

# My 2026 Fasting Devotional

## My Year to Actively Live Out God's Purpose

**The Church of Uncommon Favor**  
*We Love God and Serve Others*  
**Kenyatta D. Simmons**  
**Senior Pastor**

### ***Hey Life Changers...***

It's 2026 and this is our year to **Actively Living Out God's Purpose**. God will manifest HIS Presence in your everyday journey as you walk in and with purpose. 2025 was our year of Intentional Elevation and we saw God provide and increase – Intentionally. Now it's 2026... God wants you to ACTIVELY Live... HIS Purposes. Each month in 2026, we will focus on how to Actively Walk in the Purposes of God. As the Church of Uncommon Favor, we challenge you to walk in Boldness and Authority as things will begin to manifest themselves in your life. We believe that as we come together during the next 21 days of fasting and re-dedication, God will position you to ACTIVELY Live. As you've heard me say repeatedly – there is awesome Power through Prayer and Fasting. I encourage you to make this Prayer and Fasting Journal a part of your daily routine.

As we go through this time of prayer and fasting, let's pray as a church family for God's plan and purpose. During this time with God, our corporate prayer is that we continue to impact families for Jesus Christ in the Katy and West Houston area.

Be Blessed! - *Pastor Kenyatta D. Simmons*

Here are some tips that I believe will help you reap the greatest spiritual benefit from this prayer and fasting journal.

1. Select a specific time and place each day that is free from distractions.
2. Read each day and pray.
3. Purchase a separate journal or notebook to record what God is saying.
4. If you miss a day (You might) don't stop! Just pick up where you left off.
5. Drink water and/or juice during the fast to maintain your strength.
6. Commit to attending LIFE Institute (Via Zoom: ID – 961-075-5547) on Tuesdays and Worship on Sundays as you will receive resources and encouragement from others who are fasting as well.
7. Lastly, commit to being faithful in your financial giving as you are looking for the Bigness of God

### **Life Changer Community Church**

### **Uncommon Favor Fast**

### **January 5th -January 25th**

*Fasting is one of the most powerful weapons God has ever given us for our daily lives.*

We all go through times when we feel like we are not living up to our full potential. Sometimes we lose our energy and our spiritual sharpness. This causes us to lose our edge. What does it really mean to lose your edge? Although fasting lasts for a short season, it brings long-term results, which sharpens us, enabling us to face the challenges of life in His strength.

#### **Why should I fast?**

1. Are you in need of clarity, direction, peace, financial stability, and comfort for 2026 and beyond?
2. Do you need healing (physical or emotional)?
3. Are you seeking renewal from God?
4. Is there a dream inside you that only HE can make possible?
5. Is your heart in need of a spiritual transplant?
6. Do you desire a deeper, more intimate & powerful relationship with the Lord?
7. Are you ready to have heightened sensitivity to the desires of God?
8. Do you need to break away from bondages that are holding you hostage?
9. Is there a friend or loved one that needs Salvation, Healing or Deliverance?
10. Do you desire to know God's will for your life?

#### **Types of Fasts**

**Full Fast:** Drink only liquids (you establish the number of days).

**The Daniel Fast:** Eat no meat, no sweets and no bread. Drink water and juice. Eat fruits and vegetables. (**THIS IS WHAT LC3 IS DOING**)

**Partial Fast:** A partial fast is from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm or from sunup to sundown. You can select from three types of fasting —a Full Fast, Daniel Fast or give up at

least one item of food.

**Scripture References:** Matthew 6:16-18, Matthew 9:14-15, Luke 18:9-14

### **Details of Our Daniel Fast**

#### **Daily Prayer**

Prayer should be offered to God numerous times a day

#### **Daily Devotionals**

Every day during the fast, there is a devotional that will include scripture and a reflection to guide us through the week. Use this as a guide; you may also use other devotional materials as well.

**THE FAST WILL LAST FOR THE ENTIRE 21 DAYS**—this includes Sundays!!!! You may have fruits and vegetables in any form i.e. 100% fruit juices, vegetable soups, and smoothies with no yogurt. Refrain from all spirits i.e. beer, wine, etc., during your fast.

**Dietary Restrictions** will not prevent you from participating in our church wide fasting and praying. God does not expect for you to jeopardize your current health in order to fulfill the call to fast. On the following page are alternatives to fasting from food for those with dietary restrictions.

#### **DO NOT FAST FROM YOUR MEDICATION!**

#### ***Fasting Option for Those With Dietary Restrictions***

##### **Fast #1 – REMOVING CERTAIN FOODS OR ITEMS FROM YOUR DIET OR LIFE**

One type of fasting is to remove certain foods from your diet such as fried foods, coffee, sweets, sodas, refined sugar and/or flour, wine, beer, spirits, etc.

##### **Fast #2 – REMOVING ITEMS OF HUMAN PLEASURE**

Another type of fasting is removing the pleasure of items that can result in a non-communicative moment with God such as television, telephone, surfing the Internet, etc. You can set aside time to not engage in these pleasurable items. Refraining from wine, beer, spirits, etc, is required.

##### **In Addition To The Food Fast, You Should Be Fasting From: gossip and idle chatter as well as secular music**

**YOUTH!** We are asking that youth in grades 6th-12th also participate.

- The Youth are to memorize one of the following scriptures: - *Psalm 23 Psalm 100 Psalm 150 Isaiah 40:30-31 John 3:16*

##### **- The Youth are to refrain from:**

- *Secular Music between the hours of 6am-8am and 3pm-6pm*
- *Tic Toc, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat (all forms of social media) between the hours of 6am-8am and 8pm-10pm*
- *Fast Food*

#### ***The Goals of My Fast***

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**Week #1 - Preparing to Live Out God's Purpose** (*What are the internal barriers that prevent growth and keep us stagnate*)

**Week #2 - Believing God for Direction and Clarity** (*Overcoming Fear and Doubt that keep us from Trusting God Completely*)

## **Week #3 - Walking in Purpose** (Each day, walk with Purpose and Intentionality)

### **Day #1 – Monday, January 5th, 2026**

#### **It's Time for A Heart Check**

*And rend your heart and not your garments. Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.* Joel 2:13

That phrase “rend your hearts” is intense! It cuts right to the root of the matter which is found in the verse right before: “Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning.”

Isn’t it interesting that it couples fasting with repentance here? I’ve always thought of fasting as a thing to do in order to remove distractions from my life so I can focus on God. But in this story, Israel went way off track from God’s plan for them, and He called them to fast, repent, and return to Him with their whole hearts.

Typically, when I repent, I just pray and move on. But this goes deeper than that. Fasting isn’t a requirement for forgiveness, but here we see it as an added element to repentance. Fasting deals with our selfish desires—all those selfish ambitions trying to draw us away from God’s heart. And isn’t it kind of the Father to assure them of the grace and compassion He will give them when they do?

All of this made me consider how I get off track of God’s best for me. When stress rules my day, or when I don’t find time to spend in prayer, or when I ignore that still, small voice of God in my spirit—these are the ways I get “off track.” And it’s in these areas, where fasting, coupled with repentance, is the perfect recipe to press into the heart of God. His beautiful heart of compassion abounds with lovingkindness for me!

