

destined for greatness

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walking in God's destiny

Operation daniel

a Youth for Christ International Prayer Ministry for Youth

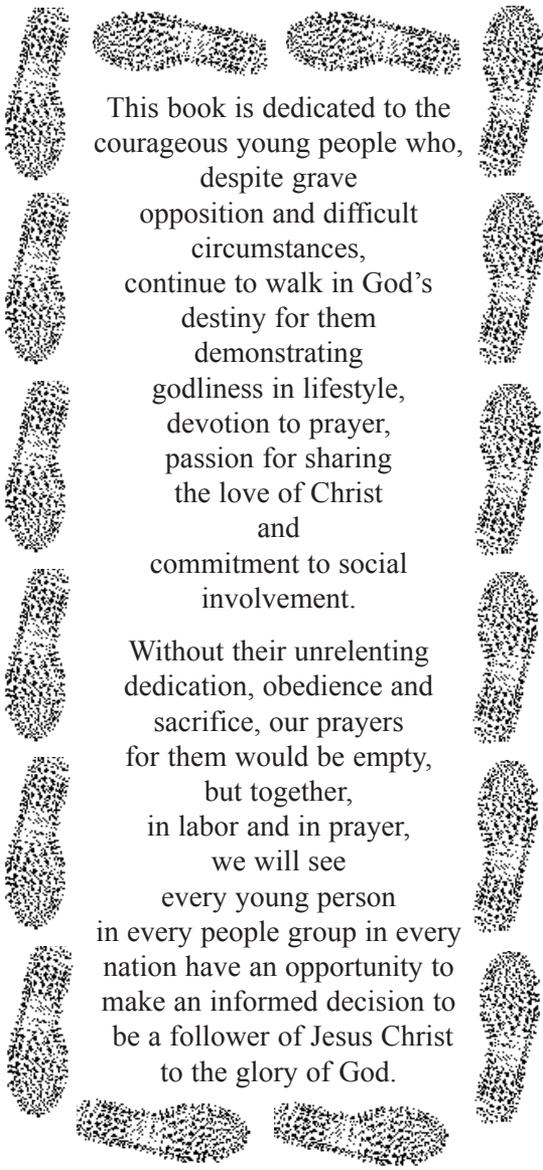
Destined for Greatness
Operation Daniel

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This book is dedicated to the
courageous young people who,
despite grave
opposition and difficult
circumstances,
continue to walk in God's
destiny for them
demonstrating
godliness in lifestyle,
devotion to prayer,
passion for sharing
the love of Christ
and
commitment to social
involvement.

Without their unrelenting
dedication, obedience and
sacrifice, our prayers
for them would be empty,
but together,
in labor and in prayer,
we will see
every young person
in every people group in every
nation have an opportunity to
make an informed decision to
be a follower of Jesus Christ
to the glory of God.

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Welcome to **OPERATION DANIEL**. We have named this youth prayer initiative after Daniel of the Bible. The reason Daniel was chosen is that he walked in God's destiny for him despite all odds and was a man of prayer.

For instance, what would **YOU** do if your government passed a law forbidding prayer, on penalty of death? That's what it was like for Daniel. And in spite of a variety of obstacles he faced, Daniel is one of the **STELLAR** examples of praying to be found in all of Scripture.

The **#1** thing that strikes me about Daniel's prayer life is the simple observation that he made time to pray. The number one excuse given for not praying in our day - and probably in every day and age - is that we don't have time to pray. Do you honestly think that you're more busy than Daniel was? I don't think so. Daniel was one of the top men in the royal court. Imagine that you were one of the top advisor in the highest cabinet in your government? Do you think you'd be busy? You know you would! That's how it was with Daniel and yet he found time to pray. The truth is that you'll find time to do what's really important to you no matter how busy you are.

walking in God's destiny

The **#2** thing that strikes me in his story is that Daniel's enemies tried to stop him from praying. They knew that if they stopped him from praying they would defeat his God. On the other hand, they knew that if he continued to pray they could have him put to death. One thing that all of the spiritual leaders of the church throughout all history would agree on would be this one thing: The number one tactic of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. One author writes: "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from our prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion."

The **#3** that strikes me about Daniel was that he was a disciplined pray-er. He had a plan. He made a commitment. And he stood by it! Daniel had a place to pray - a room on the second floor. And he had a time to pray - three times every day, probably morning, noon, and night.

You don't necessarily have to pray three times a day - though that's a good plan. Come up with your own plan and stick to it!

When the king issued his edict, there were three things Daniel might have done and they were all costly:

1. He could cease praying and be disloyal to God.
2. He could close the window and pray in secret which would cost him his witness to those around him.
3. He could continue to pray as always which might cost him his life.

There was only one option for Daniel and that was to **pray on . . .**

These are some great reasons why we chose this prayer initiative's namesake--Daniel. There are many more!

Youth for Christ International is focused on a new “Strategic Focus” that dictates how we disciple young people. It states that YFCI is “to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.”

The chapters in *Destined For Greatness* follow the above edict. Most of the chapters are dedicated to “devotion to prayer”:

What To Do When Your Culture Disagrees

What Do You Do When It Seems There Is No Answer

I Did It!

Praying Alone, Praying Together

When God Can But Doesn't

When the Battle Rages

Go Without Food

The last three chapters are dedicated to the other three disciplines:

Me A Leader (Lead by their godliness in lifestyle)

Why Did God Leave Me Here (Commitment to social involvement)

Prayer ❖ Power ❖ Proclamation Devotional (Passion for sharing the love of Christ)

Begin your journey through the life and prayer exploits of Daniel by reading the Book of Daniel. It is foundational of this initiative.

May our God and Father prompt and impassion you to a lead a life free of compromise, a life devoted to prayer, a life of service to others, and a life of sharing Christ.

Operation Daniel was designed to promote a prayer movement among the young people. It's focus is to:

- Encourage young people to develop a consistent personal prayer life.
- Encourage young people to join a Daniel Prayer Team (three or four) to pray with regularly.
- Encourage united prayer in a larger group.
- Encourage fasts for an extended time.
- Encourage young people to link with one adult that they pray with once a month. (This will encourage an exchange between age groups.)
- Encourage young people in the four areas of YFCI's Strategic Focus: prayer, evangelism, social involvement and godliness in lifestyle.

Concepts to Learn From Daniel's Life

❖ Chapter 1--*What Do You Do When Your Culture Disagrees?*

Daniel was probably 16 when he was taken captive. They tried to influence him to adopt the Babylon culture. They changed his name, wanted him to eat their food and wanted him to adopt their gods. Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's food. But at the same time he used wisdom on how he presented his position.

So What? We face two cultures: God's kingdom and the kingdom of the world. Identify the temptations youth face in the culture they live. Will you make Daniel's commitment to stand? RC: What Is Prayer?

❖ Chapter 2--*What Do you Do When It Seems There Is No Answer?*

What do you do when circumstances seem hopeless and there are no answers? Daniel and his friends faced death because the king not only wanted his dream interpreted but wanted them to tell what his dream was. Daniel called his friends to pray. His only hope was in God. God gave Daniel the interpretation. Instead of being killed, he was promoted.

So What? You face many situations where there may seem to be no answer: education, job, family situations, possibly marriage. Is God interested in your situation? Will you trust Him as the only Source for answers? Will you take each need to Him expecting that he will answer as He did Daniel? RC: When I Listen How Does God Speak?

❖ Chapter 3--*I Did IT!*

Daniel humbled himself, confessed sin and repented. He took responsibility for his actions.

So What? If we want to see God work, we must keep the channels open by confessing sin. Ask God to search your heart and confess all known sin. RC: Confession and Repentance

❖ Chapter 4--*Praying Alone, Praying Together*

As Daniel faced so many different situations he had a prayer plan. He was consistent in his personal prayer life. He had three friends that he prayed with that were in a similar situation.

So What? Do you have a prayer plan? What is the plan for your personal prayer life? Would you consider forming a small prayer team like Daniel had? Do you have a larger group to pray with? RC: Praying Alone, Prayer Together and Conversational Prayer/Scripture Prayer

❖ Chapter 5--*When God Can But Doesn't*

Daniel's three friends faced being thrown into the fiery furnace because they would not bow down to an idol. When the king gave them another chance, their reply was that God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace but, even if He didn't, they would not bow down.

So What? Can you let God be God? What is your reaction when you know God can do a certain thing but He may not chose to do what you thought? Are you still committed? RC: God Has the Freedom To Do Things Differently

❖ Chapter 6--*When The Battle Rages and It Will!*

Daniel faced spiritual warfare. The answer to his prayer was delayed for three weeks because of the spiritual battle in the heavenlies.

So What? You too are in a spiritual battle. What do you know about Satan's tactics; how does he influence you; what power does he have; what is your position and what can you do? RC: Spiritual Warfare

❖ Chapter 7--*Go Without Food?*

When Daniel faced a difficult problem he prayed and fasted. One time he fasted for twenty-one days.

So What? We face situations that are especially crucial. Can fasting be part of your plan? What do you know about fasting? Will you commit yourself to learn and practice fasting as part of your prayer life? RC: Fasting

❖ Chapter 8--*Me A Leader?*

Daniel and his friends were placed in leadership. Their character made them a success.

So What? Everyone is a leader in some capacity. Do you have the right character attributes that would make you successful? Will you work on being a servant leader with integrity? RC: What Does It Take To Be A Leader?

❖ Chapter 9--*Why Did He Leave Me Here?*

Daniel was involved with the social concerns of the kingdom.

So What? You were created for good works. What is your responsibility? What are you doing? Will you become involved? RC: Social Concern

❖ Chapter 10-- *Prayer* ❖ *Power* ❖ *Proclamation Devotional* (A forty-seven day devotional straight out of the *Book of Acts*.)

I wonder if Daniel had read the Book of Acts, would he have done things differently? Probably not! It seems to me that he followed the principles held to in the *Book of Acts* without even reading it! Daniel was born long before Acts was written, hundreds and hundreds of years before. Yet, God's principles never change. Even the communist recognized that to the peoples' demise!

So What? Are you ready to pray believing God for your friends or maybe your family? Are you ready to proclaim the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do know that prayer, power, and proclamation are inseparable when it comes to evangelism? RC: Sharing the Gospel With Others



Chapter 1

What Do You Do When Your Culture Disagrees

Chapter 2

What Do You Do When It Seems There Is No Answer

Chapter 3

I Did It!

Chapter 4

Praying Alone, Praying Together

Chapter 5

When God Can But Doesn't

Chapter 6

When the Battle Rages and It Will!

Chapter 7

Go Without Food?

Chapter 1

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR CULTURE DISAGREES?

What do you do when you are tempted or your cultural practices are not in line with Scripture? Someone said, "Fall and enjoy sin for a while." That is what often happens. We enjoy sin momentarily but then comes the consequences. Isn't there a better way? Let's look at a young man that found a better way.

What do you know about Daniel? You probably know about the story of Daniel in the lions' den. You may be thinking, "What could I possibly have in common with this guy?" You may be in for a surprise!

Did you know Daniel was taken into captivity when he was only 16 years old? That is probably close to your age. Many of the things he faced were while he was still a young man. He did not have an easy life even though he was probably from a prominent family from Judah. Daniel and the other young men were taken captive to Babylon which was several hundred miles away.

The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, was interested in having some of the young men serve in his court. He was looking for a particular type of young man. This is what Scripture says about these young men:

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. (Dan 1:3-4)

Imagine that! Even before Daniel and his three friends were born, God created them with the same qualities Nebuchadnezzar would look for!

Daniel and his three friends had a difficult time because they were young and in a foreign land where everything was different. The king and leaders wanted them to become part of the Babylonian society. They wanted them to forget their past and have them do everything the Babylonian way. This meant that they would eat things that they were forbidden to eat because of their religious convictions. Some foods they were told to eat were considered unclean and might have been sacrificed to idols. Jews believed in one God. Their captors were polytheistic, having many

gods.

Everything was done to try to break them of their convictions and culture. They were ordered to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans (Dan. 1: 4). Language is basic to one's culture.

Their names were changed (Dan 1:7). Names identify one with a culture. The chief official gave to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Everything went against what they believed in and what they had grown accustomed to.

We too face two cultures: the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. The satanic kingdom and the Godly kingdom are in contrast and conflict with each other.

What things in your world's culture are against the Godly culture? List some of the areas you face as a young person that are generally accepted by the culture but you know are problems in a Godly culture if you are going to walk with God?

How do you face the temptations especially when the situation looks impossible? Let's see how Daniel handled his situation.

Daniel's first test was with food.

The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. (Dan 1:5)

You may wonder why food was a test. The food had probably been sacrificed to idols. God had told the Jews what foods they should eat and certain foods were forbidden. Daniel would have to give up his convictions in order to eat the food offered. What could Daniel do?

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, Daniel made a decision that he would not go against his convictions and

was ready to pay the consequences. (Dan 1:8a)

Many times we can make the right decision but carry it out in a wrong way. Daniel could have been defiant, rebellious and simply not comply with the order. Daniel used wisdom. He didn't tell the authorities that he wouldn't eat the food, but he gave them an alternative.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." (Dan 1:8-13)

The chief official was afraid that the king would disapprove and didn't want to do it. Daniel asked permission from the guard who was appointed to take care of him and he agreed.

Because Daniel had taken a stand, God worked on his behalf.

So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. Daniel and his three friends passed the test and Daniel did not have to go against his conviction. (Dan 1:14-16)

So What?

1. Daniel was very young. But Daniel had convictions and he believed he could make a difference. He had courage and resolve to follow his convictions no matter what others said. Think seriously about your own life and your convictions. Would you have the same resolve?

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Tim 4:12)

Will you pray right now and tell God you want to make a difference and

want your life to stand for something?

2. Are you like Daniel who resolved to stand for his convictions? Look at your list of cultural values on the first page of this chapter. Will you tell God right now that you are ready to stand for your convictions? Ask Him to show you the way of escape when temptations come to tempt you.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

3. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of the book and study the section on "What Is Prayer?"

Write some thoughts down . . .

Chapter 2

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN IT SEEMS THERE IS NO ANSWER?

Decisions, decisions and more decisions! The older you get the more decisions you're faced with. Where am I going with my education? Will there be a job? What about marriage? What about drugs and alcohol? What about premarital sex? What about friends? What about relationships with my family? The questions go on and on.

Do you wonder where to get the answers to life's problems? Does it sometimes seem hopeless? Daniel faced what seemed like a hopeless situation. Read the second chapter of Daniel for the whole story.

King Nebuchadnezzar had dreams that he did not understand . . .

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me." (Dan 2:1-6)

The King decided that he would not only require the interpreter to give the interpretation, but also tell him what his dream was. He felt that if he only asked for the interpretation, they could say anything they wanted even if it wasn't true. But if they also had to tell him the dream, he would know if they were telling the truth. There was a good reward for anyone that could do it but if they couldn't, they would be put to death. When the wise men said it was impossible to do that, the order was given to kill them all. This decree affected Daniel because he would also be killed.

It seemed like a hopeless situation! Where could he get direction? First, he went to the king and asked for an extension of time. Then he took a very important step found in the second chapter of Daniel, verse 17-18. *Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his*

friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Daniel 2:17-18)

Daniel shared with his friends and they prayed. I can imagine they prayed earnestly because their lives depended on it. Prayer focuses you on the only Source who can answer! What do you think happened?

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. (Dan 2:19-20; 22)

Daniel also did something very important that we should remember. When his prayer was answered, he praised and thanked the Lord. Do we sometimes forget that?

Daniel was rushed before the king and he was not only able to give the interpretation but also told the king what the dream was. Because of this, Daniel didn't lose his life but, instead, was promoted.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. (Dan 2:46-48)

So What?

1. Is God really interested in you? Will He really give you direction and hope in your situation? What does He say?

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jeremiah. 29:12)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)

2. God wants to guide you. He knows your future and what is best for you. Are you willing to trust Him? Are you willing to ask Him for direction?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29:11)

3. What situation are you facing right now in which you need direction? Remember God doesn't always answer immediately. Daniel had to ask the king for an extended time to give God time to answer.

What situations in your life need God's direction?

Why not pray right now and ask God to lead you in these decisions?

4. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on "When I Listen How Does God Speak?"

Write some thoughts down . . .

Chapter 3

I Did IT!

Did you know that no sin of Daniel is recorded in the Bible? He is one of the few well-known Bible characters about whom nothing negative was written. (The Open Bible, page 832b, Thomas Nelson, Inc.) Yet, we are told he confessed his sin. Many find it very difficult to confess their sin. It is easy to hide it, deny it, or simply ignore it.

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill . . . (Daniel 9:20)

Here was a man who was handsome, intelligent, favored by God and man. He prayed everyday, three times a day, by his open window at that. He prayed alone and he prayed with his friends. Yet he was humble enough to admit sin - he was sinful! His people were sinful.

What made Daniel's confession so powerful?

1) **Daniel knew from the Scriptures that he and his people were in trouble with God.**

The Scriptures that were written before his time, and that we have today as well, tell of terrible trouble that comes with disobedience and what brings the blessing of God. Moses' writings in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are very clear about the consequences of turning away from God and the blessings that come upon people who obey Him.

Daniel's people had turned away from God. In fact, God's Word had been lost. It had been forgotten. After many years the Scriptures were discovered and read. The broken-hearted prophet, Jeremiah, had written (a few years before Daniel and his people were taken into exile) that God was bringing curses upon them for their disobedience. Their beloved capitol city, Jerusalem, would be empty of its people for a long time. *I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. (Daniel 9:2)*

2) **Daniel knew the sins of his people were shameful.**

Daniel confessed the sins of his people. He was taking the step

God gave them from Leviticus 26:40-42 in returning to right relationship and blessing with Him . . .

But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers--their treachery against me and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies--then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

Daniel confessed that ALL had:

- Sinned - 9:5, 11, 15
- Done wrong - 9:5, 15
- Been wicked - 9:5
- Rebelled - 9:5, 9
- Turned away - 9:5, 11
- Not listened - 9:5
- Unfaithful - 9:7
- Disobeyed - 9:10, 11, 14
- Transgressed - 9:11
- Not given attention to God's truth - 9:13
- Iniquities of our fathers - 9:16

How could Daniel dare to beg God for His favour when the list of offenses towards Him was so long, even after He had been so gracious to them in every way?

3) Daniel knew God's character.

The first thing Daniel did was to prepare himself to plead with God. He set aside anything that would distract him. He didn't eat. He took off his nice clothes. He left his comfortable place. He was serious about this time of confession.

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)

Daniel knew God from reading the Scriptures and from the many times he spent with Him in prayer. He could see beyond God's strong discipline to His compassionate nature which remains constant. Think about the words he used to describe God:

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of

love with all who love him and obey his command -9:4

Lord, you are righteous - 9:7

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving -9:9

The LORD our God is righteous in everything he does -9:14

Your righteous acts, your anger and your wrath -9:16

He knew God to be great, loving, forgiving, and without any fault - even in chastening. He was able to talk about God's righteous acts and His anger and wrath in the same sentence. He knew that God only chastens to bring the people He loves back to Himself.

Daniel knew God's character and the sinfulness of himself and his people. He spoke truths that helped to release God's answer and then poured out his heart pleading for God's intervention, lest he and his people lose hope and be utterly destroyed.

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 9:18

O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name. 9:19

Daniel knew that the only hope for God's rebellious people was for them to humble themselves before Him, confess their sins, and return to Him. His promise to them of forgiveness is recorded in Leviticus 26:44-45:

Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.

God's honour was involved with Him forgiving His people because of the promises He had made to them long before.

I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands . . . (Daniel 9:4)

4) Daniel confessed his own sin.

There is no listing of Daniel's personal sins, but we know he knew he was a sinner and in need of God's mercy. He was a great man, but a very humble man who acknowledged his wrongs in a deep way to God.

5) Daniel's earnest confession brought amazing results.

