



Mission - To Know God and Make Him Known

Vision - to: Connect \* Grow \* Equip \* Serve \* Go

- + Connect - People with God and one another
- + Grow - All of us as Disciples
- + Equip - Spirit-filled and each one knowing their gifts and calling
- + Serve - One another and the world - Every member a minister
- + Go - Win souls for Christ

## January 2026

### 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

To Know God and Make Him Known

### Strategic Prayer points for 2026

- Thank God for the blessing and protection that He has promised to you and your family throughout 2026
- Thank God for His goodness and provision over HCC during this year
- Pray for your family by name and their situations
- Pray and repent for the sins of our nation
- Pray for our teachers and students as they navigate the school year
- Pray for our Police Officers and First Responders
- Pray for the Pastors and teachers here at HCC \*
- Pray for the leadership of HCC – our Board \*
- Pray for the Children's ministries of HCC that we would reach and attract more families
- Pray for the Youth ministries of HCC, that we would continue to have greater impact on the youth of Jupiter
- Pray for our Home and Foreign missionaries \*
- Pray for Marriages and Families of HCC
- Pray for our elected officials and judges, national, statewide and local
- Pray for the Nation of Israel
- Pray for a mighty revival in our church and in our region and that we would be effective and making true disciples of Jesus
- Pray for the vision and the mission of our church – To Know God and Make Him Known – To Connect – Grow – Equip – Serve and Go
- Pray that we would continue to see mighty breakthroughs as people are healed, delivered and set free
- Take time to Pray in the Holy Spirit

\* HCC Pastors and Teachers

- Pastor Marvin and Dawn Nemitz
- Pastor Kevin and Janine Murray
- Pastor Madie Wubker
- Kathy Monti

\* HCC Board Members

- Greg & Dale Key
- Warren & Sherry Johnson
- Andy & Kammi Hooper
- Buddy & Cheri McKenney
- Jim & Mona Dowda

\* HCC Supported Missions

- Doug & Susan Sayers—Latin America
- Kevin & Sandy Barner—Estonia
- Tom & Phyllis Benigas—Belgium
- Nathan & Brooke Kleindl—South Pacific
- Joe Lortie—US—Chi-Alpha
- Rock of Israel—Jewish Ministries
- Al Force—Youth Missions—Copenhagen, Denmark
- Keith Turcotte—US—Motorcycle Ministries
- Hope International—Kurt Holthus
- Prayer Stations—Nick & Rozanne Savoca
- First Care Family Resources

## An Uncomplicated Habit

Parents, teachers, church workers, and grandparents understand that Jesus listens attentively to the prayers of children, and perhaps He smiles at the funny ones.

*Dear God, are You really invisible, or is that just a trick? Lord, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from email. Heavenly Father, when mom serves leftovers, do we have to say grace over them again?*

Children's prayers are simple and uncomplicated. They don't use a lot of filters. They speak from their hearts, and their words can touch our hearts. ***Jesus said, "Therefore whoever humbles himself as a little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"*** (Matthew 18:4).

As we age, our lives become more complicated. We assume more responsibilities, bear more burdens, chase more goals, and acquire more things. Our minds and spaces become cluttered, and sometimes that seeps into our prayer lives. In Jesus' day, the seemingly pious religious leaders would "pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets." They would use ornate language and utter vain repetitions, thinking God would hear them for their lengthy recitations (Matthew 6:5-7).

Jesus had contempt for that. But He was delighted when the children on Palm Sunday cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" When the chief priests and scribes saw children praising Him in the temple, they were mortified. But Jesus asked them, "Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise'?" (Matthew 21:15-16)

What a statement! Can we learn to praise and to pray from babes? We do better when we pray with childlike simplicity, childlike faith, and childlike love. We should make prayer a joyful habit and an uncomplicated practice. Let me suggest three ways of doing that.

**Unclutter Your Life** First, everything, including prayer, is improved when we unclutter our lives. A good place to start is by buying less. Most of us have all we need. Yes, occasionally we need another pair of socks or a new stove. But instead of buying more things, perhaps we could get rid of some of the things we have.

We should make prayer a joyful habit and an uncomplicated practice.

Now, apply that same principle to your heart. Trina McNeilly wrote in *Unclutter Your Soul*, “Internal clutter takes its toll on a soul created for wide-open spaces. Soul clutter, if not addressed, can take on the forms of fear, depression, anxiety, addiction, chronic stress, and even physical ailments.”

She suggests asking yourself some questions: “Do you ever feel as if your inner life is tight, busy, or chaotic? Are your emotions calling all the shots? Do you find yourself the owner of an overactive mind, often leaving you paralyzed from moving forward and living life to the fullest?”

If so, remember what the Bible says: “***Be still, and know that I am God***” (*Psalm 46:10*). The first step in uncomplicating prayer is to find a quiet time and a still place in which you can talk with God without a sense of hurry. It’s better to pray five minutes in an unhurried way than for an hour watching the clock.

Unclutter your time. Make room for unhurried prayer. Unclutter your surroundings. Find a porch swing, an empty writing table, a prayer closet, and make it your space. Some people are messy by nature while others are obsessive-compulsive about neat spaces. Years ago, we got a lot of laughs from the television show *The Odd Couple* about two roommates. One was neat, and the other was a slob. Whatever your personality, having a small patch of tidiness and order around you may help clear your thoughts.

And remember, the world won’t miss a beat if you turn off your phone for half an hour. I know that seems risky to do. Unheard of. But people lived for thousands of years without phones, and I lived most of my life without a wireless device in my pocket all the time. Disconnecting from our electronic devices is helpful when it comes to connecting with our eternal Friend.

### Uncomplicate Your Process

Second, uncomplicate the process. If you’re not sure how to go about prayer, here’s a simple method which you can use by praying aloud, praying in whispers, or praying in your mind. It’s a simple, three-step process that can guide your prayers.

- Adore. Spend some time in adoration toward God, telling Him of His greatness and praising Him for His goodness. David prayed in *1 Chronicles 29:11*, “***Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours, O Lord, and this is Your kingdom. We adore You as the one who is over all things***” (*NLT*).

