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A hand holding a pencil is superimposed over the word 'RESET' in the third row of the five-row text. The hand and pencil are rendered in a vibrant, multi-colored gradient (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) against the black background.

**21 DAYS OF CONNECTING WITH GODS PLAN**



# RESET

21 DAYS OF CONNECTING WITH GOD'S PLAN

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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**LORD, BUILD YOUR KINGDOM  
THROUGH US SO THAT YOUR NAME IS  
EXALTED IN OKEECHOBEE. TEACH US TO ABIDE  
IN YOUR PRESENCE SO THAT WE HAVE A  
CONTINUAL SENSE OF YOUR DIRECTION.  
MOLD US INTO YOUR IMAGE SO THAT WE OBEY  
THE VOICE OF YOUR SPIRIT PASSIONATELY  
AND WITHOUT HESITATION. STRENGTHEN OUR  
FAITH SO THAT WE DO NOT SHIRK FROM  
GOD-SIZED POSSIBILITIES.  
IN JESUS NAME, AMEN.**

## **DEAR M2L FAMILY,**

This little booklet was written to help guide us daily during a time of fasting and prayer. A call to corporate fasting was used by God throughout biblical history to direct His people back to Him so they could set their course forward with Him. In every age, fasting intensifies our pursuit of God's heart allowing us see His hand at work with undistracted vision.

We as a church family are in a time where God-sized challenges are set before us. We are on assignment together to go forward in faith knowing we have heard God's voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Of course, this is always true, but even more so as we progress forward into a season of building a worship and discipleship center.

Each day, there will be a short devotion with some questions to ponder in prayer. This booklet was made to help us seek God together because what He is putting before us is something we must do together.

So let us together come boldly into His presence.

**PASTOR JAMES**

# DAY 1

## NEED FOR A RESET

Reset is a popular catch word today, especially in the cultural and political arenas. The idea behind it is that, due to the overarching dysfunction in every area of our society, there is a critical need for a restructuring to what is healthy and functional. Obviously, some of the ideas for what this reset should look like are open to great debate. But there is no denying that our world is on a “crazy cycle” that is bombarding our lives with chaotic distractions that, if we are not vigilant to deal with, derails our focus from the foundational truths that were designed by God to keep our lives solidly grounded.

Fasting is a spiritual discipline given to us by God that works as a reset to keep our attention fixed on the priorities that form the premise of the life God intends for us. Life was designed by our Creator to be an unhindered relationship with Him through Jesus Christ that should be ever deepening in intimacy as we push into His presence and ever extending in possibility as we follow Him in His purposes. The deceptions that the enemy throws at us to get us off course and locked into our own agendas are seemingly endless. So, think of fasting as a course corrector to keep us aligned with God’s plan.

Our prayer is that in these next few days, as we walk through a season of fasting and prayer, we will ready ourselves to press into His presence and take hold of all He desires to do in and through us personally and collectively here at M2L. In fasting the Holy Spirit invites us on an adventure with Him. I hope you are looking forward to the journey.

## REFLECTION

1. When you think of “reset” what ideas come to mind?
2. Are you willing to press into God’s presence and seek what He has for you during this time?

# DAY 2

## WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

Though the Bible speaks of fasting in the lives of some of the greatest men of the Scriptures (Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Jesus), for many years it was relegated to the archaic and obsolete – some even decrying it as dangerous to our physical health. But recent years have dispelled these erroneous thoughts. Fasting, in a sense, has been rediscovered to be beneficial to our whole being – spirit, soul, and body.

My experience with fasting, though far from extensive, has shown the valuable properties it brings to our walk with God. In times of an extended fast, for more than three days duration, I have found the Holy Spirit to take me through three distinct phases. They are as follows...

### Phase One: Purging of Our Distractions

This is a time of cleansing and removing those things we have allowed to creep into our lives that preoccupy us causing our focus and obedience to Christ to be derailed.

### Phase Two: Pushing into His Presence

With the distractions removed, the way is cleared for us to abide and grow in God's presence unhindered. But we can never think of this as easy. The enemy is constantly pulling us back in this world and our flesh. We must learn to continuously push against pull through the grace and power of the Spirit.

### Phase Three: Pressing on to What Lies Ahead

The purpose of fasting is never to take us back to what was, but for us to press forward with Christ to what can be. It enables us to see the possibilities He is opening before us by His grace which is ours to take hold by faith.

## REFLECTION

1. What are some distractions in your life that the Lord may be revealing to you?
2. What are some ways the enemy is trying to pull you back into the world and your flesh?

