



ENGEDI CHURCH

21 DAYS TO AWAKEN

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PREFACE: **AWAKEN HOLY HUNGER**

The snow reached nearly to his knees.

David Brainerd was twenty-nine years old and dying.

Tuberculosis had ravaged his body. Every breath hurt. Every mile through the forests of New England demanded strength he no longer possessed. Yet on this particular day he pushed deeper into the wilderness and found a place alone among the trees.

There, surrounded by silence, he fell to his knees and began to pray.

Hours passed.

His journal records show that he became so burdened for the Native American people among whom he ministered that he forgot the cold, forgot his weakness, forgot himself altogether. He wrote that he was "in such anguish" for their salvation that he could do little else but cry out to God. For hours he remained on his knees, pleading that men and women who did not know Christ might come to know Him. The fervor of his intercession was so great that when he finally rose, the snow had melted completely around him, leaving a circle where he had knelt in prayer.

Brainerd would not live much longer.

But revival would come.

In 1745, while ministering primarily among the Delaware (Lenape) people in places such as Crossweeksung, New Jersey, Brainerd witnessed an extraordinary spiritual awakening. Men and women who had previously shown little interest in Christianity became deeply attentive to the gospel. Entire families gathered to hear him teach. Many professed faith in Christ, abandoned destructive practices, reconciled relationships, and formed worshiping communities.

Every great move of God begins with a hunger that refuses to be satisfied. Before revival sweeps through cities, someone begins to pray. Before the Spirit is poured out on crowds, God awakens desire in a single heart. Before nations are changed, there is often a hidden season where ordinary men and women become desperate for more of God.

David Brainerd knew that desperation.

What distinguished him was not his preaching, his accomplishments, or even the revival that eventually followed his ministry. It was his hunger for God.

His journals describe long hours spent alone in prayer. Sometimes he wandered into the woods simply to seek the presence of God. He wrote of moments when he became so overwhelmed by the beauty and glory of Christ that everything else faded into the background. His deepest desire was not success, influence, or comfort. It was God Himself.

That hunger did not die with Brainerd. After the young missionary died at age twenty-nine in the home of Jonathan Edwards, the great theologian preserved Brainerd's journals and published the story of his life. The account spread far beyond the forests where Brainerd had prayed, inspiring generations of believers to seek God with greater devotion. Missionaries such as William Carey, Henry Martyn, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, and Jim Elliot would later find encouragement in the example of a young man whose passion for Christ burned brighter than his brief life.

This is what these 21 Days to Awaken are about.

This journey is built around three movements that have marked every awakening throughout Scripture and church history.

First comes surrender.

Before God fills a life, He asks for it. Before the fire falls, the altar must be prepared. During our first week, we will walk alongside men and women who laid everything at the feet of Jesus and discovered that surrender is not loss, but freedom.

Second comes prayer.

Every awakening has been preceded by praying people. Not casual prayer, but persistent, desperate, faith-filled prayer. During our second week, we will learn from those who sought God with their whole hearts and refused to stop asking, seeking, and knocking.

Third comes holy expectation.

God has not changed. The Spirit has not retired. The miracles, healings, conversions, and transformations we read about in Scripture and history are reminders that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. During our final week, we will explore stories that awaken faith and remind us that God still moves in powerful ways today.

Let these 21 days become a holy disruption. Let them awaken fresh hunger for the presence of God. Let them stir deeper prayer. Let them create expectancy for what only God can do.

Throughout history, whenever God has been about to do a new thing, He has first awakened hunger in the hearts of His people.

May He do it again.

"My desires apparently centered in God, and I found a sensible attraction of soul after him sundry times to-day. I know that I long for God, and a conformity to his will, in inward purity and holiness, ten thousand times more than for any thing here below."

(David Brainerd, April 15, 1742)

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Welcome to 21 Days to Awaken.

This devotional is more than a collection of stories. It is an invitation.

For the next twenty-one days, you will walk alongside men and women whose lives were marked by surrender, prayer, and holy expectation. Some were missionaries. Some were martyrs. Some were revivalists. Some lived in obscurity. Each discovered something that transformed their lives: God responds to hungry hearts.

As you read, remember that the goal is not simply to learn about awakening.

The goal is to experience it.

READ SLOWLY

Resist the temptation to rush ahead. Read one devotional each day and allow the story, Scripture, and reflection to settle into your heart.

Sometimes God speaks through a sentence.

Sometimes through a story.

Sometimes through a question you cannot shake.

Give the Spirit room to work.

PRAY HONESTLY

Each day includes a prayer prompt. Use it as a starting point, not a script. Talk with God honestly about what you are learning, feeling, and experiencing. Ask Him to search your heart, deepen your faith, and awaken fresh hunger within you.

PRACTICE THE FAST

Every devotional includes a fasting challenge. Some will involve food. Others may involve media, comfort, convenience, or distractions. The purpose is not self-denial for its own sake. The purpose is to create space for God. When you feel the absence of what you have set aside, let it remind you to pray.

WORSHIP DAILY

Each day concludes with a worship prompt. Whenever possible, spend time worshiping through the suggested song or another meaningful expression. Worship has a way of moving truth from our minds into our hearts.

JOURNAL THE JOURNEY

Consider keeping a notebook throughout these twenty-one days.

Write down:

- Scriptures that stand out.
- Prayers God answers.
- Insights from the Holy Spirit.
- Areas of growth or conviction.
- Names of people you are praying for.
- Moments when you sense God speaking.

You may be surprised by what you discover when you look back.

COME EXPECTANT

Throughout this devotional, you will encounter stories of answered prayers, transformed lives, miraculous provision, spiritual awakening, and extraordinary encounters with God. These stories are not included to impress you. They are included to remind you that God is still at work. The same Spirit who moved in the pages of Scripture and throughout church history is still moving today. Come expectant.

JOIN THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

If possible, walk through these twenty-one days with others. Discuss what you are learning. Share prayer requests. Encourage one another. Pray together. Awakening has often spread through communities of people seeking God together.

PREPARE FOR AWAKEN

Everything in this devotional is leading somewhere. These twenty-one days are designed to prepare our hearts for the Awaken weekend – three evenings and a Sunday set apart for worship, prayer, teaching, and encountering God together.

Do not simply attend.

Prepare.

Come hungry.

Come surrendered.

Come expectant.

God often meets those who intentionally seek Him.

As David Brainerd discovered in the forests of colonial America, the greatest awakenings begin long before the crowds gather. They begin when a heart becomes hungry for God.

May these next twenty-one days awaken within you a deeper love for Christ, a stronger commitment to prayer, and a greater expectation for what God can do.

**“I love to live on the brink of eternity.
May I never loiter in my heavenly journey.”
(David Brainerd)**

WEEK ONE:

SURRENDERED HEARTS



AUG 20

DAY ONE: LEAVE EVERYTHING

Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor...Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19.21)

DEVOTION:

Every awakening begins with a surrender.

Before there is revival, there is an altar. Before there is power, there is sacrifice. Before God fills a life, He first asks for it. Few people illustrate this better than Francis of Assisi.

Born in Italy around 1181, Francis grew up surrounded by wealth, comfort, and opportunity. His father was a successful cloth merchant, and Francis enjoyed the privileges of a prosperous life. He loved parties, dreamed of becoming a knight, and sought the admiration of others. If anyone appeared destined for success by the world's standards, it was Francis.

But God had other plans.

After a series of military defeats, illnesses, and disappointments, Francis began to sense that something was missing. The pursuits that once satisfied him suddenly felt hollow. Wealth could not quiet the restlessness in his soul. Status could not satisfy the deeper hunger growing within him. God was awakening something.

One day, while praying in the crumbling church of San Damiano, Francis sensed Christ speaking to him:

"Francis, rebuild My church."

At first, he thought Jesus meant the physical building before him. He sold some of his father's valuable cloth to fund repairs. His father was furious. The conflict eventually led Francis before the bishop of Assisi.

What happened next shocked everyone.

Standing before the crowd, Francis removed the fine clothes his father had given him, laid them on the ground, and renounced his claim to his family's wealth and inheritance. He declared that from that moment forward, his Father was in heaven.

It was a dramatic act of surrender.

Francis understood something many of us struggle to learn. God is not interested in being one part of our lives. He desires all of it. Awakening begins when we stop negotiating with God and start trusting Him completely.

The remarkable thing is that Francis did not become less alive through surrender. He became more alive than ever. Freed from the need to impress others, he devoted himself to prayer, serving the poor, caring for lepers, and proclaiming Christ. His joy became contagious. What began with one surrendered life became a movement that transformed countless others.

Many people want revival, but few are willing to surrender.

We ask God to send fire while quietly protecting the things we do not want Him to touch. Throughout history, awakening has almost always begun with men and women who placed everything on the altar and said, "Lord, whatever You want." That is where our journey begins.

Before we ask God to move in our church, city, or nation, we must first allow Him to move in us. The question is not whether God wants to awaken His people. The question is whether we are willing to surrender everything that stands in the way.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, I place my life on the altar again. Search my heart and reveal anything I am holding back from You. Give me the courage to trust You completely."

Fasting Challenge:

Choose one comfort, convenience, or form of entertainment and surrender it for the next 24 hours. Each time you notice its absence, pray: "Jesus, You are enough for me."

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "I Surrender" by Hillsong Worship.

**"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
(Francis of Assisi)**

AUG 21

DAY TWO:

INTO THE WILDERNESS

Antony of the Desert (251-356)

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1.35)

DEVOTION:

The pathway to awakening often leads through the wilderness.

That may sound strange to us. We tend to associate spiritual vitality with crowds, conferences, worship services, and activity. Throughout Scripture, some of God's deepest work happened in lonely places. Moses met God in the wilderness. Elijah heard God's whisper in the wilderness. John the Baptist was formed in the wilderness. Even Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness before beginning His public ministry. The desert has always been one of God's classrooms.

Few people understood this better than Antony of the Desert.

Born in Egypt around AD 251, Antony grew up in a wealthy Christian family. When he was about twenty years old, both of his parents died, leaving him responsible for his younger sister and a substantial inheritance. One day while attending church, he heard the words of Jesus read aloud:

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor... Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19.21)

Unlike many who admire Jesus' words from a distance, Antony took these words to heart. He distributed his wealth, entrusted the care of his sister to a community of believers, and withdrew into the Egyptian desert to seek God.

At first glance, his decision seems extreme. Why would someone leave society, comfort, and opportunity behind? Because Antony recognized something that many of us miss. Noise can drown out the voice of God.

The desert was not about escape. It was about attention.

In the silence, Antony began confronting the deeper realities of his own heart. The ancient stories describe fierce spiritual battles, temptations, fears, distractions, pride, anger, and discouragement. One account tells of Antony withdrawing to an abandoned tomb on the edge of the desert. There he devoted himself to prayer and fasting, seeking God in solitude. The deeper he ventured into the wilderness, the more intense the struggle became.

One night the battle became so severe that friends found him collapsed and barely conscious. Believing he could not continue, they carried him back to the village.

After recovering, Antony did something remarkable. He returned to the desert.

Later, Antony is said to have cried out, "Lord, where were You? Why did You not appear from the beginning to stop my suffering?"

The answer came:

"I was here, Antony. But I waited to see your fight."

Whether we understand the story as spiritual warfare, emotional anguish, or the painful process of confronting his own heart, the lesson remains the same: the wilderness exposed everything that competed for his affection and devotion. This is what solitude often does.

When the noise fades, we discover what is really happening inside us. The wilderness did not reveal God's absence. It revealed God's presence in the midst of the struggle.

The desert stripped away the distractions that prevented Antony from hearing God clearly. Over time, people began seeking him out for wisdom, counsel, and prayer. Ironically, the man who fled the crowds became one of the most influential spiritual leaders of his generation. Others followed his example, and a movement emerged that would become known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers.

Ironically, the movement did not begin with influence. It began with surrender. It began with silence. It began with a man willing to step away long enough to listen.

Many of us spend our lives surrounded by noise.

Notifications, schedules, responsibilities, entertainment, and endless distractions compete for our attention every moment of the day. Awakening often begins when we intentionally create space for God. The goal is not to escape the world.

The goal is to encounter God.

As we begin this journey toward awakening, perhaps the greatest challenge is not learning how to do more for God but learning how to be still before Him. Sometimes the voice we most need to hear is the one that has been speaking all along.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, quiet the noise within me. Help me to hear Your voice above every distraction. Teach me to seek Your presence more than I seek comfort, activity, or approval."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from all non-essential media for the remainder of the day.

(social media, podcasts, streaming, etc.) Spend at least fifteen minutes in silence before God.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Make Room" by Community Music.

**"Whoever sits alone and is quiet has escaped from three wars: hearing, speaking, and seeing. Yet against one thing he must continually battle: his own heart."
(Antony of the Desert)**

AUG 22

DAY THREE: NOTHING HELD BACK

Perpetua (181-203) & Felicitas (c. 203)

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1.21)

DEVOTION:

Revival has always carried a cost.