#### **PRAYER**

*Father, for any areas where I have trailed “off track” from Your best for my life, please show me so I can come back, close to Your heart. Thank You for Your heart of compassion for me, no matter how far I may have wandered. Your presence and Your voice mean more than anything to me. Amen.*

#### **ASK YOURSELF:**

*What is my general attitude toward life? Could I be “off track” from how God intended me to enjoy His presence? Is there any area of my life that I have yet to surrender to God and give Him full control?*

### **Day #2 – Tuesday, January 6th, 2026**

#### **Imagining HIS Greatness**

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us of the incredible potential that lies within our relationship with God: “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” This verse invites us to not only think about God’s greatness but to envision how that greatness can transform our lives and elevate our purposes. When we imagine the vastness of God’s capabilities, we open ourselves to new possibilities and align our aspirations with His divine plan.

God’s greatness is beyond our comprehension. Isaiah 55:8-9 states, “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.*” This is a powerful reminder that God’s understanding and plans far exceed our limited perspectives. We often confine our dreams and expectations to what we can see and understand. However, God invites us to expand our imagination, to think beyond our current circumstances, and to dream bigger. To dream bigger

means we must have a high view of God. One of the things I do to help stimulate a higher view of God is to pray naming his attributes. They elevate my frame of mind and remind me of who I am addressing.

1 Corinthians 2:9 and verses like it emphasize similar ideas: “However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived.’” This verse encourages us to realize that God has extraordinary plans that we cannot even begin to imagine. When we allow ourselves to dream in alignment with His greatness, we tap into the limitless possibilities that God has set before us.

When we think about our purpose, it is essential to remember that God’s vision for our lives is often much grander than our own. He may call us to take paths we never considered or to use our gifts in ways that surprise us. By imagining His greatness, we open the door to discovering our true calling and the impact we can have on the world around us.

Imagining God’s greatness is transformative. When we see Him as the all-powerful Creator, who can do immeasurably more in our lives, we become empowered to pursue our purpose with confidence. It encourages us to step out of our comfort zones and embrace opportunities that may seem daunting.

As we envision the greatness of God, we begin to understand that our dreams are not just wishes but can be part of a divine plan. This realization propels us toward our calling. We can invite God into our aspirations, seeking His guidance and wisdom to align our goals with His will.

Take time to journal about your dreams and aspirations.

Reflect on what you truly desire in your life and how those desires align with God’s purpose for you. Ask God to expand your imagination and reveal to you the incredible plans He has in store. Write down any insights or visions that come to you during this time.

Remember, God is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine, so let us not only pray boldly, let us dream boldly and trust in His power at work within us. Together, let’s allow God to expand our vision and lead us to elevate our true purpose!

### Surrendering Control – Yes, You Have To!

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us of God's incredible ability to work in our lives: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." This verse invites us to let go of our need for control and trust in God's plans.

Surrendering control can be challenging, especially when we feel the pressure to manage our lives on our own. Yet, when we hand over the reins to God, we open ourselves up to His limitless possibilities.

Surrendering control means trusting that God knows what is best for us. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." This is a powerful reminder that our understanding is limited, while God's wisdom is infinite. We often find ourselves relying on our own plans, but when we do, we may miss out on the amazing things God wants to do in and through us.

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges us, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." Surrendering requires us to lay down our desires and ambitions, placing them in God's hands. This act of worship opens the door for God to work in us, aligning our hearts with His will.

When we surrender control, we invite God's power to flow through us. Ephesians 3:20 speaks of His ability to do "immeasurably more" than we can ask or imagine. However, this requires us to step aside and allow Him to take charge. It's in our moments of surrender that we often experience the greatest breakthroughs in our lives.

Letting go of control can be daunting, especially in areas where we feel most vulnerable. Yet, it is in these very areas that God's grace and strength can shine the brightest. When we trust Him, we are free to embrace His guidance and find peace, even amidst uncertainty.

Identify an area of your life where you struggle to surrender control. This could be related to your job, relationships, finances, or personal goals. Once you've pinpointed this area, consider fasting from something that occupies your time or attention—such as social media, television, or even certain foods. Use this time to create space for God in your life.

During your fast, spend intentional time in prayer and reflection. Ask God to help you release your grip on control and to trust Him with this part of your life.

### Day #4 – Thursday, January 8th, 2026

#### **Depending, Not Demanding**

"Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord." (2 Chronicles 20:3-4 ESV)

In this passage, the king of Judah has just learned that three enemy nations have joined forces against him, and he is afraid. Rather than quickly coming up with some sort of plan or strategy of his own design, he calls the people of the land to humble themselves – to fast and seek help from the Lord. Jehoshaphat then goes before God in prayer, expressing his confidence in God's character and his trust in God's promises, concluding with these words – "For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Jehoshaphat doesn't come demanding or dictating to God what he should do, nor does he offer God advice on the best way to intervene, he simply presents himself before the Lord, declaring his dependence on him and seeking help from him.

As we walk through life, we will doubtless encounter circumstances that seem overwhelming to

us; situations that are beyond our own wisdom to solve and our own strength to battle. Fasting is one way we can humble ourselves before God and express our need for him. It is a time to recall God's unchanging character and to remind ourselves of his unshakable promises. It is an opportunity to stop trying to take care of ourselves with our own resources and turn to the one who has pledged to be our protector and provider. Fasting is a time when we can set our face to seek help from the Lord our God. Reflection: Is there a situation in your life that you have been trying to handle in your own strength? Use your time of fasting to give this over to God, echoing the words of the king of Judah – “I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you.”

## Day #5 – Friday, January 9th, 2026

### **Forgiveness Unlocks**

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

-Colossian 3:13

Part of our goal for this week is to remove all barriers to intimacy with God.

Fasting affords us a mechanism to focus all our energy on Him. However, that focus is broken when we are holding something against someone else. There is no way that we can receive all that God has for us if a corner of our mind is saved for storing a grudge, no matter how small. In this passage of Colossians, Paul is in the middle of an exhortation to Christians at Colossae to lead a holy life. He is pleading with them to not focus on earthly things but the things of God. An important part of our Christian life is how we walk with our fellow humans. Given that we are all sinners, we will all do things to others that are not Christ-like. Therefore, the corollary will likely be true: there is always going to be someone who has done something to upset us. Our charge from the Word of God is to be in a mode of active forgiveness.

The word for “forgiving” is a present tense, middle voice participle. It means that we are responsible for the action, and the action is happening immediately, continuously, and permanently. Otherwise, our resentment will build and become a barrier to our relationship with God. Practice complete and permanent forgiveness, just like the forgiveness that we receive through Jesus. Lord, create in me a self-awareness so that I can recognize my need to forgive and give me the strength and grace that I need to be able to follow through on my need to forgive others. Thank you for your grace to me. Help me to extend that to all of those I interact with. Real forgiveness is unconditional. There are no requirements attached to it. You don’t earn it. You don’t deserve it. You don’t bargain for it. Forgiveness is not based on a promise to never do it again. You offer forgiveness to somebody whether they ask for it or not.

