



SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

# 2023 PRAYER & FASTING Guide

*"Discipleship: Spreading the Gospel Beyond  
the Walls in a Digital World"*

Matthew 28:19-20

1 Thimicles 12:32

**January 9, 2023 - January 29, 2023** | 21-Days of Fasting and Prayer for Spiritual  
Renewal and Deep Change | 2940 Corprew Ave, Norfolk, VA 23504 | 757-627-7222

**Reverend Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns, Sr. Pastor** | Reverend B.J. Stancel, Elder  
Ministry of Congregational Spirituality | Compiled by Deaconess Delydia Williams  
| Edited By Reverend Roma Hall

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## Connecting With The Second Calvary Baptist Church Prayer Line

Join us for online prayer and devotion.

Telephone: **319-527-3544**

Alternate Number for T-Mobile & Metro PCS Subscribers:

Text **“Call Me”** to **319-527-3544** and you will be connected to the call immediately.

**Daily - 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.**

**Weekly - SCBC’s Corporate Day of Fasting & Prayer**  
Thursdays, 12 Noon

**Friday Fervent Prayer (Congregational)**  
7 PM – First Friday of Each Month

**Share Your Experience Online**  
Use hashtag #SCBCNorfolk

## Members of the Ministry of Congregational Spirituality

Reverend B. J. Stancel, **Elder**

Deacon Anthony J. Williams, Sr., **Chaplain**

Deaconess Delydia Williams, **Secretary**

Reverend Sandra Neely, **Assistant Secretary**

Deaconess Bantha Alston, **Treasurer**

Deacon John Smaw, Jr.

Reverend Roma Hall

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, all selected devotionals are from [today.reframemedia.com/devotionals](http://today.reframemedia.com/devotionals).  
Please see links to the devotionals beginning on Page 34 of this guide.

## SCBC Theme for 2023

# “Discipleship: Spreading the Gospel Beyond the Walls in A Digital World”

Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Chronicles 12:32

This year’s theme is part of a larger and broader theme that seeks to set the pace for who Second Calvary Baptist Church will be by the year 2030. The seven-year theme is– “The Emerging Church 2023–2030.” Each year there will be a different emphasis that is intended to help shape and strengthen the next generation to be prepared to lead the congregation. The thematic focus for 2023 is “*Discipleship: Spreading the Gospel Beyond the Walls in a Digital World.*” Harnessing the power and possibilities of social media gives us the opportunity to do the greater works Jesus said we would do in His name. The Internet gives us the power of presence in every place, every day. As you read the daily readings, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can use your social media platform to go beyond the walls.

The global pandemic highlighted the technological weakness of the church in America and around the world, particularly in developing nations. It also pointed to the huge outreach opportunities that can be harnessed using social media platforms and web-based ministries and relevant and relatable content. According to *backlink.com* 4.48 billion people used social media in 2022. Currently, there are nearly 100 million people in America who are unchurched. According to recent statistics there are 270.1 daily users of social media in America. This is an enormous mission field.

As we pray, fast, and engage with our community, we must be focused on doing the things that Jesus did– “Preaching, Teaching, Healing (see Matthew 4:23-24). Preaching is the means and method by which we convince men and women of God’s eternal plan of salvation. Teaching strengthens the heart, will and determination of the followers of Jesus to do the work of mission and ministry. Mission and ministry are the heart of all we do to make Jesus known to the world. Healing those who are broken by the trials of life and who live with chronic physical pain is one of the ministry assignments we have received from Jesus. During our twenty-one days of fasting and prayer we will focus on discipleship and being a committed and growing follower of Jesus Christ. I believe the Lord will meet us at the point of our greatest and deepest needs. Jesus has called us to be His disciples!

Pastor Guns



## The Power of Prayer and Fasting

January is a special month for the Second Calvary Baptist Church Family. Not only is it the beginning of the New Year, but also the start of our period of spiritual cleansing and consecration.

Fasting is deliberately not eating food and, in some cases, not drinking water for the purpose of reaching a spiritual goal or achieving a spiritual goal. The priority is not to be on food intake, but a God intake, thus submitting our wills to God and allowing Him to draw us into a place of heightened spiritual awareness. Sincere fasting cleanses the heart.

### Four Types of Fasts

Fasting is reducing the amount of food or liquids consumed over a specified period. When one abstains from eating for medical reasons this is referred to as detoxification of the body through the limiting of food. However, fasting is one way we develop a deeper life and faith in God. During the period in which one is fasting, time is set aside for prayer, reading Scripture, and meditation. Sometimes people will engage in doing good deeds as a part of their time of consecration.

There are several types of fasting. The one you choose is between you and God. He will honor your best sacrifice for spiritual renewal and deep inner cleansing.

Type one—a **Full Fast**. Drink only liquids. This is a normal fast in which one may abstain from eating food, although one may drink liquids over a specific time.

Type two—a **Partial Fast** from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm, or from sunup to sundown. A partial fast is when one limits the amount of food or liquids for a specific time.

Type three—an **Absolute Fast** where one ceases to eat or drink for a specified time. You should consult your family physician before beginning a fast. If there are severe medical reasons that will limit your ability to fast from food or water, you should **not** attempt to do this. Rather, look for other ways that you can fast or participate, such as limiting how much time you spend watching television or surfing the Internet.

Type four—**The Daniel Fast**. Eat fruits and vegetables, and drink water and juice, **no** meats, sweets, or bread. The website <https://draxe.com/daniel-fast/> provides information about the benefits of implementing aspects, if not all, of The Daniel Fast during our time of prayer and fasting. Additional references are cited in the End Notes and the Resource section of this guide.

May you go forth with joy and be led by His peace during our time of Spiritual Renewal.

## The Daniel Fast

There are two references in the book of Daniel from which “The Daniel Fast” is drawn. Daniel, Chapter 1, describes how Daniel and his three friends ate only vegetables and drank only water. At the end of a 10-day trial period, Daniel and his friends appeared healthier than their peers who ate the rich foods from the royal table.

In Daniel, Chapter 10, Daniel fasts abstaining from pleasant food, meat, and wine. You too can gain a healthier body and clearer mind by following this fast in moderation.

### Tips

- Engage in lots of prayer; we need God's strength and guidance.
- Keep your diet simple. Avoid highly processed foods in favor of simply prepared or raw vegetables.
- If for any reason you eat something you should not have during the fast, it is better to ask for forgiveness and continue than to stop the fast.
- If you are experiencing weakness or headaches, drink at least **8** glasses of water each day. Often, we do not understand just how much our body needs water, especially when fasting.
- Be careful not to drink too much water, because too much liquid can be as bad as not enough.
- Set a goal for how long you will fast. Ultimately, you may want to continue The Daniel Fast longer than first intended.
- Have a healthy stash of nuts on hand, especially at work, to avoid those co-workers who always want to feed you.
- You may want to supplement your diet with a multi-vitamin.

