



21

DAYS

A JOURNEY
TO THE HEART
OF GOD

Tim Johnson



21 DAYS TO THE HEART OF GOD

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WELL
SEEK • LIVE • LEAD

I Invite you to join me on a 21 Day journey in pursuit of the heart of God.

It is my prayer that you enter this season with a heart that is pliable in the hands of your Creator. If you are hungry for a breakthrough, thirsty for a vibrant lifestyle, weary of routine and ready to break free from the past, then commit to a focus of prayer, fasting, devotion and action. The enemy of your victory will attempt to steal the next 21 days. Decide now to guard this time with a vigilant heart. Decide to place God at the highest place and priority in your day.

Two keys to the next 21 days

James reminds us, “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” (James 1:22)

First we must learn to listen. Second we must put action to what God is telling us. Faith without action takes us nowhere, but faith with action equals spiritual momentum that leads to victory. Decide to carefully listen and then obediently act upon what you hear.

Our theme verse is Psalm 27:4.

*“One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of
my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord
And to meditate in His temple...”*

This verse presents three areas to seek after:

DWELL

David’s greatest desire was to dwell with God. This means to take up residence in the presence of God. Where does your heart and mind reside? Often we set up our primary residence in the drives and demands of the American race to material success and security. Challenge yourself with

“

FAITH
WITH ACTION
EQUALS
SPIRITUAL
MOMENTUM
THAT LEADS
TO VICTORY.



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OUT OF HIS
FATHER'S
HOUSE.

the following question: What do I spend my time thinking about and what consumes my time? Whatever that is, is the place you dwell. God is jealous for the full devotion of your heart and mind. We may sojourn upon this earth, but the place we dwell be in the house of our God.

BEHOLD

When our mind dwells in the presence of God we begin to see God in a different light — His light. Like the facets of a diamond we behold hidden sides of God's character and wisdom we've never seen before. Spend time simply beholding.

MEDITATE

Meditation is a lost practice in our fast-paced modern life. It is a practice we would do well to learn. To meditate isn't entering into a strange eastern mystical trance. Meditation is simply finding a physical place where you can be silent and undisturbed. Next, acknowledge God's presence. Focus your spirit and mind away from distractions. Simply listen and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He will speak to you in whispers and press you with nudges. The more we spend time in meditation the easier it will be to recognize the voice of God.

David gave us an amazing focus for life. I hope his "one thing" becomes your one thing!

There are four things we will do each day for 21 days — fasting, devotion, prayer and action.

Throughout scripture we find God's people called to fast. Often these were critical moments in Israel's history, or were intended for a personal breakthrough. I believe we are at a critical moment in our history. I desire breakthrough and a deeper root system in the rich soil of God's best for my life.

According to Scripture, observation, testimony and personal experience, I am convinced that when we fast with the motivation to simply be with God, not get from God, we will experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit like never before. God reminds us when we humble ourselves, seek His face and pray, that He will hear from heaven and heal us. Not only is this promise for our land, but it is for our community, our church, our families and our personal lives. When God moves, things shake. Are you ready to be shaken?

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN FASTING:

Fasting may take various forms. The most common is fasting from food. We could also fast things like media. Imagine how much time you would have if you shut off the TV and cut out time on-line. If you choose to fast from food, make sure this is a safe thing for you to do. If you are unsure run it by your doctor.

Fasting accomplishes a variety of purposes.

1. First fasting teaches us focus. Instead of focusing on food or whatever we are fasting from, we are now able to focus more time and energy in the presence of God. Fasting teaches us to re-focus.

2. Fasting teaches us discipline. Many people I know struggle with living a disciplined life. When you fast, you create a specific regimen that breaks you out of poor time management.

When you feel bored, or aren't sure what to do, slip into a moment of prayer, or better yet, find a place to get on your knees and spend some serious time with Jesus.

3. Fasting builds foundation. Fasting presses you to take life to a deeper, more purposeful level. I hope at the conclusion of your 21 Days you will have developed a new and dynamic habit!

The great men and women of history have always been known as great prayer warriors. They learned how to pray for God's Kingdom to invade the kingdoms of this world.

Jack Hayford defined prayer as "invading the impossible." I want to be part of a spiritual invasion. When Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail upon the church, He wasn't talk about the powers of hell coming against the church and failing. He was talking about the church aggressively invading the domain of darkness. When His church invades the cities of darkness those gates will fall!

During the next 21 Days, I petition you to learn the practice of prayer.

Remember, during your 21 Days, there are never formulas for success. Instead surrender a humbled and contrite heart.

The practice of prayer clears our mind and resets the compass of our destination and desire.