We love stories of miracles, breakthroughs, and spiritual awakening. We celebrate the moments when God moves powerfully, and lives are transformed. But beneath nearly every great movement of God stands a quieter reality: men and women who decided that Jesus was worth everything.

In AD 203, during a wave of persecution in North Africa, a young noblewoman named Perpetua was arrested for following Christ. She was only twenty-two years old. She was educated, wealthy, and the mother of an infant son. Alongside her was Felicitas, a young servant who was pregnant with her first child.

The Roman authorities offered them a simple choice:

Renounce Christ and live.

Remain faithful and die.

Perpetua's father pleaded with her. He begged her to think of her family, her future, and her child. Again and again, he urged her to abandon her faith.

But Perpetua refused.

According to her prison diary, one of the earliest Christian writings authored by a woman, she pointed to a nearby vessel and asked her father if it could be called by any other name than what it was.

"No," he replied.

"Neither," she explained, "can I call myself anything other than what I am.

A Christian."

Her identity belonged to Christ. Nothing could change that.

Days before the execution, Felicitas went into labor in prison and gave birth to a daughter. The guards mocked her cries of pain. "If you suffer so much now, what will you do when you face the beasts in the arena?" they asked.

Her response has echoed through history:

"Now it is I who suffer what I suffer. Then there will be Another in me who will suffer for me, because I also will be suffering for Him."

Soon afterward, Perpetua and Felicitas entered the arena together. The crowd expected terror. Instead, they witnessed courage. When the animals charged, both women were thrown violently to the ground. Perpetua's clothing was torn in the attack. Rather than panic, she quietly gathered her garment around herself and rose to her feet. Then, seeing Felicitas injured nearby, she crossed the arena, helped her friend stand, and together they faced the crowd.

Rome intended the spectacle to inspire fear. Instead, it revealed faith. The Empire possessed military power, political authority, wealth, and influence. Yet it could not conquer two women whose lives had already been surrendered to Christ.

When the spectacle finally came to an end, the two young women exchanged the kiss of peace and prepared to meet Christ. The young gladiator assigned to execute Perpetua trembled as he approached. Seeing his hesitation, Perpetua herself guided the sword to her throat.

Long before she entered the arena, she had already surrendered everything. The Empire believed it was ending two lives. In reality, it was witnessing a faith that could not be conquered.

That is the mystery of surrender.

When everything belongs to Jesus, fear loses its grip.

Most of us will never face an arena filled with wild animals. Yet every day we face smaller opportunities to compromise. We are tempted to choose comfort over obedience, approval over faithfulness, safety over trust.

Awakening begins when we stop asking, "What will this cost me?" and start asking, "Is Jesus worthy?"

Perpetua and Felicitas remind us that surrender is not merely giving God our possessions, our schedules, or our plans.

It is giving Him ourselves. Completely.

The remarkable thing is that the blood of the martyrs became the seedbed of the Church. What Rome intended to destroy only spread. The courage of believers like Perpetua and Felicitas inspired countless others to follow Christ regardless of the cost.

Their lives proclaim a truth that every awakening eventually discovers: Jesus is worth everything.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord Jesus, help me surrender every area of my life to You. Give me courage to remain faithful when obedience is difficult and trust You above every fear."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from approval-seeking today. Do not check social media likes, comments, reactions, or analytics. Instead ask: "Am I more concerned with pleasing God or people?"

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Belongs to You" by Engedi Music.

**"I cannot be called anything other than what I am, a Christian."
(Perpetua)**



AUG 23

DAY FOUR:

THREE COINS, A BIBLE, & A SURRENDERED LIFE

Gladys Aylward (1902-1970)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

DEVOTION:

Three small copper coins.

That was all Gladys Aylward had to her name.

She sat alone in her room holding a dream that seemed impossible. For years she had believed God was calling her to China. Yet nothing about her circumstances suggested it would ever happen. She had left school at fourteen, worked as a maid, and failed missionary training school.

The verdict was crushing. "You don't have what it takes to be a missionary."

For many people, that would have been the end of the story. For Gladys, it was the beginning.

One evening, discouraged and uncertain, she opened her Bible to the book of Nehemiah. As she read about a man who left everything to rebuild Jerusalem, she felt God speaking to her heart.

"Is Nehemiah's God your God?" "Yes," she answered. "Then do what Nehemiah did, and go." "But I am not Nehemiah." The answer came: "No, but I am his God." That settled it. Gladys placed her Bible on the bed. Beside it she laid all the money she possessed: three small copper coins.

Then she prayed a prayer that would shape the rest of her life:

"God, here's my Bible. Here's my money. Here's me. Use me."

That was the secret of Gladys Aylward.

Surrender.

From that moment forward she saved every penny she could. She worked extra hours and sold personal belongings. Eventually she bought a train ticket and began the dangerous journey across Europe and Asia toward a country she had never seen.

In China, Gladys became known as Ai-weh-dah, "The Small Woman." She established a refuge center for travelers called the Inn of Eight Happinesses, where food, lodging and stories about Jesus were freely shared.

Over time, her compassion and integrity earned the trust of villagers, local leaders, and government officials alike.

One burden especially captured her heart: the suffering of women and girls.

For centuries, young girls in China endured foot binding. Their feet were wrapped so tightly that bones broke and deformed as they grew. What society called beauty often produced a lifetime of pain.

Gladys could not look away.

She prayed for change, and God used her to become the answer to that prayer.

Then something unexpected happened. The local Mandarin appointed her an official foot inspector. It was a remarkable assignment for a foreign woman. Village after village she traveled. Tradition resisted. Some protested. Others listened.

Gladys would stand before families and declare: "Unbind that child's feet." One by one the bindings came off.

One village at a time.

One girl at a time.

One foot at a time.

As she helped set feet free, she told people about Jesus, the One who came to set hearts free.

Years later, that surrender would be tested in a way she never imagined. In 1938, Japanese forces invaded China. Bombs fell across the countryside. Villages burned and the Inn of Eight Happinesses was destroyed. Many were killed. By then, Gladys had become the mother of more than one hundred orphaned children. If they stayed, they would likely die. The only hope was to reach safety beyond the Yellow River, more than one hundred miles away. So, Ai-weh-deh gathered her children and started walking.

For twenty-seven days they crossed mountains with little food and few supplies. They slept on damp ground in wet clothes. Their feet blistered and their lips cracked from thirst. The older children carried the younger ones when they could no longer walk. Throughout the journey, Gladys continually led them in hymns.

When fear rose, they sang.

When hunger grew, they sang.

When darkness fell, they sang.

The songs reminded them that they belonged to a God greater than the war around them.

Then Japanese troops drew near. Knowing the children would be discovered if they remained together, Gladys told them to scatter and hide among the hills. One hundred children disappeared into the mountains. As she hurried toward a nearby village seeking help, soldiers spotted her and opened fire. A bullet struck her in the back. She collapsed to the ground and lay motionless for hours, waiting for darkness.

When night finally came, injured and alone, she rose and began searching for the children. One by one, across the mountains, until every child had been found. The journey continued. Finally, they reached the Yellow River, only to find no way to cross.

For four days they waited. No boat came. Gladys was feverish and sick from hunger. In distress, she thought, "These children have the wrong guide. I can't walk on water..." Just then, one of the older girls, Sulan, stood beside her and asked. "Do you remember Moses, Ai-weh-deh? God opened the Red Sea for him." Exhausted and discouraged, Gladys replied, "I am not Moses." Sulan answered, "No, but God is still God."

Looking around at the weary faces gathered beside the river, Gladys did the only thing she knew to do. She began to sing. One voice became two. Two became ten. Soon more than one hundred hungry children were singing hymns beside the riverbank.

Songs of worship, trust, and hope.

Nearby Chinese soldiers heard the sound. At first, they thought it was an aircraft in the distance. Instead, they found the tiny missionary surrounded by a hundred children singing in the midst of suffering. The soldiers stopped and helped them cross.

The issue was never whether Gladys was enough. The issue was whether God was enough. God has never required perfection before obedience.

He asks only for surrender.

Awakening begins when we stop offering God our excuses and start offering Him ourselves. Not because we are enough. Because He is.

A woman rejected by missionary school became one of the most influential missionaries of the twentieth century.

Not because she was the obvious choice.

Because she was willing.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, I surrender my fears, limitations, and excuses to You. Help me trust Your strength more than my weakness and obey whatever You ask of me."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from unnecessary spending today. Do not purchase anything beyond genuine necessities. Use the money you would have spent to bless someone else or support a ministry.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Take All of Me" by Hillsong Worship.

"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done in China. There was someone else...I don't know who God's first choice was. It must have been a man, well educated. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing. And God looked down and saw Gladys Aylward."

(Gladys Aylward)

AUG 24

DAY FIVE: RESCUING WHAT GOD LOVES

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." (James 1.27)

DEVOTION:

Some prayers change us. Others change the world.

Amy Carmichael prayed a simple prayer as a young girl in Ireland: "Lord, do with me whatever You want." She had no idea where that prayer would lead.

Born in 1867, Amy grew up in a loving Christian home. She was bright, passionate, and deeply committed to Christ. As a teenager, she began ministering to poor factory girls in Belfast, gathering them for Bible studies and prayer meetings. Even then, God was shaping her heart for those who were overlooked and forgotten.

At nineteen years old, Amy imagined serving God in China. She prepared, prayed, and planned. Then illness shut the door. Later she sailed for Japan, convinced she had finally found her assignment. Within months, sickness forced her to leave again. Two dreams had ended in disappointment. Yet Amy refused to conclude that God had abandoned her. Looking back, she would discover that the closed doors were not God's rejection. They were His redirection. In 1895, she arrived in India, the place where her true calling awaited. There she would spend the next fifty-five years pouring out her life for the people God loved.

There she uncovered a hidden horror: the systematic trafficking of young girls under the banner of religious service, known as the devadasi system. "Dedicated" to Hindu temples, these children were stripped of their freedom, sexually exploited, and physically abused. Most people turned a blind eye to this legal slavery; Amy could not.

Then one morning, before sunrise, there was a knock at the door. Standing outside was a frightened young girl. Her name was Preena. She was exhausted, dirty, and trembling. For years she had lived within the temple system. She had heard whispers about a missionary woman who loved children and helped those in trouble. So, under cover of darkness, she ran across fields, dusty roads, and past people who might return her, toward a place she hoped existed.

When Amy opened the door, the little girl collapsed into her arms. As Amy listened to her story, she knew there was a choice before her. She could look away or get involved. Amy chose love. That single knock changed everything. Soon another child came. Then another, and then dozens more. Amy realized that rescuing these children would become her life's work.

The risks were enormous. Temple authorities demanded the children be returned. Threats were common. There were times when Amy was warned that her life was in danger. Yet she refused to stop.

Why?

Because once you have held a frightened child in your arms, it becomes difficult to pretend you do not see the problem. She once wrote: "One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving." That was the secret. Her ministry was not driven by anger. It was driven by love.

Over time, Amy established what became known as the Dohnavur Fellowship, a refuge that would eventually care for hundreds of children. For more than fifty years she served in India without ever returning to her home country. She relentlessly poured out her life for those whom society had forgotten.

Then, at sixty-three years old, another unexpected turn came. While walking near Dohnavur, Amy fell into a drainage trench and severely injured her leg and back. The injuries never healed properly, leaving her largely confined to bed for much of the remaining twenty years of her life. Many would have viewed it as the end of their ministry. Amy saw it as a new assignment. From her bed she continued writing, praying, mentoring, and encouraging others. Though her body was confined, her influence continued spreading throughout the world.

Amy's story reminds us that surrender is not merely giving things up. It is allowing God's love to redirect our lives. Many people ask God, "What is Your will for me?"

Perhaps a better question is: "What breaks Your heart?"

The answer often reveals the assignment.
God loves the forgotten.
God pursues the vulnerable.
God sees those whom others overlook.

When we surrender our lives to Him, His compassion begins flowing through us. Awakening is never merely about what God wants to do in us. It is also about what God wants to do through us. The deeper our surrender becomes, the more we begin loving what He loves. The question is not whether broken people exist around us. The question is whether we see them.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, give me Your heart for people. Help me see the overlooked, the hurting, and the forgotten. Show me where You are already at work and give me the courage to join You."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from self-focus. Intentionally spend part of your day serving someone else's needs before your own. Look for one hidden act of service that no one else will notice.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Break Our Hearts" by Passion.

**"You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving."
(Amy Carmichael)**

AUG 25

DAY SIX: THE HAND THAT WOULD NOT MOVE

Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4.32)

DEVOTION:

Some wounds heal slowly.

Others linger for years beneath the surface.

Sometimes the hardest thing to surrender is not our possessions, our plans, or our comfort; it is our right to hold on to a wound.

Corrie ten Boom understood this better than most.