## Warnings

- During the time of fasting you will face temptations; resist them in the name of Jesus Christ.
- When you have finished fasting, eat light meals and slowly build up to your normal diet.

## Things You Will Need

- A Bible
- A place and time(s) to pray
- A good variety of fruits and vegetables

### Scripture References for Fasting:

- Matthew 6:16-18; Matthew 9:14-15; Luke 18:9-14

### Relation to Prayer and Reading of the Word:

- 1 Samuel 1:6-8, 17-18; Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 9:3, 20; Joel 2:12; Luke 2:37; Acts 10:30; Acts 13:2

### Corporate Fasting:

- 1 Samuel 7:5-6; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Joel 2:15-16; Jonah 3:5-10; Acts 27:33-37

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Remember, it is the attitude of a heart sincerely seeking Him to which God responds with a blessing (*Isaiah 58; Jeremiah 14:12; 1 Corinthians 8:8*).



## Times for Prayer and Fasting

Two time periods are suggested for fasting and prayer:

**First**—a partial fast of six hours (6 a.m. – 12 noon).

**Second**—a full day fast of twelve hours (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.).

You can decide which fast works for you. Feel free to modify your fast according to your spiritual health and physical needs.

**Fasting will begin on Monday, January 9, 2023**

**Regular meals may resume on Sunday, January 29, 2023, after 6 pm.**

### Using and Following the Prayer and Fasting Guide

Many people spend a great deal of their lives complaining and looking for reasons why other people are not what we believe they should be. Deep inner personal change is one of the most difficult things to do, yet if we are willing to embark upon the journey, our lives, families, marriages, professions, and ministries will become so much more vibrant.

During the next twenty-one days, we will embark together on a journey of spiritual renewal and growth. Here are the steps to follow to get the most out of this period:

1. Resolve to follow the plan for the full twenty-one days, even when it looks like you cannot fulfill it. **Try not to miss a single day.**
2. Read the daily readings and take notes or write down your observations from what you glean.
3. Resolve to participate in one of the daily fasts – 6 or 12 hours. If you cannot fast every day, resolve to fast every other day or every third day. Establish how you will proceed. Consider The Daniel Fast, which is a partial fast that consists of fruits, vegetables, and water only. Eliminate all meat, dairy, and sugar products from the diet. Good results are guaranteed.

## Twenty-One Days of Prayer and Fasting

### “Discipleship: Spreading the Gospel Beyond the Walls in A Digital World”

**A**ccording to a Barna Research article in which Benjamin Windle is quoted, “Discipleship is not an academic journey. It must involve real human beings in real community. If church is simply a service that people are provided, it is transactional. If church is an interpersonal family of people who I have a responsibility to contribute to, it becomes a community.” Before COVID, establishing interpersonal relationships formed organically. But a shifting has occurred. Embracing social communities offers ministry opportunities to interject our Lord into daily conversations within both spheres—creating a hybrid method of spreading the gospel.

**Week One—The Movement-Discipleship: Spreading the Gospel.** Disciples must be “instant in season and out of season. Like the sons of Issachar (1Chronicles 12:32), understanding the times in which we live means to be prayerful and watchful—diligent to keep the faith and guard one another in the uncompromised messaging of Jesus Christ. Pray that we are sensitive to The Spirit’s prompting during brief encounters in the grocery aisle, at the checkout counter and yes—on one’s social media sites. Disciples need to move when the Holy Spirit opens a door of utterance. Wheresoever we go, seizing the moment must be spiritually discerned. Why? Because we are living “in perilous times.” We glean from 1 Chronicles 12:32. As Jesus’ disciples, we discern the times— and we know what to do. We advance the movement of the Gospel.

Technology has afforded the body of Christ to till the soil in which the seed of the Gospel is planted and the place where another waters. Snap Chat and Instagram may have replaced breakrooms. Social media platforms have become online wells like the in-person water coolers where co-workers once shared a glimpse in passing, which transitions to our second week in which individuals fellowship outside their interior spaces and congregate on Facebook and Instagram.

**Week Two—The Mission-Discipleship: Beyond the Walls** challenges believers who enter online spaces to “make disciples of all men.” Whether one’s preference is in-person or online gathering, the mission—*should you accept it*—is to teach all The Lord has commanded—baptizing in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

**Week Three—The Messenger-Discipleship: In a Digital World**—reminds us that disciples should be genuine in demeanor and in delivery—applicable to our in-person as well as our online conversations. Personal commitment to spiritual growth and maturity in Christ is an ongoing endeavor. Remember our SCBC’s eight core ministries in prayer. True discipleship should happen in serving and loving one another as Jesus commanded.

*Ministry of Congregational Spirituality*

## DAY 1: Monday, JANUARY 9, 2023

**Scripture:** “You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” **Luke 12:56**

**Devotional Title:** *Interpreting the Time* by Daily Devotional

**Study:** Luke 12:54-56

### **Meditate:**

Jesus is still in a long lecture block with some very difficult words for the audience. The people still not fully understanding that the Kingdom of God has arrived, and that Jesus is the Messiah, are rebuked for being able to interpret the weather but not the obvious truth sitting right in front of them.

This is similar to the sin of the Pharisees who saw Jesus perform miracles right in front of their faces but still claimed Jesus was casting out demons in the name of Beelzebub. It's a baffling turn of events.

As Christians we get to see God at work. We taste the goodness of the Lord. These are the moments that strengthen our faith and make our witness strong. We must always be ready to see and hear what the Lord is doing so that we do not miss the message like the audience Jesus is rebuking in Luke 12.

### **Pray:**

Jesus, thank You for making me Your ambassador. May I tell others all You have done for me. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus:**

Let's be alert to what the Lord is doing so that we do not miss His prompting and others do not miss His message.

## DAY 2: Tuesday, JANUARY 10, 2023

**Scripture:** "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days." 2 Timothy 3:1

**Devotional Title:** *Dangerous Times (Excerpt)* by Ray Stedman

**Study:** 2 Timothy 3:1-9

### **Meditate:**

This verse reads like a summary of the six o'clock news. I remember reading this verse in grade school when I was just a boy, and I was filled with fear and trepidation. I was confident that the terrible times were being fulfilled in that very day, years ago. The Great Depression was beginning; there was much trouble and strife in the United States. Fear had settled upon the nations of the world. Already the looming threat of World War II was gathering on the horizon. Many were feeling that those were the last days when we could expect the return of Christ.