When you pray it is always good to begin with thankfulness and praise. "Enter into his presence with thanks giving and praise." (Psalm 95:2; 100:4)

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW FORMS OF PRAYER YOU MIGHT ENJOY

1. Tabernacle Prayer. (Developed by Dr. Cho. For more visit: tabernacle-prayer.com) Using this form of prayer takes you through the steps that the Old Testament priests took. You will begin your prayer in the outer courts where the brazen altar was located and move inward to the Holy of Holies.

A. Sacrificial Prayer: All people come to the tabernacle in order to bring a sacrifice to cleanse them of sin. You can go no farther into the presence of God without dealing with the issue of sin. Take a moment to confess your sins and thank Jesus for His sacrifice for you.

B. Laver Prayer: This prayer is a prayer of washing and purification. Before the priests could enter the tabernacle, they had to wash. The basin of water shows our reflection, thus it is a metaphor for revealing. This is a prayer for honesty, faithfulness and purity of heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in your character that needs purifying.

C. Lampstand Prayer: In the tabernacle there is no other light except that of the golden lampstand. This is a representation of the Holy Spirit, who is the one that illuminates the will and wonder of God. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal God to you.

D. Bread of Life Prayer: Next the priest would view the table of bread. This table of shewbread always represents the Word of God. Without the illumination of the lampstand, the bread would not be visible. In this prayer ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the power and teaching of God's Word.

E. Incense Prayer: The incense burned 24 hours a day. The incense represents our praises and prayers rising up to God. Take time to praise him for saving you, washing you, leading you, feeding you and sanctifying you.

F. Holy of Holies Prayer: In the Holy of Holies, you find the Ark of the Covenant. Jesus is our new covenant. This prayer is directed to Jesus and all He did and does for us. Thank Jesus for his mercy, his forgiveness and his resurrection power. This time of prayer is the most intimate of prayer yet. Spend time at His mercy seat and worship, listen and meditate.

2. Ripple Prayer: This prayer is a simple form that begins with you, extends to your family, then to your church, then to your community, nation and the world. Like a ripple it moves concentrically out from your center.

3. Meditative Prayer: You must have a prepared place where all is quiet and free from interruption. This prayer begins by clearing your mind of the daily noise, and practices listening more than talking. Take time to open the ears of your spirit to hear the voice of God. Remember what Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice," John 10:27. The longer you are with the Shepherd, the easier it is to recognize His voice.

I've chosen 21 scriptures that have changed my life. I invite you to read or listen to the full passage, then meditate on the key scripture.

Don't cringe at the prospect of daily devotions. Because people learn differently, I've developed a unique devotional format I hope is beneficial to everyone's learning style.

3 WAYS TO DEVO:

Below are three different ways to accomplish your devotions. Each way is designed to help people in accordance with they way they learn.

How do you learn?

1. Audio/Visual Learner: If this is you, you learn by listening, seeing, viewing media or grasping through object lessons. I've included a Quick Read (QR) web-link that provides a brief video devo and a link that provides an audio version of these devotions. Take time to listen or view and respond in prayer. If you have a digital device, simply go to the app store and download a QR Code reader. Next take a picture of the QR Code in this book. Now you are linked to the daily devo, or audio.

2. Reading/Writing Learner: This is a traditional form of reading and responding with written thoughts. You will take time to read the chapter and then go back and meditate on the specific scripture. Include my devotional thoughts as you meditate.

3. Kinesthetic Learner: This learning style is for those who learn in creative, tactile ways. I've given you what I call and "Expression Box." Many people learn best by expressing what God is showing them through the art of drawing — This space is for you. Another aspect of this style is called, "mind-mapping." This is a creative way of drawing on paper what is going on in your mind.

My goal in providing you a variety of ways to devo, is to make sure no one is left out or feels strained to win in their devotional life. Your devotional life should come naturally and easily, not be stressful or guilt driven. Make it love driven.



SCAN FOR A LINK
TO THE 21 DAYS
PLAYLIST

Psalm 27

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?*
- 2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies
and my foes who will stumble and fall.*
- 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war
break out against me, even then I will be confident.*
- 4 One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell
in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the
beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.*
- 5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he
will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon
a rock.*
- 6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing
and make music to the Lord.*
- 7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.*

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

11 Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

13 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

NIV Translation



DAY 1: SUCCESS WHEREVER I GO

Joshua 1:8-9

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua was God’s follow-up to Moses. I can’t imagine attempting to fill those shoes. Talk about leadership succession.

This passage uses words like, success, prosperous and courageous. I love those kinds of power words. I want these words spoken over my life!