# DAY 3

## CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Psalm 51 was written by David in the aftermath of his sin with Bathsheba and the resulting consequences that ensued (2 Sam 11-13). After Nathan, the prophet, confronted him, it was as if he awakened from a horrible spell. Sadly, even those with the most sensitive, responsive hearts to the Lord are subject to allowing desires and situations to take them further than they ever wanted to go, to keep them longer than they ever wanted to stay and cost them more than they ever wanted to pay.

When we begin an extended fast, the Lord first confronts us with those areas that we have allowed too much leeway, things we thought we could handle, but now control us. He calls us once again, as so many times before, like David, to cry out for the Holy Spirit to recreate within us a clean heart with the absolute confidence that we may come boldly to His throne of grace. And in His grace, He instructs us to ask for Him to renew a steadfastness in our core being so we do not stray in our pursuit of Him and that He would restore to us the joy and the passion His Spirit produces within us when we are in alignment with Him.

Understand this: God is not looking for us to bring Him our perfection. David discovered the hard way, as we all do, that the greatest offering we bring to God is our brokenness – our absolute dependence on Him alone. This is where the journey begins, and this is where it must remain with our eyes fixed on Him.

### REFLECTION

1. What areas is the Holy Spirit revealing in your life where you have allowed too much leeway to the flesh and/or the enemy?
2. What areas of brokenness is the Lord instructing you to bring to Him today?



# DAY 4

## REMOVING THE WEIGHTS

“Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...” The distractions that bombard our lives seem to promise release from the weariness and the burdens that we face. Our enemy is the master of offering what looks like the greatest things only to discover they are the worst. What we thought was needed to set us free actually become weights keeping us in our fear and anger, our despair and our bitterness.

The writer of Hebrews tells us, if we are to walk in faith that pleases God (the subject of chapter 11), we must lay aside every weight that hinders our moving forward. The verse at the top of the page intimates that the weights are not necessarily sins in themselves; they are things we have added to our lives that keep us stuck where we are – things of which we will not let go. But the longer the weights remain immovable, whatever they are, the greater the likelihood they will become sins, causing us to ignore the voice of the Spirit and thereby disobeying Him when He calls us to follow Him in faith.

The writer likens God's will for us to a race we must run. It is a race that calls for endurance which demands we free ourselves from the weights we have gathered around us. How? – by looking to, keeping our spiritual eyes fixed on Jesus. And with our focus fully on Him, we learn the life-changing lesson that it is not what we gain in this life that matters, but what we dare to leave behind.

### REFLECTION

1. What are some of the weights and/or sins in your life that keep you from running as God wills?
2. Will you cast them aside and look to Jesus today?

# DAY 5

## REMOVING THORNS

In the parable of the sower, Jesus identifies a condition in the soul of the believer that He likens to thorny soil. Through the work of the Holy Spirit truth has taken root in our lives resulting in new birth. But the cares of this world, the mad pursuit for financial gain, and the desire for other things act as thorns that choke out the fruit the Spirit desires to produce in us, leaving it blighted, not coming to maturity.

Doesn't that sum up our lives? We want to walk with Christ but the other things of life scream at us, demanding our undivided attention - other things, maybe even good things, but not the things that really matter. They are thorns in our souls the enemy uses to keep us ensnared to his lies.

Thorns don't just go away. They must be pulled out by the roots. The first part of this fasting season is a time God uses to awaken us to the damage these thorns are causing to our souls. Soil free of thorns has the potential for the Spirit to produce a bumper crop of fruit in our lives. So, it is vital that we see them as He sees them without making excuses for why they are there and why we need to keep them. Few things in our lives are truly necessary. The rest just suck life from us. Allow the Spirit, during this time, to identify other things from the essential things. Yes, pulling out thorns may be painful. But think how much simpler life will be without them.

### REFLECTION

1. What "thorns" is the Lord wanting to remove from the soil of your life?
2. Will you present yourself to Him and give Him complete freedom to do what He wants to do in you?

# DAY 6

## DEFINING THORNS

In order to remove the thorns which keeps our lives from bearing the fruit God desires, it is necessary that we clearly define them. Thorns are the product of a mind held hostage by the deceptions of our spiritual enemy resulting in a life operating outside of God's design. The problem with thorns is that we usually fail to recognize them as such until our lives come to the inevitable breakdown which the enemy's lies are designed to produce.