As we look back through human history during these last two thousand years, we can see how true that is. Again and again in our Western world, we have had periods of relative peace and prosperity, only to have them interrupted by these terrible times of stress and agony that repeatedly come into human affairs. So, these words are not necessarily a prediction of the last days for the church; rather, they are a recognition of the cycle of days like this that will keep coming. And, of course, one of them is going to be the last one. Surely these times of stress we live in exactly fit the description the apostle uses here. But whether this is the actual last cycle to come into history before our Lord returns is difficult to say. As in the past, the clouds of peril may disperse, and the sun may break out again.

But what the apostle wanted Timothy—and us—to know, he clearly outlines: Understand this, he says, that these will be dangerous times, times of great stress, times when our faith will be pushed to the limit of its endurance, when we will be under attack and under threat. Life on planet Earth is historically perilous, and our times are no exception.

### **Pray:**

Lord, thank You for how accurately You describe what happens in the world. Thank You also that there is something I can do about it. I can be a real, not a phony, person; I can be genuine, not hypocritical; I can allow the Word to change me from the heart outward. Amen

### **Prayer Focus:**

What is our prospectus for living as authentic disciples of Jesus in such a stressful world?

## DAY 3: Wednesday, JANUARY 11, 2023

**Scripture:** “The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them.” **Psalm 11:4**

**Devotional Title:** *Signs of The Times* by Ryan Cook

**Study:** 2 Timothy 3:1–9

**Meditate:**

In *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens describes the main character in this way, “Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!” This long list of colorful adjectives helps us understand what type of character Scrooge was.

In today’s reading Paul uses eighteen adjectives to describe life in the “last days” (v. 1). For Paul, the “last days” refers to the whole span of church history from the resurrection of Jesus to the Second Coming. These characteristics were true of the false teachers who had been damaging the church. Paul warned Timothy and encouraged him to live in a different way. These people were utterly self-centered. They claimed to know how to be truly godly, but instead were deceptive and destructive. Timothy would do well to “have nothing to do with such people” (v. 5).

These false teachers would “worm their way” into the homes of gullible women (v. 6). These women were likely widows who had considerable resources at their disposal to support the ministry of the false teachers. Paul compares these false teachers to Jannes and Jambres. These are the traditional names of the Egyptian magicians who copied some of the miracles Moses performed in front of Pharaoh (Exodus 7:11). In the same way, these false teachers closely imitated true apostles and teachers. While they might have looked the same on the outside, their message and their lives would lead to destruction. Paul encouraged Timothy that, in the end, “their folly will be clear to everyone” (v. 9). He closes on a note of hope. No matter how dark those “last days” get, we know that the Lord wins!

**Pray:**

Holy Spirit, help us examine our own lives and behaviors and reveal to us the areas that need to change.

### Prayer Focus

The list of eighteen descriptions can be a helpful checklist by which to measure our own lives (2 Timothy 3:2–4). Read slowly through this list and ask the Lord if there are areas you need to confess about and ask for God’s help to change.

## DAY 4: Thursday, JANUARY 12, 2023

**Scripture:** “We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.” **2 Corinthians 4:10**

**Devotional Title:** *Die to Self-Daily (Excerpt)* Retrieved from PrayRay.com

**Study:** 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

### **Meditate:**

Have you ever had trouble with clothes not cooperating with you when you were wearing them? Probably not. But try to imagine that it did. Imagine if your clothes had a mind of their own. You try to get dressed for work, and when you put your shirt on, your trousers resist and try to take themselves off, or vice versa. You like your clothes neat and clean, but your clothes keep jumping off the hanger onto the floor. It would be funny, wouldn't it?

The Bible talks about being born again and dying to self in other places, but did you know that the reason we must “die” is because Jesus wants to enter our lives by putting us on like a flesh suit, a garment He can wear as He works in this world. Great, you say! But for Him to be effective we must die. The dead body has no needs, wants, or desires, so the power that gives us life has no barrier. Our flesh and our desires have at times been a great hindrance, they refuse to stay dead. They've had more resurrections than Lazarus and Jesus, but we must come to the point in our walk where we are determined to stay dead no matter what the cost. I'm fasting more, praying more, and studying more.

We must deny ourselves to stay dead. Feed the spirit, not the flesh. Dead people don't argue about their so-called “rights.” They don't kick against the “pricks” and their “flesh” is totally under subjection because it is not being fed. Remember, we need to die so God can use us so that others might live.

### **Pray:**

Father God, we thank You that You want to use us in Your marvelous plan of salvation. Help us Lord to die to self-daily, so that You can use us to the fullest. We give our hearts, minds, and souls to You to use as You see fit. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

In what ways must we die to self so that others may live?



## DAY 5: Friday, JANUARY 13, 2023

**Scripture:** “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified...” **1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

**Devotional Title:** *Nothing But Jesus* by Jordan Loftis

**Study:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-9

### **Meditate:**

A word of admonition to us all: don't be a “wannabe” theologian!

Paul was straightforward with the church in Corinth. He didn't yammer on endlessly; he cut straight to the source of life, Jesus. As Christians, we should be all about Him. We should wake up with a craving to be like Jesus every day and we should long walk as He walked. But how exactly did He walk? Great question.

He walked through mobs of people shouting, spitting, and jeering at Him while carrying a cross. That's how Jesus walked, that's how Jesus lived. He allowed Himself to be humiliated, mocked, and ridiculed all for our good. Paul realized a simple yet powerful truth: **when we know Jesus, our pride should evaporate.**

There is no room for arrogance when you've met Jesus. Paul didn't need to use impressive words or flex his vocabulary, he needed to proclaim nothing but “Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

*This mindset can work in us in two different ways:*

- Firstly, if we're constantly looking to impress others with our knowledge or holiness, we've completely missed our purpose. The point is not us, it's Jesus.
- Secondly, we've also missed it if we neglect sharing Jesus with others because we're worried that we don't know enough. If we do this, we've also missed the heart of the matter. Again, the point is not us, it's Jesus!

### **Pray:**

Lord, your heart is that none be lost. Father, God, I want to be a light that points others to Christ. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Get to know Jesus, get excited about Him. The point of our lives is to point to Him.