What transformed me: The moment I took hold of three basic truths that God spoke over Joshua I was changed. Before the words “success” and “prosper” came three kingdom ideas:

WORDS
RELEASE LIFE—
THAT’S POWER.
I HAVE 13 “I AM”
STATEMENTS I
READ EVERYDAY
AND IT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE

1. Articulate: I find it particularly powerful to speak the commands of God over my life. I speak to myself, I speak to my family and I speak to my church. Words release life — that’s power! I have a series of thirteen “I am” statements I read every day and it makes a difference!

2. Meditate: The second point of God’s command is to meditate. Meditation is a distant idea for our western mind. We are too busy, and we have no margin in life to slow down and think, ponder, and pray over God’s Word—but it is essential. I have claimed meditation as a foundational stone in my life; one that I will not compromise

3. Activate: It seems simple and obvious, but “doing” releases the blessing. The fuse is lit when you *do*. Doing takes 100% faith and trust — the two places we grow most.

What are your “I am” statements? How often do you meditate? What are you doing to activate your faith and step out in radical trust?



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 2: DESTROY THAT WHICH DESTROYS YOU

Joshua 7:12

“Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.”

This tragic story scribed fighting words on my heart and mind. Bottom line? Achan didn't trust God. His disobedience through greed and mistrust was a reflection of the original sin of Adam and Eve. The result in both stories was death.

What transformed me: Verse 12 says, “I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.”

God declares some pretty scary consequences of holding onto impurity and mistrust. He would no longer be with Israel unless they dealt swiftly and radically with sin.

Whatever destroys a relationship with God must be destroyed. The scribed words that I hold onto are “Destroy that which destroys you.”

Because I've struggled with temptation in my life, I have to be vigilant about eradicating sinful thoughts and desires. I must take hold of Romans 12:2 *“Do not conform 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.”* Everytime I choose to think differently it

becomes my new normal. A surrendered mind is physiologically transformed over time.

I love today's scripture because it teaches me to live my faith aggressively. Passive soldiers are vulnerable to easy attacks. I've learned that all addiction is about trying to get our needs met in the immediate instead of the eternal.

Take a moment and be brutally honest. Is there ANYTHING that you need to get aggressive about destroying in your life? I promise the moment you do, you will step into freedom and a refreshed relationship with Jesus. One final thought, never war alone; you're not built for it. We desperately need each other. When you confess your sins one to another God is always faithful to forgive and establish a powerful band of brothers and sisters.

THE SCRIBED
WORDS I
HOLD ONTO
ARE “DESTROY
THAT WHICH
DESTROYS
YOU!”



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 3: GIVE ME THE LAND OF THE GIANTS

Joshua 14:10-12

“...And here I am today, eighty-five years old! I’m as strong as I was the day Moses sent me out. I’m as strong as ever in battle, whether coming or going. So give me this hill country that God promised me. You yourself heard the report, that the Anakim were there with their great fortress cities. If God goes with me, I will drive them out, just as God said.”

Roar! Caleb didn’t mess around. This guy was a total stud. He must have been driven by a powerfully deep walk with God

What transformed me: Caleb is one of my all-time favorite guys in the Bible. His faith was strong, his confession bold and his tenacity relentless.

Remember, he survived the cut when the twelve spies came back from Canaan with their negative report. Over the previous forty years he had to live with the consequences of the negative confessions of others. Opportunity for bitterness? I think so. Caleb was audacious enough to ask for the very territory the other spies were terrified of; the land of the giants.

At eighty-five this guy asks for the toughest piece of land. He still believes God can bring victory in past places of defeat and fear. His

victory in battle was the fulfillment of promises spoken long before.

The story has an amazing conclusion. Not only does Caleb conquer the impossible, but he gives the promise back to God by dedicating the heart of his conquest, Hebron, as a city of refuge.

Bitterness from other’s decisions? No.
Hopeless because God forgot him? No.
Too old to be used by God? No.
Positive and faith-filled? Yes!

God give me a “Caleb spirit”!

CALEB’S FAITH
WAS STRONG,
HIS CONFESSION
BOLD AND
HIS TENACITY
RELENTLESS



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 4: ONE THING

Psalm 27:1, 4

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?”

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.”

It is truly impossible to choose my favorite passage in the Bible, but if I had to, Psalm 27 would be it.

What transformed me: This Psalm continues to ground me in life. These truths are always available, but I have to make a daily choice to live in them even when I don't feel it and when I do feel it!

1. Perspective: I don't need to dread and I don't need to defend.

Dread, or fear can grip us at different moments in life. A life-stopping diagnosis, loss of a job, the unknown — these can open the door to fear, worry and the temptation to turn our eyes from God to circumstances.

Secondly, I don't need to defend. We easily become defensive in negative ways. When you are walking and living in the will of God, there is nothing to defend; you are living righteously.

In moments of fear God's truth is my light. He shines when all seems dark. If I am walking in his light, then God promises to defend my honor and character.

