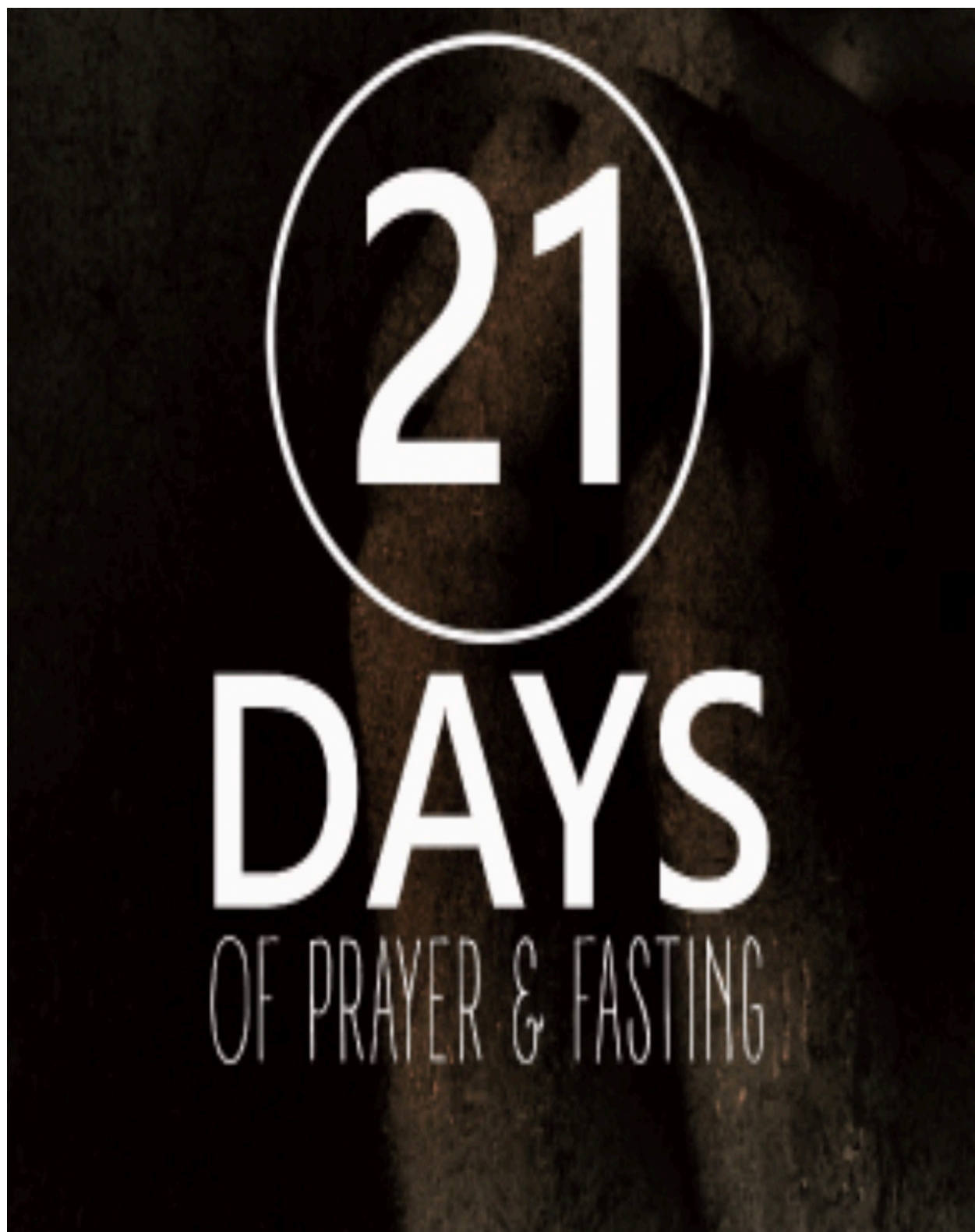


BEREA BAPTIST CHURCH



Welcome to the Journey!

What is Fasting? Why Should I Fast and Pray?

Fasting with prayer leads to greater intimacy and closeness with God. Join fellow Bereans for all or part of a 21-day fast beginning this Friday!

Here are seven things to think about as you consider your fast.