## DAY 6: Saturday, JANUARY 14, 2023

**Scripture:** “What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!” **Mark 13:37**

**Devotional Title:** *Signs to Stay Awake* by Eric C. Redmond

**Study:** Mark 13:24-37

### **Meditate:**

Driving along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in October, you will see a beautiful sight; most of the foliage begins to change into red, orange, and yellow shades. The stretch of road between the two cities is lined with trees bursting with colors. And when drivers see these autumn colors, they know winter is coming very soon.

When the leaves of the fig tree sprouted and its twigs became tender, it was a sign for Jesus’ audience that summer was drawing near (v. 28). Jesus used the ability to read that physical sign in nature to exhort his hearers to consider signs pointing to His return. We read, “In all your ways submit to him.” That calls for trusting that God’s ways are good, and that following them leads to living life to the full, as God intends for us.

The unique nature of these signs would distinguish them from anyone’s claim to have seen the returned Messiah. Scripture teaches that all celestial bodies will be disturbed by the return of Christ—the sun, moon, and stars (vv. 24–25).

Unlike the predictable signs of the changing seasons, the exact time of the return of Christ is unknown even to Jesus (v. 32)! Only the Father has that date on His calendar. Jesus, in humility, voluntarily chooses to leave that date in the mind of the Father alone. In doing so, Jesus lovingly creates a situation in which we must be ready at all times for signs pointing toward His return. We cannot drive down life’s road looking for an annual event that will nudge us to get ready for what’s to come. Instead, we must live in readiness mode at all times, being ever watchful. Christ’s words about the end times have more permanence than the present heaven and earth. We would do well to heed His words with expectant hearts. This time He is coming with the power and glory of His rule. (<https://www.todayintheword.org/issues/2019/8/devotions/27/>)

### **Pray:**

Lord Jesus, Keep us alert to the signs of Your coming. In Your name we pray, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Ask God to continue guiding our technology/media ministry as an instrument to advance the gospel considering Jesus Christ’s return.

## DAY 7: Sunday, JANUARY 15, 2023

**Scripture:** “Pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored.”  
**2 Thessalonians 3:1**

**Devotional Title:** *The Spread of The Gospel* by Bradley Baurain

**Study:** 2 Thessalonians 3:1–5

### **Meditate:**

A recent survey by Arizona Christian University found that most American adults believe a gospel of works, that is, they don’t believe the true gospel at all. About 48 percent think that if they are generally good or do enough good things during their life they will be accepted into heaven. Shockingly, 52 percent of self-described American Christians say the same.

Having shared his prayers for the Thessalonians, Paul went on to share two prayer requests of his own. His first was for the speedy spread of the true gospel (v. 1): Our salvation depends entirely on Christ’s work of redemption, not on any merit of our own. His request demonstrates an instructive posture of humility: Even a veteran church planting team needs prayer, and even a young church can meet this need. Any believer can and should pray for any other believer, regardless of age, social status, experience, or maturity. His second prayer request was for protection for himself and his fellow missionaries from wicked men (v. 2). He was likely thinking of those who had originally stirred up trouble for him in Thessalonica and Berea (Acts 17:5–14), as well as those who were attacking him in Corinth at about this same time (Acts 18:12–13).

Paul was confident that these prayer requests would be granted because of God’s faithfulness (v. 3). In fact, God had just given him a special promise of protection regarding the situation in Corinth (Acts 18:9–10). The Thessalonians, too, would be protected by Him from the “evil one” (Satan). The appropriate response to God’s faithfulness is our obedience (vv. 4–5). In that sense, Paul was also confident that the Thessalonians would stand firm and hold onto his teaching, establishing their hearts in Christ’s perseverance and God’s love.

### **Pray:**

Lord, today we remember the missionaries we support, and we pray for their physical and spiritual protection. May the enemy’s plan be disrupted so that the gospel may spread unhindered. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Does your church support home and overseas missionaries? Why not pray for these men and women by name today?

## DAY 8: Monday, JANUARY 16, 2023

**Scripture:** “I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore, the nations will praise you for ever and ever.” **Psalm 45:17**

**Devotional Title:** *Make Him Famous* by Kelli Worrall

**Study:** Esther 6:4–9

### **Meditate:**

According to a recent study, fame is now the number one goal of preteens. “Being famous” catapulted from sixteenth place all the way to first, leapfrogging over long-standing life goals such as having a family, working a good job, or living in community. The researchers connect this cataclysmic shift in values to the proliferation of fame-based reality television and social media platforms. Even adults are not immune to the lure of fame.

In today’s passage, Haman once again provides us with an example of how not to think and live. We also see another example of God’s providence. Haman arrived in the court of the king first thing in the morning, after the king’s sleepless night. He was seeking permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had erected (v. 4). But before Haman could implement his plan, the king called him into his chamber and asked a cryptic question: What should be done “for the man the king delights to honor?” (v. 7). Egotist that he was, Haman assumed the king wanted to honor him. So, he suggested the reward for which he most longed. Haman didn’t need more wealth; he undoubtedly enjoyed all of the luxury afforded to his position in the Persian court. He also didn’t ask for more power or authority since he was already second only to the king. What he requested was the honor of wearing the king’s own robe and riding the king’s own horse in his own one-man parade through the kingdom. Ultimately, Haman wanted to partake of the king’s prestige. Nothing mattered to him more than fame and admiration.

Social media has created a culture of celebrity, where an individual can catapult to sudden fame by simply garnering the attention of the rest of us. Think about your relationship with social media and fame. Consider the steps you can take to guard your heart and give God first place.

### **Pray:**

Holy Spirit, with so many things competing for our attention in today’s world, we pray we’ll keep our focus on God and His Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen

### **Prayer Focus**

Will we give the Lord first place in our lives? Will we delight in His Word?

## DAY 9: Tuesday, JANUARY 17, 2023

**Scripture:** “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. **1 Peter 2:17**

**Devotional Title:** *A New Respect* by Dr. Chris Rappazini

**Study:** 1 Peter 2:11–17

### **Meditate:**

One of the problems with social media is that many people feel free to say whatever they think about everything. And, because they are posting online, they often express their opinions in harsher language than they would if they were talking to their opponent face to face. As believers, we may feel pulled into these conflicts and return harsh words to those who oppose us, but God’s Word reminds us that we are to “show proper respect to everyone” (v. 17).

Peter reminds his readers in our text today that while we may have some say in the affairs of this world, we must remember that we are really just foreigners, passing through (v. 11). Even though our sinful desires push and pull us in directions that oppose God, Peter says we are to live such radical lives that when the outside world sees us, God will be glorified because of our good deeds (v. 12). One of the most drastic ways our lives can stand out among nonbelievers is by submitting ourselves to “every human authority” (v. 13). Peter says it is the Lord’s will that “by doing good” we would put to silence the talk of those who are contrary to the gospel (v. 15). However, this begs the question, “How does one do good?” Where does one even start to do good when there seems to be so much conflict and division among people?