Confession brought a messenger from God.

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill--while I was still in prayer; Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. Verses 20-21

Confession unlocked insight and understanding.

He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. (Daniel 9:22)

Confession released power to receive new truth.

As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision. (Daniel 9:23)

God responded to Daniel's confession through Gabriel, telling him he was esteemed and gave him astonishing insights about the end times. God respected Daniel!

So What?

1. Confession of personal sins is necessary for continued fellowship and receiving God's favor and power. Daniel knew that, examined his own heart and then confessed the sins of his nation.
2. How long has it been since you really examined your own life in this area? Ask God to search your heart and reveal any sin you have not confessed.
3. Begin your own private list and take several days or the time needed to develop it.
4. Pick another group you are involved with. This may be your youth group. Make a list of what you believe are the sins of the group. Is there immorality, indifference, lack of prayer or what are the things holding back the group?

5. What are the sins of your nation? Make a list.
6. Confess these before the Lord. You may work on this for some time.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
7. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on " Confession and Repentance."

Write some thoughts down . . .

Chapter 4

PRAYING ALONE, PRAYING TOGETHER

We all enter life as helpless babies. No one is born powerful. Power comes when we grow and develop. It is the same way in coming to know and communicate with God.

People who have power with God have come to know and trust Him in a very deep way through difficulties. Daniel was one of these. He was a captive living in a foreign land under the rule of ungodly kings. He was often threatened by death unless he gave solutions to impossible situations or told to quit serving his God. But Daniel prayed. He was given insight about the King's dream and how to interpret it. Proud pagan rulers proclaimed that Daniel's God was the true God. Lions' mouths were shut. Mysteries were revealed.

What made Daniel's prayers so powerful?

1) Daniel had a powerful view of God.

Daniel knew God so well that he had many names for Him. He trusted Him completely in everything. The names he used show His confidence in God. Some of these names from Daniel are:

- The Most High God 5:18
- The God who holds in His hand your life and all your ways 5:23
- Lord, the great and awesome God 9:4
- Lord our Lord who is merciful and forgiving 9:9
- The Lord our God who is righteous in everything He does 9:14

2) Daniel had a rich relationship with God.

- He prayed constantly and consistently.

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (Dan. 6:10)

- He praised and thanked God.

I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power; you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king." (Dan. 2:23)

- He made intense intercession.

Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the

city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name. (Dan. 9:18-19)

- He made passionate petition for personal needs.

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Dan 2:17-18)

- He fasted.

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. (Dan. 9:3)

- He declared the truths of God's ways.

He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. (Dan. 2:21-22)

3) Daniel's lifestyle was consistent with His prayer life.

Not only did Daniel "talk the talk," he "walked the walk." He not only knew God's Word and ways, he followed them - seriously. Here are three examples:

- He made a decision to do what was right and did not turn back.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (Daniel 1:8)

- He was trustworthy.

At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Daniel 6:4)

- He did not let anything interfere with His relationship with God.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. (Daniel 6:10)

Pray with a Team

What do you do when you have a problem? Scream? Cry? Call a friend and complain? Daniel discovered he had a BIG problem. The king was so angry and furious when his astrologers could not tell them what he dreamed, that he ordered all of the wise men of Babylon to be executed. *So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.* (Daniel 2:13)

1) Daniel had a prayer attitude.

- What would you have done if you were threatened with death? What did young Daniel do? He showed tremendous maturity and wisdom. He spoke to the commander of the king's guard with wisdom and tact. When he heard the reason for the king's harsh decree, he went to the king to see if he could help by interpreting the dream for him. Then he sought out his friends.

- What did he ask of them?

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Daniel 2:17-18)

- What was the result? What was Daniel's immediate response?

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. (Daniel 2:19)

- When Daniel had problems, he was consistent - he went directly to the One Who knew all things and could direct his steps. In this situation, he looked for prayer partners to join him in pleading for mercy from God.

The more serious the situation, the more prayer power is needed.

2) Daniel had a Prayer Team that was courageous.

- Daniel and his three friends, Han, Mish, and Azi, were youth who had displayed strong character when they resolved not to do what they did not believe was right. I believe God saw their courage and boldness in doing the right thing rather than the convenient thing and gave them what

they needed for their life.

- They excelled in their work.

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. (Daniel 1:20)

3) Daniel and his Prayer Team had answers from God.

- When Daniel and his friends passed the food test, God strengthened them in other ways.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. (Daniel 1:17)

- When they pleaded for mercy for Daniel to interpret the dream for the king, God revealed the dream as well as the interpretation.

I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power; you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king. (Daniel 2:23)

- When the Prayer Team was thrown into the furnace, Jesus met them there.

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." (Daniel 3:25)

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God." (Daniel 3:28)

So What? Personal Prayer Practices

What We Can Learn from Daniel's Prayer Life

1) What is your view of God?

What are the names you most frequently use for God when you talk with Him? _____

What names of God will you begin to use from Daniel?

For the next month: Find a name of God or characteristic of His in the Bible and use these in your prayers. You may want to circle them, perhaps in red, to find them quickly. Make a list and review it at the end of the month. Who is God to you at the end of the month as compared to the beginning?

2) What is the pattern of your relationship with God?

Two of Daniel's personal prayer practices were that he prayed every day and that he prayed three times a day. Which ones do you do?

_____ Pray everyday

_____ Pray three times a day.

For the next month: Commit to pray everyday, perhaps three times a day as Daniel did. How long you pray is up to you.

Times I will pray each day this month:

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

For the next month: Check each day when you pray in the following manner:

Week	1	2	3	4	5
-------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

SUN					
MON					
TUE					
WED					
THU					
FRI					
SAT					

Praise God and thank Him

MON

Make intercession for others

TUE

Make petitions for personal needs

WED

Confess personal sin and ask God for mercy

THU

Confess sins of your people and ask God for mercy

FRI

Fast

SAT

Declare truths of God's ways

3) What is the basis for your choices?

For this month: Resolve not to complain, but to pray when problems come your way. Ask God what to do when you don't know what to do. To help you remember what He has done, make a list of the things you pray about and what happened when you prayed. This is a wonderful verse to encourage you:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

4) Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on " Praying Alone, Praying Together" and "Conversation Prayer/Scripture Prayer."

Chapter 5 WHEN GOD CAN BUT DOESN'T

Do you ever find yourself wanting to tell God what He should do? Maybe you don't tell Him outright but what you expect when you pray is that God will answer in a certain way. What happens when you know and believe God can answer your prayer the way you want but He doesn't?

Nebuchadnezzar built a golden image that was over 27 meters high and almost 3 meters wide. He then dedicated the image and ordered everyone to bow down to it when they heard certain music being played. (Daniel 3:2-5)

The penalty for not bowing down to the image was that the person was to be thrown into the fiery furnace. It is interesting that Daniel is not mentioned so we don't know how he personally handled this.

But Daniel's three prayer partners, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego did not bow down and were reported to the King.

At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." (Daniel 3:8-12)

When the king heard he responded with rage and anger. They were called before him and he gave them a chance to bow down.

. . . and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? {15} Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (Daniel 3:14-15)

Again we see the character of Daniel's prayer partners. They had made up

their minds not to compromise but to stand firm. They are willing to stand alone and take the consequences.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (Daniel 3:16-18)

They knew and expected God to deliver them. But these are powerful words, "But even if He does not." Even if they knew God would not deliver them, they still would not bow down. Their decision to stand firm was not based only on their expected deliverance but on trusting God in spite of what God might do. They allowed God to be God.

The king was filled with wrath when he heard their response. He had the furnace heated seven times greater than usual. Daniel's prayer partners had their hands tied and were thrown into the furnace with all their clothes on. The fire was so hot that when they threw them in, the men carrying them were instantly killed.

But the king couldn't believe what he was seeing!

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire . . . (Daniel 3:24-26)

Everyone gathered around to see what had happened. They had a hard time believing what they saw.

They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. (Daniel 3:27b)

The king was impressed with their God. The king made an interesting decree.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach

and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon. (Daniel 3:28-30)

What a testimony the three had! The king realized their commitment to their God. The King then decreed that no one could speak against their God and so the whole nation heard about the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

The story had a miraculous ending. My question is what would have happened if God didn't deliver them? They were still ready to give up their lives and not bow down. Their lives would still have been a testimony to the nation. In either case, they were walking by faith and trusting God and allowing God to act as He saw fit.

The Book of Daniel is filled with the message that God is sovereign . . . Babylon was enjoying great prosperity. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Daniel interpreted the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had. (Daniel 4) The interpretation was that because the King did not acknowledge the sovereignty of God, he would become as an animal eating grass in the fields until he acknowledged God's sovereignty. The King took credit himself for the greatness of the kingdom.

Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:29-30)

The interpretation of the King's dream was fulfilled.

Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird. (Daniel 4:33)

After seven years Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the sovereignty of God and he was restored to his former position and again ruled.

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven,

and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:34-35)

Because the next King, Belshazzar, did not acknowledge God's sovereignty he also lost the kingdom. It is a very interesting story that you can read about in Daniel chapter five.

So What?

1. Do you have certain expectations of God and how He will work when you pray? Is your faith-walk affected if He doesn't answer the way you expect Him to? What happens if you pray for a job and you don't get the one you expected? What happens if you pray for healing but you or the person you are praying for is not healed? What happens if you pray for God to open the door to a school and He doesn't? What happens if you so much want to be married but, when you pray, God doesn't send that special one immediately? Is your faith-walk shaken?

There is nothing wrong with having expectations. We all have them. These can be important especially when based on God's Word. For example, God says that when we put God's kingdom first he will take the responsibility of providing for our food and clothing. (Matthew 6:25-34) If you are truly putting God's kingdom first, there is nothing wrong in expecting God to supply these other needs. He didn't say He would provide steaks for every meal or expensive clothing, but that he would take care of your needs.

The basic attitude must always be to have the attitude that Daniel's prayer partners had. We believe God will deliver us but, if He doesn't, we will still walk in faith and serve Him.

2. Are you ready to make that commitment? You will trust in God alone and know that what He does and allows in your life is for your good whether or not you understand or agree. If you are ready, tell God that you make that commitment and then remember it when God doesn't answer in the way you expected.

3. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on " God Has the Freedom To Do Things Differently."

Chapter 6

WHEN THE BATTLE RAGES! AND IT WILL!

There are two kingdoms, God's kingdom and Satan's Kingdom. Satan is out to spoil, intimidate, steal and even to kill you. Many are aware of the evil spiritual forces. Many live in fear. They try to find ways to appease the spirits or do things to protect themselves.

Daniel was faced with these “evil ones” who were very real and powerful. What do you do when you realise these evil ones are fighting against you and trying to influence you?

Daniel had received a message that disturbed him. He prayed and fasted for three weeks. (Daniel 10) Daniel was probably wondering why he had not received an answer to his prayer. He was suffering as he waited for an answer.

So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. (Daniel 10:8)

Finally an angel brought his answer. Daniel learned that his prayer had been heard and was being answered but there was a problem.

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. (Daniel 10:12-13)

The angel of God was fighting with evil demonic forces. Daniel's prayer was heard immediately. We learn that these evil forces were so powerful and that it kept the angel of God from coming for almost three weeks. It took Michael, who was one of the chief angels, to join the battle so that the angel was free to go and bring the message to Daniel.

We learn that apparently certain evil demons are assigned to different parts of the world. In this passage, we see the demonic beings over Persia (vs 13) and Greece (vs 20).

The angel was going back to fight the evil forces after he delivered the message to Daniel. We learn that overcoming demonic forces is not a

“once and for all” because the angel had to return to continue the battle. *So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. (Daniel 10:20-21)*

In this instance the battle was between the spiritual forces of Satan and the angelic forces of God. Daniel did not have to do anything to fight the evil forces but the answer to his prayer was delayed.

So What?

1. How much do you know about the evil spiritual forces that are doing battle against you? Have you ever been aware of them?
2. When possible, they don't want you to be aware you are fighting with spiritual beings.
3. If you are aware of them, they often try to frighten you and make you think there is nothing you can do to thwart them.
4. Scripture tells us a lot about these beings, their tactics and how you can win the battle.
5. You are in a battle, and if you don't know how to fight, you will be taken advantage of by these evil forces.
6. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on "Spiritual Warfare."

Write some thoughts down . . .

Chapter 7

GO WITHOUT FOOD?

There are times in our lives when we face circumstances or need a break-through in an area and it seems that normal praying does not bring an answer. Is there anything we can do?

Daniel realised that the time of the captivity of his people was coming to an end. He knew this because Jeremiah, the prophet, had prophesied how long they would be in captivity.

In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. (Daniel 9:2)

When Daniel realized this he did several things:

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)

Daniel pleaded with the Lord for his people in prayer but he also fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes. We will focus on the fasting, but the next two things he did are as important and often connected with fasting. He humbled himself by putting on sackcloth and ashes. He then confessed the sins of his people:

I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. (Daniel 9:4-5)

Notice how he starts out by acknowledging the greatness and faithfulness of God. He then humbles himself by confessing the sins of his people. He includes himself with the others when he says, "We have sinned." Humbling ourselves and confession of sin are also often required if God is going to do a special work in our lives.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Daniel faced another situation. God revealed to him in a vision what would happen in the future to his people. It was not a good message. The message

shook him up. His people again would suffer. Again Daniel has compassion for his people.

At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. (Daniel 10:2-3)

Here again Daniel prays and fasts. This fast was for 21 days. It does not say that he did not eat anything but rather that he gave up the choice foods, did not eat meat and did not drink wine. There are different kinds of fasts. But Scripture is clear that fasting brings special results. *A man came to the disciples who had a son with a demon. The disciples tried to cast out the demon but couldn't. When Jesus came he cast the demon out. The disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't cast the demon out. Jesus replied, "But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."* (Matthew 17:21 NASB)

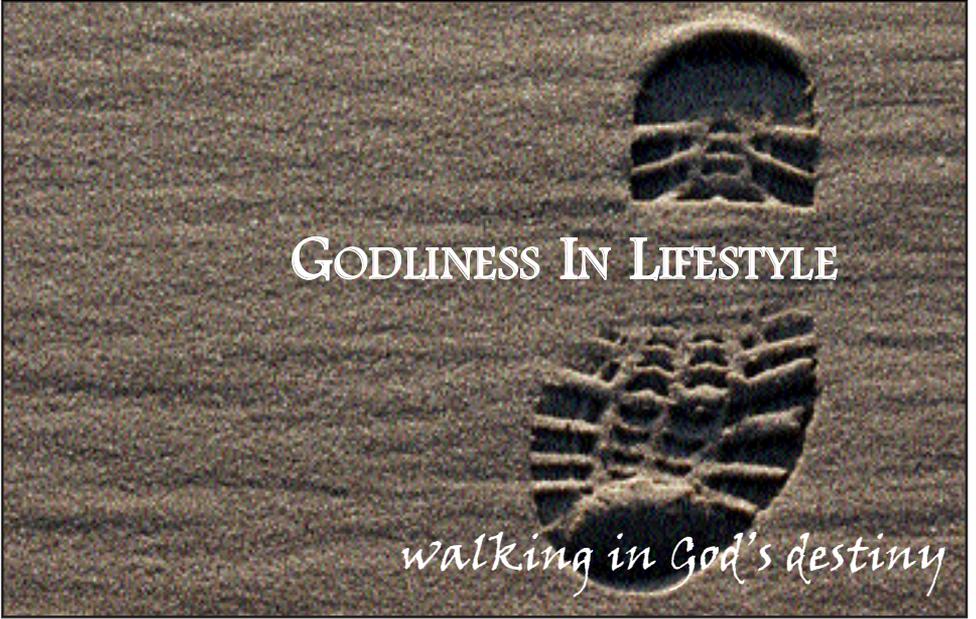
There are numerous places in the Bible that speak about fasting. When Jesus was on earth his disciples did not fast. Jesus explained that it was not necessary while He was with them but that they would fast after He returned to heaven.

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. (Matthew 9:14-15)

Jesus gave instructions on giving alms, praying and fasting. He said, "when you give alms . . . when you pray . . . when you fast". (Matthew. 6:2,5,16) He did not say "IF" you fast. We are expected to fast.

So What?

1. Daniel showed us by example that we need to humble ourselves and confess sin. God will sometimes not move even when we pray. Are you willing to humble yourself, examine your life to see if there is any unconfessed sin, and, if there is, to confess it?
2. You will face times when you sense you need special spiritual insight. It will seem like you need special direction, special spiritual power in breaking sin in your own life or others,
3. Are you willing and ready to try fasting?
4. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on " Fasting."



GODLINESS IN LIFESTYLE

walking in God's destiny

Chapter 8
Me A Leader?

Chapter 8

ME A LEADER?

Some of you are already in a leadership position. Some of you might have little hope of being a leader. You might be thinking I am certainly not a leader at home. My church doesn't recognise any of the youth as having much to share let alone be a leader. But you can be a leader now by setting a good example! Just maybe people will follow your example of pure living! *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.* (1 Tim 4:12)

You don't need permission or recognition to be an example. God knows your heart so step out. Be a leader in youth group and at school. It doesn't have to be formal. You will have many opportunities to lead in the future. So let's see what we can learn about leadership from Daniel.

Preparation for leadership comes while you are still young. Remember that Daniel was probably only 16 when he was taken captive. His character was being built from a young age. Preparation usually involves hardship. Someone has said, "The Christian life is like a tea bag, worth very little until it is put into hot water. Our character is usually developed in the "hot" times. This was certainly true of Daniel.

Daniel was prepared for leadership from the very start. He was selected to be trained for use in the King's courts. He served in various leadership positions into his eighties. Let's consider some of the things that made him a good leader.

His Personal Life

- His was not rebellious. While he had definite standards there is no indication that he was rebellious. He sought a way to relate without compromise but did not attack when he felt he should not eat the king's food. He was ready to pay the consequences of not eating the food but he first asked permission to not to defile himself by eating.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (Daniel 1:8)

- He led a life of purity and would not defile himself.
- He was without defect, good looking and intelligent. In spite of these characteristics, he was humble and admitted he sinned.

- He was knowledgeable. He was teachable and took advantage of his education and put it into practice. Because of this, he was promoted in the kingdom. (Daniel 1:18-20)
- He learned how to react when falsely accused and punished for doing what was right. (Daniel 6)
- He is disciplined. He kept a consistent prayer life. (Daniel 6:10)
- His personal life was above question. In Daniel 6, some jealous leaders tried to find something to accuse him of. They searched but came to the conclusion that the only thing they could possibly find was in regard to something about the law of his God. (Daniel 6:4ff)
- His public service was impeccable.
- He was stable and hung in there through all kinds of difficult situations. He faced many difficult situations, many of which seemed hopeless. Daniel 1 (food test); Daniel 2 (interpretation of dream); Daniel 5 (writing on the wall); and Daniel 6 (the lions' den).
- He was loyal to his authority yet would not compromise. He was able to serve under four kings. This was very unusual because usually each king when he came into power put in his own people.
- He looked out for others. He kept the other wise men from being put to death by interpreting the dream. (Daniel 2) When he was promoted, he asked that his friends also be promoted. It was not simply that they were his friends but they were qualified. (Daniel 2:48-49)
- Daniel, at times, refused gifts when he apparently felt they were bribes or there were wrong motives. Daniel 5: 15-18
- He was a man of integrity. When some leaders tried to find some accusation against him, they examined closely his public and personal life and could find nothing to accuse him of. (Daniel 6:4-5)
- He was faithful. Each King promoted him and even his accusers found him to be faithful.

At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Daniel 6:4)

- He was a servant leader. He served the kings without seeking his own interests. He did not use his position for his own benefit.

His Spiritual Life

- He maintained a consistent walk with God. He did not seek God only in crisis situations.
- He was a man of faith. When facing numerous situations that

seemed impossible he had faith in God that He would grant a solution to the problem.