During World War II, Corrie and her family risked their lives hiding Jewish refugees from the Nazis in their home in Holland. Eventually they were discovered and arrested. Corrie, her sister Betsie, and other members of the family were sent to concentration camps, where hunger, disease, humiliation, forced labor, and death became part of daily life. Yet even there, Corrie and Betsie quietly shared Scripture, prayed with fellow prisoners, and pointed people toward Christ.

Betsie would not survive Ravensbrück.

Corrie would.

After the war, she began traveling throughout Europe telling the story of God's faithfulness and speaking about the forgiveness found in Christ. It was a message she had earned the right to preach. Again and again, she testified that God's grace was greater than hatred, evil, suffering, and the horrors she had witnessed during the war.

Then one evening, after speaking at a church in Germany, Corrie saw a man making his way through the crowd toward her. Immediately, she recognized his face. This man had been one of the guards.

He extended his hand and introduced himself. Since the war, he explained, he had become a Christian. He spoke gratefully of God's forgiveness and the new life he had found in Christ. Then came the question Corrie never expected to hear.

"Will you forgive me?"

For a moment, time seemed to stand still.

Suddenly, images of crowded barracks and the suffering filled her mind. She remembered the cruelty and thought of Betsie, whose life had ended in that terrible place. Everything within her resisted. The man's hand remained stretched out, as the words still echoed in her soul: "Will you forgive me?"

Later Corrie admitted that she could not forgive him. At least, not in her own strength. She knew what Jesus taught about forgiveness. She had preached on it countless times. Yet, standing before the man who represented some of the darkest moments of her life, she discovered that preaching forgiveness and extending forgiveness are not always the same thing.

Her hand felt frozen at her side.

She knew what she ought to do, but she could not make herself do it. Silently she prayed: "Jesus, help me." Then, she did the only thing she could do.

She lifted her hand.

Not because she felt forgiving, or because the pain had mysteriously disappeared. With memories as real in that moment as when they happened, she extended it as a pure act of obedience.

Years later she wrote that as she grasped his hand, something unexpected happened. The forgiveness she could not produce on her own flowed through her from Christ Himself. What began as obedience became genuine grace.

The story reminds us that some of the deepest barriers to spiritual awakening are not found outside us, but within us. We long for God to fill our hearts with His Spirit, yet sometimes our hearts remain crowded with old wounds, resentments, disappointments, and debts we refuse to release. We pray for revival while replaying injuries we cannot forget.

Forgiveness does not excuse evil. It does not erase consequences. It does not require us to pretend that the wrong never happened. But forgiveness does surrender our right to carry the burden forever.

Perhaps that is why Jesus spoke so often about it. A heart filled with bitterness has little room for love, just as a heart consumed by resentment struggles to receive grace. Corrie's miracle was not merely that she survived Ravensbrück. It was that Christ enabled her to forgive. Revival begins with surrender, and sometimes the hardest surrender is not our possessions, our plans, or our comfort. Sometimes it is our wounds. While we cannot change what was done to us, we can always choose what we do with it.

Corrie placed her pain into the hands of Christ and discovered that His grace was greater than her bitterness.

The same invitation remains before us today.

What wound might God be asking you to release?

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord Jesus, search my heart. Reveal any bitterness, resentment, or unforgiveness I am still carrying. Give me the courage to release every wound into Your hands and trust You with what I cannot heal."

Fasting Challenge:

Skip one meal today. During that time, ask God to bring to mind any person you need to forgive. Pray for them by name and ask Christ to begin softening your heart. If appropriate, take one practical step toward reconciliation.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Hosanna" by Hillsong UNITED.

**"Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."
(Corrie ten Boom)**



AUG 26

DAY SEVEN: PREACHING TO AN EMPTY ROOM

Stephen Grellet (1773-1855)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6.9)

DEVOTION:

Most of us want to know that our efforts matter.

We want to see results. We want visible fruit. We want confirmation that our obedience is accomplishing something. Yet some of God's most important work happens beyond the reach of our eyes.

Stephen Grellet learned this lesson in a way he would never forget.

Born into a wealthy French family, Grellet's life was forever altered by the upheaval of the French Revolution. Eventually he immigrated to the United States, where he encountered Christ and immediately became passionate about telling others the story of Jesus.

In 1799, Grellet and fellow missionary John Hall traveled south from Philadelphia into North Carolina. The journey led them through the rugged hills of Appalachian country. In his journal, Grellet recalled contending with rattlesnakes, wolves, hunger, storms, and the countless hardships of frontier travel. Yet he preached Christ everywhere he went. Whether speaking with a mountaineer, a farmer, a merchant, or a slave, he looked for every opportunity to share the hope he had found in Jesus. Eventually the journey ended, and Grellet returned home to Pennsylvania.

Not long after arriving, he sensed the Holy Spirit speaking to his heart: "Go back and preach to those lonely men." Immediately, he knew who the Spirit meant. During his travels, he had passed a camp of lumberjacks deep in the forest. These were men notorious for drunkenness and lawlessness. Grellet had continued on his journey without stopping, but now the burden would not leave him.

The next day, he set out deep into the woods. After nearly three days of grueling travel, he finally reached the camp. It was empty. Not a single lumberjack remained. The men had moved deeper into the forest to another work site, leaving no indication of when they might return. It could be days or even weeks before anyone set foot in the camp again.

Confused and discouraged, Grellet entered the large lodge where the men normally gathered for meals. Rows of empty tables stretched before him; empty chairs sat scattered throughout the room. Dust and silence filled the building. For the first time, he began questioning whether he had truly heard God's voice. Had he misunderstood? Had he traveled all this way for nothing?

Turning to leave, he sensed another impression deep within his spirit: "Stop. There was no mistake. This is exactly where you are supposed to be." Grellet prayed quietly for guidance, and the response came: "Give your message. It is not yours, but Mine."

So, he turned around. Walking to the front of the empty lodge, he climbed onto a chair and began preaching as though two hundred men were seated before him. He raised his voice, preaching to the empty room with greater fervor and passion than he ever had to a large crowd. What is more, he felt the power of God surging through his being like nothing he had ever experienced. He proclaimed the love of God, the tragedy of sin, and the reconciliation made possible through Jesus Christ, sensing the presence of God in a way he had rarely known before. When he finished, he prayed aloud for the absent lumberjacks. Then, he ate some bread he had brought with him, drank from a nearby stream, and began the long journey home.

He never saw a single lumberjack, yet he carried a deep peace within his heart, believing he had done exactly what God asked.

Then, years later and a continent away, while crossing London Bridge, Grellet was suddenly stopped by a stranger. "There you are!" the man exclaimed. "I've finally found you!" Surprised, Grellet assumed the man must be mistaken. But the stranger insisted. "You're the man from the woods." Slowly the story unfolded. The stranger had been one of the lumberjacks.

"The man from the woods?" Grellet asked.

"The preacher in the lumberjack camp."

Suddenly, a memory began to surface.

The stranger continued.

"Do you remember that camp deep in the forest? You thought you were alone that day, but you weren't. All the men had moved on to another work site, but I had forgotten my saw and tools and returned to retrieve them. As I approached the lodge, I heard a man's voice booming from inside. Out of curiosity, I found an opening in the wall where the chinks of wood fit together. I peered through the hole, and there I saw you preaching. I listened to everything you said.

My life was forever changed because of that day. I was full of peace and joy, yet miserable about the state of my soul. I was convicted of my sin and the life I had been living. Yet you spoke of a way back to the Father. A way back home.

I got hold of a Bible and began learning more about the way of Jesus.

At first the other woodcutters made fun of me, but it's share and share alike in the forest. I told them everything I had heard. I gave them no peace until they too were brought home to God."

The man's eyes filled with tears.

"Three of those men became preachers and carried the message into other districts. At least a thousand people have been brought home to the Good Shepherd by that sermon of yours which you preached to nobody."

Grellet stood speechless.

Years earlier, he had questioned whether he had heard God's voice correctly. He had traveled for days, preached to empty chairs, and returned home without seeing a single result.

Yet God had been at work the entire time.

Stephen Grellet discovered something every follower of Jesus must eventually learn: faithfulness and fruitfulness are not always seen at the same moment.

Most of us want immediate results. We want visible evidence that our obedience matters. We want confirmation that our prayers, conversations, invitations, and acts of service are making a difference.

God often works beyond the reach of our eyes.

A conversation we barely remember may shape a life. A prayer offered in faith may bear fruit years later. A simple act of obedience may become the starting point of a story only heaven can fully tell.

The room looked empty.

It wasn't.

Surrender is not merely giving God our possessions, our comfort, or our plans. It is trusting Him enough to obey even when we cannot see what He is doing.

The harvest belongs to Him. Our part is simply to be faithful.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me trust You when I cannot see the results of my obedience. Give me the courage to be faithful in the small things and to leave the outcome in Your hands."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from complaining today. Every time you are tempted to complain, pray: "Lord, help me remain faithful even when I cannot see results."

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "A.S.K." by Engedi Music.

**"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now."
(Stephen Grellet)**





WEEK TWO: **PRAYING HEARTS**

AUG 27

DAY EIGHT: **THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER**

Acts 2 & The First Pentecost

"They all joined together constantly in prayer." (Acts 1.14)

DEVOTION:

Every awakening begins with surrendered people. However, surrendered people eventually face a question: Now what?

That was the situation facing the disciples after the resurrection of Jesus.

For three years they had walked dusty roads with Him. They had witnessed miracles, listened to Jesus' teaching, watched Him die, and then encountered Him alive again. For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to them repeatedly, teaching them about the kingdom of God.

Then, from the Mount of Olives, He ascended into heaven. Before leaving, He gave them a promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." (Acts 1:8) He also gave them an instruction.

"Wait."

Jesus did not tell them how long they would wait. He did not provide a timeline or explain exactly what would happen. He simply told them to remain in Jerusalem until the Promise of the Father came.

For ten days they waited.

At first, the waiting may not have seemed difficult. Surely something would happen quickly. After all, they had seen the risen Christ with their own eyes. The kingdom of God seemed ready to burst onto the scene.

Yet one day passed,
then another,
and then another.

The city around them buzzed with activity while they gathered to pray. About one hundred and twenty believers crowded into an upper room. Peter, John, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were all there. Fishermen sat beside former tax collectors, as men and women from vastly different backgrounds joined together with a common purpose.

Some undoubtedly carried lingering questions.

What would happen next? What exactly did Jesus mean by power? How much longer would they have to wait?

None of them knew.

What they did know was that Jesus had told them to remain. So, they prayed.

The longer one reflects on Acts 1, the more remarkable that prayer meeting becomes. They had no strategy for reaching the world. There was no organizational structure, buildings, influence, or political power.

They only had a promise.

Day after day they gathered, seeking God together and trusting that He would do what He had said.

Then Pentecost arrived.

Jerusalem was overflowing with pilgrims. Jews from across the Roman world had come to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, one of Israel's great pilgrimage festivals. The city streets were crowded with visitors speaking languages from every corner of the empire.

Then, without warning, everything changed.

A sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the place where they were gathered. Tongues of fire appeared and rested upon them. The Holy Spirit was poured out, and ordinary men and women suddenly found themselves declaring the wonders of God in languages they had never learned.

The crowd gathered in astonishment.

Peter, who only weeks earlier had denied even knowing Jesus, stood before thousands and boldly proclaimed the gospel. The same man who had once trembled before a servant girl now preached with courage and conviction.

By the end of the day, three thousand people had been baptized.

The Church was born.

When we read Acts 2, it is easy to focus on the wind, the fire, and the miracle of languages. While those things certainly matter, they all arrived after ten days of waiting, praying, and seeking God together.

The fire of Pentecost fell at the Temple, but it was preceded by ten days in the upper room.

That pattern echoes throughout Scripture and church history. Before revival becomes public, it is almost always private. Before the fire falls, someone is praying. Before God moves powerfully through His people, He often calls them to seek Him together.

The disciples could not manufacture Pentecost. But they could position themselves to receive what God had promised.

So can we.

We live in a culture that values speed, efficiency, and immediate results. We want answers and breakthroughs now. We want God to move according to our timetable.

Sometimes God asks us to wait.

Sometimes He asks us to seek.

Sometimes He invites us to gather with other believers and pray until His promises become reality.

The upper room reminds us that God's greatest works are often preceded by patient dependence. The same Spirit who met those believers in Jerusalem is still at work today.

The question is not whether God desires to move. The question is whether we are willing to wait, seek, and pray until He does.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, teach me to wait on You. Create within me a heart that seeks Your presence more than quick answers. Help me trust Your timing and Your promises."

Fasting Challenge:

Turn off your phone and all media. Spend the hour alternating between prayer, Scripture reading, worship, and listening. Ask God to deepen your hunger for His presence.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Rest on Us" by Maverick City Music and Upperroom.

**"The Spirit was not given to make us comfortable.
The Spirit was given to make us witnesses."
(Adapted from Acts 1.8)**



AUG 28

DAY NINE: THE VOICE WITHIN

George Fox (1624-1691)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10.27)

DEVOTION:

George Fox was not looking for a new religion.