When Jesus stretched out his hands on the cross and said, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,*” nobody had asked for it (Luke 23:34 NIV). Nobody had said, “Jesus, please forgive me for what we’re doing to you.” He just offered it. He took the initiative.

Second, forgiveness isn’t minimizing the seriousness of the offense. When somebody asks for your forgiveness and you say, “It’s no big deal. It really didn’t hurt,” that actually cheapens

forgiveness. If the offense wasn't a big deal, then you don't need to ask for or offer forgiveness. Forgiveness is for the big stuff. You don't use it for slights that are just minor issues; life's small slights just require patience and acceptance. It's life's big wrongs that require forgiveness—and those wrongs shouldn't be minimized. If an offense was a big deal, admit that it was. And then forgive, or ask for forgiveness.

Understanding forgiveness is the first step to living it out. So the next time you've offended someone, or have been offended yourself, remember these two things: First, forgiveness is unconditional. And, second, forgiveness never minimizes the wrong.

### **Let's Talk**

*Is there someone you've forgiven conditionally—with requirements attached? How can you move toward unconditional forgiveness today?*

- *Why is it so hard to offer forgiveness to someone who has not asked for it? How can you forgive, even when the offender never asks for it?*
- *How does your attitude about forgiveness change when you consider how Christ forgave you?*

### **Day #6 – Saturday, January 10th, 2026**

#### **Time to Reset**

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:10 - “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

One of the reasons I think prayer and fasting are so powerful when combined, is that, together, they activate a chain reaction where we see God's kingdom manifest on earth. This sequence is what I call agreement...alignment...assignment. When we come into agreement with God, we are aligned with God's perfect will on earth, as it already is in heaven. When we are aligned with heaven, we find that God can use us in ways we never thought possible; then, we begin to walk in our assignment—the purpose that God created us to fulfill.

God has given you a specific and unique assignment. You are a masterpiece designed by God to make a difference in this world. There is a very specific purpose for which you were created.

God is the only One who can truly inform you of that purpose, and, in order to fulfill it, you will need His power.

Here's the deal: when it comes to pursuing our God-given assignment, if you and I are not in tune with God's voice, we will only hear the voice of the crowd and get weighed down by the pressures of life. Like a radio station we can't quite hear clearly, all the voices will cause static and make it difficult for us to tune into the Voice we need to hear.

#### **TAKE A MOMENT AND REFLECT**

As you fast, let your hunger help you focus on God. Every time you experience a pang of hunger,

ask God to increase your hunger for Him, in the same way that you hunger for food.

## Day #7 – Sunday, January 11th, 2026

### It's Time to Clean House

*"We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up."* Hebrews 12:1 (GW)

Real change requires cleaning house. If you're one of those people who can't find the motivation to get your physical house clean, then cleaning your spiritual house may seem like a bigger task. But this is where you need to use your best energy—because God wants you to spend your life becoming more like him. And becoming more like him sometimes requires you to make difficult changes.

The Bible says it like this: *"We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up"* (Hebrews 12:1 GW). To decide what you need to clean in your spiritual house, you just have to figure out what needs to change in your life. Ask yourself questions like: *What is slowing me down?* If you want a healthy body, then maybe you need to keep healthier food in your house or create a meal plan. Or maybe you need to commit to regular exercise, even if you start small with 15 minutes a day. If you want a healthy mind, then you may need to stop watching some reality TV shows or block some channels. You may just need to delete some apps or put healthier boundaries around your screen time. If you want a healthy schedule, then you need to decide what's most important to you. Then you can eliminate some less-important activities—sometimes even good ones—so that you can focus more on what matters most to you.

If you want a clean heart, then you need to spend time in prayer, asking God what you need to confess and then confessing those things. This can be the most difficult step of spiritual cleaning. Through confession, you're recognizing and rooting out sins that cause unhealthy habits throughout your spiritual house.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4:22, *"Get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires"* (GNT).

It's time to clean house—but it's not a one-time practice. Just like you have to regularly clean your physical home, you need to make a habit of asking the hard questions to identify what spiritual rooms need a good cleaning. Then, with God's blessing, you get to work.

### Let's Talk

- *Why is it important to spend time in prayer before you try to clean up any area of your life?*
- *In what area of your life do you find it most difficult to make changes?*
- *Spend some time today talking to God about where you need to do some cleaning in your life. Confess your sin to him and ask for grace to do the hard work of change.*

## **Day #8 – Monday, January 12th, 2026**

### **Faith vs. Unbelief**

#### **Luke 17:5-6**

*“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”*

#### **Mark 9:24**

*“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!””*

Through the course of his ministry, Jesus communicated many times the importance of faith. As Christ followers, we walk in faith the moment we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Romans 12:3 tells us we have each been given a measure of faith. So if we have a measure of faith, we also have a measure of unbelief. Luke 17:5-6 and Mark 9:24 show us we can ask for our measure to be increased. While faith for our salvation and for the forgiveness of sin is essential, our faith is one of the ways God operates through us. It is a spiritual gift given to us by God. Fortunately, we only need faith the size of a mustard seed for God to move mightily in us and through us.

If we look at faith as a gift, we know according to 1 Corinthians 12:7 that our gifts are not for our own benefit, but for the common good. As we fast and contend for God to heal those we love and intervene in our circumstances with the miraculous, it is important that we remember we are doing this together as a church family. We are not a bunch of islands simultaneously waving our white flags, signally for God to help us. Rather, we are one body filled with different gifts and measures of faith, coming together in agreement for all to be healed, delivered, and set free. The beauty of this is we can link arms in faith for one another. I join my faith with yours and we join our faith with those around us. In doing so, we build up all of our faith so when one of us waivers, the rest of us are there holding them up. We can remind them the God we serve is in the business of doing the impossible.

As we operate in our faith, let's also keep in mind, faith has some friends it partners really well

with. Those friends are hope and love. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” And 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” As we exercise our faith muscle and link arms with one another, let’s remember to pair our faith with hope and love. Love is the greatest motivator and the best filter.

Just as faith has friends, it also has some foes: fear and unbelief. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” Matthew 13:58 shares that Jesus, “did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.” And Mark 4:40 states, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” Fear and unbelief hinder us from experiencing all the benefits of faith. As you personally pursue the gift of faith, let us extend grace to those around us who may be in different places in their pursuit. Rather, let us lend faith to those in need and allow others to extend their faith to us when we are lacking.

So, how do we build our faith both personally and corporately? We fix our eyes on Jesus. Instead of focusing on our impossible circumstances, our infirmity, or our lack, we “look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2) and we ask him to strengthen us. We strengthen our faith by:

- Reading the Word and focusing of God’s promises
- Spending time worshiping God and being in his presence
- Remembering God’s faithfulness through sharing testimonies of his past victories.

God is always faithful. Lean into his faithfulness to grow your faith and allow your faith to minister to the body of Christ. Let us link arms in faith, to believe for God to save, heal, deliver, and set many free in the days and weeks to come.