- He suffered in a Godly way when facing a situation such as the lion's den when he had done nothing wrong.
- He was humble and confessed his own sin as well as those of his nation. (Daniel 9)
- He disciplined his physical body by seeking God through fasting. (Daniel 10:3)
- He was aware of spiritual warfare. (Daniel 10)
- He was a praying leader, both personally and with others. This was the foundation for successful leadership over many years.

So What?

1. If we are going to see things change, we need a new generation of Godly leaders. Someone has said, "Before we work on what a leader should do, we should work on what a leader should be."
2. You will be a leader. It may be formal or informal. You will influence others for good or for evil. What kind of a leader will you be?
3. Are you willing to commit yourself to being a Godly leader? It may not only be in a church, but in business, government, social issues, community and in your home.
4. Make a list of the positive leadership characteristics you have and some that you are probably going to have to work on if you are to be a Godly leader.
5. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on "What Does It Take To Be A Leader."

Write some thoughts down . . .



COMMITMENT TO
SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

walking in God's destiny

Chapter 9

Why Did God Leave Me Here?

Chapter 9 WHY DID GOD LEAVE ME HERE?

Do you ever feel like some view involvement in social issues as somehow less spiritual than ministry involvement in the church? Have you ever heard Christians say we shouldn't be involved in politics?

Daniel was involved with the social affairs of Babylon. Daniel wasn't a priest or working as a minister in the religious sector.

Daniel was involved in the administration of the kingdom of Babylon. For the most part, it was a very pagan society. They served pagan gods.

Daniel started out in the king's palace. God gave Daniel and his three friends knowledge of all kinds through literature and learning. (Daniel 1:17) Do you think this was Biblical literature? No, they become learned concerning the society of Babylon and how the kingdom functioned.

It says that when the king questioned them, *"In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom."* (Daniel 1:20) Daniel served well in the king's administration.

After Daniel interpreted the King's dream he again was promoted. *Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.* (Daniel 2:48-49)

When God delivered Daniel's prayer team from the fiery furnace, his friends were also promoted and continued to care for the social aspects of the city.

Throughout his lifetime, Daniel lived a godly life. But at the same time he was involved in the government and running the affairs of an ungodly kingdom. He served and made a difference.

So What?

1. The new generation of youth must be involved in all areas of

legitimate life in society. We can't stay locked up in the churches and uninvolved with the social issues facing society.

2. From your point of view what are some of the social issues your society faces. Make a list.

3. Which of these are you most interested in? How might you become involved?

4. Go to the Resource Centre in the back of this book and study the section on "Social Concern."

Write some thoughts down . . .



PASSION FOR SHARING
THE LOVE OF CHRIST

walking in God's destiny

Chapter 10

Prayer ❖ Power ❖ Proclamation Devotional

I heard a story that goes like this:

prayer
power
proclamation

Before communism fell, a gentleman visiting the Soviet Union went to see a man who was the head of a local communist cell in a local communist headquarters where they send out literature. The communist said, "Come in, Reverend, and sit down." He went in and sat. "Now, we're communists," he said. "You know that, and you're a minister. Of course, we're miles apart. But," he said, "I want to tell you something. We learned our technique from your book of Acts." He said, "We learned how to win and conquer from your book of Acts." And he said, "You who believe the Bible have thrown overboard the methods of the early church and we who don't believe it have adopted them and they're working." (A. W. Tozer)

I wonder if Daniel had read the Book of Acts, would he have done things differently? Probably not! It seems to me that he followed the principles held to in the *Book of Acts* without even reading it! Daniel was born long before Acts was written, hundreds and hundreds of years before. Yet, God's principles never change. Even the communist recognized that to the peoples' demise!

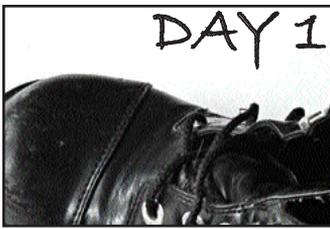
The forty-seven day devotional is straight out of the *Book of Acts* for that reason. The ***Book of Acts*** was written about the progress of the "first church," yet the same principles live on . . . prayer, power, proclamation. We must adhere to the three in combination, leaving not one out, if we desire the world to know Jesus.

I don't know about you, but that's my desire.

Enjoy your next weeks in the *Book of Acts*. A day's devo takes you through:

1. a Scripture verse from Acts;
2. at times gives a short teaching on the verse;
3. at times gives a definition of a word from the Greek language;
4. a "prayer point" from the verse;
5. a "Get In The Word" challenge for you to dig deeper in the Word.

Now make a plan! Daniel had a plan. He made a commitment. And he stood by it! Daniel had a place to pray and he had a time to pray. You choose what's best for you and **commit** to it! God will meet you wherever and whenever . . .



DAY 1

acts 1:1-3 AMP

To them also he showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.

PRAY The Kingdom of God is at hand!

Just as Jesus taught the Kingdom of God to His disciples, He also wants to teach you the dynamics of His Kingdom: Kingdom rule (dominion of rule), Kingdom citizenship (operating as citizens, ambassadors and militia in the Kingdom), Kingdom authority, Kingdom worship (showing forth the praises of God), Kingdom industry (doing Kingdom business), obedience to Kingdom laws, receiving Kingdom power, and being Kingdom intercessors (seeing ministry birthed, sustained and triumphed through prayer). Spend time talking to God about the scope of His Kingdom, asking Him to teach you as Christ taught His own.

□ GET IN THE WORD: KINGDOM OF GOD 1 COR 4:20

DAY 2

acts 1:4-5 AMP

And while being in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water; but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit.



In John's gospel, Jesus' introduces us to the Person and works of the Holy Spirit . . .

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor; Helper; Intercessor; Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby, and Consoler), that He may remain with you forever. -John 14:16

But the Comforter (Counselor; Helper; Intercessor; Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby and Consoler), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you. -John 14:26

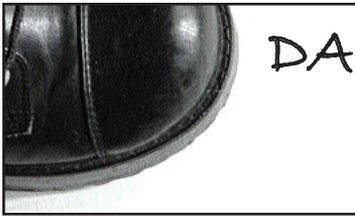
But when the Comforter (Counselor; Helper; Intercessor; Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby and Consoler) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He [Himself] will testify Me. -John 15:26

And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment . . . -John 16:8-9

PRAY The Holy Spirit cometh!

Jesus taught His disciples what to look for and what to expect when the Holy Spirit made His entrance. There was great expectation and anticipation of His coming but, even so, nothing could come close to what they expected. Pray that YOU gain a greater revelation of the Personhood of the Holy Spirit, His nature and character, His Name and His significance to you as a believer (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby and Consoler), His testifying work (John 16:8-9) in the evangelism of the lost, a Helper in the ministry of intercession, and His power made available to "whosoever will" to be Christ's witnesses.

□ GET IN THE WORD: HOLY SPIRIT LUKE 11:13, ACTS 2:4



DAY 3 acts 1:8 AMP

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

Word Search: Power

dunamis, Greek, Strong's; force (literal or figurative); specially miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself) :- ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of miracle (-s), power, strength, might (wonderful) work.

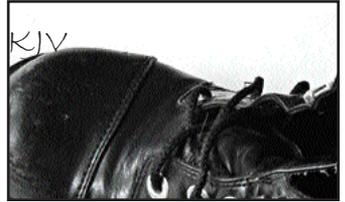
PRAY Be filled!

Ask to be "filled with the Holy Spirit"; ask to be endued with power from on high; ask for His prompting to be His "witness" (Greek word "martus" :- martyr, witness) wherever YOU are sent.

GET IN THE WORD: POWER MATT 10:1, LUKE 9:1

DAY 4 acts 1:14 KJV

And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying . . . These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.



Word Search: Continue

proskartereo, Greek 4342, Strong's to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor) :- attend (give self continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

Word Search: With One Accord

homothumadon, Greek, Strong's: unanimously :- with one accord (mind).

PRAY Get connected!

Ask that you be brought to full agreement, one accord, unified in purpose and in mission with those you have joined forces with in ministry and will be devoted steadfastly to prevailing, persevering, unified prayer for one another and your mission.

GET IN THE WORD: PRAYER MATT 21:22, ACTS 6:4



DAY 5 acts 1:24-25 AMP

And they prayed and said, You, Lord, Who know all hearts (their motives, passions, desires, appetites, purposes and endeavors), indicate to us which one of these two You have chosen to take the place in ministry . . .

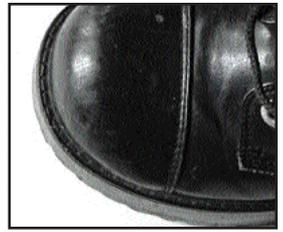
PRAY Be pro-active!

When you are called someday to a leadership role, pray that God surround you with strong believers who will join you in agreement prayer, beseeching and believing God for His guidance when hiring new staff, for it is the Lord who knows the heart, motives, passions, desires, appetites, purposes and endeavors of everyone and it is He you will inquire of and look to for direction.

GET IN THE WORD: AGREE MATT 18:19

DAY 6 acts 2:17; 18; 21 AMP

And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams. Yes, on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels and predicting future events pertaining especially to God's Kingdom] . . . And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord [invoking, adoring, and worshiping the Lord--Christ] shall be saved. (Joel 2:28-32)



PRAY Whosoever will!

The Holy Spirit is here right now, convicting and convincing the world about their sin. We are here to proclaim the only One who can forgive sin--Jesus Christ. Tap into the power made available to you through the Holy Spirit. Pray that you would understand the dimension of the Holy Spirit that is available to you in reaching your friends and receive all that is available.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: RECEIVE MATT. 10:14, MARK 4:20



DAY 7 acts 2:38-39 AMP

And Peter answered them, Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Sprit. For the promise [of the Holy Spirit] is to and for you and your children, and to and for all that are far away, [even] to and for as many as the Lord our God invites and bids to come to Himself.

PRAY Repent and believe!

Pray that you will be fearless in your approach to sharing the Gospel; that it be preached with clarity and with power; that the minds of unbelievers would be unveiled so that they could understand the truth of the Gospel; that the Lord of the Harvest would send the needed laborers to sow the seed; that faith and great grace would abound in the laborers; that God would impassion His people with His global prospective for global expansion, seeking to bring all nations into His kingdom for "The Kingdom of God is at hand."

☐ GET IN THE WORD: REPENT MATT. 3:2; MARK 1:15

DAY 8 acts 2:42 AMP

And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles . . .

Word Search: Fellowship

koinonia , Strong's #2842: Sharing, unity, close association, partnership, participation, a society, a communion, a fellowship, contributory help, the brotherhood. Koinonia is a unity brought about by the Holy Spirit. In koinonia the individual shares in common an intimate bond of fellowship with the rest of the Christian society.



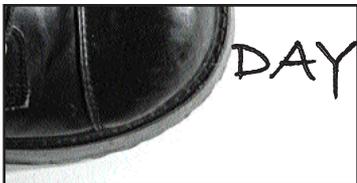
Quote from Matthew Henry Commentary

"The greatness of Pentecost raised them above the world, and the Holy Ghost filled them with such love, as made every one to be to another as to himself, and so made all things common, not by destroying property, but doing away with selfishness, and causing charity. And God who moved them to it, knew that they were quickly to be driven from their possessions in Judea."

PRAY Koinonia!

Pray that you will steadfastly persevere in the work of the Lord; in the Word and instruction of the Lord; in partnership and communion with the Holy Spirit; and in fellowship (koinonia) with others. God commands His blessing where there is unity (Psalm 133).

☐ GET IN THE WORD: TOGETHER MATTHEW 18:20;
ACTS 1:4; 15



DAY 9 acts 2:42 AMP

... to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers.

PRAY Pray without ceasing!

"Blessed Lord! who ever livest to pray, I ask Thee this day to enroll my name among those who confess that they know not how to pray as they ought, and specially ask Thee for a course of teaching in prayer. Lord! teach me to tarry with Thee in the school, and give Thee time to train me. May a deep sense of my ignorance, of the wonderful privilege and power of prayer, of the need of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of prayer, lead me to cast away my thoughts of what I think I know, and make me kneel before Thee in true teachableness and poverty of spirit. And fill me, Lord, with the confidence that with such a teacher as Thou art I shall learn to pray. In the assurance that I have as my teacher, Jesus who is ever praying to the Father, and by His prayer rules the destinies of His Church and the world, I will not be afraid. As much as I need to know of the mysteries of the prayer-world, Thou wilt unfold for me. And when I may not know, Thou wilt teach me to be strong in faith, giving glory to God. Blessed Lord! Thou wilt not put to shame Thy scholar who trusts Thee, nor, by Thy grace, would he Thee either. Amen." --Andrew Murray

☐ GET IN THE WORD: PRAY LUKE 11:2-11

DAY 10 acts 2:43 AMP

And a sense of awe (reverential fear) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were performed through the apostles (the special messengers).



Fear And Sovereignty . . .

In Scripture and in experience, the fear of God is closely linked to the revelation of His sovereignty. Job 23:13-16 (NIV) *But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases. He carries out his decree against me, and many such plans he still has in store. That is why I am terrified before him; when I think of all this, I fear him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.*

Fear And Wisdom . . .

Fear of God and wisdom are closely related for without fear (awe) there is not the wisdom.

Ps 111:10 (NEB) *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and they who live by it grow in understanding...*

Prov 9:10 (NEB) *The first step to wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

PRAY Fear Him you saints!

Pray that your relationship with the Holy One of Israel will be enhanced with a greater sense of awe (reverential fear) for Him.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: FEAR JOB 28:28, PSALM 33:18; 34:9



DAY 11

acts 2:44-45 AMP

And all who believed (who adhered to and trusted in and relied on Jesus Christ) were united and [together] they had everything in common; and they sold their possessions (both their landed property and their movable goods) and distributed the price among all, according as any had need.

The Blessedness of Self-Giving--Spirit Filled Life Bible--page 1559

"The worth of man is defined not by how much he acquires {greed} but by how much he gives away {liberality}. The true greatness of man is found in his capacity to share himself without any thought of what he will receive in return. Selfishness shrivels the soul and lessens its capacity to demonstrate the true nature of God, which is love. Man is never diminished by giving himself away. Instead, he proves correct the principle that God has set forth in Scripture: giving supercedes receiving (Acts 2:45; Luke 6:38). Nothing produces more relational harmony than the act of giving one's self away."

Jesus' prayer for us in John 17:21 reiterates the above Scripture, "That they all may be one, just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe and be convinced that You have sent Me." Oneness. . . could this be a key to the evangelism of your friends?

PRAY It's better to give than receive!

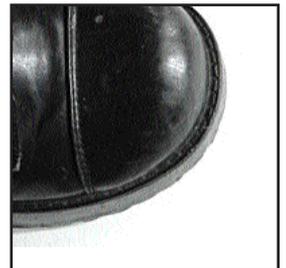
Pray that you--one who has adhered to, trusted in, and relied upon the Lord Jesus Christ--would practice the art of giving one's self to others in need and if the need arises, would give of your possessions.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: GIVE MATTHEW 6:2; LUKE 6:38

DAY 12

acts 2:46-47 AMP

And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and in their homes they broke bread [including the Lord's Supper]. They partook of their food with gladness and simplicity and generous hearts. Constantly praising God and being in favor and goodwill with all people and the Lord kept adding [to their number] daily those who were being saved [from spiritual death].

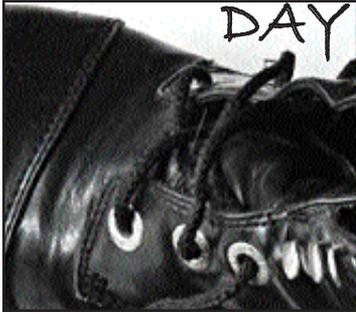


Matthew Henry Commentary--"The Lord, from day to day, inclined the hearts of more to embrace the gospel; not merely professors, but such as were actually brought into a state of acceptance with God, being made partakers of regenerating grace. Those whom God has designed for eternal salvation, shall be effectually brought to Christ, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of his glory."

PRAY Attitude of gratitude

The Early Church regarded God as worthy of worship (WORTHSHIP) and praise. Pray that worship and gratitude mark YOUR prayer life, through and through; that the Lord keep adding to your numbers daily those being saved from spiritual death. Pray that those being saved not merely be professions but that they become true partakers of the regenerating grace offered freely through the atonement of God's Son.

□ GET IN THE WORD: GRATITUDE COLOSSIANS 3:16



DAY 13 acts 3:12; 13; 16 AMP

And Peter, seeing it, answered the people, You men of Israel, why are you so surprised and wondering at this? Why do you keep staring at us, as though by our [own individual] power or [active] piety we had made this man [able] to walk? The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our forefathers, has glorified His servant and Son Jesus [doing Him this honor] . . . And His name, through and by faith in His name, has made this man whom you see and recognize well and strong. [Yes] the faith which is through and by Him

[Jesus] has given the man this perfect soundness [of body] before all of you.

"Note how the invoking of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (read v. 6; 4-10) rings from the apostle's lips. The appeals to Jesus' name as the unmistakable Messiah (Christ), who walked as a Man among men (of Nazareth), is an establishment of His person, His character, and His kingly office as the authoritative grounds for extending healing grace." (Spirit Filled Life Bible)

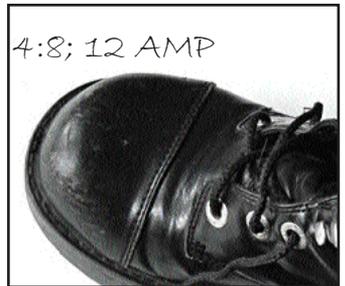
PRAY Warfare and your in it!

All spiritual warfare waged is victorious only on the basis of appropriating the provision of Christ's blood and Christ's Name (Colossians 2:15). Understanding this privileged power that Jesus delegated to us to confront spiritual wickedness, pray that YOU would aggressively hold at bay the forces of evil that prevail, invoking Kingdom rule--the flow and power of God into circumstances, invoking Kingdom boundaries--heaven expressing itself on earth, invoking His will to override the will of any.

□ GET IN THE WORD: WARFARE 2 COR. 10:3-4; 1 TIM. 1:18-19

DAY 14 acts 4:8; 12 AMP

Then Peter, [because he was] filled with [and controlled by] the Holy Spirit, said to them . . . This [Jesus] is the Stone which was despised and rejected by you, the builders, but which has become the Head of the corner [the cornerstone]. And there is no salvation in and through no one else, for there is no name under heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved.



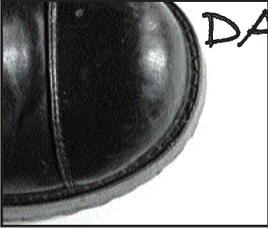
"A believers interaction with the Spirit is never static; therefore, Luke describes Peter's dynamic, ongoing relationship of the Spirit's power and anointing with the same words he used to describe his initial experience, being filled with the Holy Ghost." (From the Spirit Filled Life Bible)

PRAY Ever be filled!

Pray that you continue to press into an abiding relationship with Jesus (John 15); that you constantly "be filled" with the Holy Ghost; that your message of salvation to the "whosoever's"

will be clear, bold, empowered and anointed; that the love of God would overflow your heart and mind; that multitudes will come into the God's Kingdom through the work of the Holy Spirit, the grace of God, the ministry of angels (Hebrews 1:14), and the your response to go and make disciples.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: FILLED ACTS 4:31; EPH. 5:18



DAY 15 acts 4:29 AMP

And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servant [full freedom] to declare Your message fearlessly, while You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus.

PRAY Do not fear!

Peter and John were commanded to cease their preaching in Jesus' Name (4:18). Recognizing the severity of the situation, they returned to the believers (vv. 23,24) and called for a season of prayer that would release their faith so as to increase the scope of their witness. Pray that you, when confronted with resistance in preaching the Gospel, would gather other believers and call a season of prayer, releasing Your faith so as to increase the scope of your witness. Pray this prayer: *And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servant [full freedom] to declare Your message fearlessly, while You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus.*

❑ GET IN THE WORD: FEARLESSLY EPH. 6:19-20

DAY 16 acts 4:31 AMP

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage.