- Acknowledge. Then acknowledge to the Lord any faults or failures you're aware of. Get them off your conscience. If you were too abrupt speaking to a friend, if you spent money unwise, or if you harbored an unclean thought—tell the Lord. In many schools, one of the end-of-day tasks is to erase and wash off the whiteboard on the wall. When we acknowledge and confess our sins, we're clearing the slate, as it were, for a fresh day.

You can pray kneeling at your bedside, sitting at your desk, or walking in the park.

- Ask. Having spent time in adoration and acknowledgment, now feel free to ask God for your needs and those of others. Cast all your cares on Him. Pray for yourself, your friends and family, your pastor and church, for the persecuted church around the world, and for the spread of the Gospel.

You can pray like this for five minutes or for fifty minutes. You can pray silently or aloud. You can pray kneeling at your bedside, sitting at your desk, or walking in the park. You can certainly vary your approach. In a moment of crisis, your prayer may simply be, *Help, Lord!* But on a day-by-day basis, this triple-A plan is simple enough for even children to follow: adore, acknowledge, ask.

### Unlock the Power of Prayer

That leads to my third suggestion—unlock the power of prayer. Our ability to pray simple, effective prayers should grow as we grow in the Lord. We don't want our prayers to become more complicated. If anything, the older we become, the more we value a simple life, including praying with sincerity and simplicity. We can look back and see how many prayers God has answered, how many blessings He has bestowed, and how many people He has helped through our intercession. And we'll also find that many of our prayers offered years ago are still on God's agenda. He is working on long-term results, even if our prayers were offered in the short term.

In *Lead with Prayer*, Ryan Skoog said he learned to appreciate the impact of prayer from his mother. “I can remember my mom praying late into the night, night after night, when I was a young boy. From her prayer room, she would cry out to God for us, for our neighborhood, and for the nations. I will never forget staying up late, listening with my ear to the door to hear my mom’s prayers.” One day Ryan’s mom shared with him something she felt the Lord whispering to her heart during one of those evening prayer times: “There are prayers I’m still working on that you forgot you prayed many years ago.”

He is still answering prayers we offered long ago, though we may no longer remember them.

That's true for you and me. He is still answering prayers we offered long ago, though we may no longer remember them. The Lord doesn't miss a word of our prayer when it's offered in the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"* (Matthew 7:7-11)

That's what Jesus had to say about prayer—and it's just about as simple as that! Let your prayers be pure, plain, and powerful. Just like those of a child! Life is complicated enough. Let's learn to pray with childlike simplicity.

## Day 1 “Heaven Come Down” – John 14:12–14

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.” — John 14:12–14 (NIV)*

Today’s the day! You’ve decided to take the next 21 days and draw closer to the Lord through fasting and prayer. Most likely, you have already prepared for a strong start – adjusting meal plans, getting rid of those tempting chocolate candies, creating a prayer list, starting this reading plan.

And in the midst of all the preparation, did you also include Heaven coming down as part of your plan for these next three weeks?

Jesus makes a staggering promise in John 14. He’s speaking to His disciples right before His arrest, and instead of preparing them for the worst, He prepares them for power. “Whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing,” He says—then pushes the boundary even further: “they will do even greater things.”

This is not exaggeration. It’s an invitation.

As followers of Jesus, our lives are not meant to be marked by survival or religious duty, but by kingdom demonstration. Jesus is not just offering encouragement—He’s establishing expectation. Heaven is not a far-off reality we wait to arrive at someday; it’s the realm of the King that has come near. And through faith-filled prayer and fasting, Heaven begins to move through earthbound people.

The phrase “greater things” means that His work would be multiplied through us through the Holy Spirit. His return to the Father released the power of the Holy Spirit into every believer, equipping us to bring healing, hope, salvation, and bold prayers into the darkest places.

But how do we participate in this “greater”? Jesus says it plainly: Ask in My name. Fasting and prayer are not about twisting God’s arm or proving our devotion. They’re about aligning our hearts with the will of Heaven and recognizing the authority we’ve been given in Christ.

When we fast, we are clearing the clutter. When we pray, we are calling down the Heaven.

This 21-day journey of fasting and prayer is an opportunity for you to see God do incredible things in and through your life, but it is also your personal invitation to become a vessel through which Heaven comes down. What if God wants to heal someone through your hands? What if a citywide breakthrough is waiting on your prayers? What if Heaven is poised to come down—through you?

Believe it, ask boldly, and expect Heaven to come down!

## Day 2 – Passionate Prayer

One of the most beloved and often quoted passages in Scripture is Jeremiah 29:11. This scripture has such an incredible promise for us as believers!

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”***

If there was a “Top 10 List” of verses to memorize, this would make the list! It reminds us that God has good plans for our lives—plans full of hope and purpose. Praise the Lord!

But there’s something important we often overlook: God says He knows the plans He has for us—it doesn’t promise that we automatically know them.

Let’s read that again:

***“For I know the plans I have for you...”***

If you are in search of answers, or you are seeking wisdom and guidance through this time of fasting and prayer, this should bring great encouragement to you. If you are wondering what’s next and you find yourself waiting for clarity, you can be confident in the promise that God knows exactly where you are, exactly what you need, and exactly when you need it. He knows!

It’s important to know that these words in Jeremiah were originally given to God’s people who were taken into exile and captivity of a foreign country. They found themselves helpless and hopeless, yet they were told by the Lord that He has great plans of prosperity and hope for them.

But what were God’s people supposed to do in the meantime? What should our response be while we trust and wait for God’s plans to unfold? The next verses give us direction:

***“Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” —Jeremiah 29:12–13***

Our response to God’s promises isn’t just quoting them in celebration or hardship—though that’s wonderful. Our response should be to call on the Lord, to pray passionately, and to seek Him wholeheartedly.

What you ultimately find is something so much greater than the revealing of God’s plans – you find Him! And that’s the pinnacle of His plans and purposes for your life because God’s priority is relationship, not just revelation. This is what God intended all along for His people thousands of years ago when these verses were originally written, and the same is still true today.