2. Inner Purpose: What was David's one thing? What burned into his soul? What drove

him? It was to dwell in the house of God. It was to behold God. It was to meditate in His presence.

My one thing, the desperate cry of my heart is to dwell, behold and become consumed by the presence and closeness of my God. He is my hiding place, my rock, my level path, my courage, my answer and my salvation!

IN MOMENTS
OF FEAR GOD'S
TRUTH IS MY
LIGHT. HE
SHINES WHEN
ALL SEEMS
DARK.

 YouTube



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 5: TASTE AND SEE

Psalm 34:8

*“Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”*

David was captured in the heart of enemy territory and from that impossible circumstance he wrote this Psalm. He said he felt like a poor man with nothing and yet he cried out to God and was delivered. A radiance covered his face and shame fled.

What transformed me: Two of the most powerful senses we have are taste and sight. Flavor creates the desire for more, and sight fills our senses with wonder.

IT IS AN
INVITATION
THAT DARES
PEOPLE TO
STEP BEYOND
DOUBT, FEAR
AND THEIR
OWN LIMITED
DEFINITION OF
GOD.

This powerpacked passage fueled my drive to see people captured by a God they never knew existed. It is an invitation that dares people to

step beyond doubt, fear and their own limited definition of God. It is an invitation to see the wonder and taste the flavor of heaven.

I want so desperately for the skeptic, the

agnostic, the ruined, the desperate, the lost, the secular, the reserved to taste and open their heart to the power and beauty of a God beyond their imagination. It's almost a dare.

In God are delights, pleasures, blessings, freedom, fulfillment healing, life and peace. I can only imagine how much more there must be.

Have you recently offered the same invitation to someone you know? What a beautiful invitation!

Maybe you have been in a season of dryness. A season wherein life is bland and there seems to be nothing on the horizon. It's time to taste. It's time to see the goodness of God in a land of overflowing life.



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 6: OUTTA THE MUD

Psalm 40:1-5

“I waited and waited and waited for God. At last he looked; finally he listened. He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud. He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn’t slip. He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise-song to our God. More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to God. Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world’s “sure thing,” ignore what the world worships; The world’s a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one comes close to you! I start talking about you, telling what I know, and quickly run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you.”

This passage has been a classic go-to for me over the years. I like the Message translation because it helps me take a fresh look at God’s promises.

What transformed me: Years ago I got a call from Grace, my daughter. It was late, dark and cold. She was in her small Toyota truck on a country drive--something she did often. The reason for the call? She was stuck in a farmer’s field — mud up to the axles. She couldn’t get out. As hard as she

tried it only got worse, so she called dad.

Ever do that? Get stuck. I know I do. I think that by my own power and ingenuity I can

rock myself out of life’s thick mud. The fact is I can’t. The harder I try the worse it gets.

I’ve learned to call Dad often. He hooks a tow-rope of hope to my bumper and gently pulls me out of the mud and sets my tires on solid pavement—a spiritual and emotional grounding. Often the circumstances haven’t changed, but where my spirit sits does!

There is an amazing benefit when we call on Dad. He puts a new song in our heart. The Message translates these moments as a mystery.

Is there a field in life where you are stuck up to your axles in mud? It’s time to stop trying harder and call Dad!



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

Empty box for writing expression.

ACTION



DAY 7: CRUSHED FOR ME

Isaiah 58:6

“Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free And break every yoke?”

Titled “The Suffering Servant,” this passage paints a poignant image of Jesus upwards of 800 years before He came.

What transformed me: Jesus did it all — for me. My healing; physical, emotional and spiritual, was made complete through His suffering.

I AM LEFT
FEELING SO
UNWORTHY
AND HEART-
SPUN TO BE SO
LOVED. COULD
THE SON OF
GOD REALLY
LOVE ME THAT
MUCH?

Every time I read this passage I am gripped. My heart is gripped and I fall to my knees in total humility and wonder.

My pain, my disfigurement, my wrongs, my failures, my ugly selfishness was embedded in the cat-o’-nine-tails flagrum that slashed across His

back, the nails that slammed through His hands and sword that pierced His side. He was crushed for *my* iniquity.

I am left feeling so unworthy and heart-spun

to be so loved. Could the Son of God really love me that much? Was my name whispered on His lips?

What enabled Him to endure the torture of a Roman crucifixion? Hebrews says it was joy. This joy was knowing freedom was purchased and the overthrow of Satan’s oppressive power final. Nothing could be more personal or powerful.

My old life was crucified with Him, and my new life is packed with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. This is the crucible of faith and dawn of hope.