Word Search: Boldness

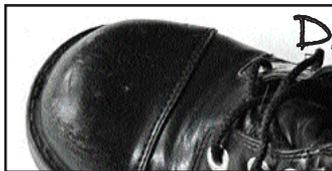
boldness, parrhesia; Strong's #3954: outspokenness, unreserved utterance, freedom of speech, with frankness, candor, cheerful courage, and the opposite of cowardice, timidity, or fear.

The word "boldness" denotes a divine enablement through which spiritual power and authority are exhibited in the lives of ordinary people who have not been professionally trained in spiritual matters. It also refers to a clear presentation of the gospel without being ambiguous or unintelligible. Parrhesia is not a human quality but a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Spirit Filled Life Bible)

PRAY Be of courage!

Pray that you would continuously be filled with the Holy Spirit with supernatural fullness, supernatural boldness, supernatural fruitfulness, and supernatural generosity.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: COURAGE 1 THESS. 2:2



DAY 17 acts 4:31 AMP

Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything which he possessed was [exclusively] his own, but everything they had was in common and for the use of all.

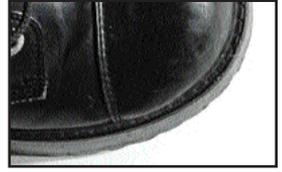
PRAY Do unto others!

Pray that you would be baptized into a spirit of sacrifice and generosity.

GET IN THE WORD: SACRIFICE PHILIPPIANS 4:18

DAY 18 acts 4:33 AMP

And with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.



Word Search: Power

"power", dunamis; Strong's #1411: One of the four great power words. The others are exousia, delegated authority; ischuros, great strength (especially physical); and kratos, dominion authority. Dunamis means energy, power, might, great force, great ability, strength.

PRAY Sufficient grace!

Pray that you would be endued with dunamis (power) from on high to deliver your testimony to those who need Jesus and that God would grant you great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) for the advancement of His Kingdom here on earth.

GET IN THE WORD: GRACE 2 COR. 1:11



DAY 19 acts 5:1-3; 9

But a certain man named Ananias with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property. And with his wife's knowledge and connivance he kept back and wrongfully appropriated some of the proceeds, bringing only a part and putting it at the feet of the apostles. And Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart that you should lie to and attempt to deceive the Holy Spirit, and should [in violation of your promise] withdraw secretly and appropriate to your own use part of the price from the sale of the land? (Peter was moving by a Word of Knowledge, a gift from the Holy Spirit.) . . . Then Peter said to her, How could you two agreed and conspired together to try to deceive the Spirit of the Lord?

Ananias and Sapphira were judged for their hypocrisy and lying to God, not for their decision to retain some of their personal property for themselves (v.4). A sobering lesson is that Satan has the power to distort the thinking of Christians (v. 3), thus affirming our need to allow him no place (Ephesians 4:27). The believer's best defense against self-deception is through mutual accountability to one another (especially to a local congregation, Ephesians 5:21). Constant renewing of the mind through the Word and a sustained "fullness" of the Holy Spirit are also safeguards. See Romans 12:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5; Ephesians 5:17-20. (Spirit Filled Life Bible)

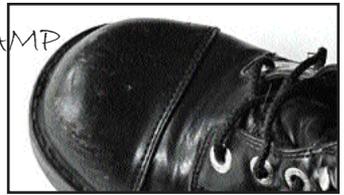
PRAY Submit to God!

Pray that you continue to submit (be under obedience) to God, resisting (to stand against, oppose resist, withstand) the devil causing him to flee (James 4:7); that you continue to renew your mind in God's Word; that you continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit; that you are given the ability to detect the schemes of the devil lest you fall into temptation; and that God deliver you from the evil one.

GET IN THE WORD: SUBMIT ROMANS 8:6-7

DAY 20 acts 5:13-14 AMP

And none of those who were not of their number dared to join and associate with them, but the people held them in high regard and praised and made much of them. More and more there were being added to the Lord those who believed [those who acknowledged Jesus as their Savior and devoted themselves to Him joined and gathered with them], crowds both men and of women.



PRAY Grace, grace, God's grace!

The public looked on the new Christian worshippers with high regard. The words "high regard" in the Amplified Bible is the word "magnified" in the King James. Magnified means "to make great, to enlarge, to magnify, to increase, to make conspicuous, to extol, to show respect, to hold in high esteem." What gave them this place of recognition--the FAVOR of God. Pray through these Scripture verses on "favor" and adhere to their commands . . .

Proverbs 3:3-4

*Do not let mercy and truth leave you.
Fasten them around your neck.
Write them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you will find favor and much success
in the sight of God and humanity.*

Psalms 5:12

*You bless righteous people, O Lord.
Like a large shield, you surround them with your favor.*

Psalms 84:11

*The Lord God is a sun and shield.
The Lord grants favor and honor.
He does not hold back any blessing from those who live innocently.*

Psalms 89:17

*. . . because you are the glory of their strength.
By your favor you give us victory.*

Proverbs 12:2

*A good person obtains favor from the Lord,
but the Lord condemns everyone who schemes.*

GET IN THE WORD: FAVOR (GRACE) 2 PETER 3:18



DAY 21 acts 5:28-29AMP

So they brought them and set them before the council (Sanhedrin). And the high priest examined them by questioning, saying, we definitely commanded and strictly charged you not to teach in or about this Name; yet here you have flooded Jerusalem with your doctrine and you intend to bring this Man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the apostles replied, We must obey God rather than man. The God of our forefathers raised up Jesus, Whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree (cross). [Deut. 21:22, 23] God exalted Him to His right hand to be Prince and Leader and Deliverer and Preserver; in order to grant repentance to Israel and to bestow forgiveness and release from sins.

That None Should Perish by Ed Silvano

"Within weeks of Jesus' departure, however, the disciples were accused by the religious experts in Jerusalem of having fulfilled the Great Commission in that city. Speaking on behalf of the council of elders, the high priest told them, "You [the disciples] have filled Jerusalem with [His] teaching"

(Acts 5:28). There is only one way to "fill a city" and that is by doing it house by house. When their sworn enemies spontaneously concede like this, it is safe to assume that the disciples had succeeded in a big way. How much time elapsed between Acts 1:8 and Acts 5:28? Just a few weeks! In a matter of weeks, the Church went from the Upper Room to every living room in Jerusalem. Furthermore, the spiritual avalanche did not stop in the outskirts of Jerusalem. It rumbled from one city to the next, fueled by religious persecution. It passed through the city of Samaria, where it faced and defeated the challenge of counterfeit religion, and multitudes rejoiced. It rolled into Antioch, overcoming the challenge of racism and cultural prejudice."

PRAY Trust and obey!

Pray that you, being full of the Holy Spirit, will speak fearlessly and with great boldness, obeying God rather than man, influencing Your community as did the first church, preaching the Gospel with clarity and truth.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: OBEY LUKE 11:28

DAY 22 acts 5:41-42 AMP

So they went out from the presence of the council (Sanhedrin), rejoicing that they were counted worthy [dignified by the indignity] to suffer shame and be exposed to disgrace for [the sake of] His name. Yet [in spite of the treats] they never ceased for a single day, both in the temple area and at home, to teach and to proclaim the good news (Gospel) of Jesus [as] the Christ (the Messiah).



PRAY Christ crucified, Christ glorified!

Pray that you would preach Christ: Christ, and him crucified; Christ, and him glorified; nothing beside this, but what has reference to it; seeking to make Him known, and to glorify his name, that despite hardships you may face that great grace would abound always.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: CHRIST 1 COR. 2:2; GALATIANS 2:20

DAY 23 acts 6:2-4 AMP

So the Twelve [apostles] convened the multitude of the disciples and said, It is not seemly or desirable or right that we should have to give up or neglect [preaching] the Word of God in order to attend to serving tables and superintending the distribution of food. Therefore select out from among yourselves, brethren, seven men of good and attested character and repute, full of the [Holy] Spirit and wisdom, whom we may assign to look after this business and duty. But we will continue to devote ourselves steadfastly to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

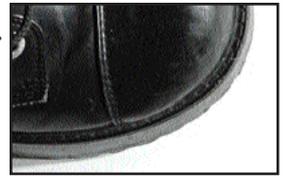
PRAY Preach the Good News to all!

Pray that God would bring people around you that would be of good and attested character and repute; that you continue to devote yourselves steadfastly to prayer and preaching the Gospel. Pray each of you will be filled with the gifts and graces of the Holy Ghost (full of faith, full of grace, full of wisdom, full of power, full of the Holy Spirit), that you would be people of truth, hating covetousness, loving God.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: PREACH MARK 16:15, ROMANS 10:14-15

DAY 24 acts 6:5 AMP

And the suggestion pleased the whole assembly, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith (a strong and welcome belief that Jesus is the Messiah) and full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit . . .



PRAY Be full of God!

Pray that YOU would be granted, by the grace of God, the fullness of:

- 1) practical wisdom, prudence, skill, comprehensive insight, enlightenment, a right application of knowledge, insight into the true nature of things;
- 2) the fullness of faith (assurance, belief, believe, fidelity); and
- 3) the fullness of and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: FULL LUKE 4:1



DAY 25 acts 6:6-8 AMP

These (Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus) they presented to the apostles, who after prayer laid their hands on them. And the message of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem; and [besides] a large number of the priests were obedient to the faith [in Jesus as Messiah, through Whom is obtained eternal salvation in the

Kingdom of God]. Now Stephen, full of grace (divine blessing and favor) and power (dunameis, "might works;" works of superhuman power -- Acts 2:22; Romans 15:19; 2 Thes. 2:9); of a new and higher power; strength and ability) worked great wonders and signs (miracles) among the people.

1. **Laid their hands on them** is an act of ordination, a transferal of authority and responsibility, also indicating an acknowledgment of mutual identification and partnership with those commissioned to service. --Spirit Filled Life Bible

2. **Wonders and miracles** are not solely exclusive of apostolic ministry. Stephen was not an apostle, but he was full of faith and power. "Miracles are seals of a divine mission. The sacred writers appealed to them as proofs that they were messengers of God. Our Lord also appealed to miracles as a conclusive proof of his divine mission (John 5:20, 36; John 10:25, 38). Thus, being out of the common course of nature and beyond the power of man, they are fitted to convey the impression of the presence and power of God. Where miracles are there certainly God is. The man, therefore, who works a miracle affords thereby clear proof that he comes with the authority of God; they are his credentials that he is God's messenger. The teacher points to these credentials, and they are a proof that he speaks with the authority of God. He boldly says, "God bears me witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles." --Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary

PRAY Signs confirmed the Word!

Pray that you would clearly demonstrate the power of God, giving credit to God alone; that the miracles performed would show the conclusive proof of God's divine mission; that you would be full of grace, divine blessing and favor; and full of power; and His message would spread through you and the number of disciples multiplied.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: SIGNS MARK 16:20; JOHN 20:30

DAY 26 acts 9:3-6 AMP

Now as he [Paul] traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to



the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are persecuting Me [harassing, troubling, and molesting Me]? And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad [to offer vain and perilous resistance]. Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do?

Matthew Henry Commentary "So ill informed was Saul, that he thought he ought to do all he could against the name of Christ, and that he did God service thereby; he seemed to breathe in this as in his element. Let us not despair of renewing grace for the conversion of the greatest sinners, nor let such despair of the pardoning mercy of God for the greatest sin.

PRAY You, O Lord, are the Christ!

For those you will share your faith with, ask God:

- * to supernaturally intervene in their lives through visions and dreams. (Acts 9:3-6)
- * to send His ministering angels to invade their unbelief. (Acts 10:3)
- * to draw them to Himself in sincere repentance. (Acts 3:19-20)
- * to perform signs and wonders in the midst of an unbelieving world to follow the preaching of the Word. (Acts 6:8; 8:6)
- * to bring victory over evil powers. (Psalm 110:2-3)
- * to demolish strongholds, destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God in an unbelieving mind. (2 Cor. 10:5)
- * to bring conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. (John 16:8)
- * to unveil the minds of unbelievers, bringing revelation and illumination so that they may discern truth, and see the Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image and likeness of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- * to recognize God as the Source of all goodness and kindness which leads one to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
- * to open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Acts 26:18)

GET IN THE WORD: CONVICTION 1 THESS. 1:5



DAY 27 acts 9:20-22 AMP

And immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, saying, He is the Son of God! And all who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the very man who harassed and overthrew and destroyed Jerusalem those who called upon this Name? . . . But Saul increased in strength and continued to confound and put to confusion the Jews who live in Damascus by comparing and examining evidence and proving that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).

Matthew Henry Commentary--A good work was begun in Saul, when he was brought to Christ's feet with those words, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And never did Christ leave any who were brought to that. Behold, the proud Pharisee, the unmerciful oppressor, the daring blasphemer, prayeth! And thus it is even now, and with the proud infidel, or the abandoned sinner. What happy tidings are these to all who understand the nature and power of prayer, of such prayer as the humbled sinner presents for the blessings of free salvation!

PRAY You, O Lord, are the Son of God!

Pray for the new converts that you have shared your faith with, that they, as Paul, would immediately endeavor to recommend the anointed Savior, the Son of God, to their former companions; that they fearlessly and boldly preach (herald, tell abroad, publish, propagate, exhort, call out with a clear voice, communicate and proclaim) the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and issue summons to repent and receive forgiveness of sins; that mature followers of Christ would come alongside these new converts and disciple them in the faith; that the Word of God would be quenching to their weary soul; that they would sustain in prayer; that they would

continuously be filled with the Holy Spirit of God; that the law of love would be imminent and preeminent in their lives; and the fruit of the Spirit would increase.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: CONFESS ROMANS 10:9-10

DAY 28 acts 9:31 AMP

... so the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was edified [growing in wisdom, virtue, and piety] and walking in the respect and reverential fear of the Lord and in the consolation [comfort] and exhortation of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase and was multiplied.



Word Search: Comfort

paraklesis; Strong's #3874: A calling alongside to help, to comfort, to give consolation or encouragement. The paraklete is a strengthening presence, one who upholds those appealing for assistance. Paraklesis (comfort) can come to us both by the Holy Spirit (v. 31) and by the Scriptures (Romans 15:4).

Matthew Henry Commentary--The persecutions were stayed (v. 31). The professors of the gospel walked uprightly, and enjoyed much comfort from the Holy Ghost, in the hope and peace of the gospel, and others were won over to them. They lived upon the comfort of the Holy Ghost, not only in the days of trouble and affliction, but in days of rest and prosperity. Those are most likely to walk cheerfully, who walk circumspectly.

PRAY Console us, O LORD

Pray that the Holy Spirit impart to the body of believers:

1. joy. Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thes. 1:6
2. the love of God. Romans 5:3-5
3. hope. Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:5
4. life. Job 33:4

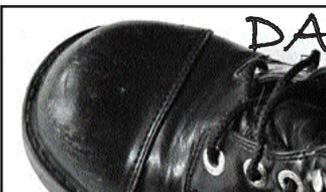
Thank the Holy Spirit that He is about the wonderful work of:

1. directing His ministers where to preach. Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19-20
2. directing His ministers where not to preach. Acts 16:6-7
3. instructing ministers what to preach. 1 Cor. 2:13
4. reproving. John 16:8
5. comforting. Acts 9:31
6. helping our infirmities. Romans 8:26
7. teaching. John 14:26; 1 Cor. 12:3
8. guiding. John 16:13
9. sanctifying. Romans 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11
10. testifying of Christ. John 15:26
11. glorifying Christ. John 16:14

Confess our sin when we have:

1. grieved Him. Ephesians 4:30
2. vexed Him. Isaiah 63:10
3. resisted Him. Acts 7:51

☐ GET IN THE WORD: CONSOLATION 2 THESS. 2:16



DAY 29 acts 10:1-5 AMP

Now [living] at Caesarea there was a man whose name was Cornelius, a centurion (captain) of what was known as the Italian Regiment, a devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he

gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius! And he gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, What is it Lord? And the angel said to him, Your prayers and your generous gifts to the poor have come up [as a sacrifice] to God and have been remembered by Him. And now send men to Joppa and have them call for and invite here a certain Simon whose surname is Peter . . .

PRAY Seeing visions!

Pray for those who are found by God's Spirit to be God-fearers, that they would come to clear faith in Christ through whatever means possible; either by an angelic visitation, a sending of laborers, visions or dreams, a supernatural revelation of Himself, a clear understanding through the reading of His Word, or an intense prompting of God's Spirit of Truth or all the above.

As Cornelius modeled to us what true faith in God's Word is, pray that YOU:

1. venerate God and treat Him with reverential obedience.
2. give help to those in need.
3. pray continually.
4. respond immediately with obedience to God's prompting.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: VISIONS JOEL 2:28; ACTS 2:27

DAY 30 acts 10:19 AMP

And while Peter was earnestly revolving the vision in his mind and mediating on it, the [Holy] Spirit said to him, Behold, three men are looking for you! Get up and go below and accompany them without any doubt [about its legality] or any discrimination or hesitation, for I have sent them.



PRAY Speak Lord, your servant is listening!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would:

1. direct His ministers where to preach. Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19-20
2. direct His ministers where not to preach. Acts 16:6-7
3. instruct His ministers what to preach. 1 Cor. 2:13
4. sensitize our hearing to His voice. Acts 10:19
5. respond with obedience to His voice. Acts 10:23

❑ GET IN THE WORD: LISTEN MARK 9:7; LUKE 10:16



DAY 31 acts 10:34 AMP

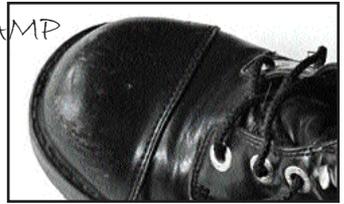
Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Most certainly and thoroughly I now perceive and understand that God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he who venerates and has reverential fear of God, treating Him with worshipful obedience and living uprightly, is acceptable to Him and sure of being received and welcomed [by Him].

PRAY Worship God!

Give Him thanks today that He is no respecter of persons; give Him thanks that He is not slack concerning his promise but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9); give Him thanks for His unlimited grace extended to all peoples that all might receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. Give Him thanks for the great things He will do in response to prayer.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: WORSHIP JOHN 4:23-24; ROMANS 12:1

DAY 32 acts 10:38 AMP



... how God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.

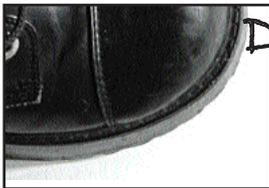
Intercessory Prayer by Dutch Sheets--"We don't birth anything spiritually, the Holy Spirit does. He is the birthing agent of the Godhead (see Luke 1:34, 35; John 3:3-8). He is the power source of the Godhead (see Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38; Luke 4:14, 18). He is the power behind Creation which is likened to a birthing (see Genesis 1). He is the one who supplies power to God's will, giving it life and substance. He gives birth to the will of God. He is the one who breathes God's life into people, bringing physical and spiritual life. (see Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:9, 10, 14; Acts 2:1-4). Concerning salvation, we call this the new birth or the new creation."

Churches That Pray by C. Peter Wagner--"Although every born-again Christian enjoys the presence of the Holy Spirit in his or her life, not all enjoy it in the same measure. Some are filled with the Holy Spirit at any given time and some are not. I may be filled with the Holy Spirit today, but tomorrow I will need to renew my relationship with Him (see Ephes. 5:18). Some call it baptism rather than filling. Different groups give it different doctrinal and practical embellishments. But the phenomenon is the same: although we all have the generic presence of the Holy Spirit, the quantity of the Holy Spirit's power can vary (see 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6). Peter was one of those who was "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4) on the day of Pentecost. Nevertheless, Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" again in Acts 4:8 for his ministry to the Sanhedrin. Once, apparently, was not enough."