He was looking for God.

Born in England in 1624, Fox came of age during one of the most turbulent periods in English history. Civil war divided the nation. Political loyalties shifted constantly. The church was fractured by arguments and competing claims to truth. Everywhere he turned, people seemed eager to debate religion.

Yet Fox's deepest question remained unanswered.

As a young man, he became increasingly troubled about the condition of his soul. He longed for certainty, peace, and a genuine relationship with God. Surely, he thought, someone must have the answers.

He began searching.

He sought out ministers and scholars. He traveled to meet respected spiritual leaders. He listened carefully to their advice, hoping someone could help him find what his heart was seeking.

Again and again, he left disappointed.

One minister suggested that he take up smoking tobacco to calm his troubled mind. Another recommended music and recreation as a distraction from his spiritual struggles. Others offered religious formulas and theological explanations, but none seemed able to address the ache within him.

Fox wanted more than religious answers. He wanted to know God.

The search stretched into years. He wandered through fields, villages, forests, and lonely places, often spending long hours alone in prayer. Like many before him, he discovered that spiritual hunger could become its own kind of wilderness. The more he searched, the more he realized that no human teacher could satisfy the longing of his soul.

Then came the moment that changed everything. Years later Fox described it this way:

"When all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, then, oh then, I heard a voice which said, 'There is One, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition.'"

The words struck him with tremendous force.

Suddenly Fox understood what he had been missing all along. His hope was not ultimately found in a pastor, a scholar, a movement, or a system. The answer to his deepest need was not more information about Christ.

The answer was Christ Himself.

That realization transformed his life.

Fox became convinced that Jesus was not merely a figure from history but a living Savior who still guides, convicts, teaches, and speaks to His people. He began encouraging others to move beyond empty religious activity and cultivate a genuine relationship with God.

Over time, this conviction became one of the foundations of the movement that would later be known as the Quakers. Fox traveled thousands of miles on horseback, preached throughout England and beyond, endured imprisonment, persecution, and ridicule, all because he believed people needed more than religion.

They needed to encounter the living Christ.

What Fox discovered in the seventeenth century remains just as important today.

Many of us are surrounded by noise.

News headlines demand our attention. Social media fills every quiet moment. Endless opinions compete for space in our minds. Even our prayers can become one-sided conversations in which we do all the talking. Prayer was never meant to be merely a place where we present requests to God. It is also a place where we learn to recognize His voice.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice."

Notice what He did not say.

He did not say that a select few hear Him. He did not reserve His voice for prophets, pastors, or spiritual experts. He simply described what sheep do.

They know the shepherd's voice.

George Fox spent years searching for someone who could speak to his condition. In the end, he discovered that the Shepherd had been calling all along.

The same invitation remains before us.

In a world full of competing voices, God still speaks through His Word, His Spirit, conviction, wisdom, prayer, and His abiding presence.

The question is not whether He is speaking.

The question is whether we have become quiet enough to listen.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me recognize Your voice above every competing voice in my life. Quiet my fears, distractions, and anxieties. Teach me to listen and obey."

Spend some time in silence before God today. Begin with Samuel's simple prayer: "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3.9)

Sit quietly before Him. As thoughts, impressions, Scriptures, convictions, or encouragements come to mind, write them down and prayerfully test them against God's Word.

Fasting Challenge:

Practice a "listening fast." Before responding in conversations today, pause for a moment and listen carefully. Ask God to help you become a better listener to both Him and others.

NOTE: Tomorrow's fasting challenge will include fasting breakfast and lunch. Today, begin preparing your heart. Consider simplifying your evening meal, drinking extra water, and thinking about how you will use the time normally devoted to breakfast and lunch.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Encounter Song | Speak Lord - Acoustic" by Mercy Culture Worship

**"There is One, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition."
(George Fox)**



AUG 29

DAY TEN: THE CRY OF THE CAPTIVE

Patrick (c. AD 385-461)

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33.3)

DEVOTION:

Patrick never planned to become a missionary. He never dreamed of reaching Ireland. In fact, his journey began with a kidnapping.

Born in Britain around AD 385, Patrick grew up in a Christian home. His father served as a deacon and his grandfather was a pastor. However, later in life Patrick admitted that, as a boy, faith meant little to him. He knew about God, but he did not truly know Him.

Then everything changed.

When Patrick was sixteen years old, Irish raiders attacked his village and carried him across the sea to Ireland. Torn from his family and homeland, he was sold into slavery and forced to tend sheep in the rugged hills of Northern Ireland.

The years that followed were harsh and lonely. Patrick spent long days and bitter nights watching sheep in remote fields. There were no friends to encourage him, no family to comfort him, and no clear hope of escape.

In that lonely place, something unexpected happened. Patrick began to pray.

At first the prayers may have been little more than desperate cries for help. Over time they became something deeper. The young slave who had once ignored God began seeking Him with all his heart.

Years later Patrick wrote:

"The love of God and His fear came to me more and more, and my faith was strengthened. I prayed as many as one hundred times during the day, and almost as many at night."

The hills that had become his prison also became his sanctuary. The place of captivity became the place of communion. While tending sheep, Patrick learned to recognize the presence of God. While enduring hardship, he discovered that he was not alone. What his captors intended for evil, God was using to form a man of prayer.

Then, after six years of slavery, Patrick received a dream.

In it he heard a voice saying: "Your ship is ready."

Patrick believed God was speaking.

He escaped his master, traveled nearly two hundred miles across unfamiliar territory, and eventually reached the coast. There he found a ship that carried him away from Ireland and back toward home.

It seemed like the perfect ending. The captive had escaped, the lost son had returned, and the painful chapter was finally over. But God was not finished writing the story.

Years later, after preparing for ministry, Patrick had another dream.

This time he saw the people of Ireland. In the dream they called out to him: "We beg you, holy youth, come and walk among us once more."

Imagine the emotions that must have stirred within him. Ireland was the place of his suffering, the land where he had lost six years of his life and spent years trying to escape. Now, God was calling him back. The greatest test was not whether Patrick could escape Ireland. The greatest test was whether he could return.

Could he forgive those who had enslaved him?
Could he love the people who had wounded him?
Could he answer God's call even when it led back to painful memories?

Patrick said yes.

He returned to Ireland, not as a slave, but as a missionary. Over the following decades he traveled throughout the island preaching the gospel, baptizing converts, planting churches, training leaders, and sharing the good news of Jesus. Thousands came to faith in Christ. Communities were transformed. The land that had once held him captive became the place where God used him most powerfully.

The secret was not Patrick's strategy or charisma. It was what God had done in those lonely fields years before. The prayers of a captive had prepared the heart of a missionary.

Many of us spend our lives asking God to remove difficult seasons as quickly as possible. Yet sometimes the places we most want to escape become the places where God does His deepest work. The hardship we would never choose becomes the classroom where we learn dependence.

The wilderness becomes a sanctuary.

The wound becomes a calling.

Patrick's story reminds us that prayer is not merely a way out of difficulty. More often, prayer is the place where God meets us in the middle of it and begins transforming us from the inside out.

Sometimes, even years later, we discover that the very place that broke our hearts became the place where God revealed His.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me trust You in difficult seasons. Teach me to seek You in the places I would rather avoid. Turn my trials into opportunities to know You more deeply."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast through breakfast and lunch today. During these mealtimes, ask the Lord to place one specific person on your heart and pray for them during this meal time. Send them an encouraging note sharing what you prayed.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Christ Be All Around Me" by All Sons & Daughters.

**"I prayed frequently during the day. The love of God and the fear of Him
increased more and more within me."
(Confessions of St. Patrick)**



AUG 30

DAY ELEVEN: WALKING PRAYER

Aidan of Lindisfarne (c. 590-651)

"Pray continually." (1 Thessalonians 5.17)

DEVOTION:

When King Oswald invited missionaries to bring Christianity to Northumbria, a powerful kingdom stretching across much of what is now northern England and southeastern Scotland, an Irish missionary named Cormac was sent to the region. After a time, he returned discouraged and frustrated. The people, he reported, were stubborn and resistant to the gospel. The task seemed nearly impossible.

As church leaders discussed what had gone wrong, a quiet monk named Aidan offered a gentle observation. Perhaps the problem was not with the people. Perhaps they had not been patiently taught. They needed someone willing to walk alongside them rather than simply preach at them. Soon afterward, Aidan was asked to take on the mission himself.

Leaving the island monastery of Iona off the western coast of Scotland, Aidan crossed the sea and settled on the tidal island of Lindisfarne, just off the coast of Northumbria. From there he began the slow work of bringing the gospel to a region where many still followed pagan traditions and knew little of Christ.

King Oswald admired Aidan and wanted to help. He provided him with a horse so he could travel quickly throughout the kingdom. Aidan rarely used it. Whether out of simplicity, generosity, or conviction, he preferred to travel on foot.

What appeared inefficient turned out to be one of the greatest strengths of his ministry.

As he walked the roads and narrow paths of Northumbria, Aidan encountered the people he had come to serve. He met farmers working fields, shepherds tending flocks, merchants carrying goods to market, children playing near villages, and travelers making their way from one settlement to another. Rather than rushing past them, he stopped to listen. He learned their stories, answered their questions, shared the gospel, and prayed with them.

The journey itself became ministry.

Aidan did not build his influence from a platform. He built it on roads, footpaths, and village greens, one conversation at a time. Over the years the gospel spread throughout the region. Churches were planted, communities were transformed, and the mission that had once seemed impossible began bearing fruit.

What stands out most about Aidan's life is not the size of his impact. It is the way he walked with God.

The Celtic Christians who shaped Aidan's faith viewed prayer differently than many of us do today. They certainly gathered for worship and devoted seasons to prayer, but they also cultivated an awareness of God's presence throughout the ordinary rhythms of life. They prayed while traveling, working, preparing meals, tending animals, and welcoming guests. For them, prayer was not merely an activity reserved for sacred moments. It was a continual companionship with God.

Aidan carried that perspective wherever he went. For him, every road was an opportunity for prayer, every conversation a chance to serve, and every encounter an invitation to notice what God was already doing.

Many of us divide life into categories. We separate prayer time from work time, worship time from family time, and sacred moments from ordinary moments. Aidan would have found such distinctions strange. He believed God was present in all of it.

The road could become a sanctuary, a conversation could become a prayer, and a routine task could become transformed into an act of worship.

The goal was not simply to pray more words. It was to become more aware of God's presence.

That is what Paul meant when he urged believers to "pray continually." He was not commanding us to spend every waking moment speaking words to God. He was inviting us into a life of ongoing fellowship with Him. Prayer becomes less about withdrawing from life and more about walking through life with God.

Imagine carrying an awareness of God's presence into every meeting, every errand, every conversation, and every responsibility. Imagine beginning the day conversation with God, and simply continuing that dialogue throughout the hours that follow.

Aidan's life reminds us that awakening often begins when we stop confining God to certain places: it begins when we start recognizing that He is already present everywhere.

Prayer is not merely something we do.

Prayer is a way we live.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me become more aware of Your presence throughout my day. Teach me to walk with You, listen to You, and speak with You in every circumstance."

Throughout the day, pause periodically and pray: "Lord, what are You doing around me right now, and how can I join You?"

Fasting Challenge:

Choose one meal today to skip. During that time, take a walk with God. Pray for the people, homes, schools, churches, businesses, and neighborhoods around you. Ask the Lord to help you recognize where He is already at work and how you might join Him.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Where You Go I'll Go" by Brian & Jenn Johnson.

**"He was accustomed to travel everywhere on foot, unless necessity compelled him to ride, that he might have the opportunity of conversing with everyone he met."
(Bede, early English historian, describing Aidan)**



AUG 31

DAY TWELVE: PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

Brother Lawrence (1614-1691)

"The LORD is near to all who call on him." (Psalms 145.18)

DEVOTION:

Most people imagine that deep spirituality happens in extraordinary places.

We picture monasteries, prayer retreats, mountaintops, and quiet sanctuaries. We assume that if we could somehow escape the noise and responsibilities of daily life, we would finally learn to pray.

Brother Lawrence discovered something very different.

Born Nicolas Herman in France around 1614, Lawrence grew up in poverty and eventually served as a soldier. His life was marked by hardship, disappointment, and uncertainty. Yet one seemingly insignificant moment would alter the course of his life.

During a cold winter day, Lawrence noticed a tree standing bare against the sky, its branches were empty and lifeless. As he looked at it, he found himself thinking about spring. Though the tree appeared dead, he knew new leaves would eventually emerge, life would return, and the seasons would change.

The sight stirred something within him.

If God could faithfully care for a tree through the changing seasons, perhaps He could be trusted with a human life as well.

The thought never left him.

Years later, seeking to devote himself more fully to God, Lawrence entered a Carmelite monastery in Paris. Like many sincere believers, he imagined a life filled with profound spiritual experiences, expecting long hours of prayer, contemplation, and constant communion.