Ask the Holy Spirit: *What areas do I struggle with unbelief? What caused that unbelief? Will you show me the truth about what caused the unbelief?*

Then: *Repent of your unbelief and break agreement with it. Renounce unbelief and tell unbelief you no longer want it in your life.*

Command unbelief to go. *Ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse and purify the places that were occupied by unbelief. Ask the Holy Spirit to replace unbelief with faith. Ask for an increase of faith.*

**Prayer:** *Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of faith. Thank you that we only need a little to walk powerfully with you. I surrender to you the areas where I struggle with unbelief. Help me. I ask that you grow my faith and give me a supernatural ability to trust in you. Help me to lean on the faith of my fellow believers when I am struggling. As you fortify me, help me to have faith on behalf of others when they need help. You are more than able to help me through anything I encounter. Lord, be the lifter of my head so my gaze remains firmly fixed on you, the solution to all my needs. You are trustworthy, Lord. I know I can count on you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

## **Day #8 – Tuesday, January 13th, 2026**

### **The God of The Impossible**

#### **Matthew 17:20**

*“For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”* Do you ever look at situations in your life and think, “That is impossible, even for God,” or “I’m not sure that I should pray for what I want to see happen in this situation because it feels like too much to ask the Lord?” Have you struggled to keep your faith alive after years of seemingly unanswered prayers?

When I find myself in seasons where my faith is challenged, my first response is to get out my

Bible and look for stories that remind me of the God to whom I belong. As I read stories of faith, I am reminded of God's true nature. I typically land on characters like Abraham, Moses leading the Israelites in their exit from Egypt, Gideon, Samuel, David, Jonah, Elijah, and ultimately Jesus. I read about barren wombs being opened, of enemies who were overtaken by a minimal army, or a child hearing the voice of the Lord in the night. I immerse myself in stories of a teenager killing a giant with a mere sling and a stone, of a man who survived in the belly of a whale and lived to testify, or of dead bodies being brought back to life. I meditate on the rain being prophetically stopped and then called down or study the accounts of miracles upon miracles being administered by simply a touch or a word.

I am reminded that this is the God in whom I have put my trust. This is the God that promises to be with me in the middle of the storm. He is the one I can trust when the waves seem out of control and the noise is so loud I cannot hear clearly. This is the God that is within me, before me, and behind me. This is my dad who has given me a kingdom inheritance. He is the God who does the impossible. All I have to do is ask for his peace, strategy, comfort, strength, and hope. He gladly gives it.

I reflect on my own testimonies of answered prayers, miracles, and provision from the Lord. I think about how he has guided me through the years in my victories and failures. I recall how he took me on paths that led me to freedom in him. I am reminded of his faithfulness in every season. I encourage myself, if he did it before, he can do it again. Then I set my eyes on Jesus and begin to step forward again in strength, holding onto my faith in the God of miracles who does the impossible.

### **Prayer:**

*Holy Spirit, please build my faith to match the truth of who you are. Where am I doubting you in my life? What places am I not trusting that you are with me and helping me? Speak to my heart and reveal any unbelief or deficit within me. Invite the Holy Spirit into the areas he reveals to you.*

### **Prayer:**

*Father, I proclaim that you are the God of the impossible. I pray that you would give me a heart that believes that you are truly a God of miracles. Help me to believe not only the miracles that I read about in the bible or the miracles that I hear about in the news, but miracles for my life and my circumstances. I pray that I would not filter your ability to do miracles based on my life circumstances, but that I would filter my life circumstances through your ability to do miracles. Forgive me for my doubt. Help me in my unbelief. Give me faith where I am weary and help me to exchange belief where I carry disbelief. I want to present my whole heart to you and not just the things that I think are fixable. I pray that you would point me to passages in your word that would build my faith and fuel my resolve to seek you in all things. Bring to mind worship songs that become my anthem of praise when I am both awake and asleep to encourage my soul. Help me to keep my eyes on you. You are an able God and you never fail. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.*

### **Mark 10:27**

*"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."*

## **Day #9 – Wednesday, January 14th, 2026**

### **Waiting is What's Needed**

“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him...” - **Psalms 37:7**

Waiting has become a lost art in our fast pace, impatient society. So much now can be done quickly with the push of a button, learned through YouTube, or fast tracked through a program. While this is true in our jobs, hobbies, or other endeavors, this is not the case when it comes to breakthroughs with God. There are no shortcuts or magic formulas when it comes to receiving power from the Lord. We must wait patiently for Him.

If we expect God to be patient with us, why aren't we patient with God? Self is restless and impatient. Self wants blessings now. Self must be denied through prayer and fasting. True fasting is putting aside our demands, will power, and strength to let God have His way within us physically and spiritually. Fasting and prayer must be done unselfishly if it is to be done effectively.

When we pray, we talk to God. At times we become anxious because we have run out of things to say. In that moment, it is not our time to say Amen and exit the prayer closet, but our time to wait on God to speak to us. We need to make ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually available to hear from God. We must let ourselves get out of the way of the Lord and make room for God to whisper His Will into our lives through prayer and fasting.

The people who genuinely wait on God are the ones that receive their breakthrough. Waiting for God is not wasting time, even though to the outside world it looks like we are doing nothing. Regardless of how long it takes for God to answer our plea, waiting on God includes periodical fasting, fervent praying, daily searching the Scriptures, and just plain waiting.

Give the Lord space to move and time to answer. Whether it is 30 minutes or 30 years, God's response is worth waiting for.

## **Day #10 – Thursday, January 15th, 2026**

### **The Door Was Closed for a Purpose**

Part of stepping out into our purpose is seeking guidance and direction from God in prayer. God always answers every prayers – either with a “Wait”, “Yes” or “No”. What happens when purpose comes with a “No” for answer?

Scripture: “Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”  
Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

NO! Believe it or not the word “NO” is a complete sentence. However, (in our human nature) it's not a word we desire to hear, especially when it comes to chasing our dreams... elevating our purpose. Matthew 7:7 reads, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find: knock and the door will be opened to you.” To be clear, all of God's promises are “YES” and “AMEN”

according to his individual will for your life.

Just Imagine: You had a plan. Maybe it was the job you thought would launch your future endeavors. Maybe it's the relationship you thought was "the one." Maybe it's the passion project or promotion you just knew — knew with all your heart — would give you a sense of accomplishment. We've all been there—praying with hope, planning with excitement, only to be met with closed doors.

So... what happens when God says, 'NO'?

What happens when it vanishes? And you are left in silence. In that silence and sudden redirection, what are you thinking? Are you giving up on your dream... your purpose. Are you giving up on God? Remember Moses. God gave him a purpose and the people a promise, but he was met with multiple "NOs" from Pharaoh on this journey. Exodus 5:22-23 reads, "Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Why Lord have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

Did Moses just encounter a closed door while trying to fulfill his God-given purpose. Moses stepped into Egypt with a divine calling and a clear message from God: "Let My people go." But instead Pharaoh responded by slamming the door shut, saying "NO." Also, Pharaoh's demand more labor. Moses expressed his frustration and doubts — questioning why God sent him to be brave, have faith and step forward when there was no deliverance forthcoming. It can hurt. Moses must have been extremely confused. We expected God to open doors. We pray. We obey. We step out in faith. But nothing. "Lord, did I hear You right?"