So, on this second day of the fast, fervently seek the Lord. Pursue Him in prayer, worship, and in His Word. Cry out to Him with a heart fully engaged because you are promised that when you seek Him with all your heart you will find Him.

## Day 3 “Powerful Prayer” – James 5:16-18

Have you ever felt like your prayers were bouncing off the ceiling? Like your words were falling flat and nothing was changing? You’re not alone. Every believer—no matter how seasoned—experiences moments when prayer feels more like a duty than a dynamic connection. But Scripture reminds us that there is a kind of prayer that gets heaven’s attention: fervent, faith-filled prayer rooted in righteousness.

*James 5:16–18 (ESV) says:*

*“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”*

Let’s break that down:

- **Righteous person** – Someone whose heart is aligned with God’s
- **Fervent prayer** – Not casual or routine but focused, persistent, and passionate, heartfelt
- **Great power** – This isn’t hype, there’s real effectiveness when we pray

James is helping us understand a significant reality of our prayers. He understands the proclivity of most Christians to believe they can’t pray powerfully like the person they see as “more spiritual” than them. Whether that’s a friend, a pastor or teacher, it’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking God doesn’t answer prayer for me like he does for those individuals.

Which is exactly why James then brings Elijah as an example for us to learn from.

Yes, Elijah was a prophet, but James reminds us he was a man “with a nature like ours.” That line is so important. Elijah wasn’t superhuman. He battled fear, discouragement, and doubt. Yet, when he prayed, rain stopped. When he prayed again, rain returned. His prayers affected the natural world. That’s how powerful Spirit-led, faith-filled prayer can be!

When you fast, you’re removing distractions and sharpening your spiritual senses. You’re choosing to deny the flesh so that your spirit can become even more sensitized to God’s Spirit. Fasting aligns your heart with the will of God, and when your heart is aligned, your prayers become effective.

Like Elijah, you may feel unqualified at times to pray powerfully. You may even feel spiritually dry. But remember: Elijah was just like us. And if God moved through his prayers, He can and will move through yours too!

This is your encouragement today: Don’t just pray. Pray fervently. Don’t just fast. Fast with purpose. And don’t let doubt tell you that your prayers don’t matter. They do. They work. And they can move mountains.

## Day 4 “Outside the Camp” – Exodus 33:7-11

In Exodus 33 the people of Israel were camped out in the desert, waiting to go into the promise land. During that waiting period, Moses would pitch a tent outside the camp, which he called “the tent of meeting.” It was there that he would spend time seeking the Lord.

The Jewish Talmud tells us this private tent of meeting was just over a half mile outside the camp. As Moses walked there, all the people would stand at the entrance of their tents to watch him leave (v.8). As he walked out of the camp there had to be a million things on his mind. He would have passed people awaiting his decision on important matters, people who needed a word from God, people who were angry with him, or people who just wanted to know when they would leave the desert. Despite all his responsibilities, Moses left all the distractions behind, got outside the camp, and spent time in the presence of the Lord.

Scripture says, “Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend” (v.11 NLT). In Hebrew, the word used for face symbolizes not just the appearance of someone, but the very essence of a person. It identifies who they *really* are. Moses did not just seek the hand of God, but he sought to really know God.

During this time of fasting and prayer, we are not just going without certain foods, we are setting aside time to intentionally seek the face of God. For Moses, it was a specific place, far away from distractions so that he could do the one thing that changed everything, spending time with the Lord.

For you, that may mean finding a place to pray which is away from the distractions of home or work; no phone, no notifications, just time with the Lord. For some, getting outside the camp may mean waking up before anyone in your house and seeking the Lord. It could be fasting lunch and spending your noon hour praying.

However you choose to do it, let’s take time to intentionally get outside the camp during this fast and seek the face of God.

## Day 5 “Persistent Prayer” – Matthew 7:7–8

Persistence is one of those things in life that when you see it, you can't deny it. Whether it's a child repeatedly asking for a snack, a friend who won't take no for an answer, or an athlete pushing through exhaustion—persistence is a powerful thing that leads to results.

Jesus invites us into that same kind of persistent posture when it comes to prayer and fasting.

*In Matthew 7:7–8 (ESV), He says:*

***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”***

This is more than a suggestion—it's a promise.

But notice the way Jesus says it: ask, seek, knock. Each word is active, ongoing, and increasing in intensity. It's not a one-time request. It's a continual rhythm of prayer and pursuit.

Fasting helps you stay in that rhythm.

- Asking clarifies your heart's true desires. Spiritual significance becomes the priority, and you find yourself asking less for stuff and more of Him.
- Seeking brings focus. You begin to search for God's heart, not just His hand.
- Knocking is a picture of persistence. You keep coming back to God's door—not out of desperation, but out of trust.

Jesus isn't offering a vending-machine version of God. He's inviting us into deep, relational dependence. When we fast, we say with our actions, “Lord, I'm not just casually interested—I'm all in. I want more of You. I need more of You.”

Sometimes the door doesn't open on the first knock. Sometimes the answers don't come right away, but Jesus assures us that our Father always sees, always hears, and always responds.

Jesus promises: Everyone who asks receives. The one who seeks finds. The one who knocks—it will be opened. That means when you ask, when you seek, when you knock – you will be heard and answered!

If you've ever felt tempted to give up asking, seeking, or knocking, don't lose heart – God is working through your persistence to draw near to Him.

Today, renew your pursuit. Spend time in focused prayer—continue to ask boldly, seek earnestly, knock persistently. Write down what you're contending for, and keep coming back to it throughout the fast. Breakthrough is found on the other side of continued pursuit!

## Day 6 “Answered Prayer”—James 1:6

Do you ever find yourself praying for something that you aren’t quite confident about, maybe even talking to God about a situation while the entire time wondering and worrying over the outcome of it all?

James 1:6 speaks directly to this struggle that we can have at times: ***“But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” James 1:6***

How do we pray without doubt?