Peter says it starts with showing “proper respect” (v. 17). In the original language, this phrase is actually the same as “honor,” like honoring a king. According to Peter, we are to treat everyone as if they have extreme value. The reality is they do have value in God’s eyes, a tremendous amount of worth. Treating others with respect and dignity will help us navigate the waters of this world.

### **Pray:**

Lord, forgive us when we reduce people to the political views they espouse or the irritating things they do. Help us to see each person for who they are: Your image-bearer with inherent value—Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Examine your own words and actions on social media. How can you better reflect the One you serve?

## DAY 10: Wednesday, JANUARY 18, 2023

**Scripture:** “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

**Devotional Title:** *Good Works And Evangelism* by Jordan Lofits

**Study:** Matthew 5:16

### **Meditate:**

With almost everything in life, there needs to exist a healthy balance. You can work out all you want, for instance, but if you don't balance that effort with a healthy diet, it won't do you much good. You can work all the hours in a day to buy anything you want but, if you don't create balance with time off, you can't actually enjoy your toys!

Churches can fall into this trap, too. They may focus on only a few doctrines and forget to teach the many others that are profitable to a Christian's walk. One such doctrine is that of “good works.” There are many churches that do great community work. They feed the homeless, provide clothing to those in need, or even offer rehabilitation programs. The sad truth, however, is that some still never share the gospel with those they are helping.

At the same time, there are other churches that focus solely on evangelism. They will go door to door, stand on the street corners or outside sporting events yelling into a megaphone, but they won't give the homeless guy standing right beside them a dime. Jesus told us we need to have a balance with our good works and evangelism; that they go hand in hand.

As we help those around us, do they know that we are showing them mercy and grace because of what Jesus did for us on the cross? When we are sharing the gospel, are we doing so with a posture of humility and service to others?

### **Pray:**

Lord, thank you for letting us work with You to share your joy with the world. Help us not take for granted the gift it is to share Your gospel to the nations, and to our neighbors. Help us have eyes to see the needs around us and to respond to those needs in joy and hope. Thank you so much Lord for Your love and care over us. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (Copyright © 2022, Crosswalk.com)

### **Prayer Focus**

How *do* you approach those around you? Do your actions consist of words, works, or a healthy dose of both?



## DAY 11: Thursday, JANUARY 19, 2023

**Scripture:** "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come ..." **1 Corinthians 10:11**

**Devotional Title:** *Mobile Connectivity* by Linda Bailey

**Study:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

### **Meditate:**

I like to have my phone around me, but I don't think I'm as tied to it as some people. I use it to communicate with people, it's my connection to the internet and it keeps me entertained when I'm waiting for something.

I like to send text messages to let people know I'm thinking of them or if I need them to know something. I'm not a fan of speaking on the phone and will only do so if it's easier than texting or if it's urgent. I've realized that some people have a much greater connection to their phone. They desire to always have an instant connection to those they know.

A couple of people I know have recently left their phone behind. They've made their way to a computer where they've posted on social media that they don't have their phone and then listed all the other ways people can contact them. One even listed the hours they'd be on their computer and when they'd be back home to get their phone. These people don't have terminally ill relatives or high-pressure jobs. They just have a desire to be connected at all times.

While I don't feel the need to be connected to people all the time, it is nice to know I can be connected to God at all times. All throughout history He has provided people with the ability to access Him.

Whether it is through scripture or worship, God's message has been made known. And through the Holy Spirit we can connect with God anywhere at any time. He doesn't close for business, and He doesn't leave His phone at home. We can always call on God

### **Pray:**

Lord, thank You for giving us access to You. May we always treasure the closeness You provide. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

How will you connect to God today?

## DAY 12: Friday, JANUARY 20, 2023

**Scripture:** “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. **1 Corinthians 9:22**

**Devotional Title:** *By All Means* by Rev. Jimmy Lin

**Study:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

### **Meditate:**

When I joined Back to God Ministries International in 1990, we used reel-to-reel tape recordings for radio programs. By the time I retired in 2015, the Chinese ministry was operating entirely online. The technological changes over the years have been phenomenal, to say the least; we can now connect one on one with our audience on multiple platforms (Facebook, WeChat, etc.) making the relationship both personal and engaging. In the past we could only estimate the ministry’s impact, but now we can count interactions instantaneously. One thing, though, remains unchanged—the gospel (“good news”) message.

The apostle Paul said he was willing to use all kinds of ways to save some for the sake of the gospel. He treasured the gospel so much that he was willing to work hard, go to prison, be exposed to death again and again, and face danger from nature, people, and government ([2 Corinthians 11:23-30](#)).

To Paul, there was (and is) only one gospel—“that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#)). Anything different from this, no matter how appealing the package or the messenger, “is really no gospel at all” and should be condemned ([Galatians 1:6-8](#)).

### **Pray:**

Thank you, Jesus, for Your precious gospel. Help me to share it diligently and correctly every day. In Your name, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Consider the ways and means The Church can advance the good news that Christ died for us.

## DAY 13: Saturday, JANUARY 21, 2023

**Scripture:** “Here there is no Greek or Jew ... but Christ is all and is in all.” **Colossians 3:11**

**Devotional Title:** *God's Global People* by Dr. Robert Heerspink

**Study:** Colossians 3:1-11

### **Meditate:**

Some people are saying these days that the world is flat. With advances in communication technology, we now live in a global village. But if this is a global village, there's a lot of fighting going on in the neighborhoods. Instant e-mails and text messaging don't automatically create understanding. Ethnic prejudice and tribal tensions spawn hatred, violence, and outright warfare. But there is one community whose very identity transcends these tensions. Jesus commissioned His disciples to take one gospel to the world and by that gospel to shape a single community of Christ-followers.

As Paul puts it in terms of the people in his day, there is no Jew or Gentile. In Paul's day, the Jewish community identified itself as the true people of God. Everyone else, even those who were civilized and cultured, were considered Gentiles, Greeks, barbarians. But Paul announces that Christ breaks through those walls of separation.

Living out this vision today means that Christians must not build walls where none should exist. The church of Christ is bigger than any congregation or denomination. You'll find your discipleship enriched if you reach beyond your own small circles and connect with believers of different backgrounds and cultures.