But here's the truth: Purpose is not a destination. It's a daily walk with God. When God says no, it's never to harm us, but to guide us. His "no" is always wrapped in love, even if it's hard to see at the moment or even accept. His "NO" aligns with his will. Think about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. He prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me." (Matthew 26:39). But the Father's will was different. The cross was the only way to bring salvation. Jesus accepted the "no" with surrender and trust.

What's next:

1. Give up the idol — When the dream becomes the destination instead of God, we set ourselves up for failure and frustration. Let Him redefine what success and purpose looks like in your life.
2. Ask God for clarity— instead of asking, "God, will You Bless this plan?" Ask "God what is your plan?"
3. Pay attention to what God is teaching and building in you. God may be shaping your patience, your identity, or your dependence on Him.
4. Prayer!!!!

Prayer: God, I don't always understand why You say no—but I want to trust You more than I trust my own plans. When the doors I want don't open, help me believe that You're still at work in my story. Grow my faith in the waiting, my strength in the uncertainty, and my hope in You alone. Help me to find purpose not just in what I do, but in who I am becoming with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question: What "no" from God are you struggling with right now? What would it look like to trust that He's got something better ahead?

## Day #11 – Friday, January 16th, 2026

### What's Hindering Me - Delayed Obedience and Complacency

Stepping into our purpose requires an active faith and an obedient spirit. As we close out the last week of fasting, we must guard our hearts against the practice of delayed obedience and complacency that can hinder us from elevating our purpose and stepping out in faith to fulfill our destiny.

“The Lord spoke to Jonah son of Amittai: “Nineveh is a big city. I have heard about the many evil things the people are doing there. So go there and tell them to stop doing such evil things.” But Jonah tried to run away from the Lord. He went to Joppa...” Jonah 1:1-3 (ERV)

God gave Jonah an instruction in Jonah 1:2, but Jonah didn't obey until the account in Jonah 3:3. While we are not sure of the exact timeline between these chapters, the sequence of events that follows after God's instruction to Jonah shows that everywhere he went while running away from his assignment, he brought chaos and misfortune to those places until he heeded the call.

Do you know that delayed obedience is still disobedience? Partial obedience or incomplete obedience is still disobedience. Pastor Rick Warren once wrote, “Imagine if a parent tells a child to do something and he or she says, “I'll think about it.” Wouldn't there be consequences? But we do that to God all the time. God says he wants us to do something, and we say, “I'll think about it.” Delayed obedience is not only dangerous; God is not pleased when we try to run away from our purpose and calling. In John 9:4 (NLT), “We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.”

There is a shelf-life to everything. Your assignment here on earth is not an open-ended one; it is time-bound. The Psalmist says, “Without delay, I hurry to obey your commands (Psalm 119:60).” When you look at elevating your purpose through the lenses of time and its brevity, it should arouse a sense of urgency and a focused devotion. Delayed obedience is dangerous.

Complacency will hinder our purpose. Those who live to the fullest of God's call for their life are those who embrace their purpose early. Jesus was already at the temple at the age of twelve learning from the Rabbis. While we still have the strength and vitality, creativity and drive to go after our dreams and God's purpose for our life, we must do it swiftly because the night is coming. When we all get to the “departing lounge” of life and look back in our twilight years, we should all be able to say, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith, just as Apostle Paul declared.

Working in your purpose honors God. Please, stop putting it off. Remember, your purpose is not just about you; it's also about the people God has sent you to.

Mordecai said to Esther, “Esther, don't think that just because you live in the king's palace you will be the only Jew to escape. If you keep quiet now, help and freedom for the Jews will come from another place...And who knows, maybe you have been chosen to be the queen for such a time as this.” Esther 4:13-14(ERV) You've been called and divinely equipped for such a time as this; it is time to arise and heed the call, it is time to stop running, it is time to say to God, I am ready, use me, Lord!

What is He asking you to do or become?

Will you answer His call without delay to elevate and step into your purpose?

Remember obedience is worth more than sacrifice.

## Day #12 – Saturday, January 17th, 2026

### Ask Boldly

In our journey to elevating our God-given purpose, one of the most powerful tools we have is prayer. LC3 has prayer time every Sunday morning at 9:45am where many of our prayers consist of really bold prayers. That's why I include a challenge in this devotion. When we approach God with boldness, we open the door to countless possibilities. James 1:5 tells us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." This verse invites us to seek divine guidance without hesitation. Please note the words "without hesitation". Matthew 7:7 encourages us, saying, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." These verses remind us that God is eager to respond to our prayers, especially when they align with His purpose for us.

Asking boldly means coming to God with confidence, trusting that He hears us and desires to meet our needs. It's about recognizing that God is not only able but also willing to help us. When we ask for wisdom, direction, or strength, we are aligning ourselves with His will and opening ourselves up to His guidance.

Bold prayer reflects our faith in God's ability to intervene in our lives. It shows that we believe in His goodness and His desire to bless us. When we ask for big things—things that will elevate our purpose—we demonstrate that we trust God to work in ways we can't even imagine.

### Elevating Our Purpose Through Prayer

When we ask boldly, we are not merely seeking personal gain; we are asking for clarity and direction in fulfilling our purpose. God wants us to dream big and to pursue the plans He has for us. By asking for wisdom and guidance, we invite Him into our decision-making process.

Consider how often we limit our prayers to small requests or immediate needs. God encourages us to think bigger! What if we prayed for opportunities to use our gifts in ways that impact others? What if we asked for courage to step out of our comfort zones and embrace new challenges? This kind of boldness can lead to significant changes in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Here's a Challenge for you:

1.Create a List of Bold Prayers: Take some time to sit quietly and reflect on what you truly desire

in your life and purpose. Write down bold prayers that align with your goals, dreams, and aspirations. These can include prayers for wisdom, for new opportunities, for healing, or for the strength to pursue your calling.

2. Share with a Prayer Partner: Find a trusted friend or family member who can support you in prayer. Share your list of bold prayers with them and ask them to pray with you. This not only boosts your confidence but also creates a community of support as you journey toward elevating your purpose together.

3. Pray Together: Set a time to pray together regularly during the next 21 Days of fasting, lift up your bold requests to God. Trust that He hears your prayers and is working in ways you may not yet see. Encourage each other by sharing any answers or insights you receive along the way.

As we learn to ask boldly, we position ourselves to receive the wisdom and guidance that elevate our purpose. Remember that God is generous and eager to help us. When we approach Him with confidence, we open ourselves up to His limitless possibilities. Let's embrace the challenge of bold prayer, trusting that God will lead us toward the incredible plans He has for our lives. Together, let's ask big and watch how God responds!

## **Day #13 – Sunday, January 18th, 2026**

### **Believe God for Your Healing**

Pastor Jentzen Franklin

*“I am the Lord, who heals you.” Ex 15:26 NIV*

In the Bible one of the names God chooses to be called by is “Jehovah Rapha,” which means “I am the Lord who heals.” Now, if God calls Himself the healer, then you have the right to believe what He says and expect that, given an opportunity, He will perform His role competently. After all, His credibility depends on living up to His name. The Psalmist said, “Your promises are backed by all the honor of your name” (Ps 138:2 NLT). Has God changed? No; He says, “I am the Lord All-Powerful, and I never change” (Mal 3:6 CEV).