Instead, he was assigned to the kitchen.

For years his days were filled with preparing meals, scrubbing pots, washing dishes, carrying supplies, and serving the other monks. The work was noisy, repetitive, and often exhausting. At times the kitchen felt crowded and chaotic. Nothing about it seemed particularly spiritual.

Lawrence struggled.

He wanted to know God more deeply, yet his days were consumed by ordinary tasks. The tension frustrated him until he began experimenting with a simple idea.

What if God was just as present in the kitchen as He was in the chapel?

What if washing dishes could become an act of worship?

What if prayer was not something reserved for special moments, but something that could accompany every moment?

Slowly, Lawrence began turning his attention toward God throughout the day. While chopping vegetables, he spoke with God. While carrying water, he thanked God. While scrubbing pots, he prayed. The conversations were simple and honest. He spoke to God as one speaks to a close friend walking beside them.

Over time, something remarkable happened. The distinction between prayer and work began to disappear. Years later Lawrence wrote: "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer."

He was not suggesting that every moment felt emotional or mystical. Rather, he had learned to live with a growing awareness of God's presence. Whether in the chapel or the kitchen, whether serving communion or preparing dinner, he discovered that God was equally near.

This became the central lesson of his life.

Many of us assume we would pray more if we had fewer responsibilities. We imagine that spiritual growth requires a different schedule, season, or circumstances. Brother Lawrence reminds us that God is already present in the life we are living right now.

He is present during the morning commute.

He is present while folding laundry.

He is present during meetings, errands, dishes, yard work, and countless ordinary moments that seem insignificant.

The challenge is not finding God somewhere else.

The challenge is learning to recognize that He is already here.

Prayer is certainly expressed through dedicated times of worship, Scripture reading, and intercession. Yet it is also cultivated through a continual awareness of God's presence throughout the day. The goal is not merely to pray more words. The goal is to walk more closely with the One who is already beside us.

Brother Lawrence spent much of his life in a kitchen. Through simple acts of attentiveness, that kitchen became a sanctuary.

Perhaps your sanctuary today is not a chapel.

Perhaps it is your office.

Your classroom.

Your vehicle.

Your kitchen.

Your daily routine.

And, God is waiting to meet you there.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me become aware of Your presence throughout my day. Teach me to speak with You naturally and often, not only in special moments but in ordinary ones."

Choose one routine task today and intentionally do it with God. Speak with Him as you work. Thank Him. Listen to Him. Invite Him into the moment.

Fasting Challenge:

Choose one meal today to skip. During the time you would normally spend eating, slowly complete an ordinary task such as washing dishes, folding laundry, taking a walk, or cleaning. Resist the urge to rush. Instead, practice God's presence by turning your thoughts continually toward Him.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Nothing Else" by Cody Carnes.

**"The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament."
(Brother Lawrence)**

SEPT 01

DAY THIRTEEN: ASK AND KEEP ASKING

George Müller (1805-1898)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

DEVOTION:

George Müller wanted to prove something. Not to skeptics, but to Christians.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, many believers affirmed that God answered prayer but often spoke about it as though it belonged to another era. He had parted the Red Sea, fed Elijah, and sustained Israel in the wilderness. But could He still be trusted in the ordinary needs of everyday life?

Müller believed the answer was yes.

Born in Germany in 1805, he was an unlikely candidate to teach anyone about faith. As a young man, he lied, stole, accumulated debt, and lived recklessly. He later admitted that he was more interested in pleasing himself than God. Yet through the influence of Christian friends and the transforming power of the gospel, his life began to change.

As he grew in faith, Müller became convinced that God wanted His children to trust Him completely, not merely in theory, but in practice. He wanted his life to become a testimony that God was still living, still active, and still attentive to the prayers of His people.

After moving to Bristol, England, Müller was confronted by the desperate condition of orphaned children. The Industrial Revolution had transformed the nation, but it had also left thousands of children abandoned, hungry, and vulnerable. Many survived by begging. Others slept in doorways or wandered the streets with nowhere to go.

Müller sensed God calling him to act.

The challenge was obvious.

He had no money.

Most people would have begun by raising funds, organizing committees, and appealing to wealthy donors. Müller chose a different path. He determined that he would make his needs known to God before anyone else. If the work succeeded, he wanted the glory to belong to God alone.

What followed over the next sixty years became one of the most remarkable testimonies in Christian history.

One orphanage became several. Hundreds of children became thousands. By the end of his life, more than ten thousand orphans had been cared for through the ministry he founded. Yet the growth brought constant financial pressure. Food, clothing, and additional buildings were always in short supply; facilities required ongoing repairs, and the expanding staff required continuous support. At times, the available resources seemed impossibly small compared to the crushing demands before him.

One morning, the tension became visible to everyone as the children gathered for breakfast. The tables were meticulously set with plates in place, but there was absolutely no food in the house.

No bread.

No milk.

Nothing.

The cupboards were empty.

Müller nevertheless asked the children to sit down. Bowing his head, he thanked God for the breakfast they were about to receive.

Imagine the scene: rows of hungry children, empty tables, and a prayer of thanksgiving. Moments later, a knock echoed at the door. A local baker stood outside with an unexpected delivery. "I couldn't sleep last night," he explained. "Somehow I felt you would need bread this morning." Moved by that late-night impression, he had risen in the dark to bake fresh loaves for the entire orphanage.

Before the bread was fully distributed, another interruption arrived. A milk cart had broken down directly outside the building. Realizing the milk would spoil while he waited for repairs, the driver wondered whether the orphanage could use it.

Breakfast was served.

Stories like that occurred again and again throughout Müller's ministry. Sometimes the answer arrived at the last possible moment, sometimes it came through unexpected people, and sometimes it arrived in ways no one could have anticipated. Yet year after year, God proved faithful.

By the end of his life, Müller had recorded more than fifty thousand specific answers to prayer, with thousands of them answered on the very day or hour they were requested.

The point was never the miracles.

The point was the God behind them.

Müller understood something many of us forget. Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. Prayer is laying hold of His willingness. We do not pray because God is unaware of our needs. We pray because He delights in being trusted.

That does not mean every prayer is answered in the way we expect or according to our preferred timeline. Even Müller experienced seasons of waiting, yet he remained convinced that God's delays were not God's absence.

The same Lord who multiplied loaves beside the Sea of Galilee was still at work in nineteenth-century England. The same Father who cared for orphaned children in Bristol continually invites His people to bring every burden, every need, and every concern before Him.

So, keep asking.
Keep seeking.
Keep knocking.

Not because God is reluctant to answer, but because He is faithful.

Prayer Prompt:

"Father, teach me to trust You completely. Forgive me for relying on my own strength. Help me bring every need, every burden, and every concern before You in prayer."

Fasting Challenge:

Choose one meal today to skip. During that time, write down five specific requests you want to place before God. Pray over them by name and continue bringing them before Him throughout the remainder of this journey.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Still Do Miracles" by Engedi Music.

**"The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith,
and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety."
(George Müller)**

SEPT 02

DAY FOURTEEN: GIVE ME SOULS

John Hyde (1865-1912)

"He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" (Luke 10.2)

DEVOTION:

When John Hyde arrived in India, he carried the same hopes as many missionaries before him. He dreamed of people coming to Christ, churches being planted, and communities transformed by the gospel.

The reality was far different.

The work moved slowly, conversions were few, and opposition was common. Year after year many missionaries labored faithfully with little visible fruit. Discouragement settled over the mission field like a heavy fog.

Some responded by changing methods.

John Hyde responded by praying.

Born in Illinois in 1865, Hyde had grown up in a Christian home and felt called to missionary service while still a young man. He was not known as a great preacher, organizer, or strategist. In fact, many who met him would have considered him rather ordinary. What set him apart was not his talent, but his burden.

Again and again, fellow missionaries would find Hyde alone with God. While others slept, he prayed; while others rested, he interceded. Entire nights often passed with Hyde on his knees, crying out for the people of India and pleading with God to move.

Over time, people stopped referring to him simply as John Hyde.

They called him "Praying Hyde."

One missionary gathering became especially memorable. Each year workers from across the Punjab region gathered to encourage one another and seek God's direction. Yet many arrived weary and discouraged. The needs were overwhelming, the laborers were few, and visible results often seemed painfully small. Hyde believed the answer was not better programs.

The answer was deeper prayer.

Before one conference, he began asking God to move powerfully among both the missionaries and those they served. He spent long hours interceding, often weeping before the Lord, and as the meetings unfolded, a shift began to occur. Hearts softened, spiritual apathy gave way to a fresh hunger, and missionaries found renewed courage. As people responded to the gospel, what had begun as another ordinary gathering became a season of spiritual awakening.

Those who knew Hyde noticed a pattern.

Whenever God moved publicly, Hyde had usually been praying privately, and his prayers increasingly focused on one thing: souls.

He longed for people to know Christ.

One year he asked God to allow one person a day to come to faith through his ministry. God answered. The following year he prayed for two a day; again, God answered. Later he prayed for four a day, and then even more.

His requests grew because his confidence in God grew.

Hyde did not view people as numbers or ministry statistics. Every individual represented someone loved by God, someone for whom Christ had died, and someone whose eternity mattered. The longer he prayed, the more deeply he felt God's heart for those who were far from Him.

Friends occasionally overheard him crying out: "Give me souls, O God, or I die!"

Those words were not a slogan. They were the genuine cry of his heart.

In time, years of intense labor, travel, and prayer took a severe toll on Hyde's body. Doctors later discovered that his heart had enlarged and shifted within his chest cavity. Whether the condition resulted from illness, physical strain, or a combination of factors, many who knew him could not help but think of the immense burden he had carried for the lost.

John Hyde died in 1912 at only forty-seven years of age. Yet more than a century later, believers still remember him.

Why?

Because Hyde reminds us that prayer is not merely presenting requests to God.

Prayer changes the one who prays.

The longer Hyde spent in God's presence, the more he began caring about what God cared about. God's concerns gradually became his concerns, until his very heart began reflecting the heart of his Creator.

That transformation still happens today.

Many of us begin praying because we need something, such as wisdom, provision, healing, direction, or help. God always welcomes those prayers, yet as we spend time with Him, our communication often begins to grow far beyond our own immediate needs.

We begin noticing people differently.

We begin carrying burdens we once ignored, longing for neighbors, friends, family members, and entire communities to encounter Christ. The harvest is still plentiful and the Lord of the harvest is still listening. The question is simply whether we will care enough to ask.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, give me Your heart for people. Burden me for those who do not yet know You. Teach me to pray faithfully for the salvation of others and for awakening in my generation."

Fasting Challenge:

Choose one meal today to skip. During that time, write down the names of three people who need Jesus. Pray specifically for them and commit to carrying those names before the Lord throughout the remainder of this journey.

NOTE: Tomorrow we will enter a 24-hour fast. Today, prepare your heart. Drink plenty of water, simplify your schedule where possible, and prayerfully identify one or two burdens you will carry before the Lord during the fast.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Build Your Kingdom Here" by Rend Collective.

**"Give me souls, O God, or I die!"
(John Hyde)**



WEEK THREE:

EXPECTANT HEARTS



SEPT 03

DAY FIFTEEN: CAN GOD CHANGE A NATION?

Gregory the Illuminator (c. 257-331)

"He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others." (Daniel 2.21)

DEVOTION:

Imagine spending thirteen years in a hole in the ground.

Not a prison with walls and windows.

A pit.

The kings of Armenia used a dark underground chamber dug deep into the earth to dispose of those they wished to forget. Inside, the air was foul and vermin crawled through the darkness. Most prisoners sent to this desolate place never emerged alive.

That was where Gregory spent the next thirteen years of his life.

What makes the story even more remarkable is that Gregory's connection to Armenia began long before he was thrown into the pit.

As a child, Gregory narrowly escaped death after his father became involved in the assassination of the Armenian king. When the plot was uncovered, his entire family was executed. The young boy alone was rescued and taken to Caesarea in Cappadocia, where he was raised in a Christian home and eventually became a follower of Jesus.

Years later, believing God was calling him back to his homeland, Gregory returned to Armenia and entered the service of King Tiridates III. Unbeknownst to the king, the man now serving him was the son of the very ruler Gregory's father had helped murder.

Gregory carried no desire for revenge. He came carrying the hope of Christ.

Instead of seeing lives transformed, however, he found himself arrested. Instead of influencing a nation, he disappeared beneath it.

His crime was simple.

He refused to deny Jesus.

When Tiridates discovered that Gregory was both a Christian and the son of his father's assassin, his rage erupted. According to Armenian tradition, Gregory was thrown into the pit of Khor Virap and left there to die.

Days turned into weeks.
Weeks became months.
Months became years.

Eventually thirteen years passed.

Think about how easy it would have been to conclude that God had forgotten him. His dreams, opportunities, and future all seemed utterly gone. If Gregory had measured God's faithfulness by what he could see, he would have found little reason for hope; however, God was already working in ways no one could see.