So, removing thorns requires a deliberate and consistent realignment from how this world sees and deals with life to God's, which is clearly set forth for us in His word. The Holy Spirit working within us is the fire of God causing true transformation of life, and it is truth that fuels that fire. This is at the heart of what true repentance is all about. The mind is the basis on which the soul works. The soul cannot experience the fruit of the Spirit with a mind which is not saturated in truth. This is why Paul (Eph 4:21-24) tells us that the putting off of the old with its deceitful desires for the new, which enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ, can only be realized by the "spirit of the mind" being renewed by truth.

In this first phase of fasting the Holy Spirit will be beckoning us to put aside anything that keeps us fixed on the world's mindset and get into His word. To put on the new, this is an absolute requirement. To go on into the second phase where the Spirit invites us to push into His presence, the word must form the basis of our thoughts and desires or we will be open to great delusion, which is becoming more and more evident in the lives of God's people. If we want to experience the fire, we must use the right fuel. It's as basic as that - there's no way around it.

### REFLECTION

1. Are there any lingering thorns the Lord has made you aware of today?
2. Are you willing to commit yourself to push into His presence and the Word to hear His voice?

# DAY 7

## REPENTANCE

To the world, repentance is a “church word” that is rarely used. And if it is, it is used in ridicule for what seems to many as the church’s obsession with “sin.” Sadly, even in church circles, repentance has been relegated to a one-time experience (at the time of our salvation) and thereafter to be reserved only for a time when our actions have been unusually egregious to God.

In actuality, repentance is to be an ongoing aspect in the life of one who desires to walk unflinchingly in the will of God. Repentance is to be a moment-by-moment characteristic of those who desire to push into God’s presence and to press on to what He desires to do in and through us to advance His kingdom. The underlying idea behind repentance is of a change of mind brought about by taking hold, through faith, of the work of the Spirit of truth within us, resulting in a life transformed into Christ’s likeness.

This is especially imperative in a season of fasting and prayer in which His people are crying out for revival and spiritual awakening. There has been quite a buzz in the past several months of prophetic utterances declaring the raising up of the righteous in which the wickedness in our country, especially as regards our government, is cast down and Christ is exalted resulting in nationwide revival. What is disconcerting however, is the scarcity of these prophetic declarations in calling us to repentance. We must never forget that the depth of revival will always be in direct proportion to the depth of repentance that accompanies it. It can never be set aside as an afterthought.

So, how far are we willing to follow the Spirit down the road of revival inducing repentance? If we are to continue in with the Spirit to the second phase of pushing into His presence, we must go with Him to the point of no return.

## REFLECTION

1. Are there any lingering thorns the Lord has made you aware of today?
2. Are you willing to commit yourself to push into His presence and the Word to hear His voice?

# DAY 8

## LIVING SACRIFICES

Yesterday, we looked at the need for a constant attitude of repentance for the renewing of the mind which opens the way for us to experience true revival in our lives. In Romans 12:1-2, Paul reveals that for this renewing to happen, the presenting of our whole lives – spirit, soul and body – as living sacrifices is the prerequisite.

To go on with the Spirit to the second phase of our prayer and fasting journey, the pushing into His presence, everything in our lives, both the bad and the good, must be placed on His altar in total submission to His Lordship. In other words, anything that causes us to conform to the mindset of this world must be seen as weights and thorns that hinder us from abiding in the Father's presence, being filled with the Spirit, and going forward with Christ as an overcomer. Of course, this is true of "bad" things, but it is equally true of "good" things – things that seem on the surface to be harmless, sinless preoccupations. But preoccupations they are, and if allowed to remain, pull us away from what Paul calls the logical, reasonable outcome of true worship: a life of unabated pursuit after God.

This reminds me of the old adage: the problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar. Oh, how easy it is to lay all on the altar on Sunday and take it all back on Monday. We must remember, worship that truly anchors us in the presence of God does not come from praise music or anointed preaching. These are great for ushering into His presence, but they cannot keep us there. Jesus told the disciples that the abiding that holds us fixed in His presence comes from the loss of all things (Luke 9). As Jim Elliot, who was martyred as a missionary, said so wisely. "He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

### REFLECTION

1. Rather than viewing repentance as a negative, are you willing to see repentance as a gift that God grants to you (Acts 11:8)?
2. Will you use your repentance today to propel you into God's presence?

# DAY 9

## PUSHING THROUGH

Abiding mandates for us to push into God's presence with spiritual violence. Jesus told his disciples (Mt 11:11) that the kingdom of God (everything He is & everything He does) must be taken hold of by force. On the surface, this appears to be a rather odd thing for Him to say. How can anyone force his or her way into God's presence? But a study of His statement shows that He was not telling them to force their way into His kingdom. On the contrary, He was telling them in order to abide actively in all He is and is doing that they must forcefully push through all the roadblocks the enemy violently puts in their way. In other words, to effectively push into His presence means we must violently push through everything else.