PRAY Polish your shield!

Pray that you will continue in your quest to be "filled" with the Holy Spirit, lacking not the strength, ability, power and anointing available for good works; that your relationship with Him would be of utter dependence, relying, leaning on, and holding fast to Him; that you take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16), and overcoming all the works of the devil by the authority given you through Jesus Christ.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: SHIELDED 1 PETER 1:4-5



DAY 33 acts 10:44-48 AMP

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message. And the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the Gentiles. For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked, Can anyone forbid or refuse water for baptizing these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit as we have? And he ordered that they be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ [the Messiah].

PRAY Free gift!

I cannot think of a greater prayer today than giving thanks to God that salvation has come to people who are not Jews. The unbelief of Israel opened the door of opportunity for Gentiles to come into the fold. Romans 11:11-12 says, "So I ask, 'Has Israel stumbled so badly that it can't get up again?' That's unthinkable! By Israel's failure, salvation has come to people who are not Jewish to make the Jewish people jealous. The fall of the Jewish people made the world spiritually rich. Their failure made people who are not Jewish spiritually rich. So the inclusion of Jewish people will make the world even richer." God's purpose is that when unbelieving

unbelieving Jews see many Gentiles turn to Christ they will become jealous and will repent and come to faith. Let's pray towards that end today!

☐ GET IN THE WORD: GIFT LUKE 11:13; ACTS 2:38

DAY 34 acts 11:21 AMP

And the presence of the Lord was with them with power, so that a great number [learned] to believe (to adhere to and trust in and rely on the Lord) and turned and surrendered themselves to Him.

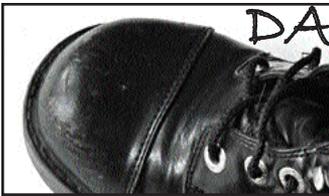


That None Should Perish by Ed Silvano "The church in Antioch was the result of an "honest mistake" made by some trigger-happy evangelists. They forgot that they were not suppose to speak the Word to non-Jews. As Acts 11:19-26 describes it, multitudes of Greeks and Gentiles heard the gospel, received it, and thus the first non-Jewish church began. Understandably, the apostles in Jerusalem were perplexed by this development. It is not that the Gentiles had not been converted before. For instance, Cornelius and his relatives and close friends had received the gospel (see Acts 10:24-48), but they represented a small group of God-fearing people with direct ties to the Jewish synagogue (see Acts 10:1, 2). However, in the case of Antioch, we have multitudes of true pagans embracing Christianity with no Mosaic background whatsoever (see Acts 11:21, 26)."

PRAY Whosoever will!

Pray for the harvest of those multitudes of pagans who will come into the Kingdom because of an "honest mistake" made by trigger-happy evangelists.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: BELIEVE JOHN 1:50; 6:35



DAY 35 acts 11:23-24 AMP

When he [Barnabas] arrived and saw what grace (favor) God was bestowing upon them, he was full of joy; and he continuously exhorted (warned, urged, and encouraged) them all to cleave unto and remain faithful to and devoted to the Lord with [resolute and steady] purpose of heart. For he was a good man

[good in himself and also at once for the good and the advantage of other people], full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit and full of faith (of his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through Whom we obtain eternal salvation). And a large company was added to the Lord.

Matthew Henry Commentary-- "What should the ministers of Christ preach, but Christ? Christ, and him crucified? Christ, and him glorified? Their preaching was accompanied with the Divine power. The hand of the Lord was with them, to bring that home to the hearts and consciences of men. They believed; they were convinced of the truth of the gospel. They turned from a careless, carnal way of living, to live a holy, heavenly, spiritual life. They turned from worshipping God in show and ceremony, to worship him in the Spirit and in truth. They turned to the Lord Jesus, and he became all in all with them. This was the work of conversion wrought upon them, and it must be wrought upon every one of us. It was the fruit of their faith; all who sincerely believe, will turn to the Lord, When the Lord Jesus is preached in simplicity, and according to the Scriptures, he will give success; and when sinners are thus brought to the Lord, really good men, who are full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, will admire and rejoice in the grace of God bestowed on them. Barnabas was full of faith; full of the grace of faith, and full of the fruits of the faith that works by love."

PRAY It's the power of God unto salvation

Pray that your preaching is accompanied with Divine power; that the hand of the Lord be with you, and that God would bring home to the hearts and consciences of men the Gospel of Truth.

Pray that these converts would turn from a careless, carnal way of living, to live a holy, heavenly, spiritual life; that they be turned from worshipping God in show and ceremony, to worshipping him in the Spirit and in truth; that they make Jesus their all in all.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: POWER ROMANS 1:16-17

DAY 36 acts 12:5-17 AMP

Peter was kept in prison, but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church (assembly). The very night before Herod was about to bring him forth, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared [standing beside him], and a light shone in the place where he was. And the angel gently smote Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, Get up quickly! And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, Tighten your belt and bind on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your outer garment around you and follow me. And [Peter] went out [along] following him, and he was not conscious that what was apparently being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed through the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate which leads into the city. Of its own accord [the gate] swung open, and they went out and passed on through one street; and at once the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, Now I really know and am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting [to do to me]. When he, at a glance, became aware of this [comprehending all the elements of the case], he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where a large number were assembled together and were praying. And when he knocked at the gate of the porch, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. And recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she failed to open the gate, but ran in and told the people that Peter was standing before the porch gate. They said to her, You are crazy! But she persistently and strongly and confidently affirmed that it was the truth. They said, It is his angel! But meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate and saw him, they were amazed. But motioning to them with his hand to keep quiet and listen, he related to them how the Lord had delivered him out of the prison.

PRAY Bars can't separate!

What a story! Can't you see Peter sleeping peacefully while being chained to armed guards, knowing the next morning he would face Herod. This was not the same Peter you read about in the Gospels!!!! What changed? The promised Holy Spirit!

Could Peter sense the prayers of others in His time of need? Peter may have but more importantly he saw results. A miracle was in the making as those in fervent prayer kept on keeping on! They almost missed the answer! Peter didn't! Pray that God will relegate intercessors who will partner with you in prayer as you go about the work of the ministry; that you be "full of faith," believing God to answer God-size prayers; that you align yourself with the Word, praying the will of God for every circumstance; that you have a peaceful conscience, a lively hope, and the consolations of the Holy Spirit that will keep you calm in the full prospect of death.

❑ GET IN THE WORD: SEPARATE ROMANS 8:28-39



DAY 37 acts 13:38-39 AMP

So let it be clearly known and understood by you, brethren, that through this Man (Christ) forgiveness and removal of sins is now proclaimed to you; And that through Him everyone who believes [who acknowledges Jesus as his Savior and devotes himself to Him] is absolved (cleared and freed)

from every charge from which he could not be justified and freed by the Law of Moses and given right standing with God.

PRAY Good News!

This would be a great Scripture to memorize . . . it's the Gospel simplified.

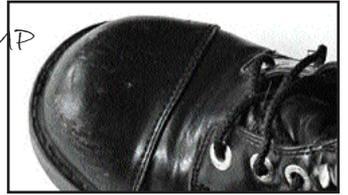
1. The law cannot justify or free you from the penalty of sin nor can it gain you right standing with God by keeping it.
2. Through Christ there is forgiveness and removal of sins.
3. Everyone who believes, who acknowledges Jesus As Savior and devotes himself to Him, is absolved (clear and freed) from every charge.

In Mark 1:15 Jesus said, *"the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"* The heart of Jesus' message was both the proclamation of God's action—"the kingdom is near"—and the demand for a response from all who hear- "repent and believe". Pray today for those you will be sharing the "Good News" with.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: GOOD NEWS MATTHEW 11:5; MARK 16:15

DAY 38 acts 14:1-3 AMP

Now at Iconium [also Paul and Barnabas] went into the Jewish synagogue together and spoke with such power that a great number both of Jews and of Greeks believed (became Christians); But the unbelieving Jews [who rejected their message] aroused the Gentiles and embittered their minds against the brethren. So [Paul and Barnabas] stayed on there for a long time, speaking freely and fearlessly and boldly in the Lord, Who continued to bear testimony to the Word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be performed by their hands.



PRAY Bless them!

There will be those who oppose Christ's message of forgiveness just as there were those in Peter's time. Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you; bless them. (Matthew 5:44)

☐ GET IN THE WORD: ENEMIES PHILIPPIANS 3:18-21



DAY 39 acts 14:21-22 AMP

When they had preached the good news (Gospel) to that town and made disciples of many of the people, they went back to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch, establishing and strengthening the souls and the hearts of the disciples, urging and warning and encouraging them to stand firm in the faith, and [telling them] that it is through many hardships and tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

PRAY Invest in others!

Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you [all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age (Matthew 28:19-20). Pray that your work take on a dual purpose: to establish saints as well as to awaken sinners. Those who are planted need to be rooted. Pray that those you are discipling would be rooted and grounded in the faith, well established in the teachings of Christ so as to teach them to others.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: TEACH 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

DAY 40 acts 16:6-7 AMP

And Paul and Silas passed through the territory of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Word in [the province of] Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.

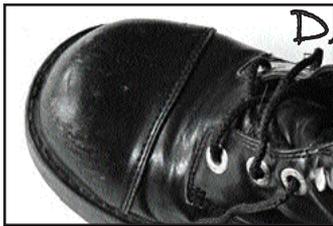


"Paul had made an attempt to go to Ephesus years before he actually arrived there. Luke tells us that he and his missionary team did not go there at that time because "they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia" (Acts 16:6). I believe a major reason they were not permitted to go to Ephesus was that they were not yet ready. Paul's defeat in Athens and his reassessment of priorities in Corinth was a major and necessary learning experience prior to Ephesus. So was his high-level power encounter with the demon spirit in Philippi." (Taken from *Confronting the Powers* by C. Peter Wagner)

PRAY Take heed!

The Holy Spirit has your best interest at heart. Take heed of His foresight. You must follow Providence, submitting and believing it to be for the best. Pray that you have a greater sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit and that You take heed of His prompting as He re-directs, directs, corrects and leads.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: VOICE JOHN 10:4-5; 27 (KJ)



DAY 41 acts 16:24-25 AMP

Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Paul and Silas responded to their captivity with songs of praise. "The relationship between their song of praise and their supernatural deliverance through the earthquake cannot be overlooked. Praise directed towards God can shake open prison doors! A man was converted, his household saved, and satanic captivity overthrown in Philippi. Today, as well, praise will cause every chain of bondage to drop away. When you are serving God and things do not go the way you planned, learn from this text. Praise triumphs gloriously!!!!" (Taken from the *Spirit Filled Life Bible*)

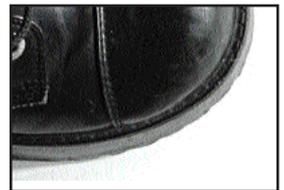
PRAY Praise triumphs!

God is attracted to your worship! Spend Your day declaring His worth! Worth means "quality that commands esteem or respect." If you are not sure how to speak highly of Him, read from the Psalms.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: MAGNIFY JOB 1:21; HAB. 3:17-18

DAY 42 Acts 16:27-32 AMP

When the jailer, startled out of his sleep, saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was on the point of killing himself, because he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, Do not harm yourself, for we are all here! Then [the jailer]



called for lights and rushed in, and trembling and terrified he fell down before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out [of the dungeon] and said, Men, what is it necessary for me to do that I may

be saved? And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well. And they declared the Word of the Lord [the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God] to him and to all who were in his house.

Supernatural signs and wonders. The word *sign* in the Greek is *semeion* and is interchangeable with the words miracle and wonder. Signs and wonders accompanied the preaching of the Gospel giving proof that Christ was the Messiah. *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* -John 20:30-31

We see the pattern of proclamation combined with the demonstration of the kingdom of God throughout the Gospels and the Epistles, resulting in souls coming into the Kingdom. In the rabbinic way of thinking, what one did was as important as what one believed. Jesus passed along to the disciples his life and his way of life. (*Power Evangelism*)

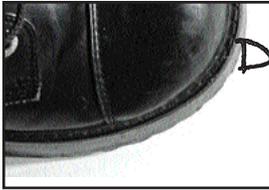
John 2:23 *Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he (Jesus) was doing and believed in his name.*

Mark 16:20 *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

PRAY Be saved!

Pray that as you preach the Gospel to an unbelieving world that God would work with you and confirm His word by signs that accompanied it.

GET IN THE WORD: SAVED ROMANS 10:9-13



DAY 43 acts 17:11 AMP

Now these [Jews] were better disposed and more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they were entirely ready and accepted and welcomed the message [concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God] with inclination of mind and eagerness, searching and examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

PRAY Receive, recognize, welcome Christ!

The Thessalonians expressed an attitude of humble receptivity that lies at the heart of faith. Pray that those you share Christ with would have an attitude of humble receptivity; that they would have the inclination of mind to search and examine the Scriptures themselves to see if things are so; and that they would recognize Him, receive Him and welcome Him in (John 1:14).

GET IN THE WORD: HUNDRED FOLD MATTHEW 13:23

DAY 44 acts 17:30-31 AMP

... but now He charges all people everywhere to repent (to change their minds for the better and heartily to amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins), Because He has fixed a day when He will judge the world righteously (justly) by a Man Whom He has destined and appointed for that task, and He has made this credible and given conviction and assurance and evidence to everyone by raising Him from the dead.



"How can people realize the need for a Savior from sin unless they realize the seriousness of sin and its consequences? And how can they realize the seriousness of sin unless they know about the holy God against whom our sin is committed? How can they appreciate what Christ did for them unless they understand God's horror over sin and the price to redeem us?"

When he comes, he (the Holy Spirit) will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . . John 16:8 "The convincing work is the Spirit's work; he can do it effectually, and none but he. The Spirit shall convince the world, of sin; not merely tell them of it. The Spirit convinces of the fact of sin; of the fault of sin; of the folly of sin; of the filth of sin, that by it we are hateful to God. The Holy Spirit proves that all the world is guilty before God. He convinces the world of righteousness; that Jesus of Nazareth was Christ the righteous. He will show them where it is to be had, and how they may be accepted as righteous in God's sight." (Taken from Matthew Henry Commentary)

PRAY 3 P's!

Your understanding in the area of *Prayer + Power + Proclamation* has greatly increased in the last forty-four days. Pray that this wealth of knowledge becomes more than just knowledge . . . pray that the principles you have learned about **Prayer + Power + Proclamation** become a way of life.

☐ GET IN THE WORD: 3 P'S ACTS 2:38-42



DAY 45 Acts 19:8-10 AMP

And he went into the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, persuading and arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God. But when some became more and more stubborn (hardened and unbelieving), discrediting and reviling and speaking evil of the Way [of the Lord] before the congregation, he separated himself from them, taking the disciples with him, and went on holding daily discussions in the lecture room of Tyrannus from about ten o'clock till three. This continued for two years, so that all the inhabitants of [the province of] Asia, Jews as well as Greeks, heard the Word of the Lord [concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God]. And God did unusual and extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul . . .

Word Search: Boldly

boldly, arrhesiazomai, Greek: to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit and demeanor :- be (wax) bold, (preach, speak) boldly.

Word Search: Persuading

persuading, peitho, Greek: to convince (by argument, true or false); to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty) :- agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) confident, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

Word Search: Arguing

arguing, dialegomai, Greek: to say thoroughly, i.e. discuss (in argument or exhortation) :- dispute, preach (unto), reason (with), speak.

There will be some who you share your faith with who will become more and more hardened and unbelieving. They may discredit you, they may assail you with abusive language, they may speak evil of you and your beliefs. Know that you are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. -Ephesians 6:12 So . . . use Ephesians 6:10-18 to pray through even before there are confrontations!

BE STRONG IN THE LORD [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. -Ephesians 6:10

PUT ON God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. -Ephesians 6:11; 13

STAND THEREFORE [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace. Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one]. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. -Ephesians 6:14-17

PRAY Then pray!

Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people). -Ephesians 6:18

☐ **GET IN THE WORD: PRAY ROMANS 15:29-31**

DAY 46 Acts 20:22-24 AMP

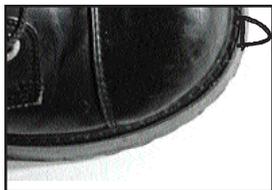
And now, you see, I am going to Jerusalem, bound by the [Holy] Spirit and obligated and compelled by the [convictions of my own] spirit, not knowing what will befall me there--Except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after city that imprisonment and suffering await me. But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy).



PRAY Determined!

None of these things moved Paul because Paul neither regarded his life dear to him nor cared much about the sufferings that awaited him. He cared only about finishing the course with joy and testifying about the gospel of the grace of God. Determined, yes! His zeal to finish well charted his course. Are you as determined? What is compelling you to finish the race set before you? Have you given much thought to what compels you; what motivates you to accomplish God's purpose? Why not commit it to prayer today?

☐ **GET IN THE WORD: FOUGHT 2 TIMOTHY 4:7**



DAY 47 Acts 26:18 AMP

To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may thus receive forgiveness and release from their sins and a place and portion among those who are consecrated and purified by faith in Me.

PRAY Open their eyes!

Pray this prayer before you share with others the unsurpassing work of Christ.

☐ **GET IN THE WORD: SEE MATTHEW 13:13**



RESOURCE CENTRE

walking in God's destiny

What Is Prayer?

Listening

Confession and Repentance

Praying Alone, Praying Together

Conversational Prayer/Scripture Prayer

God Has the Freedom To Do Things Differently

Spiritual Warfare

Fasting

What Does It Take To Be A Leader?

Social Concern

Sharing The Gospel With Others

RESOURCE CENTRE

What Is Prayer?

(Use with Chapter One)

Introduction: What is prayer?

We all have ideas and think we know.

Sometimes prayer seems mysterious.

Sometimes it seems mysterious because some people use different language when they pray than they normally use.

Some change their voices when they pray.

Some have only a partial view of prayer.

Prayer can become routine and boring if we do not understand what prayer really does.

Prayer should be very exciting and powerful.

Without reading ahead, write out what you think prayer is:

Prayer is . . .

Prayer is:

1. Prayer is communication with the living God and is based on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Prayer reflects the depth of our relationship with Him.
3. Prayer is listening for what He wants to share with you.
4. Prayer builds our relationship with God.
5. Prayer and the Word are the ways we get specific directions for living the abundant life God has promised.
6. Prayer gains us wisdom:
for your education
for employment
for marriage
for facing everyday situations
7. It is the way to peace of heart and mind without which we are anxious.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)

8. It is the way of having our needs met.
If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (Matthew 21:22)
If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7)
This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)
And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:15)
9. It is essential in worshiping God. Worship is when we express to God His "worth-ship" and our love for Him.
10. It is a way to break bondages in the lives of unbelievers so they are able to receive Christ.
11. It is a way of doing battle against Satan and winning.
12. We can have impact on others through prayer even when we are miles apart.
13. We can have impact on leadership and events in our nation, community, church and family.
14. It is not preparation for ministry, it is ministry.

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE

When I Listen How Does God Speak?

(Use With Chapter 2)

Introduction

1. Why did the Lord give us two ears but only one mouth?
Could it be that He wants us to listen twice as much as we speak.
"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (James 1:19)
2. Is your prayer life like so many others who do all the talking, usually asking for things, but don't give the Lord time to answer or say anything?
3. If that is true, this could be a very exciting concept for you to learn.
4. Many don't expect God to really speak to them.
5. To some it is a mysterious concept and they wonder how God will speak to them.
6. Does God speak in some mysterious voice or how does it happen?
7. How do you know it is really God?

God Wants To Speak To Us

1. We have seen in our study of Daniel that Daniel was constantly asking God for answers that he couldn't get any other way. God answered each time.
2. Samuel learned to listen to God.
So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sam 3:9-10)
3. Jesus said His sheep hear His voice.
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)
4. The Holy Spirit speaks to us.
But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (John 16:13-15)
5. We should expect God to speak with us.
Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice

behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21)

What Makes Hearing From God Difficult?