It begins with the very heart of prayer itself. Prayer is not solely just about presenting our needs to God—it’s much more profound than that. Prayer is coming to God in faith, fully convinced and unwavering in our belief of who He truly is. It’s a holy confidence resting in His infinite power, boundless wisdom, abounding grace, and unfailing faithfulness.

When we pray like this, we don’t anchor our hopes in the uncertainty of our circumstances. Instead, we root our faith in the unchanging and eternal nature of our God. That kind of faith becomes the foundation of every prayer we offer.

James 1:6 tells us, “We must believe and not doubt.” This challenges us to trust beyond what we can see or understand. To doubt is to waver; to believe is to stand firm on the rock of God’s faithfulness.

This kind of trust can feel difficult, especially when doubt rises within us, making us like the waves of the sea—restless and unstable. You can almost hear their mighty roar and feel the chaos they bring—pulled by the tide, driven by fierce winds, all of it seemingly wild and unpredictable. When we doubt, we become like those waves—tossed about and unsure of where we stand. This often happens when we lose sight of our firm foundation in God.

In those moments, doubt creeps in, revealing how quickly we forget the depth of God’s wisdom and power—power that can transform any situation far beyond what we can comprehend.

But, as we draw near to God through prayer and faith, we begin to see His hand more clearly. What once felt like instability and chaos becomes evidence of His power moving on our behalf. Fear gives way to peace. The very situations that once caused us to doubt now lead us into deeper surrender—not with hesitation, but with holy confidence.

When we pray, we’re not just bringing requests—we’re agreeing with God, affirming His promises and trusting His presence will be powerfully displayed. To pray without doubt is to lift our eyes above what we see and fix them on the One who has always been—and will always be—faithful. He is not like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind, but the Rock on which we stand. Today, stand firm on that foundation as you pray, remembering the very nature of who God is: infinite in power and unfailing in faithfulness.

## Day 7 “Confident Prayer” – 1 John 5:14-15

One of the great promises in Scripture provides wonderful encouragement in our approach to God when it comes to prayer. When we are walking through challenges or are in need of provision, a variety of emotions have the potential to overwhelm us. However, Scripture says that when we pray, there should be a very specific emotion we carry. This passage encourages us to come before God not with fear or hesitation, but with a bold assurance rooted in our alignment with His will.

John writes in *1 John 5:14-15*, “*And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will he hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.*”

John tells us that one of the results of praying God’s will into our lives should be a supernatural confidence that we carry each day. This confidence isn’t arrogance—it’s a settled assurance that our prayers matter because they’re aligned with His purposes. It’s a confidence rooted in who God is and knowing He will always answer when we pray.

Here are a few Scriptures that remind us of who God is:

God is our Rescuer:

*Psalm 24:17, “The LORD hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.”*

God is our Provider:

*Matthew 6:31-33, “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”*

God is our Salvation and our Healer:

*Psalm 103:2-3, “Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things He does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.”*

God is my Victory:

*Romans 8:31-32, 37, “What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won’t He also give us everything else? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”*

When we remember who God is and what He’s done, we’ll walk in a holy confidence that knows He is fighting for us, and we will see the victory in every challenge we face because our God has never lost a battle!

## Day 8 “Teach Us to Pray” – Luke 11:1-4

Prayer doesn’t always come naturally. Even for the disciples—who followed Jesus day in and day out—it wasn’t automatic. They had seen Jesus perform amazing miracles, heard incredible teaching and watched him love people unconditionally. Yet, one characteristic was elevated higher than any other as they recognized they key to Jesus’ ministry.

They watched Him slip away often to pray. They saw the power, the peace, and the authority that marked His life. And one day, with a genuine hunger in their hearts, they asked:

***“Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1)***

Jesus’ response was not a lecture, but a model—a framework for prayer that wasn’t about lofty words or religious rituals, but about relationship.

***“Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” (Luke 11:2-4, ESV)***

This prayer reveals the heart of someone fully dependent on God. It’s not self-centered, but God-centered. It acknowledges God’s holiness, submits to His will, and confesses a need for both provision and grace. It expresses surrender, humility, and trust. When you’re fasting, this prayer becomes even more alive.

Jesus provides a pattern for prayer in these verses that can deepen our time with the Lord, especially as we are fasting.

- “Father, hallowed be Your name” – Fasting re-centers our view of God. We remember His greatness, His holiness and His glory. Our needs don’t disappear, but they fall into perspective in light of His majesty.
- “Your kingdom come” – As we fast, we stop asking God to simply bless our plans. We begin to desire His plans instead. His priorities shape our prayers.
- “Give us each day our daily bread” – This line hits differently when you’re fasting. You feel your need more acutely—not just for food, but for God’s strength, wisdom, and sustaining grace.
- “Forgive us... as we forgive” – Fasting brings things to the surface that need surrendered to God. Bitterness, pride, self-reliance. Nothing will hinder your prayers faster than an unforgiving spirit.
- “Lead us not into temptation” – In a season of fasting, the enemy often tries to distract, discourage, or deceive. But God offers protection and clarity as you stay rooted in His presence.

Prayer becomes powerful when it becomes personal. Jesus didn’t give this prayer to impress religious leaders—He gave it to real people, facing real struggles, who wanted to walk closely with their Father.

## Day 9 “Drawing Near” – Genesis 18:22-33

In Genesis 18:22-33, there is a fascinating story about prayer. In the preceding verses, God gave Abraham insight into His plan to bring judgment on the city of Sodom, which was one of the most wicked places in history. Then Abraham responded by asking God to relent His judgment if there were fifty righteous people in the city. Once Abraham received God’s grace, he asked for just a little more, and a little more, until finally he got down to just ten. God once again granted his request: if there were ten righteous people in the city God would not destroy it.

Yet, in the end, Sodom was still found lacking morality, even in the face of the most gracious standard of righteousness, and the city received the full measure of judgment.

It is such an interesting story about prayer and the fate of Sodom. But what if this story was never about changing the fate of Sodom, but increasing the faith of Abraham? God brought His plans to Abraham not because He wanted Abraham to understand the wickedness of Sodom, but because He wanted Abraham to understand His nature. In fact, the whole key to this story is what we read at the end of verse 22 and the beginning of verse 23: ***“Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near...” (ESV)***. It is interesting that the thing which stopped Abraham in his tracks was the same thing which caused him to draw near.