This means that abiding cannot be done passively. Sadly, we too often picture abiding as a calm, easy-going pastime that requires very little energy, kind of like sitting on a sunny bank with our feet in the water as the world goes by. Yes, we should be experiencing the serenity that is inherent in the presence of God. But the simple truth is, peace is not the absence of conflict; it comes from being in God's presence in the midst of it, which means even in His love, joy, and peace, we are always in spiritual warfare in which passivity has no part.

AW Tozer, in his must-read book, *The Pursuit of God*, states: "God wills that we should push into His Presence and live our whole life there... Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long indeed." The question before us today and every day is: How badly do we want Him? Whether we truly experience revival, or not, is directly dependent on how we answer that question.

### REFLECTION

1. What roadblocks does the Lord want you to "violently" push through today?
2. How badly do you want intimacy with God? What are you doing to make it happen?

# DAY 10

## CALL TO INTIMACY

Anyone who would answer God's call to push into His presence must resolve to move past religion, which focuses primarily on right vs wrong, and into an ongoing relationship with Him. Relationship entails living a life of such closeness to the Spirit that we see God at work and hear His voice with such clearness that His slightest movement and His softest whisper are detected with unimpeded clarity. This means that God's invitation beckons us to a relationship with Him of ever deepening intimacy.

Someone might say, "That is truly remarkable, but I am unworthy to come into His presence; there is just too much baggage holding me back." The good news of the gospel is that Christ has overcome all our obstacles by His death and resurrection. We are no longer slaves of sin, death and the law. In John 14, Jesus assured His disciples, which includes us, that He has provided an avenue of unhindered access to God based on His goodness and not our own. He also assured us that He would come and make His home within us by giving us His very own Spirit to live in us.

This means that no matter what lies the enemy screams at us, the way to intimate relationship with God is entirely open and unobstructed. All that is needed on our end is "acute desire" to push in with forceful determination. It is never a matter of what I can't do but what I will do. The invitation stands open. The question is - what will we do with it? Always remember, the issue is not about us waiting on Him, but of Him waiting on us. We dare not keep Him waiting.

## REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to you that you have unhindered access to the Father based on Jesus' overcoming sin and death for you?
2. What are the loudest lies that Satan keeps speaking to your mind?

# DAY 11

## INTIMACY MEANS ABIDING

God's invitation to know Him without boundaries makes it possible for us to experience and live out of a love, joy, and peace (Gal 5:22) that surpasses anything this world has to offer. Spiritual fruit is not something that happens in and through us because we are doing all the right religious things; rather, it is the supernatural outworking of Someone who is actively living and working within us. We must not think of the fruit of the Spirit as something He gives to us, but as the outflow of all that He is within us.

This fruit bearing can come in no other way than intense, intimate, moment-by-moment interaction with the Holy Spirit. In John 15, Jesus reveals this abiding to be a two-pronged proposition. Upon us putting our faith in God's grace for our redemption, we are securely placed into Christ, never to be unplaced. And just as amazing, He comes to abide in us, directing us by His truth, in order to transform us by His grace, that never stops working, into the image of Christ (Rom 8:29).

The abiding Jesus calls us to is not a time of passive prayer and Bible reading. It charges us to forcefully pursue the heart of God with the same purpose and passion in which He pursues us. To abide is to rest in all that God has freely given us, while at the same time diving ever deeper into His unlimitedness. Abiding may start with simply wading into His vastness, but to experience Him in His fullness we must push in ever deeper until we are plunging in where it is way over our heads. No one can truly abide in Him without a consuming passion to do so. So, are we ready to jump into the deep end? Or will we stay in the wading pool? That's the question.

### REFLECTION

1. Can you describe your Christian life as one of abiding in Christ? If not, what prevents you?
2. Do you have a desire to plunge deeper into an awareness of abiding? Will you right now place your trust completely on Him for every circumstance?



# DAY 12

## ABIDING LEADS TO FILLING

Abiding fills our souls with the fruit of the Spirit which is the very presence of God living actively within us. To be filled with the Spirit is to be impacted with the heart and mind of the creator and sustainer of all life so that we are never the same. But this filling of spiritual fruit was never meant to be hoarded just for ourselves. It was also intended to break through and touch the lives of all to whom come into contact.