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 8: HOLINESS LIVES IN BROKENNESS

Isaiah 57:15

*“For thus says the high and exalted
One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,
“I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the
contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the
broken and to revive the heart of the contrite.”*

The God Isaiah worshipped was totally different than the gods of surrounding nations. This God, the only true God, didn't demand human sacrifice like Molech, the god of the Moabites, or Baal the god of the Canaanites. He didn't desire mindless sacrifices. Isaiah's God and our God, requires an obedient, broken and surrendered heart.

What transformed me: Here is the amazing part. God is holy and lives in a place of purity, perfection and wonders beyond comprehension. And yet... He descends and takes up residence in a broken and contrite heart. Holiness occupies brokenness. His

desire is to bring restoration. His purpose is to revive a worn thin, exhausted, and burned out heart.

He is not the God of performance. He is not the God of polished religion. He doesn't require an ever ascending staircase of deeds to reach Him. The hands that created the world will reach down and gently lift you up, brush you off and hold you firmly. The same God who breathed life into the dust of the earth, breathes life into your brokenness.

Maybe you need to be reminded that God is not too high or far that He wouldn't meet with you today and breathe upon your dryness a breath of hope, new days and fresh promise.



MEDITATION

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DAY 9: SEEK THE ANCIENT PATHWAYS

Jeremiah 6:16

“Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

Israel was walking in ways that lead her down paths of destruction and distance from God.

What transformed me: Often we are taken in by the latest, the newest, the trend. If something is new, it’s better. If something is bigger it must equal success.

Israel ignored God’s plea and turned to the pathway of selfishness and mistrust. Their way and the latest attractions of neighboring

THESE ARE PATHWAYS THAT LEAD AWAY FROM THE NOISE OF OUR DAY TO REFUGE, A JOURNEY BACK TO EDEN...

cultures offered new, more and better.

The reason we seek something new is because we are trying to find an answer to quiet a restless heart. God invites us to seek the ancient paths. In Hebrew the word

is “Olam” meaning old, concealed, hidden, perpetual, timeless, from eternity.

This is the path that leads to the mountain of God, a way through the Red Sea, a circle around Jericho. These are pathways that lead away from the noise of our day to refuge, a

journey back to Eden where we walk again with God in the cool of the day.

These paths are “Tov” meaning pleasant, agreeable, happy, well-off, prosperous and they offer rest for our soul.

Notice what God speaks through Isaiah, and as you look, see the internal transformation that happens when you walk in the whispered ways of the Teacher:

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, “Be gone!” Isaiah 30:20-22

Are you distracted by new? Are you looking for something, but not looking to God? Stop, seek, listen for the ancient pathway and walk on it. Only when you walk on His pathway will you find rest and freedom.



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 10: HEART TRANSPLANT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”

This passage of scripture is well known and has empowered many with new hope, and refreshed purpose.

What transformed me: Though a message to the ancient Israelites, it rings true throughout the ages. Like Israel, we have been separated from God. We are distant and lost.

God finds us in our lostness and transforms us in four powerful ways.

WE HAVE THE
POWER TO WALK
ON THE ANCIENT
PATHWAYS WITH
A RENEWED
IDENTITY, A NEW
HEART, AND A
NEW SPIRIT!

from God also take us through sinful, broken and messy places. We need cleansing.

1. He gathers us. God goes out and brings us back to a place of protection and blessing. We now have a home and the joy of belonging.

2. He cleanses us. The paths that take us far

3. He gives us a new heart. My creator removes a hardened selfish heart; the kind I was never intended to have. It’s a heart that had no real life in it. I am given a new heart, the kind that beats in rhythm with my God and is alive and surging with the blood of eternal life!

4. He gives us a new spirit. My spirit is renewed and I’m given the very Spirit of God. (Read 1 Cor. 2 for more on the communion of the Spirit).

The benefit to these four transformations is the power to walk on the ancient paths of God’s laws with a new identity, new heart and new spirit!



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 11: KINGDOM INVASION

Mathew 6:9, 10

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.’”

In one of the most beloved passages of the Bible, Jesus teaches us how to pray. I’ve deeply pondered this prayer, but one particular sentence has transformed how I pray.

What transformed me: Jesus taught us to pray for God’s Kingdom to come to earth. We are to pray that His will be established on earth as it is in heaven. Have you ever taken time to think about what God’s will in heaven looks like? Have you thought about the Kingdom

HAVE YOU EVER
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WHAT GOD’S
WILL IN HEAVEN
LOOKS LIKE?

of God come to reign upon the earth? This is a Kingdom of victory, freedom, health, prosperity and so much more! What an amazing and faith-filled way to pray.

The fervor of my prayers has shifted. I now pray for the Kingdom of God to invade earth—my earth, my community, my life!