We often think prayer is about deliverance from problems rather than drawing near to His presence, but God sees it as both. He is a God who answers prayer, to be sure! In this passage alone God said yes to Abraham’s prayer six times! He loves partnering with us in prayer, and He delights in answering our requests!

But it is in the process of drawing near to Him that we receive so much more from Him.

In this fast, there is probably a list of things that you are praying for personally. Yet those things which have stopped you in your tracks are the very things which are drawing you into His presence. This fast is about so much more than getting a response from Heaven; it’s about cultivating a relationship with our Heavenly Father.

God is going to answer your prayers, and in that process He is going to show you His character. Because you have chosen to draw near, you will never be the same!

## Day 10 “Let It Rain” – 1 Kings 18:41-46

It had been three and half years of drought when Elijah stood on Mount Carmel and boldly declared to King Ahab, “*I hear a mighty rainstorm coming.*” There wasn’t a cloud in the sky nor any evidence that would indicate a coming rainstorm. But Elijah had just witnessed one of the great demonstrations of God’s power as he called fire from heaven which consumed both the altar and all of the false prophets of Baal. It was a moment of both divine judgment and supernatural display as God was again proving Himself the One True God.

Although there was no physical evidence of the coming rain, Elijah discerned from God’s Spirit and then declared prophetically what was to come. This bold act of faith demonstrates what it’s like to trust God’s word over present circumstances.

The truth is, God is always speaking. One of the amazing aspects of fasting is that it helps quiet the noise so we can hear God’s voice and get a clearer sense of where He’s leading us. But notice what follows Elijah’s prophetic declaration: “*But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees.*”

What Elijah had discerned spiritually impacted his posture physically. He had gained insight into what God intended to do, but he also understood his part in seeing it actually happen. Elijah knew that God’s will must be prayed into existence.

Seven times Elijah instructed his servant to check the sky for evidence of rain. Six times the servant returned reporting no changes. But what both Elijah and his servant couldn’t see were the invisible elements taking place that would eventually lead to a visible cloud.

They couldn’t see the water vapor rising into the air as Elijah prayed. They were unaware that the water vapor was condensing into tiny pieces of dust which were forming billions of invisible droplets coming together for the formation of a visible cloud.

But suddenly, the servants seventh trip discovered “*a little cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.*” Even when it seemed nothing was changing, God was working in the invisible realm.

Elijah didn’t allow what he couldn’t see in that moment to deter him from praying what He knew God intended to bring. And it wasn’t long before a mighty rainstorm began.

Faith trusts even when the evidence is invisible. Just because you can’t see it yet doesn’t mean nothing is happening. Believe God is working behind the scenes, and your answer is being formed in the invisible realm. Just like a cloud eventually appeared, you too will see God’s answer in a powerful way. Keep on believing, don’t stop praying, because a mighty rainstorm of miracles is on the way!

## Day 11 “For Such a Time as This ”- Esther 4:14-17

The story of Esther is one of the most beautiful and compelling stories in the Bible. Although this book never specifically mentions God’s name, it gives us clear insight into how God works behind the scenes in the halls of power, as well as in the unseen events of our own lives.

If you have not read that story recently, I would encourage you to go read it as it will encourage you and build your faith. The story follows a young woman named Esther, who was a Jew living among the exiles in the Persian empire under the rule of King Xerxes (circa 480 BC). Through a turn of events, Esther went from a relatively unknown girl to queen of the empire, though her lineage remained unknown to the King and his officials.

At the same time Esther was ascending to the throne, a Persian official named Hayman sought to eradicate the Jewish people from the Persian kingdom. Hayman was granted his request, and a date was set for the Jews to be annihilated.

About halfway through the story, something happened that changed everything. Esther was challenged by her uncle that God brought her to power in that exact moment because she had a role to play, ***“for such a time as this” (4:14)***.

In the face of huge risks and desperate circumstances, Esther called for the people of God to fast and pray. That prayer changed everything, and God answered in a huge way!

In response to the fasting and prayer of the people, God rewrote history not only for Esther and her people, but also for their enemies.

As we approach the halfway point of this fast, we have been calling on God for a shift in our nation. No doubt you are seeking God for things in your own life and for your family. Yet, the answers to our prayer are not going to be without opposition from the enemy. There is a battle going on for our community and for your family.

Stay strong in your commitment to fast and pray. Yes, there will be opposition – but these 21 days could change the course of your family, of your future, and even of our nation. It is no coincidence that you are in this church in this season. God has brought you here in this exact moment because you have a role to play, for such a time as this.

## Day 12 “Open His Eyes” – 2 Kings 6:15-17

In 2 Kings 6:17, Elisha prays a simple prayer that results in one of the most startling spiritual pictures we get in the Old Testament. It's a powerful reminder that spiritual sight often changes long before our circumstances do. Elisha's prayer leads to a dramatic shift from fear to faith, as Elisha's servant shifts from seeing only the physical threat to the ability to see the spiritual defense surrounding them.

Leading to this moment, the Lord had been revealing the enemies plans to Elisha resulting in the protection of God's people from their attacks. Elisha's intel from the Lord that thwarted the plans of the enemy had now led the enemy to surround them. Elisha's servant was terrified and for good reason. It seemed inevitable that Elisha and his servant would be taken as prisoners.

Elisha's servant is the first to discover their seemingly dire situation and says to Elisha, ““*Oh, sir, what will we do now?*” *the young man cried to Elisha. “Don't be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.*”

And suddenly everything changed. Elisha's servant saw not only the physical threat, but the spiritual reality behind it. The hills were filled with horses and chariots of fire, heaven's armies, surrounding the enemy that surrounded them. Although the servant's physical situation looked unchanged, his spiritual confidence was transformed. It lifted his eyes from the enemy's threat to God's protection.