In Ephesians 5, Paul charges us to be filled with the Spirit to the point where His fruit working in us cannot be contained. He says, in effect, that, whereas we are not to be intoxicated with alcoholic spirits, we are to be besotted with the Holy Spirit. In other words, as drunkenness is clearly evident to all who see it, so a person truly filled with the Spirit should shine out like a flare on a dark night.

So how does the Spirit disclose Himself through one who is living in His filling? Paul gives us some key indicators to guide us. First, one filled with the Spirit confronts the darkness of this world by exposing it to the light of truth. The second follows the first. To radiate truth, we must walk in the wisdom that comes from God alone so that we inherently know the will of the Lord from passionate personal fellowship with Him. Thirdly, the Spirit affects the speech of those He fills. The worldly person's dialog is fixated on themselves, their pursuits and their problems, revealing minds filled with deception. The Spirit-filled person's words show a heart saturated with praise and thanksgiving to God. And lastly, the Spirit causes us to desire to be at peace with all people. This is especially true of those we fellowship with in the body of Christ. We are to have a spiritual bond which causes us to mutually submit ourselves to each other as we walk in the fear of the Lord.

Always remember, the filling of the Spirit is totally contingent to our abiding in Christ; it comes no other way. As we pour our lives into Him, He pours out His life in and through us. As we push in with abandonment, He overflows in abundance (John 10:10). So, are we going to keep a tight grip on our lives, or will we pour out our lives into Him recklessly? Is playing it safe really worth it?

### REFLECTION

1. Are you living filled with the Holy Spirit? Is there any evidence in your life?
2. What does your speech or social media posts reveal about where you are?
3. Is there anyone with whom you are at odds? Would you ask the Lord to give you direction in making it right?

# DAY 13

## CALL TO BATTLE

Paul's letter to the Ephesians cautions us that to be filled with the Spirit with the light of truth puts us in direct conflict with the forces of darkness that operate in Satan's lies. The fact is, that the Spirit's call to spiritual intimacy is, in consequence, also a call to spiritual warfare. Peter tells us to expect it. James warns us that it is not a question of if it will come, but of when will it come.

To be filled with the Spirit enables us to tap into the Lord's mighty strength - to be used as our own. So, the fruit of the Spirit also works as the armor of the Lord to empower us to deal triumphantly with the constant assault of the enemy's forces. In other words, spiritual fruit also functions as the spiritual force that overcomes our adversary.

In Galatians 5:16, we are told that our flesh is constantly being provoked by our nemesis to war against the work the Spirit is doing within us. Paul likens it a wrestling match. We do not just shout out mystical prayers and declarations from an untouchable position that work with magical power to cast down our opponent. Believe me, Satan does not quake at our presumptuous bellowing. We cannot float around in some spiritual bubble that keeps us unscathed from the ravages of war. Very often, it is the victors who bear the greatest scars. To be victorious we are compelled by the Spirit to take up God's armor in anticipation of a struggle for our very souls. It is a conflict with a down-and-dirty opponent who will use any illicit means to hurl us out of the ring and onto our backs in defeat. But effectually operating in the spiritual power with which His armor equips us enables to withstand in the evil day of combat and come out standing as the winner.

Here is the question - are we ready for the battle? We better be, for what stands before us is expanding into an ever-deepening darkness. It won't just go away; so, we better armor up.

### REFLECTION

1. Does the fact that spiritual intimacy invites spiritual warfare cause you to want to back off from God?
2. What are some misconceptions that the Lord may have revealed to you today about how to handle spiritual warfare?

# DAY 14

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT TRUTH

In the daily spiritual battle that confronts us, the Lord equips us with His armor which empowers us to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” As the prophet told Jehoshaphat in a time of national crisis, “Do not be afraid, for the battle is not yours but God’s.” Victory is ours as we clothe ourselves in His “armor of light” (Rom 13:12).

Armor of light – this brings us to the fundamental element of His armor: truth. We have been looking at the essentiality of truth throughout this whole booklet. That’s because everything depends on it. Paul’s underlying message in 2 Timothy is that it is not the absence of the work of the Spirit that plagues us in these last days, it is, rather, the absence of biblical truth that is causing the church to bear more resemblance to the world than to Christ.

Therefore, it is in complete accord with the testimony of scripture that the very first piece of the armor is described as the belt of truth which we fastened around us tightly as the foundation for the all the other pieces that will follow. Truth is the central element the Spirit uses to build our lives and it is also the basis of how we are to overcome in the battle being waged against us. Scripture tells us that that the weapons of our warfare, which are built on truth, are mighty for the pulling down of strongholds based on the arguments and imaginations of this world. This necessitates that our every thought be taken captive by the reality that is found in Christ alone.