And Jesus, who is God, is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8 NIV). What He was, He still is. What He did, He still does. So, when you or a loved one is sick, do these two things: (1) Pray, in faith believing. A “good faith” deal requires that both parties trust each other’s word. Their trust is a rational decision of their will, not their emotions. Faith is your will deciding that God will keep the promise He has made to you. It’s refusing to be ambivalent by saying, “If only I felt more positive.” No business could survive such ambiguity. Jesus spelled it out clearly: “All things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you” (Mk 11:24 NAS). (2) Look for faith-partners who will pray with you.

“Pray for each other so that you may be healed” (Jas 5:16 NLT). “If two of you agree... concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you” (Mt 18:19 NLT)  
Believe God for your healing

*“I am the Lord, who heals you.” Ex 15:26 NIV*

Why isn’t every sick person who is prayed over healed? We don’t know, and God doesn’t tell us. We know that doubt and unbelief can hinder His miracle-working power in our lives. When Jesus returned to His hometown to those who knew Him best, we read: “He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith” (Mt 13:58 NIV). But there are aspects of healing we will never fully understand. Paul writes, “I left Trophimus sick in Miletus” (2Ti 4:20 NIV). Why would Paul, who had raised the dead, leave a friend sick instead of praying and seeing him healed? There are many things about God we don’t know, but here’s one thing we *do* know: “I am the Lord, who heals you.” And since He said, “I am the Lord, and I do not change” (Mal 3:6 NLT), and “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8 NIV), we can go to Him for healing based on His Word.

One of the last statements Jesus made before leaving earth was: “These signs will follow those who believe...They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk 16:17-18 NKJV). Do you believe God still heals people today? If you do, then obey this Scripture: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up” (Jas 5:14-15 NKJV). The word for you today is: Don’t give up—believe God for your healing

## **Day #14 – Monday, January 19th, 2026**

### **Live Each Day with Intention**

*Isaiah 55: 8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Throughout the 21 Days, we've read several attributes of God. God is limitless & God is eternal & God is a miracle worker, & God is great & immeasurable & God is transformative.

Let's add one more to the list: Intentionally Purposeful. The word "Intentional" means something that is done on purpose, with thought and planning. The word "Purpose" means the reason or objective behind something. Therefore, God is Intentionally Purposeful.

Let's have a moment of reflection: Nothing about God is accidental. From the first words of creation and creation itself (Book of Genesis) to the final promise of eternity (Book of Revelation), God has always moved with purpose – a precise and divine plan. "The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble." — Proverbs 16:4. In other words, WE WERE BORN ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE – TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE.

Every detail, delay, and promise in our life is touched by HIS INTENTIONAL HAND.

Sometimes that's hard to believe, especially when we look around and things aren't turning out the way we planned them. Like leaving Egypt, crossing the Red Sea and wandering around doubting God's promise. Like being given a promise but faced with the walls of Jericho. Or when you take a leap of faith and take on a \$10,000 mortgage with hope that can be paid off. God is not a God of chance. He sees the end from the beginning, therefore he is not reacting to the chaos, rather He is sovereign over it all. Remember, "The Lord is my shepherd." He walks with us through every middle moment. He walks with intentional love.

What is God's intentional purpose for me? It's a question we all wrestle with at some point — especially when life feels confusing, delayed, or painful.

\* Truth # 1: Your individual purpose should NOT be separate from God's purpose but rather fall under the umbrella of his purpose.

\* Truth # 2: When we don't understand the WHY, we can still trust the WHO.

Think of how intentional Jesus was in His life and mission work. He played zero games when it came to accomplishing his father's business. Jesus even rebuked those who were closest to Him when they tried to interfere with the plans of his Father. He knew the plan God had in place to redeem His people. That's the mindset we strive to have – Kingdom Mindset. A selfless desire to serve our Heavenly Father by loving people the way God intended (with no expectations). And people ought to be focused and driven to spread the gospel in their thoughts and actions.

Knowing that the deeds they perform are not for personal glory but for God's alone. That is just one part of God's intentional purpose.

Because God is intentional, we can rest in the following truths.

1. What God started, he will finish it. He planted a seed that will eventually bloom – in His timing. Just look at the life of Joseph—betrayed, enslaved, imprisoned—but in every step, God was preparing him for purpose. Or think of Esther, placed "for such a time as this." Or Jesus Himself, whose path to resurrection went through a cross. None of it was accidental. And neither is your story.

2. Even with detours, there is still purpose. Keep Working. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." –

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

3. God himself showed us how to be intentional and walk with purpose. Use his life as an example.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live each day with intentional purpose, rather than operating on autopilot. Let my choices reflect your heart. I want to know You more and reflect on who You are in everything I do. Teach me to trust Your plan, and shape my heart to desire what You desire. Be glorified in my life. I look to you to order my steps. Amen.

## **Day #15 – Tuesday, January 20th, 2026**

### **Called to Live Above**

Ephesians 3:20 says, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” This verse is a powerful reminder that as followers of Christ, we are not called to live an ordinary, average life. Instead, we are invited into a life far beyond what we could ever dream or imagine, a life empowered by God’s limitless power working within us.

In a world that often values mediocrity or settling for what’s “good enough,” the life that God promises us is one that exceeds the ordinary. He doesn’t want us to merely survive; He wants us to thrive and to live lives that reflect His greatness and glory. The key to living an above-average life is not striving harder in our own strength, but tapping into the immeasurable power that God has already placed within us.

The verse from Ephesians challenges us to rethink our expectations. God is able to do “immeasurably more” than we ask or imagine. This is not just about wishing for things or dreaming big; it’s about understanding that God’s plans for us are far beyond our own. When we allow His power to work in and through us, we begin to live with a sense of purpose and possibility that the world cannot offer.

An above-average life isn’t about wealth, fame, or personal achievement; it’s about living in alignment with God’s will and allowing His power to transform us. When we embrace God’s plan, we can live a life that stands out—not because of our abilities, but because of His power at work within us. The more we surrender to God’s will, the more we experience His abundant life.

In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” This “full life” isn’t about comfort or ease, but about living in the richness of God’s purpose for us, trusting that He will equip us to live far beyond average. It’s a life marked by peace, joy, and fulfillment, even when challenges arise.

So, how do we live an above-average life?

- 1. Trust in God’s Power: Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God’s power is already at work within us. This means we can trust Him to enable us to accomplish things beyond our own ability.
- 2. Dream Big, But Trust God’s Bigger Plans: Our dreams might seem large, but God has plans that surpass them. Trusting His plans is key to living an extraordinary life.
- 3. Live with Purpose: An above-average life is one lived intentionally. Seek to glorify God in everything you do, whether in your work, relationships, or personal growth. Live for something greater than yourself.