This is what happens when we pray: God opens our spiritual eyes. He helps us see past what's visible into the invisible. And the clearer our spiritual sight, the calmer our spirit. Fear turns to faith as we spend time in God's presence and allow Him to speak peace to our storm.

Today ask God to open your eyes to the spiritual realities which are the greater realities. Instead of praying for the problem to disappear, ask for spiritual insight into the situation. The closer we walk with the Lord and the more time spent in His presence, the more we'll gain insight and be strengthened by the fact that God's power is surrounding us on every side.

As we fast, we train our spiritual vision to see what flesh can't perceive, so pray today like Elisha prayed for his servant – “Lord open my eyes.”

## Day 13 “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” – 2 Chronicles 20:3-4

We’ve all had moments in life where it feels like the odds are stacked against us. Maybe you’re in one of those moments right now. Or maybe you entered this 21-day fast asking God to do something that feels impossible.

Take heart—because we serve a God who delights in doing the impossible. And He responds powerfully when His people pray and fast.

One of the most remarkable examples of this comes from Jehoshaphat, king of Judah from around 870 to 848 BC. He was a godly leader, but even the godliest leaders face overwhelming challenges. Jehoshaphat received terrifying news. A massive army—made up of three nations—was marching toward Judah. Scholars estimate this coalition may have totaled hundreds of thousands of fierce, battle-tested warriors.

He had every reason to panic. But look at what he did instead:

*“Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek Him.”* —2 Chronicles 20:3–4 (NIV)

Jehoshaphat didn’t rely on strategy, strength, or alliances. His first response was prayer and fasting. And he called the entire nation to join him.

As the armies approached, the people of Judah didn’t fight. They fasted. As the enemy advanced, the people of Judah didn’t run. They worshiped. And as they lifted their voices in praise, God moved, and what happened next was nothing short of miraculous:

*“As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir... and they were defeated.”* (2 Chronicles 20:22)

God caused the enemy armies to turn on each other. Judah didn’t have to draw a sword—the Lord fought the battle for them. And when it was over, there was so much plunder it took three full days to gather it all. What began as a crisis ended in miraculous victory and unexpected blessing.

It’s another amazing example of the faithfulness and power of God, no matter the size of the battle we may face. But there’s a crucial element to this passage that we can’t overlook—the people praised BEFORE the breakthrough. They lifted their voices in worship before they saw God move. There was praise on their lips long before there was plunder in their hands. That’s what faith looks like. That’s what trust sounds like. And that’s the kind of heart God responds to.

As we continue in this season of prayer and fasting, take this to heart: whatever battle you’re walking through—praise Him. Whatever breakthrough you’re believing for—trust Him. Don’t wait for the answer to celebrate. Worship Him today, knowing that He is still the God who goes before His people and triumphs over the enemy.

## Day 14 “Effective Prayer” – Matthew 21:18-21

For many people on this journey of prayer and fasting, prayer is something we have done before. Even if it was simply, “God please help me to pass this test” or “Lord, please don’t let me get a ticket...” most of us have prayed before. In fact, according to the [Pew Research Center](#), 44% of Americans pray daily, and most (67%) pray at least weekly/monthly. Prayer is something we are familiar with, and yet, there is a difference between prayer, and effective prayer.

In Matthew 21, Jesus demonstrated for us what it takes to make our prayers effective and powerful.

*Early in the morning, as Jesus was on His way back to the city, He was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then He said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered.*

*When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” they asked.*

*Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.*

*(Matthew 21:18-22 NIV)*

This is such a unique story, but it has much to tell us about effective prayer. Jesus didn’t curse that fig tree arbitrarily, He did it as a vivid demonstration to show that authority flows from unwavering belief in the power of God. That is why Jesus closed this section with an incredible promise: “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer” (v.22).

You see, effective prayer isn’t merely about speaking words or repeating requests. It’s about aligning our hearts with God, and believing in faith that what we ask in accordance with His purposes, will be done.

Fasting is a powerful statement that we want God more than we want anything else. Giving up food and other things in pursuit of God has a way of wrestling our flesh into submission, and aligning our hearts with God’s heart. When we are in a place where we know and pray the heart of God, faith grows in abundance. That is where we really see the power of effective prayer. This kind of prayer moves mountains. This kind of prayer changes families.

So as you fast, let faith rise in your heart, that ‘If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer!’

## Day 15 “The Blessing of Unity” – Psalm 133:3

One of the things that is so powerful about this 21-day fast is that you aren’t going at this alone – right now, many people are participating with you! These three weeks of fasting are specifically designed so that everyone who participates raises their spiritual awareness to another level. And we not only believe that God is going to answer huge requests during this time, but He is also going to continue to unite believers around the world in a powerful way as we seek all that He has for us!

Unity is one of the most powerful forces to propel us into God’s purposes, both as a church and individually. In fact, Psalm 133:3b says that where there is unity, God commands His blessing! If you want the blessing of God, live in unity with what God is doing!

In Psalm 133, David gives a few illustrations of what unity is like. First, he says it is like “oil poured on the head, running down onto the beard of Aaron”. While this may seem like a strange symbol to us today, what David is referring to is the anointing oil that was used to anoint Aaron and set him apart as a priest of the Lord (cf. Exodus 29-30, Leviticus 8). This was a very specific oil which was specially made for anointing the priests, identifying them as set apart and holy.

One of the blessings God gives to people who live in unity with fellow believers is an anointing for His work. When you and I unite around what God is doing, as people of God, it brings an anointing into our lives that would not be there any other way.

The psalm then continues with another image David uses – the dew on the mountains. While this certainly is a beautiful sentiment for us today, for the ancient Israelite it would have symbolized the abundant provision of the Lord. The dew of the mountains is what provided life giving water for their crops. It was a source of necessity if they were going to be nourished.

What a powerful picture David gives us of the blessing and power of unity – it is a place of anointing, a place of provision. It is in that place the Lord commands His blessing!

As we join our hearts together in this fast, we are uniting for the purpose of seeing God move in our community and our families. And with this unity comes the guarantee of an increase in anointing and provision for all of us because God commands it.