I really cannot say enough about the utmost importance of God’s truth as the basis of our reality. Sadly, too many, who claim to be in Christ, view biblical truth as one opinion amid numberless ones. Their idea being that we should collaborate with other “truths” so that we might harmonize with the world. But the reality is, that one can couple anything with a lie and it will still be a lie. But add anything to truth and it ceases to be truth.

Are we willing to adhere unapologetically to scriptural truth, even to the point of the world’s ridicule, or do we just want to get along with everyone and go down with the ship?

### REFLECTION

1. What steps is the Lord leading you to take to immerse yourself more fully in His Word each day?
2. What views or opinions is He leading you to resign and replace with His truth?

# DAY 15

## LIVING FROM CHRIST

With truth as the basis of exercising the power of the Lord's armor, we move now to how truth works in the other pieces available to us. In Ephesians 6:14-18, Paul separates the pieces into two distinct groups. The first deals with what we have been given by the Spirit when we were born again which anchors us unconditionally and for all time in Christ. The second deals with what we take up by virtue of what we already possess which enables us to experience victory in the midst of daily conflict.

With an open Bible beside us, I would like to draw our attention to verses 14-15. Please take notice of the word "having". This asserts that truth, righteousness and peace are not something we are striving to achieve, but what is presently ours in Christ. We are to live from these, not for them.

Christ's righteousness has been freely gifted to us through His unlimited grace (Rom 5:17). We are to clothe ourselves in it as an armored breastplate protecting us from the enemy's attempt to steal away our hearts from the truth. Though we may struggle in our understanding and the living out of His righteousness that does not make it any less an eternal reality. We can go into the conflict with the confidence that, no matter whether we win or lose on that particular day, the ultimate outcome has already been secured for us in Christ.

The reality of our righteousness in Christ means that we have peace with God (literally: peace facing God), standing securely in His grace. There is no more estrangement from Him, no more fear of condemnation. Experiencing peace amid the battle comes from the knowledge that when the dust clears, though battered and broken, we will be the ones left standing in the end.

This is unalterable, unconditional truth. The fact is: to truly abide in God's presence, the truth of our standing before Christ must be decisively grasped by us. The question is: will we genuinely believe it, making no ifs-and-or-buts about it? And just as critical: will we live out of it as if the ultimate victory were already ours? Remember, we cannot allow what happens to us to dictate reality to us – that is for God, and God alone.

### REFLECTION

1. What does it mean to you that you stand securely in God's grace and will not be condemned in Christ?
2. What will your day-to-day life choices look like as you walk in these truths?

# DAY 16

## ON THE ADVANCE

Having the truth, righteousness and peace of Christ operating as the fabric of the Lord's armor enables us to move on to how the victory eternally secured is experienced in every daily life. This requires us taking up all we have been given by faith and using it as a shield, a helmet and a sword. It is crucially important that we remember that the enemy's attack is almost exclusively directed against the mind. This is where we must concentrate our energies.

First, we must understand that our foe focuses His plan of attack at who we are and what we have in Christ. So, on a moment-by-moment basis our righteousness and peace must be taken up by faith as a shield to guard our thinking against his schemes which comes at us ruthlessly like flaming arrows setting our minds ablaze with every diabolical lie at his disposal. Secondly, we are to establish the assurance of our ultimate victory as a helmet protecting our minds from Satan's taunts of our inadequacies. We win in the end; always keep that as the last word in any conflict. Thirdly, truth is to be taken up as the sword of the Spirit. The sword is the only offensive weapon in our arsenal. Whereas both shield and helmet come to our defense, the Spirit's sword allows us to strike back with truth exposing the enemy's lies and dispelling the darkness with which he uses to cover Himself. This is clearly demonstrated by Jesus when He dueled with Satan in the wilderness. There were no power plays or shouted demands, just the confident answer of "it is written."

All that we have and take up lays the groundwork for us to be always praying in the Spirit (of truth) in all things. By living from the delivering power of God's armor we can pray confidently, requesting of the Spirit what He has authoritatively declared as ours to possess. Spirit-infused prayer is the road we must learn to travel if we are to go on to the third phase of our journey.

Are we ready to take up the shield, helmet and sword as warriors? If so, God can raise us up as a mighty army as we learn to push into His presence deliberately and consistently. Abiding is the key to advancing. So, who's ready to join up?

## REFLECTION

1. What are Satan's most effective attacks against your mind?
2. Will you purposely pray through your armor today to thwart those attacks?