1. Everything is an experiment. If you have never fasted before, consider using this 21-day period as your first experiment.
2. Jesus assumes you will fast. Jesus promoted fasting to His disciples when He said in Matthew 6:16 "when you fast . . . the Lord will reward you in secret." Interestingly, He didn't say "if" you fast—He assumes we will fast.
3. The Holy Spirit guides us when we fast. The disciples found direction through fasting. Acts 13:2 says "while they were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit directed them . . ."
4. God rewards those who seek Him. God gives us an invitation with a promise in Hebrews 11:6b - "the Lord is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Fasting with prayer brings us the greatest reward: His presence in our lives.
5. It's WHO you are and WHOSE you are that matter most. We have chosen this fast to begin at the beginning of 2021. You might want to use this fact to help you establish or re-establish your commitment to having your identity firmly rooted and planted in Jesus Christ. We know that living in our culture can cause us to shape our identity around what we DO instead of who we are. Why is this important? Because it's in knowing our identity as sons and daughters that enables us to thrive in our current assignments from the Lord.

The main mission of the enemy of your soul is identity theft. He wants to confuse you into thinking your job, career plans, bank accounts, significant other, house, car—your "fill in the blank"—are what define you. These are all good things and many are gifts from the Lord. But to allow them to give us definition is a cheap imitation of who you really are: a beloved son or daughter of the King. When you fast from having your identity in anything but Jesus, you deepen your determination to being called to Jesus only.

6. What fasting is not. Fasting is not an activity that is based in striving to "do" anything for the Lord. Fasting is setting time apart for a season to intentionally hear from God and to grow closer to Him. It's not activity-based, it's relationship-based.
7. What kind of fasting should you do? Pray about it! It's between you and the Lord. Historically, we find many fasts in the Bible that involve giving something up and replacing it with prayer. Here are some ideas:

- Fast from a particular food (Daniel fasted from meat and ate only vegetables and water for 10 days).

- Fast from a particular meal or meals. Instead of eating that meal, use the time to pray for breakthrough in a certain situation.
- Fast from prayerlessness, self-sufficiency, and self-reliance. Instead, make daily declarations of your dependence on God through prayer.
- Fast from identity theft. Seriously! Make a daily commitment to review with the Lord anything in which you are allowing yourself to find your identity other than Him (career, job, social media, etc.)
- Fast from fear, anxiety and worry (replace those things with prayers of dependence, trust and peace).
- Fast from negativity. Are you prone to criticism of others and/or yourself? What if you fasted being critical and every time you had a critical thought you prayed for the person or situation you feel negative about?

What can you pray for specifically at Berea during this time?

- Pray for 100 people to be baptized in 2021 and 1000 people to be engaged in ministry on a regular basis at church.
- Pray for ministries to grow
 - that the Preschool would continue to grow;
 - all Children and Youth Ministries would expand with students and volunteers;
 - all Young Adult, Adult, and Senior Adult Bible studies would grow and more teachers would be raised up;
 - additional worship services would be added for all of the lives that God is changing
- Pray for Unity as we seek to glorify God in all that we do! We know that Jesus is the focus and purpose behind it all!

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 1

IN MY LIFE: I NEED A NEW HEART

How does that happen?

CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, RESTORATION

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; So you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; You taught me wisdom in that secret place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; Let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

A broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole;
Then bulls will be offered on your altar.
—Ps. 51 (NIV)

And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.

—Ezek. 11:19-20 (NLT)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. As we begin these 21 days, pray Psalm 51, personalizing it from a attitude of confession and repentance.
2. Ask God to give you a tender, responsive heart, and walk in the grace, joy and deliverance He has for you.
3. Pray for a willing spirit, and ask the Lord for a constant praise to be show in greater ways through your life.

*Write anything that God has placed on your heart!

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 2

IN MY LIFE: I NEED NEW THINKING

How does this happen?

RENEWED MINDS, HIGHER THOUGHTS

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

—Rom. 12:1-2 (NIV)

“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. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in

joy and be led forth in peace; The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

—Isa. 55:8-13 (NIV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask God to open your heart and mind to you any beliefs or actions that do not align with the Word of God.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's transformation through the renewal of your mind.
3. Ask the Lord to grant you understanding of things above, and for increased measures of faith that His word will not return void.

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 3

IN MY LIFE: I NEED NEW MERCIES

How does that happen?

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; Therefore, I will hope in Him!"