- 4. Embrace God's Transforming Power: God doesn't just want to improve us; He wants to transform us. Allow Him to shape your character, guide your decisions, and lead you toward the abundant life He offers.
- God is calling us to live above average—not by our own strength or abilities, but by His power working within us. When we surrender to His will and trust in His limitless power, we begin to live the extraordinary life He has destined for us. Let Ephesians 3:20 be a reminder that with God, the possibilities are endless, and He desires to do more in and through us than we could ever imagine.

## Day #16 – Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

### Faithful Friendships Help You Grow

***“No more lying, then! Each of you must tell the truth to the other believer, because we are all members together in the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:25 (GNT)***

Real change requires an honest community. There are some things that you will never be able to change on your own. You're going to need people in your life for support—specifically, a small group of people who will be transparent and authentic with you.

Sometimes in a football game, a player is so big that no opposing player can pull him down on his own. In the same way, some of the challenges in your life have to be team-tackled.

That's when you need a small group—but not just any group of people. Your small group should be made up of a few people you can talk with about your weaknesses and problems—all your hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

That kind of intimacy doesn't happen right away. When you first start a small group, you get together regularly. Then, over time, you begin to trust each other and develop a safe environment. Those people become friends who can help you change when you can't change your own.

Ephesians 4:25 says, “*No more lying, then! Each of you must tell the truth to the other believer, because we are all members together in the body of Christ*” (GNT). When you pretend to be someone you're really not, you waste an enormous amount of energy.

You may sincerely want to grow in Christ and to work on your weaknesses. But to do that, you have to be honest with your small group about who you really are. That kind of honesty is essential for spiritual change. If you could change on your own, you would, but you can't—so

you don't. You need other people!

One thing that keeps most people from being honest is their desire to look good. Your desire to *look* good often takes precedence over *being* good. And it becomes a hurdle to spiritual growth. But in a small group of other believers, you're safe just to be yourself. Then you can grow together and make hard changes you couldn't make on your own.

### **Let's Talk**

*What keeps you from finding a small group with whom you can share and grow in spiritual maturity? In what ways has your desire to look good kept you from enjoying deep, genuine friendships? Why does it take time to develop intimacy with a group of people? Are you willing to invest the time it takes to gain authentic biblical community? How could you start doing that this week?*

### **Day #17 – Thursday, January 22nd, 2026**

#### **THE PROMISE OF ABOUNDING GENEROSITY**

Scripture: Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.’”

We underestimate the generosity of our Lord.

If you're like me, perhaps it's not simply a lack of understanding of the significance of what we've already been given in Emmanuel. Rather, well-intentioned, and rightful warnings against “treating God like Santa Claus” or falling into the “prosperity gospel” can cause dwelling on the idea of a God who gives generously to feel consumerist, greedy, or, at the very least, uncomfortable. Yet, while we must certainly never reduce the indescribably precious gift of prayer to a transaction of demands, nor fail to measure well the cost of the Way of the Cross, there is also a truth of which we must not lose sight: Generosity finds its source in God.

The same God who calls us to become living sacrifices is more eager to delight His children than the giddiest parent on Christmas morning. The same God who dwells in unapproachable light, God is more jovial and full of mirth than our culturally imagined St. Nick. The Holy One of Israel, the Unblemished Lamb, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty King, the long-awaited Messiah — the very same Lord brims over with affection for you, relishes your excitement, and cherishes your moments of childlike wonder.

While we know it is better to give than to receive, it is the assurance of our access to His abundance that frees us to walk in radical generosity without fearing lack. Not simply because we have been given every spiritual blessing, not simply because Christ has taught us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like, not simply because He intercedes for us still at the right hand of the Father; we need not fear because we cannot out-give God. We cannot surpass His generosity “Test Me in this,” He insists. “See if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

13“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.”

It's easy to disguise fear of scarcity as prudence. It's difficult to expect a harvest so rich we struggle to bind the sheaves. It's easy to conflate reaping the fruit of living as God intended with earning God's favor. It's difficult to give without letting our left hand know what our right is doing. It's easy to become self-deceived about the limits of our control. It's difficult to daily come needy and open-handed to receive the gifts of the One who calls us Beloved.

But, take heart. He will supply the grace you need to dare to believe, to dare to respond. He who fed thousands with just a few fish and loaves can multiply your offering. And He who knows intimately the longings of your heart, knows also how to give good gifts.

May we live in light of the generosity of our Lord — and so come to know it all the more.

### **TAKE A MOMENT AND REFLECT**

Lord, teach us to trust Your generosity. Move us to kindness and compassion. Give us courage, wisdom, and grace to love our world the way You do, and to meet the needs You set before us.

Amen

### **PRAYER FOCUS**

#### **Day #18 – Friday, January 23rd, 2026**

##### **God Wants Me To Make An Impact (L . David Harris)**

This is the Faith I Live by: In Christ I can make an impact “*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.*” *Ecclesiastes 9:10 NKJV*

Death is not morbid. The Bible teaches us that we are here today and sometimes gone today because tomorrow is not promised. Instead, I believe death can bring hope. Given the right perspective, we can see death as showing us that we have a certain amount of time to make a lasting impact on the world around us. We can make an impact on our families, through our faith, or even civically within us communities. There are a number of spaces that we can influence. No matter where we are, we can always make an impact.

##### **What Will Your Legacy Be?**

The question is: in the limited time we have, what kind of changes will you leave behind? What will your legacy be? When you die will people remember you for your love? Will they remember you for your undying dedication to the causes of the maligned? Maybe people will remember you for your zeal for the kingdom? Or will people remember you for your selfishness? Maybe they’ll remember you for your foolish arrogance? And what if they remember you for your disregard for the common good?

In our theme passage, the wiseman gives us a royal charge to live like our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. When He encountered people He completely altered their current situation. For example, when Jesus met blind people He gave them new vision. Many times while traveling and preaching He encountered hungry people and always fed them both physically and spiritually. Or how about when He encountered proud people and humbly gave them a glimpse to His sovereignty as the mighty King of the universe. Or even when He encountered injustice and rebuked the oppressors with a whip He hand made. Jesus made an indelible impact on everything and everyone He touched. And He only had thirty-three years on this Earth. But the three and a

half years of His ministry changed the world forever. 38 It's not about how much time you have; it's about what you do with the time you're given.

**Make Every Moment Count** It's important as we think about our everyday decisions to determine that we will do our best to make each moment God gives us count for something. And when we gather together all the fragments of lasting, positive impact, they will comprise a respectable legacy that can be passed on for generations to come. This life is but a fleeting moment, but our impact must continue long after we are gone. By God's grace, this is the faith I live by, let this be the same for you, in Jesus' name.

### **Day #19 – Saturday, January 24th, 2026**

#### **Trust God to Do Great Things (Rick Warren)**

*“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” Matthew 19:26 (NIV)*

Everything is possible with God. Jesus said, “According to your faith let it be done to you” (Matthew 9:29) God wants to use you. He wants to bless you. He wants to do amazing things in your life. He wants you to be a world changer. But he's waiting for you to trust him.

Stop saying, “I can't.” “I can't make this marriage work.” “I can't do what God wants me to do.” “I can't love those who are different than me.” Those are lies! All things are possible with God. Ephesians 3:20 says, “Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes” (TLB). God wants to use you, and according to your faith it will be done to you. Do you know what the greatest opposition to your faith is? It's not other people. It's not critics. It's not even the devil. It's your own unbelief.