While Gregory sat in darkness, God was not absent. Armenian tradition tells of a widow who secretly lowered bread into the pit day after day. Hidden from the king and forgotten by the nation, Gregory discovered that God's provision often arrives quietly and unseen.

Yet God was doing more than preserving Gregory's life. Events were unfolding above him that would eventually alter the course of history. King Tiridates began suffering from what ancient accounts describe as a severe mental and emotional affliction. Whatever its exact nature, neither physicians nor advisors could help him. The king who once appeared untouchable found himself desperate for relief. Then someone remembered Gregory, the follower of Christ who had been thrown into the pit thirteen years before and presumed dead.

Messengers were sent to the pit, and to their utter astonishment, Gregory was still alive. After thirteen years in darkness, he was lifted from the place that should have been his grave and brought before the king.

Imagine that moment: the ruler who had condemned Gregory now stood before him in desperate need. Gregory had every human reason to be bitter, yet instead of seeking revenge, he extended grace. Instead of condemning the king, he prayed for him, and through that prayer, the king was completely healed.

The man who had once persecuted Christians became convinced of the truth of the gospel, and over time, his conversion influenced the entire kingdom. Churches were established throughout the land, Christian leaders were appointed, and the faith spread rapidly across Armenia.

Around AD 301, Armenia became the first nation in history to officially embrace Christianity as its national faith, decades before the Roman Empire would do the same. What began silently in a dark pit ultimately ended with the transformation of an entire nation. Gregory could not have possibly imagined such an inheritance thirteen years earlier, when the heavy stone first closed above his head.

That is often how God works.

We see the pit.
God sees the nation.

We see the delay.
God sees the preparation.

We see the prison.
God sees the platform.

So much of prayer involves trusting God when His purposes remain hidden from view. We pray for our families, our churches, our communities, sometimes wonder whether anything is happening at all when the silence feels long and the answers seem delayed.

Gregory's story reminds us that God's apparent inactivity is often an illusion.

While Gregory waited underground, God was arranging circumstances above ground. While Gregory sat in darkness, God was preparing a king, and while he wondered what remained of his calling, God was preparing an answer far greater than anything he could have imagined.

That same God still works today. He is still able to do more than we ask.

More than we expect.
More than we imagine.

The question is whether we will trust Him long enough to see it.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, enlarge my vision. Forgive me for limiting what I believe You can do. Help me pray with faith for my family, my church, my city, and my nation."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast for 24-hours. During that time, pray not only for your own needs but for spiritual awakening in your community, church, region, and nation. Ask God to do what only He can do.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Highlands (Song of Ascent)" by Hillsong UNITED.

**"The God who works in hidden places is often preparing answers greater than
we can see."
(Gregory the Illuminator)**

SEPT 04

DAY SIXTEEN: EXPECT GREAT THINGS

William Carey (1761-1834)

"Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." (Habakkuk 2.3)

DEVOTION:

William Carey spent much of his life repairing shoes.

In a small English village, he worked as a cobbler, patching worn boots and mending broken leather. While his hands were occupied with ordinary work, his mind was consumed with larger questions. Books lay open beside his workbench and maps covered the walls. Whenever there was a spare moment, Carey studied geography, languages, history, and Scripture.

The more he read the Bible, the more troubled he became.

Why were so few Christians concerned about the nations?

As Carey traced the story of Scripture, he saw God's heart for all peoples. God's promise to Abraham envisioned blessing for every nation, the prophets looked forward to the nations worshiping the Lord, and Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. Yet many churches of Carey's day seemed content to stay where they were.

Some even argued that missionary work was unnecessary. If God wanted to save people, they reasoned, He could do so without human involvement.

Carey disagreed.

Eventually he hung a large map of the world on the wall and began filling it with notes. He marked nations, languages, populations, and regions where the gospel had scarcely been heard. As he prayed over that map, a conviction took hold of him. The Great Commission was not merely for the apostles. It was a calling for the Church.

In 1792, Carey preached a sermon from Isaiah 54. Near the conclusion he challenged his listeners with words that would become famous: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

For Carey, those words were not a slogan. They were a commitment.

The following year he left England for India.

The reality he encountered there was far different from what he had imagined. The climate was harsh, financial pressures were constant, and his family struggled to adapt. Disease visited repeatedly. One of his children died, his wife suffered severe emotional illness, and the burdens seemed relentless. Perhaps the most discouraging reality was the apparent lack of fruit. Through Carey preached, taught, translated Scripture, and prayed, still no one came to Christ. One year passed, then another, until eventually seven years had gone by without a single convert.

Seven years.

Most people would have concluded that something had gone wrong. Perhaps they had misunderstood God's call, the mission had failed, and it was time to abandon the effort and return home. Carey, however, chose a different response.

He remained faithful to the work God had given him. Day after day he continued translating Scripture, learning languages, teaching, serving, and praying. He refused to judge God's faithfulness by immediate results.

Then, after seven long years, the first convert was baptized. Soon another followed, then another. The results did not arrive as quickly as Carey had hoped, but they did come. Over the decades that followed, Carey helped translate portions of Scripture into dozens of languages and dialects. He established schools, trained leaders, promoted education, challenged social injustices, and laid foundations that would influence missionary movements around the world. Today he is remembered as the "Father of Modern Missions."

Carey's greatest contribution was not what he accomplished, rather it was what he believed. He believed that God was at work even when he could not see immediate evidence of it, understanding that faith is not measured by how quickly prayers are answered, but by whether we continue trusting God while we wait.

That lesson remains deeply relevant.

We live in a culture that expects instant results. If progress is slow, we assume something is wrong. If prayers seem unanswered, we begin lowering our expectations. We quietly stop believing for things that only God can do. Carey challenges us to resist that temptation.

The same God who was at work during those seven seemingly fruitless years was preparing a harvest Carey could not yet see. The same God who sustained him through disappointment and delay is still at work today.

Awakening often begins when people recover a holy confidence in God's ability to do far more than they can presently see, not because circumstances are favorable, and not because success appears likely, but simply because God remains faithful.

The question is not whether God is able.

The question is whether we will trust Him long enough to find out.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, forgive me for lowering my expectations when answers seem delayed. Help me trust Your timing, remain faithful in obedience, and believe that You are at work even when I cannot see it."

Fasting Challenge:

Fast from excuses today. If there is something God has been prompting you to do, stop postponing it. Take one concrete step of obedience today. (Make the call. Send the message. Begin the conversation. Submit the application. Start the ministry...)

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Take You at Your Word" by Cody Carnes.

**"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."
(William Carey)**



SEPT 05

DAY SEVENTEEN:

ABIDE

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." (John 15.5)

DEVOTION:

Hudson Taylor did not begin as a great missionary.

In fact, as a teenager, he had little interest in God at all. By his own admission, he was a skeptic. One afternoon, while his mother was away from home, fifteen-year-old Hudson found himself with several unoccupied hours and began searching his father's library for something to read. Finding nothing particularly interesting, he picked up a small gospel article from a basket of pamphlets, intending only to read the opening story.

What Hudson did not know was that seventy miles away his mother had locked herself in a room to pray for him. Burdened for her son's salvation, she resolved not to leave until God answered. Hour after hour she prayed. Eventually her prayers gave way to praise as she became convinced that God had heard her.

At that very moment, Hudson was reading about the finished work of Christ. As he reflected on what Jesus had accomplished on the cross, something stirred within him. The truth of the gospel became personal. He fell to his knees and surrendered his life to Christ. Years later he would recall the remarkable timing. While he was thanking God for his salvation, his mother was thanking God for the conversion of her son.

Soon afterward, Hudson prayed a dangerous prayer:

"Lord, give me some work to do for You... however trying or however trivial."

Hudson was not asking for a position, a title, or even a specific calling. He simply wanted his life to belong completely to Christ. Years later, reflecting on that moment, he wrote, "A deep consciousness that I was no longer my own took possession of me."

He did not yet know where God would lead him. He only knew that whatever the assignment might be, the answer was already yes.

Several months later, Hudson became convinced that God was calling him to China.

He had no idea how he would get there. He knew no missionaries and possessed little money, and spoke none of the language. All he had was a growing conviction that God was calling him.

So, he began preparing.

Hudson believed that following Jesus involved the whole person. He studied medicine because he believed it might open doors for ministry. To prepare for the road ahead, he read everything he could find about Chinese history, culture, language, exercised regularly, trained his body for hardship, simplified his lifestyle, and learned to live with fewer comforts. He gave generously, served wherever opportunities arose, and devoted himself to prayer.

Most importantly, he determined to learn dependence upon God before he ever left England. In his journal he wrote, "When I get out to China, I shall have no claim on anyone for anything; my only claim will be on God." He concluded that the spiritual muscles required for trusting God in China had to be developed long before he arrived there.

At twenty-one years of age, Hudson finally boarded a ship bound for China. During the six-month voyage, the ship drifted dangerously toward an island. With no wind and no way to maneuver, the captain feared disaster. "Mr. Taylor," he said, "I understand that you believe in God. I want you to pray for wind." Hudson agreed, but with one condition.

The captain must first raise the sails.

Though there was not the slightest breeze, the captain reluctantly agreed. Hudson went to his cabin and prayed. About forty-five minutes later, the captain burst through the door. "You can stop praying now," he said. "We've got more wind than we know what to do with." By the time the ship reached China, nearly twenty sailors had placed their faith in Christ.

Once in China, Hudson quickly recognized a problem: most Western missionaries remained near the port cities and maintained distinctly European customs, causing the Chinese to view them with suspicion and distance. Hudson chose a different path.

He exchanged his Western clothing for Chinese dress, adopted local customs, learned the language fluently, and immersed himself in the culture. Although some heavily criticized his decision, Hudson genuinely loved the Chinese people and wanted them to know that the gospel was not foreign to them.

The approach opened doors that remained closed to many others. He traveled by river and canal into regions where few Westerners had gone, sharing Christ with people who had never heard His name. Then, just as opportunities were expanding into China's interior, severe illness forced Hudson back to England.

What was supposed to be a temporary setback stretched into five long years.

For Taylor, the experience was deeply discouraging. He carried a burden for China and knew that millions still lived without knowledge of Christ, yet he found himself thousands of miles away, unable to do what he believed God had called him to do. As he wrestled with disappointment, confusion, and questions he could not answer, his faith was being refined in the silence.

Then one day in 1865, while walking along Brighton Beach, his thoughts turned to John 15.

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

As he reflected on Jesus' words, something changed. For years Hudson had carried China on his shoulders, feeling personally responsible for reaching the people, advancing the mission, and producing results. Yet suddenly, he realized that China was not ultimately his responsibility.

China belonged to God.

The harvest belonged to God.

The people belonged to God.

His responsibility was not to save China, but to remain intimately connected to Christ. This profound realization instantly lifted a crushing burden he had carried for years, and within twelve months, Hudson was sailing back to China with twenty-two new missionaries. Together, they established the China Inland Mission, a movement entirely devoted to reaching the vast inland regions where millions had never heard the gospel.

The years that followed were not easy. During a period of just three summer months in 1900, the Boxer Rebellion claimed the lives of fifty-eight missionaries and twenty-one children from the China Inland Mission alone. Hundreds of Chinese Christians were also killed while many others endured extreme suffering for their faith, yet through it all, Taylor continued teaching the same lesson:

Abide in Christ.

Love Jesus.

Trust Him with the results.

By the time Hudson Taylor died in 1905, the China Inland Mission had grown from a small band of workers to 828 missionaries. More than 1,100 Chinese leaders were serving churches, over 18,000 believers had been baptized, and hundreds of churches and schools had been established throughout the country.

Remarkably, the story did not end there. When communist authorities expelled foreign missionaries from China decades later, many feared the church would disappear. Instead, it grew because the believers had learned the lesson Hudson had spent his life teaching. Their faith was not dependent upon missionaries, organizations, or favorable circumstances.

It was rooted in Christ.

That is the lesson Hudson Taylor leaves us. The goal of the Christian life is not ministry success, influence, or accomplishment; rather, the goal is to remain in Christ. When we abide in Him, He produces fruit that lasts.

The branch does not strain to produce fruit.

It simply remains connected to the Vine.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord Jesus, teach me to abide in You. Help me love You more than success, comfort, results, or recognition. Keep me close to You and produce fruit through my life that brings You glory."

Fasting Challenge:

Skip one meal today. During that time, slowly read John 15:1-17. Ask God to reveal any areas where you have been striving in your own strength rather than remaining dependent upon Him.

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Yahweh" by Engedi Music.

**"It does not matter how great the pressure is. What really matters is where the pressure lies—whether it comes between you and God, or whether it presses you nearer His heart."
(James Hudson Taylor)**



SEPT 06

DAY EIGHTEEN: WHEN HEAVEN INTERRUPTS EARTH

Maria Woodworth-Etter (1844-1924)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8)

DEVOTION:

Maria Woodworth-Etter was not the kind of person most people expected God to use.