1. You don't expect God to speak to you.
2. You do all the talking.
3. You have sin in your life that breaks fellowship with God.
4. You are not aware of the different ways God speaks.
5. It often takes time and concentration to hear.

You want something you can scientifically confirm and when God speaks to the heart, even your head can't always verify it. (You have to be careful with this that you don't assume something, which leads to being able to believe anything and everything.)

6. If we presume we know what God will say, or limit the method he will use to speak to us, it will be very difficult to hear what He is really saying.
7. You don't live in God's continual presence. You go into his presence for periods of time but constant communication doesn't exist.
8. You need to quiet your own thoughts and emotions. This is not emptying your own mind and putting into neutral as in the New Age movement. It is laying aside our own reasoning. It is focusing on Jesus and being ready to hear from Him.
9. You want something so badly that you convince yourself it is God speaking when it is not God at all.
10. You don't hear from God consistently if you only turn to God when there is a crisis.
11. "Until hearing God becomes vital to you, you are not likely to learn to hear either quickly or correctly. (Peter Lord)

Warning - Remember the demonic spirits also try to speak to you and confuse you.

1. We must always be aware and test the spirits if they are truly from God.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

2. God's voice does not contradict Scripture.
3. Some of the ways God uses to speak to us are easier to detect if it is God or not. When we delve into the Scriptures, it is more reliable. We have the words before us and we have the context in which it was given.

Different Ways God Uses To Speak To Us

God uses Scripture as the primary way to speak to His people. Every believer can expect and experience God to speak to them through His Word.

1. He speaks directly from His Word.

There are some things we can learn only from the Bible: 1) How the world was created; 2) What God is like; 3) The way of salvation.

2. He speaks to our situation from the principles from the Word.

For example - You are dating someone that you really enjoy and are thinking about marriage but the person doesn't know Christ as their personal Saviour.

Then you read in Scripture that you are not to marry an unbeliever.

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Cor 6:14)

For example: You are struggling with finances.

Then you read in the Word that you must seek God's kingdom first and you have not been doing that.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NASB)

3. God uses the Word to bring a message to your spirit.

a. This one is more indirect and needs to be tested.

b. As you read Scripture you know it was not written about your situation but you have the impression that God is using it to speak to you.

For example - A missionary was planning on returning to Kenya, Africa but it was election time and there was a lot of turmoil. As she read 2 Chron. 15: 4-7, she felt God was saying it was all right to return in spite of the turmoil.

4. God uses a principle from the Word to speak to you.

For example - You are concerned about a situation and as you read James 4:2, you realise you haven't prayed about it.

You want something but don't get it . . . You do not have, because you do not ask God. (James 4:2 a & c)

5. God speaks to your spirit.

It says that God's Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

For example: You are about to do something and there is a sense that something is wrong.

For example: You are getting ready to drive down a particular street in your city after dark, and you sense this is not a good choice. You read in the newspaper the next day that a riot broke out after dark.

6. God speaks through other people, through visions and dreams
 - a. He used David. (2 Sam. 23:2)
 - b. The Lord used Nathan to speak to David. (2 Sam. 12:1ff)
 - c. Have you heard your pastor preach a message and it seemed like it was only for you and you knew it was God speaking?
 - d. As a group seeks God and comes to consensus it may indicate God speaking.
 - e. He speaks through circumstances.
 - f. He was speaking to Joseph as God allowed Joseph's brothers to place him in a pit and be taken to Egypt. (Gen. 37-45)
Joseph realised it was God at work. (Gen.45:4-7)
 - g. God opens and closes doors. (Again let me repeat the warning that an open door doesn't always mean God has opened it.)

7. God sometimes speaks by laying a special burden upon our heart or possibly through reoccurring thoughts.
 - a. God may lay a special burden on your heart to pray for a certain person, for your involvement in a ministry, or any other area.
 - b. If you have reoccurring thoughts about some area, test to see if it may be God speaking.

8. He speaks through dreams and visions.
 - a. Some believe that God used these methods before the Scriptures were finished but not today.
 - b. He spoke to Daniel and even to an ungodly king through visions.
 - c. He spoke to Cornelius and Peter through a vision. (Acts 10)
 - d. He spoke to Ananias in a vision.
In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. (Acts 9:10)
 - e. He spoke to Paul through visions
During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia

standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (Acts 16:9)

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. (Acts 18:9)

f. He spoke to Joseph in a dream.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20)

g. God has told us that in the last days He will use dreams and visions to speak to His people.

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)

h. Many believers have never had God speak to them through dreams or visions and it is not something to seek.

9. He speaks through an audible voice.

a. He spoke to Samuel through an audible voice. (1 Sam. 3:1-18)

b. He spoke to Jesus and those with Him at His baptism. (Luke 3:21-22)

c. Most believers have never heard an audible voice.

10. He speaks using angels.

a. God delivered His message to Daniel by an angel. (Daniel 10:4-21)

b. Abraham (Genesis 18:2-15)

c. Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:20-25)

d. Paul (Acts 27:23-24)

e. John (Rev. 1:1)

f. Most believers have not had messages delivered by angels, at least that they were aware of.

What things does God want to speak to you about?

1. Some think only the big things.

2. Remember it is a relationship and in a relationship we consider things that are important to the person.

3. In Phil. 4:6 we are told that we should, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Phil 4:6 NASB)

· You can expect God to speak about anything you ask Him and

any thing He believes is important even if you don't ask Him. Heed the warning to test and see if it is God but at the same time don't be afraid to move.

Learn to Listen, Test the Sprit and Move Ahead in Faith

1. Rosland Rinker gives this advice.
 - Keep God's counsel in your heart.
 - Compare it with what you know about His character.
 - Hold it there with an obedient attentive heart ready to move.
 - If the door of circumstances opens, move quietly with sensitive steps and follow the directions God seems to have given you.
 - A door may close in your face and you know you possibly may have gone in the wrong direction.
 - A door can open wide and you know you may have got it right.
2. The more you listen and gain experience hearing from Him, the easier it will be to know His voice and to discern the false.
3. We often encounter God in times of great need or crisis:
 - a. Our desperation
 - b. Is coupled with our inability
 - c. Our weakness and need
 - d. Makes hearing from God an absolute necessity

So What?

1. If you have not been hearing from God you have been missing part of the conversation.
2. Tell God you really want to hear from Him.
3. Re-read the above and look for Him in various ways.
4. Thank Him when you have heard.

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE
Confession and Repentance
(Use with Chapter 3)

Introduction

1. How would you evaluate your spiritual life? Put your self in one of the three areas below:

- Really very little spiritual life
- Somewhere in the middle
- Very active and growing spiritual life

2. What does the Bible say about the place you are?

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (Rev 3:15-16)

3. Kind of shocking isn't it?

- If you are hot and growing, praise the Lord!
- If you are cold, at least you are not fooling yourself and there is hope for change.
- The most dangerous place to be is in the middle because it is easy to be satisfied and not move and it is sickening to God.

4. Those are very hard words but isn't the middle the place where most are in the church?

5. Confession is for everyone.

- If you are cold and want to move to hot, you need to confess.
- If you are lukewarm, you need to confess because you are in a dangerous position.
- If you are hot, you need to confess to stay hot.

6. Confession is difficult but it is a very positive way forward because it moves us to the place where God can really work in our lives.

7. One of the reasons for unanswered prayer is unconfessed sin in our lives. *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me . . . (Psalm 66:18 KJV)*

Pride Keeps Us From Confession

Pride is a conceited sense of one's own superiority.

- It is so easy to think that any good thing we see in ourself is because of our effort and what we have is because we worked for it.
- It is part of the old nature to lift our selves up and tear others down.
- It is hard to confess because we think it tears us down when we admit we were wrong.
- But God hates our pride because it does not acknowledge Him.
To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (Proverbs 8:13)
When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2)
Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)
A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor. (Proverbs 29:23)
- We have such a problem with pride that Paul warned we need to guard ourselves even with the use of our spiritual gifts.
For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3)

God Honors Humility

- Humility is the opposite of pride.
- Humility is having a Godly view, a right assessment of yourself.
- God says we should humble ourselves.
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:10)
- If we don't humble ourselves than God will do it and it can be hard and embarrassing.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)
- God's favor and grace is on those who are humble.
But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)
Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the

the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

- Confession is part of being humble.

Our Confession In Perspective of who God Is:

- He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- He is your Creator.
- He is everywhere present.
- He knows your heart and everything you do.
- He is a holy God, perfect and cannot stand sin.
- He is a just God.
- He loves us but love cannot overlook sin.

When Isaiah saw himself in light of who God was, it made his sin stand out even more because it was compared to the Perfect One. *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."* (Isaiah 6:5)

The Scope Of Sin

- If we are going to confess our sin we must understand what sin is.
 - Sin is "missing the mark" of God's perfection.
 - The Bible says everyone has sinned.
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .
(Romans 3:23)
 - It doesn't matter how many sins we commit. If we commit only one, we would still have to pay the penalty for sin.
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
 - If we commit one sin, we are guilty of breaking all the law.
For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. (James 2:10)
6. When we think of sin, we often think of it in terms of big things.
The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality,

discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

- But it is not only the things we think are bad, but things we often don't consider so big that are sin.

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. (James 4:17)

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. (Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV)

- Sin is not only what we do but things we don't do.

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. (James 4:17)

- If we do something but it is not from faith, it too is sin.

But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. (Romans 14:23)

- We are all in serious trouble.

- But God has made provision for us through Christ.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures . . . (1 Cor 15:4)

- Jesus, God's perfect son, gave His life on the cross.
- Christ died on the cross, shedding His blood, for our sin so that we would not have to pay for our sin.
- He was buried and rose the third day showing that the penalty was paid and accepted.
- We have to only receive and trust Him alone for salvation.

- It is easy for man to add to the Gospel.

- Many believe that Jesus was the Son of God, that he died on the cross for their sin, was buried and rose again.
- But many add to it by tagging on works that must

done.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

- It is a gift and if you have to do something to earn it, it is not a gift.
- It is not of ourselves, not of works.
- It is not Jesus plus any works but trusting in Jesus alone.

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." (Acts 16:30-31)

- It only matters what He did and not what you have done.
- Have you accepted His free gift and trusted Him alone for salvation?

If not, you can do it right where you are if you believe the things that have been shared about Christ paying the penalty for your sins at the cross. Acknowledge your sins, agreeing with Him that you have "missed the mark," repent (have a change of mind) concerning your sins, receive His free gift.

For with the heart a person believes and so is justified, and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms his salvation. For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:10; 13 AMP)

Confessing Of Personal Sin After Salvation

- Remember confessing sin before salvation has to do with our eternal relationship with God and our future destination whether it be heaven or hell.
- Confession of personal sin after salvation has to do with our fellowship with God and not salvation.
- We still sin after salvation and need to confess our sin. (1 John is written to Christians)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son,

purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:5-9)

- The context is about fellowship with God.
- If we claim we don't have sin we deceive ourselves.
- In order to walk in the light we must do something about our sin.
- When we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins.
- What a promise that is that when we confess our sins He forgives and we can continue fellowshiping with Him and each other!
- We need to keep short accounts with God, having the Holy Spirit examine our lives because we can so easily deceive ourselves. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)*

Confession Of Others Sin

- As a representative of a group, we can pray and confess known sins.
 - You can confess the sins of your family.
 - You can confess the sins of your youth group.
 - You can confess the sins of the nation.
- Daniel prayed for his nation. (Daniel 9)
- God's promise for His people praying for their nation. *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE
Praying Alone, Praying Together
(Use With Chapter 4)

Introduction

1. If you have a prayer plan that is working feel free to use it or just add new ideas to it.
2. Make sure that you have a plan that works for you.
3. We are not stressing over the amount of time you spend in prayer because we want you to start from where you are.
4. Keep your prayer life vibrant and growing.
5. Your prayer life should be changing as you grow.
6. You are encouraged to build your own personal prayer plan. It should stretch you a little but it should be practical and obtainable.

Personal Prayer Life

1. Determine a time and place that fits you and your schedule. (Start with a reasonable amount of time you will spend with God.)
2. Some need a very structured program and others can operate more loosely. Remember the test is, "Are you doing it and is it drawing you closer to God?"
3. Your prayer should include a time where you talk to God and time when God talks to you. (There is a section in the Resource Centre on "Listening" that will help.) You may also want to read some Scripture and let God speak to you through His Word.
4. There should be a time of worship, appreciating God. Some suggestions are using the different names of God, singing worship hymns and choruses, pray using Scripture about God's character. This booklet will help give ideas.
5. There can be a time for confession and repentance as you review your day.
6. Thank God for the things He is doing in your life.
7. Share your needs and the needs of others with God.
8. Some call this plan, ACTS and it makes it easy to remember: A-Adoration, C-Confession, T-Thanksgiving, S-Supplication.
9. There are many different plans so keep learning and use one that really helps you.
10. Try different positions. Some of these may seem strange at first but try to use them as an expression of your heart.

11. If you don't all ready know about fasting there will be some materials in the booklet. When you are facing a difficult situation, or just want to draw close to God, you may include this.
12. Write out your prayer plan if you don't have one or if you do, review your plan and see if you want to make changes.

Daniel Prayer Team

1. A prayer team can be a very valuable asset to your prayer life.
 - It can help keep you on track.
 - There is a special sense of God's presence and power when you pray united in a group.
 - It gives you someone close to share your burdens and joy.
2. Remember Daniel had a prayer team of 4, himself and 3 others.
 - Two or three others seem to be a good size group. With that size group some are usually available and it is small enough for all to share.
 - If you can't find three, then start with one as you look for others.
3. How you choose the group is important.
 - If you are part of a larger prayer group movement, look for a few that may be willing to join you on a prayer team.
 - Choose people that are serious about praying and that won't just fool around. (This doesn't mean that there can't be some fun.)
 - If at all possible, chose people you see often so that it won't be difficult to get together. There may be friends at school, at a club you attend or at church youth group. These don't necessarily all have to be from the same place like church or club.

Prayer Styles

- Just as in your personal prayer, we highly recommend you use a variety of ways to pray. Others in your group may come with a style you have not used before. Be open to new ideas! .
- We have found that using the "Conversational Prayer" suggestions and "Scriptural Prayer" has been extremely helpful. (Find these prayer styles following this chapter.)
- Agree that personal information will not be shared outside the group.
- Keep the length of your prayers short. This will give time

for each participant to pray.

Praying With An Older Adult

1. We highly recommend you also choose an adult to pray with.
 - It can give another perspective on prayer.
 - It may give you another person to seek advice from.
 - It is highly possible that this older person may give needed wisdom concerning matters facing you.
2. Meeting with this adult.
 - It does not have to be for a long period of time and may be only once a month.
 - It usually is best to pray with someone of your own sex.
 - Try to choose someone that you will see at church or some other place so that you don't have to schedule another time.
 - Write out what you expect from the relationship and any other guidelines.
 - Pray about some of the things that concern this person.
 - Share about what you are learning in prayer.
 - Share and pray about some of your youth activities. You are trying to get them interested in the youth activities.
 - Remember that if you want the adults to respect you and be interested in you, you must show the same to them.
 - You can be an example to them.

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE
Conversational Prayer/Scripture Prayer
(Use With Chapter 4)

Conversational Prayer

Many times prayer can be made to seem mysterious. We close our eyes. We repeat words like "my Father". Some people automatically change their voice from normal speaking. Often in a group each person prays about a number of different subjects. If the group is praying in a circle, it is sometimes hard to concentrate because you are thinking about what you are going to pray. If the whole group is praying out loud at one time, there is usually very little unity in the prayer.

Usually in a conversation everyone participates at the level he desires. You do not go in a circle taking turns. Everyone tries to keep his part rather brief so that others can contribute. You may speak a number of times on the same subject but you are aware of the others and what they contribute. You don't just go off in a different direction no matter what the person before you says. There is a natural flow. You usually don't have to say, "Let's change the subject." You sense that one subject has finished and the next has begun.

This is very much like conversational prayer. Some of the characteristics are:

1. Everyone that has something to contribute on the subject has an opportunity before a new subject is started.
2. God is acknowledged as the One you are praying to and each one is aware and listening for Him to speak as well.
3. Each one shares briefly and may speak again on the same subject.
4. The prayer time is closed by saying "In Jesus Name," but each individual who prays doesn't close their prayer; it is united and like one prayer in which everyone is participating.
5. Just as in a conversation you listen to the others praying and may agree with them, add something to what was said, or bring in a new aspect.
6. You are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and the others.
7. You may start a song with the others joining in if the Spirit brings it to your remembrance and it fits the topic.
8. The Spirit may bring appropriate Scripture to your mind and you may read it.

9. There may be a request in prayer and the Lord may lay it on your heart that God desires to answer the prayer through you. God may show you what the next step is. You may share that.
10. You may find it interesting that some pray with your eyes open. There is nothing in the Bible that says we must close our eyes.
11. Enjoy the presence of God together just as though He is there with you. He really is there!

Brief demonstration of conversational prayer with three people:

Jane - Lord we thank you for our youth group and for the things we are learning about prayer.

Moses - I agree and I really want to learn to trust you even when I don't understand.

Jane - I know Moses is struggling with his parents getting a divorce and He can't understand. Please give him the peace and may he be open to both his mom and dad.

Victor - Show Moses how he can share Scripture but be humble in the way he shares.

Jane - Jane starts and the others join in singing, " My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow."

Victor - Your Word says that you are the potter and we are the clay.

In Jeremiah.29:11 it says, For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. We thank you that you will see Moses through.

Moses - Thank you God for friends like these and that I can trust you to work these things for my good.

New Subject . . .

I hope you have caught the idea. Remember that it might feel strange the first time you do it. When you use this way in a small group, time will go by very quickly. All will be able to enter in and you will have agreement in prayer. You can also use this same method with "Scripture Praying."

Scripture Prayer

Many times when we pray we don't know what God's will is. When we pray Scripture we know we are praying God's will. When we pray Scripture we personalise it and pray it back to God.

You may want to follow these steps. 1. Find a Scripture portion that deals

with something you are currently dealing with or want to learn. 2. Read the passage silently or out loud as it is written. 3. Think about the concepts in the verse. 4. Personalise it by changing the pronouns or putting in your own name. 5. Ask yourself what you must do to obey it.

An example is James 1: 2-4 which reads:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Your prayer might be something like this. “I am considering it pure joy as I face this trial, because I know that the testing of my faith will develop perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that I may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. I thank you for this process of maturing and that I will benefit by being complete and not lacking anything.”

There will be times when you may not feel like the Scripture is presently true in your life. For example: When going through a trial you may not feel very joyful. Simply tell God that you don't feel that way right now but you want Him to make your prayer a reality in your life.

Another way to pray Scripture is to find a prayer or appropriate Scripture for someone and pray that back to God for them. An example would be the prayer in Colossians 1:9-12. You may pray something like this: “I ask you God to fill (name) with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And I pray this in order that he may live a life worthy of you Lord and may please you in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of You, being strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might so that he may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully give thanks to You Father, who has qualified him to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

You can pray this way either when you are alone or in a group. We suggest that when praying in a group you use the conversational style of prayer. This allows more people to take part and to pray in agreement.

Do you think you understand and can you now do it?

Resource Centre
God Has The Freedom To Do Things Differently
(Use With Chapter 5)

Introduction

It is so easy for us to expect God to act in certain ways. If He doesn't do as we expected, it sometimes weakens our faith and we may even give up thinking prayer works. Many times it is because we don't have a good understanding of who God is and what his intentions are towards us.