### **Pray:**

Lord, our vision of the church is often narrow. Forgive us when cultural differences make us suspicious of fellow believers. Build us into a global community, we pray. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

What steps might you take to enlarge the circle of your Christian acquaintances?  
Pray for the Church and its partnership(s) concerning Global and local outreach efforts.

## DAY 14: Sunday, JANUARY 22, 2023

**Scripture:** “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” **Acts 1:6**

**Devotional Title:** *The Mission of the Church* by Paul M'pindi

**Study:** Acts 1:1-6

### **Meditate:**

After spending three years with Jesus, His closest followers still did not understand the essence of His mission. Jesus had not come to restore the earthly kingdom of Israel, as His fellow Jews had hoped. And to stop His disciples from turning into political activists after His return to heaven, Jesus stated clearly that they had to go out into the world to bear witness to His saving power.

As Christians bear witness, however, don't they also have the responsibility to help poor and needy people? Of course. But our primary mission as Jesus' followers is not to establish an earthly kingdom where human definitions of peace, justice, and equality prevail. Our mission is to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be witnesses to the life-changing mercy of Jesus Christ, from whom all blessings flow in the flourishing of God's kingdom (shalom).

Sin is the true cause of social and political injustice in this world. And the message of salvation that is lived and witnessed by Christians through the power of the Holy Spirit is the essential answer to all the world's troubles. As a Christian, are you true to the mission our Lord has given the church?

### **Pray:**

Lord, help me to stay focused today in my testimony for You. Holy Spirit, give me the power to be a witness to Christ's life-changing power. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Think about your level of commitment to Matthew 28: 19-20. Use the gift of technology to advance The Mission of the Church around the world

## DAY 15: Monday, JANUARY 23, 2023

**Scripture:** “Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret” **Mark 7:24**

**Devotional Title:** *Going Viral* by Linda Bailey

**Study:** Mark 7:24-30

### **Meditate:**

The word ‘viral’ used to be a very negative word. It was used to describe a type of disease that multiplied and spread rapidly. That is still a correct definition, however, these days the word ‘viral’ is more connected to someone being famous rather than being frail. It’s all about the widespread distribution of information, particularly over the Internet. If your clip or info has gone ‘viral’ then thousands, if not millions, of people have shown interest in it.

For some people this is a good thing. They become known, and their career is even launched, by some content of theirs being posted on the Internet. It is then posted on various social media sites so that many people see it. Sometimes this is great for the person as it can change their life in a truly positive way. For others, it can be devastating as the content brings shame and embarrassment for so many to see.

It seems that Jesus’ life went viral even before the Internet. It spread using the age-old version of the web ... word of mouth! Jesus didn’t use special effects, He didn’t sing a catchy melody, and He didn’t have a cat that did quirky tricks. Jesus became famous because He lived His life in the way that God wants each of us to live.

There’s nothing wrong with being popular or even famous, but everyone should assess how we are known. Is it for an interesting piece of entertainment, or is it for being like Christ and loving God and others?

### **Pray:**

Lord, often the limelight seems so appealing, and we all want our 15 minutes of fame. However, it is more important to proclaim Your name than our own. May we strive to live today to make Your name famous. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Social Media Ministry of Second Calvary Baptist Church.  
May His disciples make Christ known in the digital space.

## DAY 16: Tuesday, JANUARY 24, 2023

**Scripture:** “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **John 13:34**

**Devotional Title:** *If God Had Social Media* by Sarinette Caraballo Pacheco

**Study:** Proverbs 3:5-6

### **Meditate:**

If God had **Facebook**, He would like all publications that add value to life.

If God had **Instagram**, He would upload photos with messages that will brighten someone's day.

If God had **Twitter**, He would write messages and micro stories that inspires those who read them.

If God had **LinkedIn**, His CV would include serving and loving everyone equally.

If God had **Snapchat**, He would post four-second stories, conversing with people biased by society.

If God had **YouTube**, I would make videos that teach how to love as God loves us.

If God had **Pinterest**, He would upload tutorials on how we should look at the heart and not on the appearance of people.

If God had social media, He would use them so that all people would recognize Him and make Him a part of their lives.

If God had ...

God does not have any of this, but those who have accepted Him as their Savior can use our social media as a means of support. If you have accepted the Lord as your Savior, now Christ lives in you and your social media can be used as platforms to bless, when the fruit of the Spirit is revealed through them.

### **Pray:**

God, help me to be more like You. That my social media are the reflection of having believed in You. Help me to get to know You and become more intimate with You so that I can share Jesus with others in the right way. Help me to be a reflection of Jesus on this earth, including my social media. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

May followers of Jesus submit their social media platforms  
under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



## DAY 17: Wednesday, JANUARY 25, 2023

**Scripture:** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?” **Matthew 28:19**

**Devotional Title:** *#ImtheEvidenceDoing* by Sarinette Caraballo Pacheco

**Study:** Matthew 28:19-20

### **Meditate:**

... As Christians, we have a lot of work to do in order to fulfill the Great Commission that was assigned to us.

Today we have at our disposal very powerful weapons, which can help speed up or slow down the Great Commission that has been entrusted to **all of us**. Properly used, these weapons help more souls to join eternity through faith in Jesus. Those weapons are social media.

So, before we can positively impact others through social media, we must work with ourselves in our private lives. We cannot help others without first helping ourselves. We should ask ourselves the following questions, both in our personal lives and in what we publish on social networks:

- Am I living a life of integrity, so that my actions in private match what I post on my social networks?
- Am I helping others to meet Jesus and create a relationship with Him?
- Are my life and social networks an example to follow of what a genuine Christian is?

### **Pray:**

Lord, I ask that each day that passes, my heart yearns to be a blessing to the lives of those who know me. Help me to live a full life so that my actions in private match what I post on my social networks. Let me be a channel of blessing so that others can meet Jesus. I long for my life and social media to be an example to follow of what a genuine Christian is. I want to be the evidence of Your love for others. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

If we are able to genuinely reflect God in our private lives,  
we will be able to give authentic testimony of Him on social media.

## DAY 18: Thursday, JANUARY 26, 2023

**Scripture:** “Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord.”  
**Acts 14:3**

**Devotional Title:** *No Fast-food Discipleship* by Paul M'pindi

**Study:** Acts 14:1-7

### **Meditate:**

Our fast-paced society wants quick results with minimal effort. For example, you slide your plastic card into a teller machine, punch a couple of keys, and out slides your money.

We carry this mindset into God's work as well. We deliver a quick sermon, and we expect unbelievers to start crying about their sins and giving their lives to the Lord right away. How many mission teams have not withdrawn in key areas of the world because of the lack of immediate results?