Born in rural Ohio in 1844, Maria faced a life marked by hardship, where financial struggles were common and several of her children died at a young age. Furthermore, opportunities for women in ministry were strictly limited, as many churches believed women should never preach publicly. If anyone had been asked to predict who might become one of the most influential evangelists of her generation, Maria's name likely would not have appeared on the list.

Yet, God often delights in working through unlikely people.

After years of resisting what she believed was God's call, Maria finally surrendered and began preaching. What followed surprised nearly everyone. Crowds gathered wherever she went.

At first, they came out of curiosity. Some came hoping to hear a woman preacher, while others came because of the widespread rumors. Local newspapers carried stories of unusual spiritual events occurring in her meetings, with supporters described powerful encounters with God. Critics dismissed the reports as emotional excess or religious excitement. Yet the more people talked, the larger the crowds became, until soon the ministry tents were filled beyond capacity, as thousands traveled long distances to attend.

One reason was simple: people sensed that something unusual was happening.

Eyewitnesses described hardened skeptics falling under deep conviction of sin, while others spoke of physical healings, dramatic conversions, and lives permanently changed by encounters with Christ. Some people became so overwhelmed by God's presence that they remained motionless for extended periods of time, lost in prayer and reflection. Others left the meetings determined to make things right with God, family members, and neighbors.

Newspapers often mocked the gatherings.

Some reporters who arrived expecting to expose Maria's ministry found themselves struggling to explain what they witnessed. Although they could criticize her methods and question the sensational stories, they were completely unable to dismiss the transformation of lives.

People who had no interest in God suddenly wanted to know Him. Families were reconciled, communities were changed, and hardened skeptics became believers. Yet despite the spectacular nature of these events, Maria never claimed that signs and wonders were the ultimate point of her ministry; Jesus was.

She understood that the greatest miracle was not a healing or an extraordinary manifestation, but a changed heart. Everything else simply pointed people toward Christ.

Throughout church history, there have been seasons when God seemed to draw unusual attention to Himself. The book of Acts describes tongues of fire, miraculous healings, visions, dreams, and supernatural encounters. Similar stories appear throughout the centuries wherever awakening has broken out.

The goal, however, was never the experience itself.
The goal was always Jesus.

The danger is that we can make the opposite mistake. In our desire to avoid emotionalism or excess, we sometimes lower our expectations altogether, quietly assuming that His powerful activity belongs mostly to the pages of Scripture or the stories of the past.

Maria Woodworth-Etter challenged that assumption.

She believed that the Jesus who healed the sick, delivered the oppressed, and transformed lives in the first century had not changed. The same Savior who moved in Galilee still moves today, the same Spirit poured out at Pentecost still works in the hearts of men and women, and the same God who interrupted ordinary life throughout Scripture still delights in revealing His presence.

Most of us will never preach beneath a revival tent. But, we can live with holy expectation. We can pray believing God still answers. We can trust that He still transforms lives. We can remain open to His work in ways that exceed our understanding. And, we can remember that sometimes the most ordinary day becomes extraordinary when heaven interrupts earth.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, increase my expectancy. Forgive me for limiting what You can do. Help me believe that You are still at work today and open my eyes to recognize Your presence and power."

Fasting Challenge:

Skip one meal today and use that time to pray for someone who needs a breakthrough. Ask God to bring healing, restoration, salvation, or renewed faith into their life.

NOTE: Tomorrow we begin our three-day Awakening Fast. Today, prepare your heart and your schedule, and choose a fasting plan (suggestions include a Daniel Fast, one meal per day, juice fast, media fast, or a combination fast).

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Same God" by Elevation Worship.

**"The Lord has not changed. What He has done before, He is able to do again."
(Maria Woodworth-Etter)**

SEPT 07

DAY NINETEEN: EVERYBODY GETS TO PLAY

John Wimber (1934-1997)

"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." (John 14.12)

DEVOTION:

John Wimber did not grow up expecting to become a pastor.

Before coming to Christ, he worked in the music industry and played professionally. He was practical, analytical, and not particularly interested in religious hype. When he eventually became a follower of Jesus, he approached Christianity the same way he approached everything else: he wanted to understand how it worked.

So, he began reading the New Testament.

Page after page, he encountered a Jesus who seemed remarkably active. The disciples prayed for the sick, people were healed, demons fled, and lives were transformed. Ordinary men and women were sent out to minister in Jesus' name. Everywhere Wimber looked, the kingdom of God appeared to be advancing through everyday believers. However, as he looked around at the churches he was attending, something didn't seem to match.

The people sang about God's power, listened to sermons about God's power, and genuinely believed in God's power, yet very few seemed to expect God to do anything beyond the walls of the church service. After attending church for several months, Wimber finally approached one of the leaders with a question that had been growing in his mind.

"When do we get to do the stuff?"

The leader looked puzzled. "The stuff?" he asked. "You know," Wimber replied, "the things Jesus did."

Praying for people.

Serving people.

Sharing the gospel.

Expecting God to move.

Wimber's question was about participating in the kingdom instead of merely talking about it. While sincere, his inquiry exposed a systemic problem that would shape the rest of his life: somewhere along the way, many Christians had become mere spectators. They admired and believed the stories of the Scripture, but they rarely imagined themselves participating in those same realities. Through this realization, Wimber became deeply convinced that Jesus never intended His followers to sit in the stands.

He invited them onto the field.

Years later, as a pastor and leader in what would become the Vineyard movement, Wimber began encouraging ordinary believers to pray for people, serve their communities, share their faith, and step out in obedience whenever they sensed God leading them. He taught that ministry was not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or spiritual celebrities; rather, it belonged to the whole church.

His favorite phrase became: "Everybody gets to play."

Those four words changed countless lives. People who believed they had nothing to offer suddenly discovered that God could use them. Teachers prayed for coworkers, students shared their faith with friends, parents ministered to neighbors, and business owners served their communities. Through these steps of obedience, ordinary believers began viewing themselves as participants in God's kingdom rather than consumers of religious services.

What made Wimber's message so compelling was its simplicity. He was not calling people to become famous or seeking those who had achieved expert status, but was simply inviting them to become available.

Throughout this book, we have encountered men and women who changed history. It would be easy to conclude that they were somehow different from us. Though we may initially see them as more gifted, courageous, or spiritual, most of them began with the same simple response.

They said, "Yes."

Francis of Assisi said, "Yes."

Patrick said, "Yes."

Carey said, "Yes."

Hudson Taylor said, "Yes."

Again and again, God worked through ordinary people who were willing to follow wherever He led. The kingdom of God has never advanced primarily through superstars; it advances through surrendered people.

People willing to pray.

People willing to serve.

People willing to trust.

People willing to take the next step of obedience.

People who say, "Yes."

That invitation remains before us today. God is still at work in the world. The question is not whether He is moving. The question is whether we are willing to join Him.

Because in the kingdom of God, everybody gets to play.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, help me move from observing to participating. Show me where You are already at work and give me the courage to join You. Use my life, however ordinary it may seem, for Your purposes."

Fasting Challenge:

Day 1 of the Three-Day Awakening Fast (see instructions on the following page)

Worship Prompt:

Listen to Available by Elevation Worship.

"The meat is on the street."

(John Wimber)

*meaning: ministry happens where people are, not merely inside church buildings.



DAY ONE: **THREE-DAY AWAKENING FAST**

Today begins our Awakening Fast.

"Therefore stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."
(Matthew 24:42, ESV)

Choose a fasting plan that stretches your dependence upon God while remaining wise and sustainable:

- Daniel Fast
- One meal per day
- Juice Fast
- Media Fast
- A combination of the above

During the times you would normally eat, intentionally seek God. Instead of simply skipping a meal, use that time to:

- Read Scripture
- Pray
- Worship
- Journal
- Listen for God's voice

Pray specifically for what God desires to do among us during AWAKEN.

- Pray bold prayers
- Pray impossible prayers
- Pray revival prayers
- Ask God to awaken hearts, heal wounds, restore families, save the lost, call people into ministry, break addictions, renew faith, and pour out His Spirit in fresh ways
- Write down what you are praying for and what God seems to impress upon your heart
- Take a prayer walk
- Go somewhere quiet and pray out loud
- Read Scripture out loud
- Pray Scripture back to God
- Invite others to pray with you

Throughout these three days, ask the Lord:

- What do You want to do in me?
- What do You want to do among us?
- How are You inviting me to join You?

Come to AWAKEN expecting God to move.

Over the next three days, let every hunger pang become an invitation to pray.

SEPT 08

DAY TWENTY: A GENERATION ON FIRE

Brazil, The Send & the Next Great Awakening

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers..." (1 Timothy 4.12)

DEVOTION:

Imagine walking into a stadium packed with more than 100,000 people.

The music is loud. The crowd is energized. The atmosphere feels electric. At first glance, it looks like a championship match or a sold-out concert. But there are no athletes taking the field. No celebrities are about to perform. Instead, young men and women have gathered for a different purpose.

They have come to worship.

They have come to ask God how He wants to use their lives.

That scene unfolded in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2020 during an event known as The Send. Tens of thousands packed the stadium while countless others participated online. What made the gathering remarkable was not its size. Large crowds gather for many reasons. What made it remarkable was the response.

Throughout the day, speaker after speaker issued the same challenge: stop merely admiring the mission of God and begin participating in it. Take the gospel to your schools. Take it to your universities. Take it to your neighborhood. Take it to the nations.

Again and again, young people responded. Some committed themselves to missions. Others committed themselves to evangelism. Still others pledged to serve their communities, disciple their friends, and spend their lives advancing the kingdom of God.

The question being asked was not, "What can God do for me?"

The question was, "How can God use me?"

That question has fueled nearly every awakening in history.

When God called Isaiah, the prophet responded, "Here am I. Send me."

When Jesus called His disciples, they left their nets and followed.

When Patrick heard the cries of Ireland, he returned.

When Hudson Taylor sensed God's call to China, he began preparing.

Again and again, revival has spread through ordinary people who were willing to say yes.

That is one reason the story unfolding in Brazil has captured the attention of so many believers around the world. It is not primarily about an event. It is about a generation discovering that following Jesus means more than attending church. It means joining Him in His mission.

For years, many Christians have spoken about revival as though it belonged to the past. They tell stories of Wales, Azusa Street, the Hebrides, and other historic awakenings. Those stories matter because they remind us of what God has done.

They also remind us of what God can still do.

Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly uses young people at pivotal moments. David was young when he faced Goliath. Jeremiah was young when God called him to speak. Timothy was young when Paul entrusted him with leadership. Most of Jesus' disciples were likely young adults when they left everything to follow Him.

The world often treats youth as a season for self-discovery. God often treats it as a season of calling.

The truth is that spiritual awakening has never depended primarily on age. It depends on availability. God is looking for people who will surrender their plans, trust His voice, and step into His purposes. That is as true at fifty as it is at fifteen. The same invitation that echoed through a stadium in Brazil continues to echo today.

Will we merely admire what God has done in previous generations? Or will we offer Him our own?

History suggests that awakening often begins when ordinary people stop asking what God can do for them and begin asking what He wants to do through them.

Perhaps the next great awakening will not begin with a famous preacher or a large organization.

Perhaps it will begin with thousands of ordinary believers quietly saying yes.

Perhaps it has already begun.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord, use my life for Your purposes. Show me where You are calling me to step out in faith. Help me live boldly, love deeply, and make a difference in my generation."

Fasting Challenge:

Day 2 of the Three-Day Awakening Fast (see instructions on the following page)

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Available" by Elevation Worship

**"Here I am. Send me!"
(Isaiah 6.8)**

DAY TWO:

THREE-DAY AWAKENING FAST

Today, pray especially for the next generation.

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."
(Psalm 145.4)

Ask God to raise up students, young adults, families, pastors, missionaries, and everyday disciples who will courageously follow Jesus and impact the world around them.

As you pray, ask:

- Who are You calling me to influence?
- Where are You inviting me to serve?
- How can I be part of what You are doing?

Continue using meal times as opportunities for prayer, worship, Scripture reading, and listening.

Pray "Here I am. Send me."



SEPT 09

DAY TWENTY-ONE:

GOD IS MOVING WHILE WE SLEEP

Muslims Seeing Jesus in Dreams & Visions

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."
(Acts 2.17)

DEVOTION:

A man wakes in the middle of the night in a country where following Jesus could cost him everything.

The dream felt more real than any he had ever experienced. A man dressed in white had spoken his name. He had called him to seek the truth. He had invited him to follow. The dream lingered long after he opened his eyes. Days later, unable to shake what he had seen, he began searching for answers. Stories like this have emerged again and again across the Muslim world.

A woman in Afghanistan dreams of Jesus standing beside her bed and speaking words of peace. A businessman in Iran sees a radiant figure calling him by name. A young man in North Africa repeatedly dreams of a cross and awakens with an overwhelming desire to understand its meaning. In village after village and city after city, people with little access to churches, Bibles, or Christian teaching describe encounters that lead them on an unexpected journey toward Christ.

