Thank God for those who walk with you and ask Him to deepen your love for the body of Christ.*

# DAY 18

## God's Purpose is What You Were Designed For

*'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.'*

Jeremiah 1:5 (NASB)

You are not an accident. God didn't make you and then try to find something for you to do; He had something for you to do, so He made you! Everything about you — your personality, your gifts, and "wiring" — fits the purpose He designed. When we mature in purpose, we stop trying to copy others and start walking confidently in who God has made us to be. This doesn't mean we resist being moulded, shaped, and changed in our character to be more Christlike and simply say, "I am who I am" — but we acknowledge that what God made, He made on purpose.

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## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What gifts or passions has God placed in you that point toward your design?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. In what ways have you compared yourself to others instead of embracing your uniqueness

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3. How can you begin walking more confidently in the way God made you?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank God for making you with intention. Ask Him to reveal more of how your design fits His purpose, and to free you from comparison or insecurity.*

# DAY 19

## Have You Begun to Discover Your Purpose?

*'Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.'*

Psalm 37:4 (NASB)

Discovering purpose begins not with striving, but “delighting”. As we draw close to God, His desires begin to shape ours. Purpose is discovered in relationship, not performance. God reveals His plans step by step as we walk with Him daily. You don’t find purpose by chasing it — you find it by following Jesus. Maturity means staying faithful in the small things while trusting that God is leading you toward the greater things He’s prepared.

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What stirs joy in you when you serve God? Where do you sense His ease and smile?

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2. Are you waiting for a big “moment” or walking faithfully in the small steps today?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

3. How does “delighting in God” change your priorities?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Pray that your heart stays tender to God's leading. Ask Him to awaken purpose in you as you delight in Him, and to guide your steps with peace and clarity.*

# DAY 20

## Purpose Grows Through Surrender

*'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.'*

Psalm 37:4 (NASB)

Purpose doesn't grow through control, it grows through surrender. When you let go of how you think life should look, God can unfold His plan. Often His path looks different than expected, but it leads exactly where you need to be. Maturity means knowing that surrender isn't weakness, it's partnership with divine wisdom. You will never lose when you let God win!

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Consider the areas of your life you still feel difficult to surrender to God. Can you identify where and why?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. Remind yourself: In the Bible, and in your own journey so far, where have you already seen God's "track record" of goodness and faithfulness to those who trust Him fully?

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3. Now bring these first two questions together: God hasn't changed and never will! What will you now adjust to surrender all your life to Him?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Pray a prayer of surrender. Tell God you trust Him with your plans, dreams, and timing. Ask Him to align your steps with His perfect path.*

# DAY 21

## Purpose That Glorifies King Jesus

*'Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'*

Matthew 5:16 (NASB)

Every God-given purpose ultimately points to Him. The goal is not that people see you — but that through your life, they see and experience Jesus. Mature purpose draws others toward King Jesus, and your story becomes a light others can follow home.

*"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."*

*Philippians 3:12 (NASB)*

Jesus laid hold of us all with clear purpose in mind. Paul was determined to honour and glorify Him by allowing it to be fulfilled in his life — let each of us do the same!

## REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What does “pressing on” in purpose look like for you in this next season?

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# REFLECT & RESPOND

2. How can your purpose point others toward Jesus more clearly?

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3. What does it look like for you to “shine” in your current season?

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## PRAYER FOCUS:

*Thank God that He has chosen to display His glory through your life. Ask Him to help you live in such a way that everything you do brings honour and glory to His name.*

## NOTES

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Destiny Church, 70 Cathedral Street, Glasgow, G4 0RD

0141 616 6777

[www.destiny-church.com](http://www.destiny-church.com)