You have a choice. You can choose to believe God—or not. You can choose to trust God—or not. There are many things you don't have control over. But you can choose to have faith in God. Do you want God to do big things in your life? Then start believing.

Let's Talk

*When have you seen God do great things as a result of someone's faith?*

*In what areas do you easily trust God?*

*In what areas is trusting him more difficult?*

*Do you believe God can use you to do great things for him? Why or why not?*

### **Day #20 – Sunday, January 25th, 2026**

#### **Take Time to Enjoy the Journey by Joyce Meyer**

I want to begin by asking you a question: Are you enjoying your life? I mean really, *truly* enjoying each day God gives you?

For years, I didn't enjoy my life. Because of the abuse I suffered as a child, I never really learned how to relax and have fun. Then God began to show me that it's His will for us to enjoy our lives—*right now*, regardless of whatever else is happening.

In John 10:10, Jesus says, *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)* (AMPC).

Isn't that amazing? Jesus came that you and I may enjoy our lives—it's really that simple! I am a very task-oriented person, and I actually really like going to work and getting things done.

However, the Lord showed me a long time ago the importance of slowing down and making time to do some of the other things I enjoy doing.

*I want you to think about this...In the craziness of the world...throughout the busyness of each day...in spite of the difficulties you face...regardless of the circumstances you find yourself in...no matter how much responsibility you have...God wants you to enjoy your life and have some fun.* For instance, take some time to watch a funny movie, go outside and take in the sunshine, or stop by the frozen yogurt shop on the way home from work. Have some fun and enjoy the life Jesus came to give you! You might think, *Joyce, that doesn't sound very responsible. I have things to do. I have obligations. I can't just go through each day doing what sounds like fun.* I'm not saying that you stop meeting your obligations and responsibilities, but I am saying that you add flavor to your life by working in some things that you enjoy.

Let me give you a few places to begin...

**1. Identify what you enjoy doing.** Do you know that most people would hesitate if you asked them, "What do you do for fun?" Many people are so busy and so burdened that they stopped having fun a long time ago...and they don't know how to start again. For instance, if you enjoy playing music, when was the last time you played? If you love a good cup of coffee, why not sit down and enjoy that next cup rather than gulping it down on your way to work? Take a few minutes to identify what you enjoy...and then let yourself enjoy it.

**2. Don't wait on "when.** "So many people have the mind-set that they will be really happy and enjoy life when. When they go on vacation, when the kids are older, when they get a promotion at work, when they get married. I can relate to this because there was a time when even though I really loved being in the ministry, I wasn't enjoying the daily responsibilities and activities it involved. We tend to put things in categories. We can look at the calendar and think, This is a "no-fun" day. However, God isn't like that! He has joyful moments planned for us each and every day. When we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to direct our steps, life is always an adventure!

**3. Schedule time to do what you enjoy.** Use your calendar as your ally, instead of letting it become your enemy. Perhaps you really can't stop what you're doing right now to go have some fun. But let's be honest—for most of us, if we don't actually schedule some time to do something fun or relaxing, it will never happen. Finish what you are committed to right now, but start planning some fun time into your future. Even knowing a break is coming soon will help you now.

**4. Relish the little things.** Most of us have no problem enjoying the big things, like banner days and exciting announcements, but we often miss out on the little things. Frequently, it's the little things in life that can bring us the most joy—a baby's laugh, a beautiful sunrise, a delicious dinner, a funny movie, or a good conversation.

**5. Include God in everything!** Ultimately, it's so important to remember that true joy begins by having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In John 15:11, He says, These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (ESV). In the 10 verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about "abiding" in Him, because that's the key to living with joy. This may sound super-spiritual, but abiding simply means "to live, dwell and remain in." God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn't just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you're desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That's when your everyday life is really enjoyable! I can tell you from experience that Jesus makes everything better. When we spend time with Him in the Word, through prayer and by including Him in our day, He fills our hearts with joy...and makes even the "mundane" parts of life an adventure.

## Day #21 – Monday, January 26th, 2026

A Prayer for God's Guidance as We Travel New Paths

By Laura Bailey

Bible Reading:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26 NIV*

Recently, a friend shared with me that she had an opportunity for a career change. I immediately became excited, as she'd been struggling in her job for a while, and exclaimed, "Awesome! You are going to take it, right?"

"I don't know. You know I don't like change. What if I go there, and it isn't any better?" She hesitantly responded. "Hold on, you'd rather stay in a situation you know isn't good, because you can't guarantee the outcome of this other role?" I said with an exasperated sigh. "I just struggle with the unknowns. I may be miserable, but at least it's what I know. It terrifies me to change to something new and uncertain," she confided.

While I understood my friend's hesitation, I couldn't relate. I am on the opposite side; I struggle to stay put. I invite, embrace, and look to change things up. The unknowns and uncertainty of life thrill me, while the routine and mundane of daily life exhaust me. What about you? How do you feel about change?

Most people (like my friend and I) fall into two camps: those who welcome change and those who wish things to stay the same. Rarely do I speak to someone who has mixed emotions on the topic, but the reality is that consistency and change are needed in our lives. And while we may lean more heavily into the status quo or shake things up, we must learn to embrace change, as it is inevitable, necessary, and overwhelmingly beneficial.

Most people are familiar with the verses in Numbers 6:24-26, which are known by most as "the blessing." The Lord tells Moses how to bless Aaron and the Israelite nation. Before we look at the blessing in detail, let's take a minute to think about the current circumstances of the Israelites. The Israelites had been living in Mt. Sinai for almost a year, and were about to enter the wilderness, hoping to arrive in the promised land. This blessing was meant to encourage them as they embarked on their journey.

Each of the blessings starts with the Lord, reminding the people that the Lord is the giver and sustainer of this blessing. It is the Lord who keeps protective watch over His children, and He is the one who is sovereign over the blessing. Next, we see that the Lord blesses the Israelites with His presence and desires to grant them peace. I am sure many Israelites were anxious to start the journey into the wilderness; they didn't know what they would experience, and there was no weather app or digital map to guide their path. They had to trust that the Lord would care for them and get them safely to the Promised Land.

God wasn't surprised at the Israelites' anxiety, fear, or trepidation about leaving what they knew to enter the unknown. Yet, He desired that they trust Him. While meant specifically for the Israelites, this blessing is also a promise for those in Christ today. As we walk through new paths,

we acknowledge that it is scary, but we can trust in God, who is always with us and gives us grace and peace along the journey.

Let's Pray:

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that Your presence never leaves us or forsakes us. We pray for those who are embarking on a new path, whether it's a change of career, an addition to the family, a new school, or simply a change of scenery. May you help us to feel a sense of peace and calm. Lord, we know that Your purpose and Your plans always prevail. May we trust that You are working all things for our good and Your glory. Heavenly Father, when we are tempted to allow anxious thoughts to drive us to doubt and despair, may we remember the words of the blessing in Numbers 6:24-26. May you keep us safe, may we feel your presence, and may we experience the peace and grace that only You can provide. In Jesus' Name, Amen.