Paul and Barnabas at first received a good response from both the Jews and Gentiles who lived in Iconium. But soon they were confronted with opposition from those who did not like the gospel. Instead of cutting and running, Paul and Barnabas chose to spend "considerable time there," speaking with boldness for the Lord. And the Lord confirmed their message with miraculous signs and wonders.

Perseverance and patience are key elements for effective discipleship and ministry. Are we patient with our children who have strayed from the Lord? Are we patient with our neighbors, coworkers, or classmates who are slow to understand their need for salvation? We can hinder miracles of grace in our lives and ministries if we lack perseverance and patience.

### **Pray:**

Lord, give us perseverance and patience so that we may withstand opposition when necessary. Help us also as we wait for Your working in people's lives. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Discipleship requires disciples to be filled with The Holy Spirit—bearing patience and perseverance as we labor in ministry. It takes time to make a disciple.

## DAY 19: Friday, JANUARY 27, 2023

**Scripture:** “Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.” **Ezra 7:10**

**Devotional Title:** *True Discipleship* by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

**Study:** Ezra 7:10

### **Meditate:**

Some Christians segregate study from spirituality, fearing that study erodes one’s relationship with God and seeing a conflict between the head (study) and the heart (the seat of one’s true relationship with God). While we identify the heart with emotions, passions, and deep feelings, in the Bible, the heart was associated with the mind and learning (*biblical people assumed the emotions lay in the kidneys*). So, when the Bible calls on us to love God with our heart, it means to love God with our mind, our learning, and our study.

**Biblical discipleship requires study. It’s at the very core of discipleship: “The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher” (Luke 6:40 NIV).** Jesus indicated *that* the way one truly becomes like Him is by being “fully taught,” meaning that we study and practice His teaching. Jesus also said that the proof of our love for Him depends on our keeping His commandments (John 14:15), not how we feel about Him.

If we are going to be true disciples of the Lord, like Ezra we must set our hearts to study the law of the Lord, which leads us to do it, and as we become fully taught—studying and doing—we teach others. The commission that Jesus gave His disciples was to “make disciples”—not converts or followers, but disciples. How can we make disciples, students, if we aren’t studying and doing the words of the Lord?

### **Pray:**

Father, may we grow in our learning and doing of Your word to become more like our Teacher, Jesus, so that we can make disciples of others for Your glory. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

In order to disciple, we must first be disciples, and the way to do that was shown to us by Ezra the scribe: Study the law of the Lord, do it, and teach others.

## DAY 20: Saturday, JANUARY 28, 2023

**Scripture:** “A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.” **Proverbs 15:18**

**Devotional Title:** *How’s Your Temper?* by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

**Study:** Proverbs 15:18

### **Meditate:**

We live in a world where people’s tempers constantly simmer below the surface. If we hear something on the news, see something on social media, or hear someone say something that we do not agree with, how often do our tempers flare? How quick are we to respond? **Our hot-tempered responses rarely resolve anything. Rather, they often lead to escalation, which, as Proverbs says, stirs up strife.** Yet we feel that we have the right to respond, even in the heat of the moment. We see this demonstrated in the world around us repeatedly.

Communication cannot occur in the midst of strife. Nothing positive comes from a hot temper. Often, hurtful, and overheated comments result from such a response. Someone seeks to defend themselves from attack rather than try to understand the issue or point of contention. In our desire to make ourselves heard—or when we respond in anger—we lose the ability to communicate.

**“But he who is slow to anger quiets contention.”** The Bible provides practical instruction for us to develop into spiritually obedient followers of the Lord. In fact, biblical spirituality primarily pertains to how we interact with others in our daily lives.

**Think for a moment how often in our world—in your own world—would a milder response heal a situation, allow for productive communication, and calm an escalating situation?** How would it change our civil and political discourse? How would it impact the communication in our homes between spouses, children, and parents? Nothing lasting or of value can come from strife. If we cannot communicate in the most fundamental of manners, we certainly cannot encourage one another in following the Lord.

### **Pray:**

Father, help us today to be slow to anger in word and deed. May we calm contention in our families, among our friends, in our communities and throughout the world, so that Your name is glorified through us. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

How’s your temper? Are you slow to anger? Or do you reflect the hot-tempered society we live in? Do you seek to calm contention, or are you stirring up strife? Are you part of the solution or part of the problem?

## DAY 21: Sunday, JANUARY 29, 2023

**Scripture:** “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” **Galatians 6:2**

**Devotional Title:** *The Law of Christ* by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

**Study:** John 13: 34-35

### **Meditate:**

How do we obey Jesus and fulfill what He commanded us? According to Paul, we bear one another’s burdens. It’s that simple. Some today have taken to calling themselves “Christ followers” or “disciples.” Jesus said in John’s Gospel, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (13:35). The evidence of our discipleship or following Jesus, according to Him, depends upon how we love one another and bear each other’s burdens.

To bear someone’s burden requires us to walk alongside them—to be a part of their life, to operate out of love, so that a person will feel comfortable sharing what weighs him or her down. It’s not a relationship that can be formed in our Sunday services or even in our small groups. It only materializes when we place ourselves in another’s life and demonstrate genuine love and concern.

The law of Christ flies in the face of our fast-paced, me-first, hectic culture. But if we are not seeking daily to fulfill His command to love one another (John 15:17), then can we truly call ourselves Christ followers or His disciples? Do we take time in our day to really see the people around us, their pain, and their struggles? Are we moved with genuine compassion for them?

Bearing one another’s burdens is not to get people to think and believe like us, and it’s not something we reserve for those we feel comfortable with. When a religious expert asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29), He turned the question around and challenged the man to be a good neighbor like the Good Samaritan in His parable (Luke 10:36-37).

Being Jesus’ disciple is not simply helping those who are like you; rather, it is loving everyone—even your enemies—and seeking to bear their burdens (Matthew 5:43-47). How badly do we want to be disciples of the Lord? If we’re truly serious about it, we must do what He commanded; we must love one another. This is the mark of discipleship.

### **Pray:**

Father, help me to see those around me today as You do. May my heart be moved with compassion to bear their burdens for Your glory. Amen.

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray that His Church—both local and globally—bears the marking of authentic discipleship.

## CONCLUSION

Enter to worship. Depart to serve. These are exhortations of most congregations to spur the Sunday morning worshiper toward missions and evangelistic outreach. To be a Christian witness is to be a living epistle to be read of all men (2 Corinthians 3:2). A disciple's character and conduct may be the first impression of The Living Word—introducing them to Jesus. There is a generation living out their lives in the digital world who may have heard of Him but do not know Him in the pardon of their sin. The Church has a mission. The disciples have the message. Are followers getting a glimpse of the righteousness of God in Christ on a believer's Facebook, Instagram, or Snapchat page?