—Lam. 3:22-24 (NLT)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Say a prayer of gratitude for God's faithfulness and endless mercies.
2. Pray the verses from Lamentations aloud in defiant declaration against any forces of darkness that may be coming against you.
3. How will you receive His loving mercy that awaits you each day?

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 4

IN MY LIFE: I NEED A NEW STRENGTH

How does that happen?

PATIENCE + ENDURANCE

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

—Isa. 40:31 (NIV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask God for patience in the waiting.
2. Pray for renewed strength, elevated perspective and courage to rise above present circumstances.
3. Pray for discernment of whether to run or walk in each given situation, and believe for His promise of endurance.

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 5

IN MY LIFE: I NEED NEW BIRTH + RECONCILIATION

How does that happen?

BORN INTO A NEW FAMILY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

—1 Pet. 1:3-5 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; A new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

—2 Cor. 5:17-21 (NLT)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Give thanks to God for redemption and a new life that is hidden in Christ (Col. 3:3).

2. Pray for greater understanding of your new birth into the family of God, and for an uprooting of anything not planted by Him.
3. Ask God for spiritual eyes and ears to see and hear beyond the physical and the audible.
4. Pray for selfless, emboldened faith to speak truth in love and to pursue reconciliation of people to God and to one another.

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 6

IN MY LIFE: I NEED A NEW OUTPOURING

How does that happen?

FRESH ANOINTING

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

“Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.”

—Joel 2:28-29 (NLT)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8 (NLT)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us, and that all that we say and do would be guided by Him.
2. Pray that the church would bear fruitful witness, and for revival to be brought to our communities, states, nation and world.

Week 1: All Things New in My Life

DAY 7

IN MY LIFE: NEW FUTURE

How does that happen?

PROMISE OF PEACE + HOPE

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

“For I know what I have planned for you,” says the Lord. “I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope. When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you,” says the Lord. “Then I will reverse your plight and will regather you from all the nations and all the places where I have exiled you,” says the Lord. “I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.”

—Jer. 29:11-14 (NET)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

—Rom. 5:1-5 (NIV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. With new intention, seek the Lord for His thoughts toward you—and let hope arise in your heart.
2. Ask God to give you the opportunity to encourage others in the midst of personal suffering.
3. Pray for perseverance, and stand firm in the hope of God's promised future for you.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 8

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

WELCOMING ALL TO CHRIST'S TABLE

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. Now a man named Zacchaeus was there; He was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to get a look at Jesus, but being a short man he could not see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, because Jesus was going to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, because I must stay at your house today." So he came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully.

And when the people saw it, they all complained, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I now give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times as much!"

Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this household, because he too is a son of Abraham!"

—Luke 19:1-9 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask God: Please open my eyes to new spaces that give opportunities for new relationships in my life.
2. Pray to be undeterred, as Jesus was when ridiculed for being with those others didn't understand.
3. Spend time meditating on how our church can demonstrate Christlike hospitality.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 9

NEW AWARENESS

LAMENT + REBUILD

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

When I heard these things I sat down abruptly, crying and mourning for several days. I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Then I said,

“Please, O Lord God of heaven, great and awesome God, who keeps His loving covenant with those who love Him and obey His commandments, may your ear be attentive and your eyes be open to hear the prayer of your servant that I am praying to you today throughout both day and night on behalf of your servants the Israelites. I am confessing the sins of the Israelites that we have committed against you—both I myself and my family have sinned. We have behaved corruptly against you, not obeying the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments that you commanded your servant Moses.

Please recall the word you commanded your servant Moses: ‘If you act unfaithfully, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you repent and obey my commandments and do them, then even if your dispersed people are in the most remote location, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for my name to reside.’

They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your mighty strength and by your powerful hand. Please, Lord, listen attentively to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who take pleasure in showing respect to your name. Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer for the king. —Neh. 1:4-11 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray that your heart will be broken through God's Word for the plight of our community.
2. Allow your new awareness to move you to lament, and let lament from the Lord give you language for what you discern God wants to do.
3. Pray for the church to "have a mind to work," to get involved in building.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 10

NEW SUPPORT

TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO HELP

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Now an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you understand it?" The expert answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly; Do this, and you will live." But the expert, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him up, and went off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, but when he saw the injured man he passed by on the other side. So too a Levite, when he came up to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling came to where the injured man was, and when he saw him, he felt compassion for him. He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring olive oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever else you spend, I will repay you when I come back this way.'