One missionary tells of a Muslim man who traveled hundreds of miles searching for someone who could explain a recurring dream. Night after night he saw the same figure and heard the same instruction. Eventually the dream directed him to a particular village. When he arrived, he found believers there who shared the gospel with him. What began as a dream became a doorway to faith.

Another account tells of a woman who encountered a Christian for the first time shortly after having a vivid dream. As the believer spoke about Jesus, she interrupted and pointed to a picture. "That's Him," she said. "That's the man I saw."

Stories like these have surfaced from Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and many other nations. Not every report can be independently verified, and wise discernment is always necessary. Yet the sheer number of testimonies has caused many experienced missionaries and church leaders to conclude that something extraordinary is taking place: Jesus is still revealing Himself.

The stories may surprise us, but they should not. Throughout Scripture, God frequently used dreams and visions to reveal His purposes. The patriarch Joseph received dreams that shaped the future of nations. Daniel interpreted dreams that revealed the rise and fall of kingdoms. Joseph, the husband of Mary, received four separate dreams that guided and protected the young family entrusted with the Messiah.

Through those dreams, God warned Joseph of danger, directed him to Egypt, and later led him safely home. In a very real sense, those divine warnings helped preserve the life of Jesus during His earliest years. Peter saw a vision that opened the door for the gospel to reach the Gentiles. Paul encountered Christ in a revelation that transformed him from persecutor to apostle. The God of the Bible has never been limited by geography, politics, borders, or human obstacles.

Perhaps that is the lesson we most need to remember.

Throughout these twenty-one days, we have walked alongside men and women who believed God could do extraordinary things. Each story points to the same truth. God is still moving. Not merely through the pages of history or in revival stories from long ago.

Now.

Today.

At this very moment, somewhere in the world, someone is crying out to God for the first time. Someone is opening a Bible. Someone is encountering Christ.

That realization should fill us with hope.

Awakening is not about what God did in the past; it is recognizing what God is doing in the present and responding with faith.

The same Jesus who called fishermen along the shores of Galilee is still calling people today. The same Spirit poured out at Pentecost is still being poured out. The same God who has been writing the story of redemption for thousands of years has not stopped working. If God is moving in places where churches are scarce, Bibles are restricted, and believers are persecuted, then perhaps we should approach our own lives with greater expectation.

The same Jesus is here.

The same Spirit is here.

And the same God who has moved throughout history is still moving today.

Prayer Prompt:

"Lord Jesus, awaken my faith. Help me believe that You are still moving in powerful ways today. Open my eyes to Your activity around me and make me available for whatever You want to do."

Fasting Challenge:

Day 3 of the Three-Day Awakening Fast (see instructions on the following page)

Worship Prompt:

Listen to "Marvelous / Raised up" by Engedi Music.

"All suffering is worth it to follow Jesus. He is that amazing. I pray that I will meet you someday, my dear friend, so we can rejoice and praise God together for our joys and our sufferings."

(Nabeel Qureshi, "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus")

DAY THREE: **THREE-DAY AWAKENING FAST**

Today, look beyond your immediate surroundings.

"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light..."
(Acts 26.18)

As you pray, lift your eyes beyond yourself, beyond your church, and beyond your community.

- Pray for people who do not yet know Christ
- Pray for those who have never heard the gospel
- Pray for those seeking truth
- Pray that Jesus would reveal Himself and draw people to salvation

As you conclude this journey:

- Review what you have written during these three days of fasting
- Reflect on what God has been speaking to you
- Record any prayers, impressions, Scriptures, or invitations you sense from the Holy Spirit
- Come to AWAKEN with expectation

Ask: "Lord, what do You want to continue doing in me after these 21 days are complete?"



AFTERWORD : **A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

Over the past twenty-one days, you have walked alongside missionaries, martyrs, monks, revivalists, intercessors, and ordinary believers whose lives were transformed by an extraordinary God.

You have explored surrender and learned from people who prayed until heaven moved. You have been challenged to expect more from the God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Now the question is not what you have read. The question is: what you will do?

Do not measure these twenty-one days by how perfectly you fasted. Measure them by how intentionally you pursued Jesus. Some days may have felt powerful, and others may have seemed quite ordinary. Some prayers may have been answered quickly. Others may still be unfolding.

Do not be discouraged.

Keep showing up.

Keep praying.

Keep seeking.

Keep listening.

The goal was never simply to complete a fast or merely to finish a devotional. The goal was to cultivate a deeper hunger for God.

If these twenty-one days have left you more surrendered, more prayerful, more expectant, more attentive to the voice of the Spirit, and more aware of God's presence than when you began, then the journey has already borne fruit.

The journey is not over.

Awakening is not a twenty-one-day event.

It is a way of life.

Continue making room for God, practicing prayer, seeking His presence, and expecting Him to move.

The same God who met David Brainerd in the woods, strengthened Perpetua in the arena, spoke to Patrick on the hillsides of Ireland, provided for George Müller, burdened John Hyde for souls, and revealed Himself to people around the world is still at work today. He is not finished with you.

May God awaken within you a holy hunger that never fades.

May He deepen your love for Christ.

May He strengthen your prayer life.

May He increase your faith.

May He fill you afresh with His Spirit.

May God use your life to bring His hope, His presence, and His kingdom wherever you go.

**“The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie.
It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven,
but endless nibbling at the table of the world.”
(John Piper)**



APPENDIX:

FASTING & AWAKENING

Throughout Scripture and church history, prayer and fasting have often preceded seasons of spiritual renewal. Before Pentecost, believers gathered together in prayer, waiting expectantly for the promise of the Father. Before the Welsh Revival, men and women sought God with unusual intensity. Before the Hebrides Revival, elderly intercessors cried out for God to move upon their island. Again and again, before awakenings swept across cities, nations, and generations, ordinary believers humbled themselves before God and sought His face.

Fasting does not produce revival.

Only God can awaken hearts and pour out His Spirit. Yet, throughout history, fasting has been one of the ways God's people have positioned themselves to seek Him more earnestly. By temporarily laying aside something good, we create space to focus our attention upon what is greater.

At its heart, fasting is an expression of hunger.

It is a way of saying that our deepest need is not comfort, convenience, entertainment, or even daily bread. Our deepest need is God Himself.

As we fast, we acknowledge our dependence upon Him.

We remind ourselves that we cannot manufacture spiritual awakening, transform hearts, or change lives through our own efforts. We need the presence and power of God. We need His Spirit to move in us before He moves through us.

In a world filled with noise and distraction, fasting becomes a simple yet profound prayer:

**Lord, we need You more than comfort.
More than routine. More than anything else.**

APPENDIX:

FASTING GUIDE

Why Fast?

Fasting is not about emptying your life. It is about filling it with God. We do not fast to punish ourselves, prove something to God, or earn His favor. Through Christ, we are already loved, accepted, and welcomed into God's family. Instead, fasting creates space. It removes distractions and comforts that can dull our spiritual hunger and redirects our attention toward the Lord.

Throughout Scripture, fasting often accompanied moments of repentance, guidance, breakthrough, mourning, worship, and preparation for God's work. Moses fasted on Mount Sinai. David fasted in prayer. Esther called a national fast. Daniel fasted while seeking understanding. Jesus fasted in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry. The early church fasted before appointing leaders and sending missionaries.

Fasting does not manipulate God. Fasting changes us.

When you set something aside, you are creating margin for something greater: prayer, Scripture, worship, reflection, listening, and journaling. Fasting is never just about what you do not do. It is about what you do with the space you have opened.

As you journey through these 21 days, remember: the goal is not hunger. The goal is God.

Ways to Fast

Food Fasts

- Skip one meal a day and use that time to pray.
- Fast lunch every day during the 21 days.
- Skip lunch two or three times a week, replacing it with Scripture reading.
- Fast from breakfast and lunch, breaking the fast with dinner.
- Try a Daniel Fast (simple, plant based foods) for a stretch of time.
- Fast desserts, sugar, snacks, coffee, or other foods that have become daily comforts.

Media Fasts

- Step away from social media for a day, a week, or the full 21 days.
- Turn off streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, Disney+, or ESPN.
- Fast from podcasts, video games, or background music to create more silence.
- Limit news consumption and replace it with Scripture and prayer.

Hybrid Fasts

- Pair a meal fast with a media fast.
- Replace your morning breakfast with 15–30 minutes of Scripture reading and journaling.
- Fast from unnecessary spending and redirect those resources toward generosity.
- Choose one comfort or convenience and intentionally set it aside for the duration of the fast.

Creative Fasting Options

Not every fast involves food.

Consider fasting from:

- Social media
- Television and streaming
- Video games
- Shopping
- Coffee or caffeine
- Sugar and sweets
- Sports and recreational entertainment
- Excessive news consumption
- Background noise and constant stimulation
- Complaining, gossip, or negative speech
- Unnecessary spending
- Technology one day each week

The goal is removing something good so that you can pursue something greater.

When Hunger Strikes

When you feel hungry:

- Pray for your family.
- Pray for someone who needs Jesus.
- Pray for your church.
- Pray for awakening in your city.
- Read a Psalm.
- Worship for a few minutes.
- Sit quietly and listen for God's voice.
- Pray through the day's devotional.

Let physical hunger become a reminder of spiritual hunger. A growling stomach becomes an invitation to seek God.

**“Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4.4)**

A Simple Daily Rhythm

Morning

- Read the daily devotional.
- Pray through the prayer prompt.
- Read the accompanying Scripture.
- Ask God, "What do You want me to hear today?"

Midday

- During your fast, spend 5-15 minutes in prayer.
- Reflect on the devotional theme.
- Pray for someone by name.

Evening

- Journal what God showed you.
- Review any insights, impressions, or answered prayers.
- Pray for Awaken Nights.
- Thank God for His faithfulness.

Consistency matters more than intensity. Small daily steps often produce the deepest transformation.

Best Practices for Fasting

Start Simple

If fasting is new for you, begin with one meal and gradually increase as you feel led.

Stay Hydrated

Drink plenty of water throughout the day.

Replace, Don't Just Remove

Use the time you would normally spend eating, scrolling, watching, or listening for intentional prayer, worship, Scripture reading, or journaling.

Break Your Fast Gently

When ending a fast, choose light and nourishing foods. Avoid overeating or bingeing.

Expect Resistance

Hunger, irritability, fatigue, distraction, and temptation are normal. Let those moments become reminders to turn your attention toward God.

Remember: every struggle is another opportunity to pray.

**"Fasting is feasting on God."
(Dallas Willard)**

Health Considerations

Fasting should be life giving, not harmful.

Please use special care if:

- You are diabetic, hypoglycemic, or have another medical condition.
- You are pregnant or nursing.
- You are under 18 years old.
- You take medication that requires food.
- You have a history of eating disorders.

If any of these apply, consult your doctor before attempting an extended food fast.

Remember, you can fully participate by fasting from media, entertainment, comforts, or other distractions. The heart of fasting is not deprivation; it is devotion. Everyone can create space for God.

**“Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God
by finding in Him a source of sustenance beyond food.”
(Dallas Willard)**

Recommended Reading on Fasting

If you would like to go deeper into the biblical practice of fasting, the following resources provide helpful teaching, practical guidance, and spiritual encouragement.

“Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster

One of the most influential books on spiritual formation in the modern era. Foster’s chapter on fasting offers a balanced and accessible introduction to the purpose, practice, and power of fasting.

“The Spirit of the Disciplines” by Dallas Willard

A thoughtful exploration of how spiritual disciplines shape our character and deepen our relationship with God. Willard presents fasting as a means of training the soul to depend upon God rather than earthly comforts.

“Fasting: The Ancient Practices Series” by Scot McKnight

A thoughtful examination of fasting in Scripture and church history. McKnight helps readers move beyond simply abstaining from food toward embracing fasting as a practice that shapes the whole person.

“The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting” by Mahesh Chavda

Explores the biblical foundations of prayer and fasting, emphasizing their role in spiritual breakthrough, healing, revival, and the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

Recommended Reading on Fasting con't.

“God’s Chosen Fast” by Arthur Wallis

One of the most comprehensive books on fasting available. Wallis combines biblical teaching, church history, revival accounts, and practical instruction, making this a foundational resource for understanding fasting and spiritual awakening.

“Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough” by Elmer Towns

A practical guide exploring various biblical fasts and how they relate to prayer, repentance, guidance, worship, and spiritual growth.

“A Hunger for God” by John Piper

A modern classic on fasting. Piper argues that Christian fasting is ultimately about increasing our appetite for God and finding greater satisfaction in Him than in anything this world offers.

“The Coming Revival” by Bill Bright

Written by the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, this book highlights the connection between prayer, fasting, repentance, and spiritual awakening.

“The Call” by Lou Engle

Part testimony and part challenge, this book explores prayer and fasting movements among younger generations and their role in awakening and revival.

**Fasting is not an end in itself.
It is a means of opening our hearts more fully to God.**

APPENDIX:

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