1. God has good intentions towards us.
 - a. We must not only believe that in our heads but in our hearts.
 - b. We should not overlook that in the Christian life there are areas or things that must be given up. Examples: immorality, things that harm the body.
 - c. But the message of the Gospel is a very positive one. Even the things we think we must give up really can contribute to our living a better life both now and in heaven. Don't think of the Christian life in terms of the negative, what you give up. The Gospel is positive and allows you to live an abundant life.
 - d. God has come to give us an abundant life.
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)
 - e. His plans are for your good.
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - f. When God starts a good work He completes it.
Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ . . . (Philippians 1:6 KJV)
 - g. God has provided all we need for Godly living.
His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)
 - h. God says everything He allows will be used for our good
And we know that in all things God works for the good of

those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

- i. When He doesn't work the way we thought, we need to remember that God is working for our good.
2. We must let God be God.
- a. When we think we know the way, we need to remember that He thinks differently.
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. {9} "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - God's ways are not our ways.
 - Many times His ways are the opposite of ours.
 - Example - In our worldly system the leader exerts authority but Jesus says the leader is to be a servant. (Matthew. 20:25-28)
 - Example - In our worldly system wealth is to be spent on oneself but Jesus says we are to give it away. (Luke 6:38)
 - b. Can we tell our Maker how He should operate?
But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? (Romans 9:20-21)
 - God knows what it takes to mold us.
 - God knows what it takes to produce His ways in us.
 - c. God knows the future and knows the big picture while we are limited to the present and have a very small picture.
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13 NASB)
 - d. God is in control.
Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)
Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. (Psalm 115:3)

- e. Our trust is to be completely in the Lord.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.(Proverbs 3:5-6)
- The King James says, "and He will direct your path".
3. Do we trust only when we understand?
- a. We can trust God because we are assured that what He does is always for our good.
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)
I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me. (Psalm 57:2)
- b. Since God always acts with our good in mind and has good plans for us, we can trust Him even when we don't understand.
4. Allow God to be God.
- a. Don't expect to always understand.
- b. We can have our feeling and our desires but then we must submit them to God.
- c. This was Jesus attitude as He faced the cross
"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)
- d. We can express our desires but then it should be "Not my will, but yours be done."
5. Sometimes it is not easy to understand how God's sovereignty fits into prayer and man's free will.
- a. Some ask, "Why do we pray if God is going to do what He wants anyway?"
- b. We know that God has told us to pray and that prayer makes a difference.
- c. We know that God doesn't violate our will.
- d. We will probably never completely understand but we really don't have to as we trust God.
6. If it is your desire to submit to Him, tell Him in prayer.
- a. If it is difficult, tell Him so and ask Him for faith to believe and trust Him completely.
- b. God will never fail you.

Resource Centre
Spiritual Warfare
(Use With Chapter 6)

Introduction

1. The problem with dealing with spiritual warfare is that you have two extremes: some don't want to face it at all and others see a demon behind every bush.
2. It is important to know what the Bible has to say.
3. The Bible sometimes does not give a lot of details.
4. It is therefore important to recognize when we are filling in from experience and to examine that part very closely before accepting it.
5. The Bible does have a lot to say about spiritual warfare and it is important to know we are in a battle, our position and the tactic of the enemy.
6. Some seem to spend far too much time focusing on the demonic forces.
7. Modern educators tend to deny the supernatural and demonic powers thus leading people to believe that it is superstition and that educated people should not believe in it.
8. Some churches lend towards neglecting the supernatural at all.
9. If we don't know God's Word we may have a very distorted view about spiritual warfare.

The Supernatural World

1. Identifying the demonic spirits.
 - a. Most believe that these are fallen angels.
 - b. The Bible doesn't give us much detail concerning this.
 - c. Most conservative scholars accept that Ezekiel 28:1-9 is a brief account of Satan's original condition and fall. (Some use Isaiah 14: 12-17 to further develop understanding.)
 - d. Lucifer wanted to be like God. Isaiah.14:13-14, Ezekiel 28:12-16
 - e. It seems that Satan led a rebellion of as many as one third of the angels and they fell with Satan. This should be a comfort to know that the good angels far exceed the evil ones. (Revelation 12:4, 9)
 - f. Satan is often pictured as a person in black or red, with horns, a tail and a pitch-fork. This is not so. Satan was

probably one of the most beautiful and intelligent angels.

- g. Hell was designed for Satan and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)
2. The power of Satan and the demonic World - the bad news.
 - a. Satan is the ruler of this world. John 12:31,14:30
 - b. He is the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2
 - c. He is the God of this age 2 Cor. 4:4
 - d. He has the power to stand against and delay God's angelic beings. Daniel 10
 - e. When God allows, he has the power to use the forces of nature for his evil ends. Job 1
 - f. While Satan himself cannot be present in all places at one time like God, he has a large host of demons that are in many places doing his dirty work and gathering information.
 - g. Even the archangel Michael respected Satan's power. *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"* (Jude 1:9)
 - h. Satan can extensively control certain people who are under his control. Luke 8:27-30.
 - i. The power of Satan and his demonic forces should not be taken lightly.
 - j. In the natural and without understanding it could be very frightening.
 - k. That is the bad news but there is good news coming.
3. Our position in Christ - the good news.
 - a. Jesus came to destroy the devil's work. *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.* (1 John 3:8)
 - b. The battle has never been between two equal foes. Satan was defeated at the cross. *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* (Col 2:15)
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him

who holds the power of death--that is, the devil . . . (Heb 2:14 NIV)

- c. God gave the power to cast out demons.
When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases . . . (Luke 9:1)

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." (Luke 10:17)

- d. Our God, who is in us, is greater than Satan.
You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

- e. The good news is that Satan and his demons have been defeated and that we do not need to feel powerless or defeated by them.

- f. Have you read the last chapter concerning Satan and his final end?

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

• Praise God, we win!

- g. We will see later how to fight and defeat the demons.

4. Satan's tactics

- a. We must know Satan's schemes or he will take advantage of us.

... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Cor 2:11)

- b. Satan is out kill, steal, and destroy.
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

- c. What areas do you think Satan works in?

Black, Darkness

Witchcraft, Black Magic, Séances

Grey

Fortune Telling, Horoscopes, Palm Reading, Magical Rituals, Magical Charms, Sensual Prayers,

White, Light

White Magic, Spiritual Counsel, False Doctrine, Scripture,

Humanism, Spirit Led Prayer, Meditation,
Meditation on the Scriptures, False healing

- And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Cor 11:14)
- Satan works into the light area by trying to make you think you are hearing from God.
- He uses false doctrine, cults, and other things that sound good. I have been asked, " If someone can heal my child, can it be bad?" See Matthew 7:22-23.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

d. He wants us to be ignorant of his schemes so that we are unaware of why things are happening and we don't fight back.

- He wants us to think that everything that is happening to us is totally from natural causes and not from the demonic world.
- Sometimes they may be but at other times the demonic world is involved.

. . . in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Cor 2:11)

e. If we are aware of Satan he wants us to fear and feel like we can't fight back.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Pet 5:8)

- Lions roar and cause fear and the animals would run into lions waiting down wind and be killed.
 - He wants us to be so afraid that we will give in, compromise or not fight.
 - He wants us to think that demons are involved in everything and that you can't do anything about it.
- For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear),*

but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7)

- f. He accuses the believers before God.
Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1)
Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)
- g. He causes disunity among the believers and promotes wrong motives.
But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. (James 3:14-15)
- When there is not unity check the source.
- h. He tries to hinder us and delays God's angelic beings. (Watch for this in ministry as well) Daniel 10:12-14
For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us. (1 Th 2:18)
- i. He uses natural causes for his own evil purposes.
- He used the Sabeans to attack and kill; fire; the Chaldeans, and the wind to kill and destroy. (Job 1:12-19)
 - He used sickness. Job 2:7,
- j. In extreme cases Satan or the demons so invade the person that the demons control them. (Some call this demon possession.)
When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. (Luke 8:27, 29)
And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. (Luke 10:17 KJV)
- k. He uses physical illness to bind people and kill.

(It is important to note that not all physical illness is from Satan. Jesus makes a distinction between those needing only healing and those needing to have demons cast out. *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.* (Matthew 10:8)

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. (Matthew 12:22)

And a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. (Luke 13:11)

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Cor 12:7)

When Jesus cast out the demons or the control was broken the people were healed. (Mat. 4:24, Mat. 8:16, Mat. 9:13, Mat. 17:18, Mark 5:15, Luke 13:10-13)

- l. He tries to influence your thinking.

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. (1 Chronicles 21:1)

- He tried to influence Jesus. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- He influenced Peter. (Mark 8:31)

- m. He tries to keep the unsaved in his kingdom.

"He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn--and I would heal them." (John 12:40)

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. (Matthew 13:19)

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Acts 26:18 KJV)

5. To what extent can a Christian be controlled?

- a. True believers cannot be "demon possessed" (completely controlled) by demons because the Holy Spirit lives within.
- b. They can, however, come under influence to strong demonic control in certain areas of their life. (Some disagree with this on the basis of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer.)
- c. Scripture does not give a lot of details on this area.
- d. Some reasons why demon influence is possible.
 - The Holy Spirit lives within but we still live with the sinful flesh even though the Holy Spirit indwells us.
 - We see Peter dealing with a strong influence of Satan. Luke 22:31 ff (Know that this was before the Holy Spirit indwelled believers.)
 - Paul faced the thorn in the flesh. 2 Cor.12:7
 - Ananias Acts 5: 1ff. (We don't know for sure what his relationship was with God.)
 - There is a case of the man living in immorality. Paul makes a very interesting statement. This man seems to be a believer because he was given over to Satan to destroy the flesh that his spirit might be saved.
Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 5:5)
 - Experience indicates it in the testimonies of many Christian counsellors. There has been a large swing to this position in the last years by those of many different persuasions.

6. Where does sin come from and why do we continue to struggle with it even after we are saved?

- Sin is three-dimensional and comes from three sources.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also

lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- a. Sin comes from the lust of the flesh - sin is personal, it comes from within.
 - All of us are born into this world with a sin nature.
 - I am not a sinner because I sin but I sin because I am a sinner.
 - That old nature within us is self-centered, immoral, jealous, rebellious to authority, prideful, and has many other negative characteristics. (Galatians 5:19-21)
 - That old sin nature is only controlled by living in the Spirit and having our mind renewed. (Romans 12:1-2)
- b. Sin comes from the world system - it is social and comes from without.
 - The world system is anti-God. 1 John 2:15-17
 - The world system even includes religion. It may be popular to go to church but one doesn't believe the Bible is true nor do they obey it.
 - Science is often seen as more reliable than the Bible. Evolution is a credible theory for creation yet has no scientific proof behind it.
- c. Sin involves "the ruler of the kingdom of the air" - it is supernatural and comes from above.
 - We cannot blame Satan for our sin because we are personally responsible and not forced into it.
 - But this third area is a powerful force for evil and the demonic forces use the first two areas of sin to build on.
 - Satan tempts the old nature.
 - He also energises the entire world system towards a lifestyle independent of God and in rebellion against the will of God.

7. Sin is progressive. If we do not deal with it on one level it will progress to the next level as it seeks to entangle, rule and destroy us.
Thought (Not Sin) ►► Choice ►► Habit ►► Loss Of Control ►► Bondage ►► Complete Control
The farther to the right the sin is, the harder it will be to break.
8. While no war is fun, this war is winnable and Scriptures tell us what we need to know how to win the battle.
9. The winning battle plan
Pray/Pray/Pray -- When Satan knocks at the door send Jesus to open it. Remember you may be battling the flesh only, the world only, a combination of flesh and the world only, or the flesh and the world energized by the demonic forces. Sin will be harder to break if demonic forces are energizing it.

Breaking Sins Of The Flesh

- a. Identify the sin and where it is in regard to the progress of sin in number seven above.
 - This is so that you have a realistic view of how deep seated it is and how hard it might be to break.
- b. Confess your sin, agreeing with God's evaluation, and accept His forgiveness. (I John 1:9)
- c. Sins of the flesh were crucified with Christ on the cross. (Study Romans 6)

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- (Romans 6:6)

 - Sin shall not be our master.
For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14)
 - Present yourself as a slave to Christ.
I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. (Romans 6:19)
- d. Pray, Pray, Pray

- During the whole process keep on praying.
- Ask God to break the bondage.
- Sometimes God will break the deepest bondage immediately and at other times we must keep dealing with it.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

e. Don't make it easy to sin.

- When wrong thoughts come, take them captive.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

- Don't make provision for the flesh.
Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
(Romans 13:14)

Example- If you are facing temptation with immorality, don't be in a situation where you are alone with the person.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22 KJV)

f. Make sure you are walking in the Spirit.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. (Galatians 5:16-17)

- g. Fast.
 - There is a section in the Resource Centre dealing with fasting.
- h. Find a mature believer that you trust, share your problem and be accountable to him/her.
- i. See material under "Sins Energized By Demonic Forces".
- j. If you still haven't reached victory, get the help of your pastor or Christian counsellor.

Breaking Sins From the World's System

- a. Be sure you are taking your values from God and the Bible and not from the world.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:8)
- b. Our minds must be transformed to the truth of God.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

 - Our minds are renewed as we spend time in the Word and accept His values and see where it is different from the world's system.
- c. Confess to God areas where you sinned by accepting the world's system.

Breaking Sin When Demonic Forces Are Involved

- a. Satan and his demonic force, work on a very wide range of influence.

Not aware of influence ►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►► Complete control

On the low end, every believer can personally do spiritual battle and win. The person on the high end usually needs help from a mature believer that knows the area of "spiritual warfare."

- b. Breaking satanic bondages on the lower end of the range of influence.
 - Recognise that Satan may be at work.
 - Know that it is not always evident.

- Ask God to show you if it is really important to know. (You really don't have to know in order to do the following things.)
- c. Go over the material on breaking the bondages of the flesh and the world.
- The basics of these are your responsibility because Satan did not make you sin in the first place.
 - He took advantage of your sin but it was your responsibility.
- d. Humble yourself before God.
- "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (James 4:6 NASB)*
- Satan uses our pride to keep us from humbling ourselves.
 - We must humble ourselves and ask forgiveness from anyone we have had problems with.
 - Bitterness and unforgiveness is a major tactic Satan uses for holding people in bondage.
- e. Submit to God. (James gives 3 commands and two promises.) (This is the first command)
- Submit therefore to God. (James 4:7a NASB)*
- We must submit to God in every area of our life.
How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. (Psalm 119:9)
 - Are there areas you know you are not submitted to God?
- f. Resist the devil. (This is the second command, first promise)
- Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7b NASB)*
- The second command is that you must aggressively resist the devil and his plans.
 - What are you actively doing to resist his plans?
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)
 - When Jesus was tempted He used Scripture to resist.

- Prayer and worship resists Satan.

g. Draw near to God

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8 NASB)

- The third command is to draw near to God.
- God does not want you to just submit but He wants to be close to you.
- He wants fellowship with you.
- The third promise is that if you draw near to Him He will draw near to you.
- Through prayer, being filled with the Holy Spirit and reading the Word we can draw near to Him.

h. Put on the whole armor of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:10-18 NASB)

- You must do something, "take up the full armour."
- You must use the shield of faith because flaming missiles are coming against you.
- You must put on all the armour or the enemy will be able to hit you in the area not covered.
- The full armour of a soldier did not mean he could not be wounded.

- Full Armour of God - The defensive pieces

Belt of truth - The belt of truth is extremely important because it keeps all the other pieces in place. It allows the truth of the Word of God to be a living reality in our lives. It is also the truth of heart in the sense of sincerity and integrity.

Breastplate of righteousness - This guards the heart and vital organs. As believers we are given God's righteousness. In position, we stand not in our own righteousness but His. It also refers to personal righteousness where we progressively become more like Him.

Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace - Since we are to stand, the emphasis seems to be on having firm footing. The gospel is to give us peace concerning our relationship with God. It also gives us peace of heart and mind in the midst of the battle because He is in control.

Shield of faith - Note that this is so important because it shields us from the fiery darts. It can be moved to any part that needs protection. Faith is the shield. Christ is the object of our faith. The Bible says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Ro. 10:17) We choose to have faith, believing God even when we do not see if presently.

Helmet of salvation - It protects the head and our mind. When we focus on our great salvation it protects our minds from the enemies attack.
- Full armour of God - Offensive pieces

Sword of the Spirit - It tells us the sword is the Word of God. When Jesus was battling with Satan's temptation he replied with the Word of God. Hebrews 4 tells us the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. Notice that this sword has life and power in itself. As we are filled with the Holy Spirit the Spirit uses the Word of God.

Prayer - We are to pray in the Spirit with all kinds of prayer and requests. We should be praying as

we put on each piece of the armour. We need to be claiming God's promises. We need to be requesting what we need for the particular battle we are facing. Prayer is communication with our commander-in-chief and brings the needed resources for our disposal.

- i. So brothers and sisters, be on the alert.
- j. We have a part to play, but our strength and resources come from Him.
 - We are to focus and use His provisions.
- k. If you still need help, see your pastor.
- l. Remember, don't get overly focused on Satan and his demons but rather stay focused on our all-powerful God who is able to deliver you!
 - Satan wants attention and he sometimes gets it by believers giving him so much attention that their walk with God suffers.
 - Spend more time drawing close to God and obeying Him.

Write some thoughts down . . .

Resource Centre
Fasting
(Use with Chapter 7)

Introduction

- Are you ready for a Daniel 21 day fast?
- You may want to begin with a shorter one and build up.
- You can fast personally or in a group.
- While we have done our best to do good research, we do not guarantee all the materials and are not responsible for any negative results that may occur.

1. Definition of fasting

- a. The way we are using it is to deny food in order to draw closer to God, often to hear from Him concerning a special need.
- b. Some people may fast to lose weight or for some other reason but that is not the way we are using it.

2. Kinds of fasts

- a. The absolute fast
 - This fast is where you do not eat or drink. Saul, after his conversion, fasted.
For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. (Acts 9:9)
 - This kind of fast must be short because it is dangerous not to drink water for several days.
 - This should not be attempted except perhaps in very extreme cases.
- b. The liquid fast
 - In this fast either water or juices are taken.
 - This is probably the most common fast and what many consider a "real" fast.
 - This is probably the one Jesus used when he fasted 40 days because at the end he said he was hungry but said nothing about thirst. (You can't go without water for 40 days.)
- c. The partial fast
 - In this fast, certain foods are eliminated.
 - This is the kind Daniel used for his 21 day fast.

At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. (Daniel 10:2-3)

- Your heart attitude is very important because the foods you eliminate should be some of your favorite ones and it should be a real sacrifice.

d. Chain prayer fast

- This is much like a prayer chain.
- A number of people sign up for different time slots around the clock.
- They might fast in 2 or 4 hour shifts. They agree to pray a set period of time during their shift.

3. Length of the fast

a. The length of the fast can be anywhere from one meal to many days.

b. The Bible speaks of several periods of time for fasts:

- Three day
- Seven day
- Twenty one day
- Forty days

c. We suggest planning three fasts.

- A three-day fast drinking only water or juices. (This is a personal fast concentrating on your own life.)
- A seven-day fast either partial or water and juices. (This you could do with your small team or larger group.)
- A twenty-one Daniel fast either partial or water and juices only.

4. The timing of the fast is important if you are drinking only water or juices.

- The longer the fast the more important the timing is.
- It may be best to plan it when you don't have as many responsibilities. For example, don't schedule it during examine time.
- Remember the first couple of days are the hardest.
- A longer fast may be best schedule when you are on school leave.

5. **Reasons to fast.**

Anytime you want to draw especially close to God and spend extra time seeking Him is a reason to fast.