Which of these three do you think became a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The expert in religious law said, "The one who showed mercy to him." So Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

—Luke 10:25-37 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask God to make you attuned to the needs you encounter “on the way.”
2. Pray that you would invite the rhythm of interruption.
3. Pray that you would never avoid or pass by someone clearly in need.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 11

NEW STORIES

LIVING WATER

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." (For His disciples had gone off into the town to buy supplies.) So the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How can you—a Jew—ask me, a Samaritan woman, for water to drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said to Him, "you have no bucket and the well is deep; Where then do you get this living water? Surely you're not greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you? For he gave us this well and drank from it himself, along with his sons and his livestock."

Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks some of this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks some of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." He said to her, "Go call your husband and come back here." The woman replied, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "Right you are when you said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. This you said truthfully!"

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is

coming” (the one called Christ); “whenever He comes, He will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I, the one speaking to you, am He...”

Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the report of the woman who testified, “He told me everything I ever did.”

—John 4:7-26, 39 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask the Lord how you can engage others, even out of your own need, in such a way that opens them to conversations about Jesus.
2. Pray that you would have discernment into the lives of those you engage.
3. Ask the Spirit to reveal to you the ways he is working in the hearts of people whom Jesus loves so much.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 12

NEW IMAGINATION

PEOPLE OF DREAMS + VISIONS

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

About noon the next day, while they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing the meal, a trance came over him. He saw heaven opened and an object something like a large sheet descending, being let down to earth by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and wild birds.

Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; Slaughter and eat!"
But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything defiled and ritually unclean!"

The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not consider ritually unclean!"

This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into heaven...

Then Peter started speaking: "I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism in dealing with people, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is welcomed before Him. You know the message He sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—you know what happened throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John announced: with respect to Jesus from Nazareth, that God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.

We are witnesses of all the things He did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses God had already chosen, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to warn them that He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. About Him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were greatly astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, “No one can withhold the water for these people to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”

—Acts 10:9-16, 34-47 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray for an open heart to see new things God is doing in His church and in the world.
2. Ask God to reveal where He is already at work in people and situations before you join Him in it.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence to be evident.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 13

NEW ACTION

FASTING + PRAYER

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

No, this is the kind of fast I want: I want you to remove the sinful chains, to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke, to set free the oppressed, and to break every burdensome yoke.

I want you to share your food with the hungry and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people.

When you see someone naked, clothe them!

Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood.

Then your light will shine like the sunrise;

Your restoration will quickly arrive;

Your godly behavior will go before you, and the Lord's splendor will be your rear guard.

Then you will call out, and the Lord will respond;

You will cry out, and he will reply, 'Here I am.'

You must remove the burdensome yoke from among you and stop pointing fingers and speaking sinfully.

You must actively help the hungry and feed the oppressed.

Then your light will dispel the darkness, and your darkness will be transformed into noonday.

The Lord will continually lead you;

He will feed you even in parched regions.

He will give you renewed strength, and you will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring that continually produces water.

Your perpetual ruins will be rebuilt;
You will reestablish the ancient foundations.

You will be called, 'The one who repairs broken walls, the one who makes the streets inhabitable again.'

You must observe the Sabbath rather than doing anything you please on my holy day. You must look forward to the Sabbath and treat the Lord's holy day with respect.

You must treat it with respect by refraining from your normal activities, and by refraining from your selfish pursuits and from making business deals.

Then you will find joy in your relationship to the Lord, and I will give you great prosperity, and cause crops to grow on the land I gave to your ancestor Jacob."

Know for certain that the Lord has spoken. —Isa. 58:6-14 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. As we are fasting, let us evaluate our fasting practice in light of the reading.
2. Pray for insight into ways our church can fulfill Isaiah 58 in our community.
3. Ask God to inspire partnerships among the body of Christ in every community.

Week 2: All Things New in My Church + Community

DAY 14

NEW HOPE

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist anymore—or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.”

And the one seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new!” Then He said to me, “Write it down, because these words are reliable and true.”

—Rev. 21:1-5 (NET)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Repent for the areas in your life where you have lost hope personally.
2. Pray that our church would be people of hope in our community.
3. Let's pray: “Our Father in heaven, may Your name be honored; may Your kingdom come; may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 15

THE PERSECUTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

—2 Cor. 12:9-10 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray that persecuted Christ-followers would encounter the sufficiency of God's grace like never before.
2. Pray that persecutors would stop and would come to accept Jesus Christ, as Saul of Tarsus did.
3. Ask God to transform the systems, regimes, empires and beliefs that support or allow persecution.