# DAY 17

## THE ROAD TO THE PRIZE

After Paul declares that his life's passion is to "know" Christ, he continues on to say that his life's purpose is to "take hold of that for which Christ Jesus has taken hold of me." So, what is that "that?" The "that" is that with Christ's call to relationship comes the invitation to join Him in His mission of redemption. It requires us to forcefully take hold of where the Spirit leads, which means that we must depend on His power for the task ahead of us, while at the same time, embracing the suffering that is inherent in walking contrary to the world's agenda. It means we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. This comes with the warning that it will cost us everything. Of course, we all agree up front with that last statement, but I wonder how many of us are genuinely prepared for what it really means, which includes yours truly as well. It is far too easy to pay lip service to what we are not truly ready to act out.

Paul states the resolve needed this way: "...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press toward the prize for the upward call of God." It is impossible to move forward without letting go of those things, even the good things, that keep us fixed to this world. It is so easy to let the blessings of yesterday become barriers that keep us from taking hold of what He desires to give us today.

The year 1999 was a very difficult year of ministry for me. I remember one day crying out desperately for God to speak to me. His words came so quickly it startled me. "Don't look back, see the possibilities, seek only Me." I still, after all these years, hear those words ringing in my head. To see the possibilities leading to the prize, we must take the road less traveled. Seems great, but it will be scary along the way. Are we ready for a road trip where both our pain and God's power confusingly intermingle, usually without warning or explanation? I pray we will say yes - and keep saying it until we see Jesus face to face.

### REFLECTION

1. What barriers are keeping you from taking hold of those He desires to give you today?
2. Will you relinquish now and embrace what He has for you?

# DAY 18

## THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATER THINGS

Christ assured His disciples, which includes us, that what He would accomplish through His death and resurrection would secure them a place before the Father for all time. Then He shared with them that their position in Him comes with amazing possibilities. He promised them (and us) that they would be empowered to do the very things He had been doing, in fact, even greater things. This staggers the imagination when we consider what He was doing. All this would be possible because He was going to the Father and would come to live within them (and us).

Greater things. What could that mean here at More2Life? It means that we are free to dream with our eyes wide open. But our dreams are not to be of our own making. They are God's dreams that He desires for us to make our own. He reveals in grace, we respond in faith – that's how it works. That means that the potential is truly God-sized. But we must always keep in mind that it is not our faith that moves God to action, rather it is to be God that moves our faith to ask and receive what He clearly lays before us. We dare not say, "This is what I want." We must learn to say, "Your will be done," and mean it, with the sure knowledge that His will is bigger than our wants.

All our hopes and dreams are to be focused on seeking after His kingdom with the great assurance that it is His good pleasure to give it to us (Luke 12:32). Christ's death and resurrection mean more than just deliverance from our sins. It also means we can tap into His agenda where all things are possible, in fact, even greater things than we ever thought possible.

During this phase of our season of fasting, we should be asking God to open our eyes to see what He sees. Just think, we get to dream God's dreams with His resources as the means to their fulfillment. So many of us, due to the pains and losses of life, have not allowed ourselves to dream in a very a long time. Believe me, no one needs this more than me. So, are we ready to dream a little...actually more than a little...actually a lot?

### REFLECTION

1. What personal dreams are you holding on to that may be blocking what God wants for you?
2. Will you give them to the Lord today and ask Him to reveal His dreams to you?

# DAY 19

## THE VOICE

In Jesus's call to abide in Him, He states that, for those who truly do so, His word will abide in them becoming the basis for answered prayer. As His word abides in us, the Spirit uses it to share God's heart and mind to us. As He does so, the Spirit's voice invades our souls with His words of unlimited grace and unparalleled opportunities. Both give us pause as we calculate the depth of their immensity. It is a grace of which we feel totally unworthy and opportunities for which we feel utterly incompetent. But they are nevertheless true. Opportunity and grace go hand in hand. They are two sides of the same coin. We must claim them as ours to possess by faith knowing they are ours already, not because we deserve them, but because He desires to give them. Now it is up to us to stretch out our hand and take hold of them.

Yes, God's opportunities overstretch the imagination since they are God-sized in scope driving fears to the surface that cry out for us to leave them alone. But we find His voice within us to be constant and consistent, never harsh or belittling, but with a passion and purpose that will not be denied.

I do not have the words to adequately deal with just how vital God's voice is to His people. I do know that we so often live our daily lives unaware it, and, sadder still, ignoring it. So, I will let the words of Isaiah speak to it.