## Day 16 “Freedom!” – Acts 16:25-30

One of the many remarkable miracles we see in Scripture takes place during a very unusual set of circumstances. Paul and Silas had been doing what Jesus said to do – they are healing the sick, delivering people from the demonic and leading thousands to faith in Jesus.

God’s power is moving mightily in and around them, yet they find themselves in a very unexpected and challenging situation. After delivering a girl from the demonic power that was controlling her, they are beaten, arrested and imprisoned – all because they were doing the Lord’s work.

However, their response sitting in a prison cell provides the key to real victory. Instead of cowering in fear, complaining about their circumstances or questioning God’s faithfulness, Scriptures says that, ***“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.”***

What an amazing response! It demonstrates a heart that understands an important spiritual truth: if I’m living in wholehearted obedience to the Lord, the challenge that I’m facing will become the vehicle God uses to demonstrate His miraculous power. We have to believe that what seems to be a prison is actually a platform—the very place where God wants to show off His power. And that’s exactly what we see happen for Paul and Silas.

***Acts 16:26 says, “Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.”*** As Paul and Silas were praying and worshiping, God was preparing a spectacular intervention. God’s presence shows up in the jail cell in a such a mighty way the Earth shakes, and Paul and Silas are set free. Scripture tells us that the jailer and all of his household came to faith as a result of this magnificent miracle.

Notice that the miracle didn’t begin with the earthquake. It began with worship.

When we pray and worship, especially in a challenging season of life, we are setting the atmosphere for God to bring supernatural freedom that impacts both our lives and those close to the situation. Not only were Paul and Silas freed from prison, but many became followers of Jesus because they chose to worship in the midst of their trial.

Regardless of the challenges you face, never stop singing and never stop praying. Those responses are spiritual weapons the Lord uses to defeat the enemy and bring deliverance and a supernatural answer to your prayers. God desires to work powerfully in your life, and like the jailer and his household receiving salvation, those close to you will experience the blessing of your miracle that can literally change their life and their family forever!

What you do in your midnight hour matters. Heaven listens when faith sings. So, keep on singing and keep on praying, because God is still working and freedom is coming!

## Day 17 “When the Church Prays” – Acts 12:1–17

There are moments in life when the situation looks hopeless. The diagnosis is grim. The job falls through. The prodigal still hasn’t come home. You feel like the story is over.

That’s where we find the early church in Acts 12.

Herod had arrested James and executed him. Now Peter was next. He was heavily guarded, locked in a prison cell, and scheduled for trial and likely death the next day. The situation was urgent, and from a human perspective, it was over.

But verse 5 changes everything:

**“So, Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.”**  
**(Acts 12:5, ESV)**

In the face of fear, the church didn’t panic—they prayed. Not casually. Not once. But earnestly. Continually. Persistently. And we can safely assume fasting was a part of their prayer as this was the pattern of the early Church.

They didn’t have political power or social influence, but they had the ear of Heaven.

That night—while Peter slept between two guards and the church prayed in secret—a miracle unfolded. *Acts 12:7 says, “Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists.”*

What began as a death sentence ended as a divine jailbreak.

Peter then went to the very house where people were still praying for him. But here’s what’s both humorous and profound: when Peter knocked, the believers didn’t believe it was actually him. They had prayed for a miracle—but didn’t expect it to happen so quickly. Their breakthrough came in the midnight hour, and they were stunned by how God showed up.

This story reminds us that our fervent and persistent prayers lead to incredible breakthrough! Whether your answer comes immediately or you are pressing through in the midnight hour, God is always preparing a stunning miracle that still breaks chains and opens prison doors as a demonstration of His power at work in your life.

Your prayers may feel like whispers in the dark, but God hears every one of them. And even if you don’t “feel” it working, Heaven is moving. Just because you haven’t seen the breakthrough yet doesn’t mean it isn’t already on the way.

Let’s pray like the church did in Acts 12. Fast like they likely fasted. Cry out with urgency and expectancy. Because at just the right time, the Lord can send a miracle your way that defies logic and silences every doubt. And don’t be surprised when the answer shows up at your door!

## Day 18 “Fasting for Fullness” – John 6:35

*John 6:35 (ESV): “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.’”*

*John 10:10 (ESV): “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

There’s a difference between simply surviving and truly living. Jesus didn’t come just to give us a spiritual rescue—He came to give us abundance. But the kind of abundance He offers doesn’t always look like what the world promises. It’s not more stuff. It’s more of Him.

When we fast, we aren’t just giving something up—we’re making space to receive something greater. Fasting is a bold declaration that our satisfaction isn’t found in food or physical comforts. It’s found in Jesus alone. He is the Bread of Life. He is the Source. And when we feast on Him, we experience a fullness that nothing else can deliver.

In John 6, Jesus feeds the five thousand, but then makes a startling shift—He calls Himself the true bread. The crowd wanted another miracle meal, but Jesus pointed to something deeper. He was saying: “You’re hungry for more than food. You’re starving for real life—and I AM that life.”

Fasting reminds us that we often chase after things that don’t truly satisfy. We fill our lives with empty calories—temporary pleasures, mindless scrolling, busy schedules, even good things that still leave us spiritually undernourished. But when we choose to step back from those things, we get re-centered on the only One who can fill us.

Jesus said the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. That thief still shows up today—through distraction, comparison, addiction, and spiritual apathy. But Jesus came so we could live differently. Not just barely getting by, but thriving in His presence.

Fasting and prayer accelerates us on that path of thriving as we silence the noise and tune into the voice of our Savior. It’s how we stop settling for snacks and start feeding on the fullness of Christ.

This week, don’t just fast from something—feast on Someone. Spend intentional time in God’s Word. Pray when you feel the hunger pangs. Listen for the Spirit’s leading. Let Jesus be the One who fills the space you’ve cleared.

## Day 19 “Get Ready to Soar” – Isaiah 40:31

Eagles are remarkable creatures. Among the largest birds on earth, their wingspan stretches up to nine feet. They are capable of soaring at altitudes of 20,000 feet reaching speeds of 150 miles per hour. With eyesight up to 10x sharper than that of humans, eagles can detect prey from several miles away.