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 16

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

PRAYING FOR THOSE WITH NO ACCESS TO THE
GOSPEL

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

—Matt. 24:14 (ESV)

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands ...

—Rev. 7:9 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Intercede for the 3.2 billion people in 7,400 people groups who are still unreached. Ask the Lord to call and send believers to cross barriers and borders with the gospel message.
2. Boldly pray against the spiritual forces that keep people locked in darkness and away from the Good News of Jesus.
3. Petition God for breakthrough from the secular, systemic and political forces that keep people away from the light of the gospel.
4. Pray that the unreached would encounter Jesus through dreams, visions, revelations, miracles and divine encounters.

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 17

LABORERS

WORKING FOR A PLENTIFUL HARVEST

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

—Matt. 9:36-38 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray that more laborers would respond to God's calling to the nations everywhere.
2. Lift up missionaries and pastors globally who are alone or tired, that their strength would be renewed, and that they would experience fresh vision, strong marriages and families, and good health.
3. Ask God to open all nations, calling missionaries to bring the gospel to the least-reached people of the world.

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 18

THOSE SUFFERING UNDER POVERTY

BLESSING "THE LEAST OF THESE"

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

—Matt. 25:34-40 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray for the 256 million people facing food insecurity (double the amount from 2019), that they will eat daily and receive care.
2. Lift up the estimated 736 million people living below global poverty standards, that food, clean water, shelter and jobs will be accessible to them.
3. Ask the Lord to grant wisdom, resources and compassion to the ministries, agencies and governments working to alleviate and end global poverty.
4. Pray that the followers of Jesus Christ would always embrace, advocate and care for the global poor.

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 19

CHILDREN + STUDENTS

PROTECTION AND BLESSING FOR OUR CHILDREN

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Then children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And He laid his hands on them and went away.

—Matt. 19:13-15 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask the Lord to bring revival among children and teens throughout the nations.
2. Pray for signs, wonders and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to spark new movements of young people, even in the world's most difficult and darkest places.
3. Ask God to provide safety and miraculous protection for children from predators, traffickers, abusers, exploiters or any who would do them harm.

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 20

THE DISABLED

DEFENDING AND SUPPORTING THE NEEDY

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

—Prov. 31:8-9 (ESV)

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Pray and contend for the disabled in areas that provide few or no amenities for them.
2. Join in prayer for people who are disabled and living in cultures that stigmatize disabilities and keep them as shut-ins.
3. Pray for the many ministries designed for people with special needs and disabilities around the world

Week 3: All Things New in My Global Community

DAY 21

GLOBAL CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

COOPERATION AND WORLDWIDE OUTREACH

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

—Matt. 28:19-20 (ESV)

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

PRAYER + REFLECTION

1. Ask God to bring unity in the church globally, that movements and denominations would cooperate and serve one another as the body of Christ.
2. Pray that the global Christian movement would continue to grow through evangelism, healthy discipleship, church-planting, congregations and missionary vibrancy.
3. Pray that the Foursquare global movement would continue to grow more deeply and broadly, that we would reach more people for Jesus Christ, experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and would remain rooted in God's Word.

NOTES + OBSERVATIONS

AS YOU READ THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER POINTS EACH DAY, TAKE TIME TO RECORD WHAT THE LORD IS SPEAKING TO YOU.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Berea Family,

Thank you for taking the time with us each day to focus closely on the Scriptures in deep prayer. I hope these 21 Days of Prayer + Fasting have blessed you, and that you feel better equipped for the year ahead.

For many of us, the last year has been one of extreme disorientation, fear and even loss and grief. As we serve and love one another and seek the Lord together, we find strength to press on with endurance. Just as Eph. 6:18 tells us to “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests,” let’s continue our prayer-minded launch into this new, unknown year. We must “be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” (NIV).

I’m praying for you, too—that you feel the Holy Spirit inspire you daily in your walk with Christ. We pray expectantly that the Lord will truly make “All Things New” this year—in our lives, in our church, and in our U.S. and global communities. Together, our prayers can bring about significant change.

God bless you!

In Him

Pastor John