Critical questions:

1. What does my life look like from a Kingdom

perspective? Whatever that looks like, I need to pray that way!

2. What does suffering and disease look like from a Kingdom perspective? I need to pray for healing to be released.
3. What has God established in heaven that is directly related to my life? Can a place that is perfect invade my imperfections? Absolutely.

Jesus, invade my world, invade my heart and release your perfect will in my life! May your Kingdom come and your will be done!



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 12: THE MANIFEST KINGDOM

Matthew 10:7, 8

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.”

I have to admit I am still working on this one in a big way. I believe it is in my heart, but I need to release it by faith through my words and actions.

What transformed me: When I was studying theology in college I can remember having to define the Kingdom of God. My definition

THE KINGDOM
OF DEATH,
DISEASE,
BROKENNESS,
AND FEAR
IS CRUSHED
BY THE
KINGDOM OF
LIFE, HEALING,
WHOLENESS
AND LOVE.

was something along the lines of, “The Kingdom of God is God’s sovereign reign in the hearts of men.” I think that is theologically sound. As I studied New Testament scripture further, I began to notice a trend. Every time I saw the phrase, “Kingdom of God”, or “Kingdom of Heaven” something amazing always followed. It was as if

Jesus was defining His kingdom for me.

I challenge you to do your own study of this phrase and see what you discover. When God’s

Kingdom was made manifest on earth people were healed, the dead were raised, the disease stricken were cured and demons fled. This is God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. This is what happens when two kingdoms collide. The kingdom of death, disease, brokenness, and fear is crushed by the kingdom of life, healing, wholeness and love.

“Jesus, may your Kingdom come with its liberating power. I pray for your presence and the release of supernatural healing, deliverance and blessing.”



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 13: ANOINTED TO BRING FREEDOM

Luke 4:18, 19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

I’ve spent time observing leadership philosophy and trends. To effectively lead an organization, you must have a clear mission and vision statement. Mission statements define direction and provide guidelines for furthering the purpose of a business, church or even your personal life.

What transformed me: This is a passage I’ve committed to memory. I don’t think Jesus

CAPTIVES
STILL NEED
RELEASING,
THE BLIND
STILL NEED
SIGHT, THE
OPPRESSED
STILL NEED
FREEDOM AND
MY DAYS STILL
NEED THE
FAVOR OF GOD
SPOKEN OVER
THEM.

needed a mission statement because He was prone to forget why He came, but if He had one it was probably this one. I do think Jesus had something to say to those in that synagogue and to all throughout the ages. Jesus was sent and anointed to save and transform. His mission 2000 years ago hasn’t changed.

His is the light so desperately needed in a land of shadow. Jesus is the message for hearts that are weary and lost. Captives still need releasing, the blind still need sight, the oppressed still need freedom and my days still need the favor of God spoken over them.

As a minister, Jesus’ mission statement refocuses mine. I am constantly receiving mailers or emails touting the latest trends in church growth, marketing, preaching styles, etc. In this passage I am reminded that if people are not being released, bonds not being broken and the oppressed not being freed, then not only have I completely missed my purpose, I’ve missed Jesus’ purpose. That tragedy feeds hell and steals from heaven.

The great challenge is to ask what part am I playing in His mission? If you are not a part of that mission, pray that the Holy Spirit will quicken your heart, then be a doer of His Word and be a life-changer!



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 14: JESUS COULD DO NOTHING ON HIS OWN

John 5:19

“Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

I love “wow” moments. They hit you out of no where and spin you for a mental or emotional loop. This passage did that for me.

What transformed me: In these verses I caught a glimpse of what fueled Jesus’ passion. He only did what He saw His Father do—He could do nothing else—nothing. I am amazed by that.

This scripture has changed how I minister. If Jesus could do nothing on His own, what

IF GOD IS NOT
IN IT, I CAN'T
AFFORD TO BE.

makes me think I can? But oh how often I try? Rather than submit everything to

my Father, I need to submit to my Father for everything. Not only do I need to get every que from the Father, I need to be a reflection of my Father’s will and work. If God is not in it, I can’t afford to be.

Jesus gave His disciples another secret of His passion. *“I have food you don’t even know about. This food is to do the will of My Father and complete His work.”* (John 4:32b, 34). What

sustained Jesus? What did He hunger for? What cravings did He have? Answer: To do what His Father asked of Him in every moment and at every turn.

I must ask myself, “Am I doing this for me, or for my Father? Am I building my kingdom or His? Is this worth Jesus dying for?” With those questions in mind, I know I have a long way to go and much to learn. Father, I can do nothing without You.



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 15: LIVE IN POWER!

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

I WANT ALL CHRISTIANS TO WALK THROUGH LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT’S GIFT OF POWER.