- a. At times of deep confession and repentance
Judges 20:26, I Sam. 7:6, Neh.1:4, Neh. 9:1, Dan.9:3 Joel 2:12, Jonah 3:5
- b. Seek God's special mercy in a situation
II Sam.12:16,22, Est. 4:3, Dan.9:3, Joel 1:14, Jonah 3:5
- c. Special commitment to God
Neh. 9:1, Joel 2:12, Math. 6:18, Mark 2:19, Acts 13:12
- d. Preparation for ministry
Matthew. 4:2, Acts 13:2, Acts 14:23
- e. Seeking direction from God
Jud. 20:26, II Chron.20:3, Dan. 10:2-3
- f. Seeking help from God
II Chron. 20:3, Ezra 8:21-23, Neh. 1:4, Esther 4:16, Ps. 35:13, Dan.6:18
- g. In times of grief
I Sam. 31:31:13, II Sam.1:12
- h. When special power is needed
Matthew. 17:21*, Mark 9:29* (* Not all manuscripts have fasting)
- i. When we want to de-emphasize the physical and emphasize the spiritual.

6. **Some reasons a fast will not be effective**

- a. It is not to be used as only an outward form, a ritual.
 - Jezebel and Ahab tried to misuse the fast. I Kings 21:9,27
- b. When we seek to act spiritually by fasting but in practice our life is the opposite. Isaiah. 58:3
- c. When there is strife and division God will not hear.
Isaiah.58:4
- d. When there are wrong motives. Isaiah 58:5-6
- e. There comes a time when judgment is called for and a fast will not hold back God's hand. Jeremiah 14:12

7. **Preparing for a fast**

- a. General information
 - If you have serious medical problems like diabetes, heart problems, or if you shake when you do not eat on time, etc. you should check with your

doctor before you fast. (You also need to have special confirmation from God that He wants you to fast.)

- The longer the fast, especially when you are only drinking liquids, the more you need to prepare for the fast and also for breaking the fast.
- Remember we do not suggest a complete fast where you do not eat or drink. (This can be dangerous and should, if used, necessitate clear medical information.)
- If you experience unusual problems while fasting, see a doctor.

b. What to expect when fasting

- When you go on a liquid fast, the first 3-5 days are the hardest after which you will not feel hunger.
- When you limit foods and also the quantity, you will continue to feel hunger pains.
- With a varied juice fast, you will receive the nutrients needed and can usually maintain a fairly normal work pattern
- "It is normal to feel colder than usual, to experience bad breathe and heightened body odor, changes in elimination (constipation or diarrhea) light headedness, changes in sleeping and dreaming patterns, or aches and pains. A white-coated tongue at the beginning of a fast is part of the bodies pattern of throwing off toxins." (P 185, Power of Prayer and Fasting, Bill Bright, New Life Publications, @1997
- "Most people feel better than they do normally, although their daily strength is usually diminished." (Above book p age 186)

c. Preparing you diet.

- A one-day fast and even possibly a three-day fast need little preparation.
- It helps to not eat heavily, especially avoiding meats, a day or so before the fast. (This should be started earlier if it is a long fast)
- Herbal teas, juices, and pure vegetable broth will

pass through the stomach without effecting the digestive system.

- Remember that juices should not be sweetened with sugar.
- It is extremely important to drink lots of water so that you will not dehydrate and it will help eliminate the toxins.

d. Breaking the fast

- This is a very critical time because your stomach has shrunk and your intestines have been idle. (Especially true of a 3 day fast and longer. The longer the fast the more time that is needed to return to normal.
- You can really cause yourself many problems if you do not heed this advice.
- You will want to completely avoid meats, oil and fats.
- Eat only soft foods for a couple of days. (Longer if it is an extended fast.)
- One suggestion is to cut up and boil 4 or 5 tomatoes. After they are cooled, you may have as much as you want.
- Then start eating soft cooked vegetables.

8. **Be sure your fast is focused.**

- a. Have it clear what you want God to do.
- b. Set aside extra time for prayer and the Word.
- c. Spend time being quiet listen for what God wants to say to you.

9. **When you fast don't advertise.**

"And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. (Matthew 6:16-18 NASB)

- a. The idea is that you not advertise the fact that you are fasting. Some do so they look spiritual.
- b. The Jews had some regular fasting days so all the people were aware but it was not showing off how spiritual they

were.

- c. If you could not let anyone know you were fasting you could not fast as a group.

10. Be careful because fasting opens you to the spiritual world.

- a. This means you may be open to deceiving spirits as well as God.

- b. Be sure to test the spirits to be sure they are from God.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1John 4:1 NASB)

11. Sometimes the break-through will come while you are fasting but other times you will see the answer after the fast.

12. Does it seem complicated and hard?

- a. It is not meant to be easy.

- b. If you take the challenge I believe you will experience something new and it will be worth it.

- c. Go for it and see what happens as you draw closer to God.

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE
What Does It Take To Be A Leader?
(Use with Chapter 8)

Introduction

1. We all will have leadership responsibilities during our lifetime.
2. For some it may be formal.
3. For some it may be very informal.
4. There seems to be very little emphasis today on the character of the leader yet it is extremely important.
5. The leader's character will determine what he does in many situations.
6. Many contribute most of the problems in their nation and in their churches to poor leadership.
7. Many of our leadership characteristics are developed as we are growing up.
8. Leadership is developed in the home.
 - a. The attitudes you have at home will likely carry over to other situations.
 - b. One of the qualifications of an overseer in the church is good leadership in the home.
He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
9. Often we take our leadership model from the secular world rather than from the Bible.
10. We are going to focus mainly on character rather than leadership styles and skills.
11. You are in the process right now of developing qualities either in a positive or negative sense.
12. The qualities we are going to consider should be true of you whether or not you are a leader.
13. Evaluate yourself on a scale of 1-10 as to where you think you are as you consider the each quality. What changes need to be made in each area?

Leadership Qualities

Servant Leadership

1. Many see leadership as being "the boss" and use it as an

opportunity to tell others what to do and to prosper themselves.

2. Jesus spoke to this problem when two of the disciples asked to sit on his right and left side when He came into the kingdom.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)

3. From what Jesus said, place the qualities of the two different kinds of leaders in the appropriate side.

Qualities Of Secular Leaders

Qualities Of Godly Leaders

4. Think about the leaders you know in your country, your church and in the families of your church. Which side do they fit on?
5. On a scale of 1-10 where do you think your tendencies lie? _____
6. Will you commit to be a servant leader and write down some changes you need to make to do that?

Integrity

1. Integrity is a major problem in leadership.
2. Many leaders are not honest in what they say or in handling finances.
3. A leader must be transparent and absolutely honest.
4. He must not use half-truths to mislead people.
5. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself?_____ What do you need to work on?

Faithful

1. One of the tests of leadership is whether he is faithful in little things.
"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." (Luke 16:10)
2. He must be faithful to the people he is working with as well as to the task.
3. Do you take responsibility and how do you follow through.
4. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself?_____ What

do you need to work on?

Moral Purity

1. Many people say it doesn't matter what you do in private between two people.
2. What you do in private shows who you really are.
3. Today many are saying that they are not interested in what a person does in private but it matters because it shows his character.
4. One of Satan's tactics is to take away the leader's effectiveness by tempting them to sin in this area.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable . . . (1 Th 4:4)

5. Do you compromise in this area going farther than you should?
6. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Submissive to Authority

1. A good leader is one who has learned to be a good follower.
2. We are all in positions where we are to be submissive. (Eph. 5:21)
Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (Romans 13:1-2)

3. This doesn't mean we can't have our own ideas and opinions that are contrary to those in authority.
4. It does mean we respect those in leadership over us.
5. Many young people face a special challenge in this area and are missing the promise with doing it.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

6. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Disciplined

1. Part of the spirit of our age is to over indulge and enjoy what you can while you can.
2. Discipline is applied to all areas: physically, mentally, emotionally,

and spiritually.

3. A good leader is disciplined, self-controlled.
Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. (Titus 2:6)
Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (Titus 1:8)
It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age . . . (Titus 2:12)
4. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Hospitality

1. We don't often think of this as a quality for leadership but it is mentioned in Scripture.
Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (Titus 1:8)
2. It shows the leader cares for people and not just thinking of himself.
Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)
3. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Knows His Strengths And Weakness

1. He knows his strengths and weakness so that he uses sound judgement.
For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3)
2. He has people around him that challenge him even in the areas of his strengths but depends upon others in the areas of his weakness.
3. He knows his spiritual gifts and is disciplined to operate a majority of the time in them and delegates leadership to other with differing gifts.
 - If you don't already know your "spiritual gifts" seek help to know them. I Cor. 12, Romans 12: 4-8, Eph. 4:8-12, I Peter 4:10
4. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Reaction When Falsely Accused

1. A leader must take criticism and will often be falsely accused.
2. Someone has said, "If you can't stand the heat near the fire, get away."
3. Your attitude when criticised or falsely accused will show what you are made of.
4. Do you get angry, want to fight back or want to get even?
5. Do you listen to criticism graciously and see if there might be some truth in it?
6. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Takes Responsibility For His Decisions

1. There is a tendency for some leaders to make decisions and then blame others when they don't work out.
2. It is not a question on whether a leader will make mistakes but when.
3. A good leader takes responsibility for wrong decisions, asks for forgiveness and moves on.
4. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Develops Others

1. He motivates and promotes others.
2. He wants to see those he works with reach their full potential even if they progress farther than he does. (A good example is that in the beginning Barnabus is the leader but later Paul takes the leadership.)
3. He doesn't hold others back or cause them to leave the organization to protect his own position.
4. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Vision

1. He must have vision and know where he is going.
2. If he doesn't know where he is going it is like the blind leading the blind.
3. This doesn't mean that he must develop the vision but he must understand it.
4. Others can help develop the vision.
5. On a scale of 1-10 where would you place yourself? _____ What do you need to work on?

Spiritual Qualities

We have emphasized these qualities several times in previous chapters such as knowing God as your personal Saviour, a consistent walk with God, prayer, spiritual warfare, etc. so we will not repeat them.

Commitment to Godly Leadership

1. As you influence people, will it be for their good?
2. God is looking for godly leaders in the home, church, workplace, community and nation.
3. Will you commit yourself to being a godly leader?

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE

Social Concern

(Use With Chapter 9)

Introduction

1. Many times the church and its people have a very small picture of what God has called them to do.
2. The vision often centers on what takes place in the church building.
3. This is often seen as the "real" spiritual ministry.
4. We often don't see our involvement in our families, employment and community as being part of God's call.
5. God has given the church and its people a very broad call to be involved.
6. We want to consider what it means to be involved in our world.

God's calls us to get involved

1. From the beginning God gave man a responsibility of caring for His creation.
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
(Genesis 1:27-28)
 - a. God gave the responsibility to increase in numbers.
 - b. He gave the responsibility of subduing the earth and ruling over it.
 - c. It is part of God's call to us to be caretakers of His creation.
 - d. Do we understand His call and what are we doing about it?
2. When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour He reveals part of the reason He created us.
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2:10)
 - a. We don't earn salvation nor do we keep it by doing good.
 - b. Good works are part of our purpose.

c. The simplest things we do will be recognized, they don't have to always be something big.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (Matthew 25:34-36)

3. Isn't it interesting that in the Book that stresses "faith without works is dead," that God would focus on a social issue as being an example of true religion?

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27)

4. Scripture is clear that the poor are close to God's heart and we too are to have compassion and give to the poor.

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21)

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind . . . (Luke 14:13)

Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. (Acts 10:4)

5. Social involvement is part of many cultures.

- a. Community caring for others is a natural expectation.
- b. Children care for their parents.
- c. The clan/village/extended family sends children to school.
- d. You are expected to help the one in need or in trouble.
- e. Society is not individualistic but group orientated.
- f. It is interesting that many times it doesn't seem to be carried over to the church.

6. The church has the potential of being the pace setter and leader in social issues.

- a. At one time the church was a leader in social issues.
 - It was a leader in providing education for the people.
 - It was a leader in building hospitals and providing

medical care.

- It was a leader in bringing dignity to women.
- The early church cared for its people.
- The pastor was seen as a respected community leader.

b. But this has changed.

- We have given these areas over to the government.
- Now for the most part we are told to be quiet and stick to what they say churches are to do.
- But in Scripture these things are part of our calling.

7. Ever since Cain killed Able and when asked where he was, he replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?" People ask the same question.

a. The Biblical answer is, "Yes, we have a responsibility to others.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10 KJV)

b. Let's be clear that doing these good things does not help us get to heaven nor to maintain our salvation.

c. We do them because God created us for good works and because we love the Lord.

d. An added benefit is that God will reward you for these acts of kindness.

8. Some ideas of how you may get involved.

Encourage your larger group to get involved in some social programs.

a. In the chapter, "Why Did God Leave Me Here," you made your own list of social problems your society faces. See if one of these interests you.

b. Check with your church and community services to see if there is something you can be involved in.

c. Check with the Youth For Christ office to see if they have something you can be involved in.

d. Take a look at the people you know and see if there are any special needs you might help with.

e. Get involved with a HIV program.

- f. Help promote a "Why Wait" program. (Abstinence Program)
 - g. Help in cleaning up your neighborhood.
 - h. Could you help teach some people to read or teach a language?
 - i. Help distribute information on health.
 - j. One group started collecting trash in the slums where there was no collection for a very low fee and created a jobs as well as being socially involved.
9. What will you do to get involved in social issues?
- a. Being involved is part of our Christian ministry.
 - b. You might consider doing something together with your small prayer group or a larger group.
 - c. This is one way you can see a practical application of your calling.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Write some thoughts down . . .

RESOURCE CENTRE
Sharing the Gospel With Others
(Use with Chapter 10)

Introduction

1. We sometimes think that many people go to church and thus hear the gospel.
2. In most of the countries that have church surveys, the number in church has shocked the church leaders.
3. Many times the percentage of youth attending church is lower than that of the population.
4. An alarming number of youth are affected with Aids. For these young people time is running out for them to be reached with the gospel.
5. Young people are more open to the gospel at this age than any other. As they grow older many will harden their hearts.
6. If the youth are reached now, they can be spared from many of the consequences of sin, and wrong decisions they will face from controlling their own lives.
7. It is crucial that the youth are reached now and Godly character is built into their lives so that this generation is able to face the challenges ahead.

How Does Prayer Affect Evangelism?

1. It affects those that will be called to share the gospel.
He told 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)
 - a. Many times we come up with all kinds of programs to encourage evangelism.
 - b. The place we are to start is praying that the Lord would send out the labours.
 - c. Pray for yourself and pray for others to be involved in the harvest.
2. It give us courage to witness.
Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. (Acts 4:29)
After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)
 - a. We are often shy about sharing the gospel.

- b. The vision for your generation is that you will be bold in evangelism.
 - c. Are you praying for boldness for yourself and your youth group?
3. It releases the lost from Satan's bondage.
The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- a. The reason people have a hard time accepting the gospel is that Satan has blinded their eyes.
 - b. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will work in their lives to convict them of sin and that Satan's grip on their life will be released.
4. Prayer protects the seed (the Word) sown so that Satan, the cares of this world and other things would not affect it.
- a. There are numbers of things that can affect the acceptance of the Gospel.
 - b. We are called to be faithful in witnessing and the acceptance of the gospel is the responsibility of the person and the Holy Spirit.
 - c. But we want to do everything we can to create a positive atmosphere without hindrances.

Developing Your Plan for Sharing Christ

1. Get training on sharing the gospel.
2. Include praying that the Lord would send forth labours and include yourself.
3. Include praying for boldness for yourself and the youth group.
4. Include praying that God will remove the blindness of the mind and that the gospel will fall on good soil.
5. We suggest that you and each young person pray for three to five friends that don't know Christ and do all you can to bring them to Christ. Of course you can pray for more but be specific.
6. Try to understand where they are at concerning the gospel.
 - a. Are they close?
 - b. Do they have lots of objections?
 - c. Are they involved in a false religion?
 - d. What might be the next step in leading them closer?
 - e. Are they open to attending youth events with you?
 - f. Personally do things with them and plan youth events that

will draw them closer and at the proper time present the gospel or take them to an event where the gospel is shared.

7. We highly recommend that fasting be added in planning the evangelistic events.
8. Don't feel that crusades or going out knocking on doors are the only way to do evangelism.
 - a. We are told that about 10% of believers have the gift of evangelism or an outgoing personality where they feel comfortable with this kind of evangelism.
 - b. Don't let someone put you in their mold where you feel guilty because you are not as aggressive or don't feel comfortable doing it their way.
 - c. The important part is that you recognize every believer has a part in evangelism.
 - d. God will use your spiritual gift, sharing literature, the life you are living and many other ways.
 - e. There comes a time where you are verbal in sharing why your life is different.
9. Sometimes there will be immediate results and other times you may not see results for years.
 - a. God will often work in some amazing ways, as you get serious about praying for your friends.
 - b. Don't give up and keep praying.
 - c. The one you are praying for is worth the patience.
 - d. Be encouraged by those who respond quickly and trust God to work in the others' lives over a period of time.
 - e. Remember your responsibility is to pray and witness.
10. The lives of your friends stand in the balance.
 - a. It is far too important to leave to chance.
 - b. Something must change because youth, as a group, are not being reached and witnessing is not taking place on a level where they have a choice to accept or reject Christ.

Gospel Presentation

Remember evangelism takes place best when in a relationship. It can't always be done that way so be open to God's working through you even with strangers.

1. God is a Holy and Just.
"Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)

- a. God's character is perfect and He cannot stand sin.
 - b. God can not allow sin into heaven
Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27)
2. Every person has sinned.
. . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3:23)
- a. Each one of us has done wrong things.
 - b. Some have done worse than others but each one has sinned.
3. Every person has earned the "death penalty."
For the wages of sin is death . . . (Romans 6:23a)
- a. Each one stands under a death penalty.
 - b. It doesn't matter if you have committed one sin or a multitude because the penalty for one sin is death.
 - c. Death means physical death but even more important it is eternal separation from God and spending eternity in hell.
 - d. Many think that if their good deeds are more than their bad, they will surely be all right but that isn't true.
 - e. The penalty has to be paid by you or someone. The person has to be perfect or he would have to die for his own sin.
4. God Himself made a way to pay the penalty for your sin.
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16)
- a. The gospel, the good news, is that God sent His perfect son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for sin, for your sin.
By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures . . . (1 Corinthians 15:2-3)
 - b. There are NOT many ways to God, only one.
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

- Many believe there are a number of ways to God and as long as you are sincere God will receive you.
 - That simply is not true for God Himself has spoken in the Bible and has showed the way.
5. The penalty has been paid but you must accept it, it must be personally applied to you.
 - a. It is a free gift but you must accept it.
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NKJV)
 - b. Someone can give you a very expensive gift but if you don't accept it, it is of no value to you.
 6. It is not by works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - a. This is very important because many people accept that Christ died on the cross but they believe they must do certain things to obtain salvation or keep it.
 - b. You can do nothing to earn salvation or to keep it.
 - c. If you had to do anything it would not be a gift.
 - d. After we are saved we do good works because we are changed, we love the Lord and want to please Him.
 - e. Remember it was your sin that earned death and only the death of the perfect one, Jesus Christ, can pay that penalty for you.
 - f. You must depend on Jesus Christ alone.
 7. You can know that you have eternal life and are going to heaven.
And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:11-13 KJV)
 - a. So many people will say that they hope they are going to heaven but you can know.
 - b. God has set the way and when you receive His Son you can you have eternal life.
 8. Examine your own life to make sure you have accepted the true gospel.
 - a. Do you know according to what the Bible has said that you are on your way to heaven?
 - If you don't know for sure you can be sure right now.

- b. If you have never accepted Christ personally read through again the "Gospel Presentation".
- Know that you're a sinner condemned to die because of your sin. Accept the fact that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin. Tell Him you accept His free gift and you want Him to take control of your life.
 - Pray this prayer. Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin. I accept your free gift of eternal life and trust You alone for my salvation. (Note that it is not the prayer that saves you but rather your acceptance of Christ as your personal Saviour.
9. Now what about your friends and others that don't know the way?
- a. Memorize the verses and points above so that you can share the gospel with them.
 - b. There are other plans for sharing the gospel and your church may want you to use another plan. That is great as long as it is truly the gospel.
 - c. Start praying for boldness.
 - d. Review the section on reaching your friend and may God bless you as you share.

Write some thoughts down . . .