No wonder ministries have implemented social media platforms to proclaim the love of God. If the church is to reach the masses—men of every birth, then visualizing the internet as a mission field could be likened to an open frontier to seed and water—cultivating the digital space “where the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few” (Luke 10:2). Imagine embracing social communities in which disciples tik tok a testimony of His saving grace--trending the Good News into tweeter feeds. Hashtag Jesus #The Way, #The Truth and The Light of the world. The Gospel must go forward.

From this writer's perspective, we live in a fast paced, technological data-driven society. With a strong internet connection, one can download volumes of information in mere seconds. A lost and dying world is googling for answers that can only be found in the risen Savior—Jesus Christ.

With the commission to go into all the world (Matthew 28:19-20), the **ekklesia** (the called out ones) has a responsibility to engage in discipleship. The gradual process of returning to in-person worship failed to alleviate the need for continuous spiritual growth. Implementing the Zoom platform fosters discipleship via teaching and sharing all that Jesus' directed within an online community setting—putting us beyond our walls—connecting with believers from different localities, ensuring that the church emerges on the solid rock that Jesus Christ declared it would be.

The Ministry of Congregational Spirituality prays that our household of faith will submit ourselves and all that the Lord has made available to us for the spreading of the gospel. May every congregant yield his/her device, and social media accounts to the Holy Spirit's leading. May our twenty-one days of prayer and fasting renew our vigor and passion to reach souls with the Good News. And may every disciple's life speak to the Lordship of Jesus Christ—even into the digital space.

Peace and Blessings.





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<https://daily-devotional.org/daily-devotions/mobile-connectivity/>

**Day 12 – By All Means** by Rev. Jimmy Lin

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/by-all-means>

**Day 13 – God's Global People** by Dr. Robert Heerspink

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/gods-global-people-2009-01-26>

**Day 14 – The Mission of the Church** by Paul M'pindi

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/the-mission-of-the-church-2006-09-01>

**Day 15 – Going viral** by Linda Bailey

<https://daily-devotional.org/daily-devotions/going-viral-2/>

**Day 16 – If God had social media** by Sarinette Caraballo Pacheco

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/21132-god-in-social-media/day/1>

**Day 17 – #ImtheEvidenceDoing** by Sarinette Caraballo Pacheco

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/21132-god-in-social-media/day/2>

**Day 18 – No Fast-food Discipleship** by Paul M'pindi

<https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/no-fast-food-discipleship-2006-09-21>

**Day 19 – True Discipleship** by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

<https://cbnIsrael.org/2022/09/19/weekly-devotional-true-discipleship/>

**Day 20 – How's Your Temper?** by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

<https://cbnIsrael.org/2022/10/24/weekly-devotional-hows-your-temper/>

**Day 21 – The Law of Christ** by CBN ISRAEL IN BLOG

<https://cbnIsrael.org/2022/08/29/weekly-devotional-the-law-of-christ/>

## Endnotes and Additional Resources

For additional study material about The Daniel Fast cited in this guide, please refer to the following websites and resources:

1. <http://draxe.com/daniel-fast>
2. **Honoring God Through the Daniel Fast** by Terrance Day, published in 2009  
<http://www.danielfast.net>
3. **Daniel Fast 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting**, New Life Worship Center  
[www.newlifealtoona.org](http://www.newlifealtoona.org)

### Tips for Family Resources Fasting: How do I include my young children and teens?

1. <http://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/fasting-as-a-family.html>
2. <https://danielfast.wordpress.com/2008/08/11/teens-on-the-daniel-fast/>
3. <https://danielplan.com/faith/>

## Bibliography

Barna Research, Benjamin Windle. 2021. *Excerpt: Digital Church in a Lonely World—7 Ingredients of Church Community-Articles in Faith & Christianity*. December 01. Accessed September 2022.  
<https://www.barna.com/research/digital-church-community/>.

## Website Resources

**The internet is a mission field: Discover how you can be a virtual missionary** by Joel A Moroney  
<https://fervr.net/entertainment/the-internet-is-a-mission-field>

**10 Prayer Copyright © 2022, Crosswalk.com.**

<https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/your-daily-prayer/a-prayer-for-serving-others-with-joy-your-daily-prayer-april-11-2017.html>

## Closing Prayer

**H**eavenly Father, Your servants have been warned. The 21<sup>st</sup> century sons of Issachar sense the urgency to shift how we do ministry in a technologically driven world. May we be good stewards of the resources and tools with which You have blessed us for the advancement of The Gospel.

O Sovereign God, we are cognizant that we will face challenges due to the times in which we live. For many will hear but not receive. Men's hearts will run cold. Yet, Lord we pray for souls to come into the kingdom. For everyone that shall hear The Gospel and believe shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of discernment rest upon Your disciples. Help us to recognize You, God Almighty, El-Shaddai, as the Omniscient Father that are, and to follow Your leading in conducting the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20. Through Your perfect love, fear is cast out—for You are with us. Your omnipresence surrounds us.

Gracious Father, as it was in 2022, we continue to seek Your face moving forwarding in 2023. We thank You for the gift of technology and blessing us with the tools, skill sets, and talents to navigate within the digital world. Holy Spirit, teach us to apply wisdom to our posts and tweets and to build relationships that nurture and encourage believers along their faith journey. We expect sinners to be converted unto You. Draw souls into discipleship through the utilization of digital platforms. O that our search engines would reflect a hunger and thirst for holiness. May our content create algorithms that will lead souls to the One who is able to save.

Thank you, Lord, for blotting out our transgressions and our online offenses. Have mercy on us, O God and forgive our insensitive comments, pictures, or any liberties that might have been an obstacle to our Christian witness. Holy Spirit, You are our Helper and we thank You for guarding us from the snare of the enemy. You constrain us from rendering evil for evil. You comfort and strengthen us to overcome evil with good when engaging on social media.

Shepherd our Second Calvary Baptist Church family, its spiritual leadership, its eight core ministry leadership teams, and every auxiliary branch of Zion where You have planted us and where You lead us to go. May all You have entrusted to us be an instrument of righteousness. Order our steps—our digital footprint—to serve as light for those seeking eternal hope. Command Your angels to keep charge over us as we spread The Gospel into the digital world. Be with us according to Your Word—even unto the end of the age.

Hear our cry, O Lord, in the name of Your only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, Amen.