As a Christian from a Pentecostal and Charismatic background, I am familiar with the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the subsequent gift of speaking in tongues. I exercise this gift daily and it adds power and clarity in my life.

the Holy Spirit’s gift of power.

How can you have it? Like a gift on your birthday, you received the Holy Spirit the moment you believed but it must be unwrapped. Open your heart as you open this gift and ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your life. Ask for the gift of tongues then open your mouth and begin to speak as the Spirit gives you words. This power and this gift will change your life forever!

What transformed me: This verse focuses on the foundational reason we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Overly focusing on the gift of tongues, one of many, misses the point. We are baptized with the Holy Spirit in order to receive power.

We need this power to witness about the transforming gift of salvation. We need to release the power of the Holy Spirit within us so our lives manifestly express the hope of salvation to the world around us.

I wish that all Christians would open the gift of speaking in tongues; it’s biblical, powerful and edifying to our soul. More than that I want all Christians to walk through life with



MEDITATION

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DAY 16: SIN NO MORE

Romans 6:6, 8

“Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the Cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life - no longer at sin’s every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ’s sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection.”

(The Message Version)

Our struggle with sin can be a daily battle. Paul reminds us that the battle has been won! How can we walk in that victory daily?

A traditional translation of verse seven says, “for he who has died is free from sin.” Do you want to live a life free from sin? How is that accomplished? Is it even possible? Paul tells us it is accomplished when we die to self and live to Christ.

What transformed me: Here is the key. When I totally, and I mean 100%, surrender my life to Jesus I win every time. When I place my mind, past, dreams, hopes, abilities, and expectations into the hands of Jesus I experience His life. Life is released when I release my life.

This doesn’t mean that I become some automatic Christian who had his brain sucked out. It means my mind has been transformed from the drives of earthly

pleasures to the drives of heavenly purpose.

If you are not living in freedom then you have unsundered places in your heart and mind. Whatever is unsundered has a life of its own. Identify it, confess it to someone you trust, and let it die on the cross. Whatever dies on the cross has lost its life. What once made your struggle alive, is now dead. Nail it to the cross and walk away. Never take it back. You are free! Live free!

THE MOMENT
YOU DENY
YOURSELF,
YOU REMOVE
YOURSELF FROM
THE ENEMY’S
CONTROL



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION



DAY 17: SPIRITUAL WEAPONRY

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way - never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.
(The Message Version)

We don't fight as the world fights. It's not about flesh and blood, it's about spiritual strongholds and battles that shape eternity.

A traditional translation reminds us that the weapons of our warfare are wielded for the destruction of every thought that raises itself up against the will and purpose of God.

What transformed me: I realized behind the flesh and blood of my struggle, is a spiritual battle.

THE SPIRITUAL
BATTLE
WE ARE IN
MUST BE
INTENTIONAL,
AND
DISCIPLINED.

Here is what has increased my ability to effectively fight a spiritual battle. When thoughts, discouragement, protectionism, fear,

or any other thought attempts to invade my life I must do four things:

1. Take it captive. I must stop these thoughts in their tracks and capture them.

2. Present it. Next, I must surrender every loose thought, emotion and impulse into the

structure of life shaped by Christ. In other words, present it before the throne of Jesus. What does He have to say about it? What does Kingdom perspective say about this?

3. Expose it. In the perfect light of Christ and under the inspection of Truth, these thoughts will be revealed for what they are. If they are true, He will reveal it and I respond accordingly. If false, they are exposed as lies.

4. Destroy it with scripture, and spoken words of faith.





DAY 18: FILLED ABOVE AND BEYOND

Ephesians 3:14-21

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

I haven't figured it out and probably will never fully comprehend the power of this passage. Included are studies on:

- Identity and inner strength
- Grounding in love
- Established in Power
- The fullness of God within me
- The secret to blessing

What transformed me: Of the many nuggets of wisdom in this passage, one in particular has shaped my thinking. God is willing and able to do for me far and above what I ask or imagine. This thought smashes the notion that God is stingy and desires to confine my freedom and dreams. In fact the opposite is true.

Are you like me? I don't want to ask for the wrong things, or selfish things. But notice, if we live our lives according to this verse it would be impossible to ask amiss. Instead we find ourselves asking in accordance to His will and imagining in ways only the Creator can.

When our identity is grounded in Christ, established in His love, and we are walking in His power with the indwelt fullness of the Holy Spirit, we find ourselves in an immovable place of authority and unity with God. From that place God will do above and beyond all we ask or think.

THIS THOUGHT SMASHES THE NOTION THAT GOD IS STINGY AND DESIRES TO CONFINE MY FREEDOM AND DREAMS. IN FACT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE.