*"O people of Zion...you will weep no more. How gracious He will be when you cry for help!  
As soon as He hears it, He will answer you.*

*Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction,  
your teachers will be hidden no more... and your ears will hear a voice  
behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it" (Is 30:20-21)*

This is the way, walk in it. He is always speaking, giving all the directions we need for the journey ahead of us. Isn't that truly wonderful news? So, what other voice do we need?

## REFLECTION

1. What are the voices that you listen to in life?
2. What steps will you take to make the Lord your primary voice? How will you listen each day?



# DAY 20

## HEAVEN'S CURRENCY

According to the way this world works, we must strive by our best efforts to achieve all that we pursue in life. However, God's kingdom operates on a receiving system which has nothing to do with our achievements but has everything to do with faith. Faith is the currency of heaven. In fact, without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith draws on the God who is – the eternal I AM, the One who was, and is, and will always be – with the confidence that He rewards all who diligently abide in Him. By faith we ask and receive, we seek and we find, we knock and closed doors are opened that no man can shut. Faith is what we live by trusting in God's promises, the basis of all reality. But those who do not live by it very often see us as foolish, out of touch with reality. And very often, it does seem so when we jump out into projects and programs while making strong proclamations that do not come to pass.

This is why fasting is so important. Fasting helps us to recalibrate our spiritual senses so that through what the Spirit reveals we can set out and speak out with unquestionable certainty. This undergirds why abiding always precedes advancing. To go forward with God in faith requires that we know, not guess, what we have seen and heard from the Spirit is from the Spirit. We must be constantly asking ourselves, "Has God spoken? If so, what has He said, and what is our response to be?"

We say that we believe that God has spoken, challenging us to go forward with Him in faith in the constructing of a worship and discipling center where lives can be transformed by the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. But this cannot just be the elders talking. This mandates that we all seek Him together, that we all hear Him together, and that we all act together. Joshua could say with assurance and authority that it was time for God's people to cross over the Jordan together. So, are we ready then to go together and see "the Lord do amazing wonders among us?"

## REFLECTION

1. If "abiding precedes advancing" what steps are you taking each day to abide in Christ?
2. What changes do you need to make in your attitude, schedule, etc. to enhance your abiding in Christ?

# DAY 21

## SEASON'S END

Our 21-day season of fasting and prayer has come to end, but our journey is far from over. For this is a walk with the Spirit into the heart of an unfathomable God of such grace and glory that there literally is no stopping point.

Life is made up of many seasons along the way. There are seasons where God's gracious provision is so amazingly abundant that we walk along with Him in almost unspeakable joy. At such times we truly discover there are no pleasures of this world that can compare in any way. And then there are other seasons where the pain is almost unbearable. The day on which I write this last entry (February 19th) marks the third anniversary of my grandson Logan's death at the hands of a violent man. But even as the tears flow, seemingly unstoppable, I am more than ever aware that the presence of great pain does not mean the absence of God's peace.

Paul's concern for the church in the affluent city of Corinth was that they were allowing themselves "to be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ" (2 Cor 11:3). His challenge was for them to press on in the way of simplicity. I was told many years ago that, if we will attend to the depth of the church, God will attend to the breadth of it. That has never left me because it has the unmistakable ring of truth to it.

Hopefully, this has been a season in which we have heard the voice of the Spirit navigating us past the distractions that so easily derail us from our pursuit of God, so that we may, with fresh vigor and insight, push into His presence where we have found Him waiting with outstretched arms. Now, at season's end, with open eyes and ears we press on with Him to what lies ahead knowing, no matter whether the season is delightful or difficult, the way is not complicated. And so, let us continue to travel this road together with our eyes fixed on Jesus with the certainty that He knows exactly where He wants to take us.

## REFLECTION

1. What changes has God made in you during these last 21 days?
2. What will you do to remain sensitive to the things the Holy Spirit wants to do in you from here on?

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**LORD, BUILD YOUR KINGDOM  
THROUGH US SO THAT YOUR NAME IS EXALTED  
IN OKEECHOBEE. TEACH US TO ABIDE IN YOUR  
PRESENCE SO THAT WE HAVE A CONTINUAL  
SENSE OF YOU DIRECTION. MOLD US INTO YOU  
IMAGE SO THAT WE OBEY THE VOICE OF YOUR  
SPIRIT PASSIONATELY AND WITHOUT HESITATION.  
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH SO THAT WE DO  
NOT SHIRK FROM GOD-SIZED POSSIBILITIES.  
IN JESUS NAME, AMEN.**

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