It's this extraordinary creature that the prophet Isaiah uses as a vivid illustration of what happens when we wait on the Lord. [\*Isaiah 40:31\*](#) says, ***“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.***

Scripture makes a powerful connection between waiting and soaring. Waiting doesn't sound exciting or enjoyable. We prefer our microwaves and drive-thrus because they produce quick results. But God is interested in more than a rapid response, He's interested in a life that soars.

God's timing develops what comfort and speed cannot: character, endurance, and vision.

Waiting feels slow and sometimes unproductive, but we see in Scripture that waiting is never wasted. The Hebrew word for “wait” in Isaiah 40 doesn't mean passively sitting around, but to hope, to expect, to look eagerly toward something – which tells us that waiting is not idle, but active. Active waiting means I work like it depends on me, while praying like it depends on God.

And Isaiah provides incredible insight into what is being forged through our waiting. The NLT says, ***“But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.”*** Do you know that God has new strength He wants to give you? As you are praying and fasting, God is working new strength in you for the season He's calling you into.

And with that new strength, God elevates our perspective and expands our opportunity. Isaiah says we will soar high on wings like the eagles, which means your active waiting is creating the environment for a new day of soaring higher in your life. God has even greater opportunities in your future, but active waiting is what He prescribes in order to develop the disciplines needed to embrace the coming blessing.

So, if you're in a waiting season, don't lose heart and don't underestimate what God is developing in the delay. New strength is coming that will allow you to run and not grow weary, to walk into new opportunities and not faint, to soar higher than you ever have before!

## Day 20 “More Than You Could Imagine” – Ephesians 3:20

Let’s take a moment and journey back in time—back to when you were young. As the summer day has faded into night, you’re outside, barefoot in the grass. A cool breeze brushes your skin. The scent of summer—fresh cut grass and distant barbecue—lingers in the air.

You tilt your head to the sky. It’s a vast, black canvas scattered with stars. You think about what you learned in school —about planets and moons, galaxies and constellations. Your young mind stretches as far as it can, reaching into the stars, trying to grasp it all.

But even in the height of childhood wonder, you know this: you’re only scratching the surface. There’s more than you could ever count. More than you could ever know. And something in you—then and now—whispers: There’s more out there than could ever be imagined.

This is the same wonder the Apostle Paul invites us into when he writes:

**“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...”**

**— Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)**

As we enter Day 20 of our 21-day fast, take a moment to reflect on everything you’ve been praying for—every need, every breakthrough, every longing you’ve brought before God. Now, place those requests next to the limitless power of the God who is able to do far more than we could ever ask, dream, or even imagine.

Paul’s words are echoed in [1 Corinthians 2:9](#):

**“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ — the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” —**

**1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV)**

We can be amazed by the vastness of the sky or the depths of the sea—but today, let’s stand in awe of the power and goodness of Almighty God. It’s by His spoken words that those very things we struggle to comprehend were created. And in the same way, what He has prepared for those of us who love Him is far more than we could ever comprehend.

As we come into His presence with awe and wonder, worshiping and bringing our requests to the One who created the heavens and the earth, let’s remember this powerful truth from [Jeremiah 32:17](#):

**“Ah, Sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You.” — Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV)**

In your time with God today, may you realize that He is greater than any of your needs and more powerful than your imagination. He sees what you cannot see and has prepared far more for you than you even know to ask. May you increase in awe of who God is, recognizing that nothing is too hard for Him and expecting more than you could ever imagine.

## Day 21 “Open Heaven” – Mark 1:10-13

With the theme of this fast titled “Heaven Come Down,” you can’t help but think about what Heaven will be like. Scripture promises that Heaven will be a place of unimaginable joy and reward for those who place their faith in Jesus. And one of our prayers through this fast has been that you would personally experience the wonderful realities of Heaven coming down in your life and that you would continue to live under an open Heaven.

Living under an open Heaven signifies divine access, unhindered connection, clarity, affirmation, and the movement of the Spirit. It’s the level of spiritual vitality every believer longs for—when you know without a doubt that God is near, that He sees you, and that He’s moving, which is exactly what we see in the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

Mark records this amazing scene in [\*\*Mark 1:10\*\*](#), “*And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.*”

This wasn’t just poetic imagery. It was a visible, supernatural reality. As Jesus was baptized, something shifted. The heavens didn’t just part, they were “torn open.” The Holy Spirit descended in power. And then came the voice of the Father: “***You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.***” (v. 11)

Before Jesus ever preached a sermon, healed the sick, or walked on water, He stood in the Jordan River and experienced this defining moment—one of divine affirmation and spiritual empowerment. Heaven opened. The Spirit descended. The Father spoke.

Not much has been recorded in the Gospels about Jesus before this moment. Between His birth story and His baptism, we know that Jesus lived in obscurity for years, growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man ([\*\*Luke 2:52\*\*](#)). And this life of humility and surrender was eventually displayed publicly for others to see and record at His baptism.

What we never read in any of the Gospels is that the status of the open Heaven ever changed – Heaven remained open over Jesus. Why? Because the posture of Jesus didn’t change.

The very next verses we read, [\*\*Mark 1:12-13\*\*](#), Jesus spends forty days fasting, which was a physical and spiritual continuation of a humble and surrendered life. And because of this, the heavens remained open over His life and ministry.

In the same way, fasting becomes a doorway to an open Heaven in our own lives. When we fast, we humble ourselves and surrender our physical urges and cravings, posturing ourselves for the same kind of clarity, sensitivity, and intimacy that Jesus demonstrated. We silence the noise. We recalibrate our hearts. We make room for the Lord to supernaturally strengthen and speak to us.

You may not see a dove or hear an audible voice. But make no mistake—Heaven opens over those who humble themselves before God.

As you conclude this fast, take time to sit with the Lord. Ask Him to speak. Invite the Holy Spirit to descend in a new, fresh way. Let His voice remind you of who you are and what you've been called to do, continuing to live a life of surrender, knowing there is an open Heaven over your life!