When we live this way, we find ourselves asking with God-motives rather than self-motives. In those moments the power of the Holy Spirit is released to fulfill all we ask or imagine. Wow!



MEDITATION

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DAY 19: THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS

Philippians 4:12, 13

“I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

The Apostle Paul lived in prosperity and, at times, with humble means. Imagine having the best, driving the best, wearing the top brands; that was Paul. Now imagine losing all that and living at a city mission whose vision is to touch the lives of the outcast. Imagine not knowing where your next meal is coming from. Put on the shoes of someone who was beaten, mugged, imprisoned and shipwrecked. Now imagine

NOW IMAGINE
HOLDING A
SECRET IN THE
MIDST OF IT ALL
THAT KEPT YOU
STABLE AND
CONTENT.

holding a secret in the midst of it all that kept you stable and content; this too was Paul.

What transformed me:

This was Paul’s life, and his secret transformed my

outlook on both blessed and difficult circumstances. I’m still working on it!

In both prosperity and lack we can become dissatisfied and even depressed. When you don’t have much, you assume those who do are content and happy. The truth is, stuff never fills

our emptiness. Even those who prosper materially can be poor and ragged spiritually.

When circumstances loom large and there seems no way over, under or around, what is our response? Paul’s response was “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!”

I was recently doing a word study on lying, deception, falsehood and similar words. I came across an interesting scripture that I still need to mull over.

“Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the Lord?” or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God.”
Proverbs 30:7-9

I have to remind myself that contentment isn’t in what I have or don’t have, but in whom I believe. Through Him I can do, overcome, and have victory in all things!



MEDITATION

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DAY 20: RESIST AND DRAW NEAR

James 4:7, 8

“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites.”

I’ve often hear the James 4:7 quoted, “Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.” This is true, but in context there is more power and greater understanding.

Sometimes, as Christians, our thinking needs to be turned upside down. Here is the theological adjustment God made in me and may need to make in you.

What transformed me: We often feel life is all about what God does for us. Our view of this relationship is very one sided. God gave, God came down and God reached out to me. Yes, these truths things are theologically correct and powerful. The problem is, we leave it there, as if all the effort is on God’s part.

“I DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD — NOT GOD.”

Think about this quote *“I determine the level of my relationship with God — not God.”* I humble myself. I resist the Devil. I draw close to God. I stretch forth my hands to be washed and I open my heart to be purified. God does

none of those things for me. My action is required.

When I exercise my faith, He acts on my behalf, but often not until then. Faith becomes faith when I fall into God.

Finally, and most importantly for me is the move I make to draw closer to God. Notice it doesn’t say when God draws close to me I’ll draw close to Him. If I want closeness with God I move toward Him.

This idea might mess with you a bit, but here is my suggestion, don’t wait for God to move — you move and be amazed at God’s reaction!



MEDITATION

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ACTION



DAY 21: AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

Hebrews 6:17-20

“God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence. This confidence (this hope set before), is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God’s inner sanctuary.”
(NLT)

What transformed me: *Wow! God has made me an unshakable promise and God never lies.* To us who have fled to him as a refuge from the storms of life, God has given us an anchor, a promise, a surety called hope.

An anchor is something we tether to. It is embedded in a place of security. The anchor doesn’t come to us; we pull ourselves to it. Notice where this anchor is set — behind the curtain of heaven in God’s inner sanctuary!

Without hope mankind is doomed to a life of worry, fear and insecurity. We all need hope. Hope fills our day with purpose and drive. If I stop hoping in the promises of God, if I stop hoping for a breakthrough, if I don’t notice what God is doing then discouragement, frustration and discontent can set in. If I do this, I give up on God. I have no anchor. The tether is snapped and I drift.

Daily I must draw near to my anchor of hope. When I do, I find it secure in the place I was meant to belong — the inner sanctuary of God’s temple. It takes me back to Psalm 27.

I need this anchor. I need to be awash in the

presence of my God, my King, the lover of my soul, the forgiver of my failures, the scribe of my promise.

A challenging question to ask ourselves is this, “What, or who is my anchor?” What do you place your security in? Is your financial security your anchor? Do you believe finding a spouse would anchor your life better? Is your career your anchor? Is acknowledgment your anchor?

I imagine there are many anchors we can tether to. Cut the tether to anything other than the presence and person of God, and then never let go.

THE ANCHOR
DOESN’T COME
TO US, WE PULL
OURSELVES
TO IT.



MEDITATION

EXPRESSION

ACTION

It is my prayer
that over these last
21 Days you have
been washed,
refreshed and filled
with a renewed
sense of God's
wonder and love
for you.

May your journey
not end here.
May your hunger
and thirst for more
of Jesus only
increase.

In pursuit,
Pastor Tim



