

# 21 DAYS OF FAMILY

*prayer and fasting*





# Welcome to 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting



Church Family and Friends,

The end of 2022 is quickly approaching; before we know it, a new year will present new opportunities.

Let me ask, what have you done with the opportunities given to you in 2022? Have you seen God move in you and through you? Or maybe you need a reset?

It's that time of year when you may find yourself tired, worn out, or stretched too thin. Maybe you're battling a profound loss, tangled in a tumultuous relationship, lost your job, or waiting for a promise that is taking too long.

No matter your circumstances, God is there - He is your refuge and your strength.

Let's use the next 21 days to dwell in Him. Allow this time to be a time of renewal in faith, hope, and love. I encourage you to cry out to God for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. Don't be overwhelmed by the world's circumstances, but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Sit in the presence of the King, listen for His voice, experience His arms comforting you, be still and see Him in the world around you.

Our prayer team developed this 21-day devotional as an opportunity for you to draw close to God. Each day offers a scripture, reflection, a time of prayer, and journaling. My prayer for you over the next 21 days is that faith, hope, and love become more personal for you.

Your Pastor,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pastor Stephen Cutchins



# PRAYER AND FASTING

Prayer and fasting are great tools the Lord gives us to achieve breakthrough in those stubborn areas of our lives.

Prayer is great and fasting is fantastic, but the discipline of using them can help us make life in a sinful world more bearable by connecting us to God and drawing on His power instead of our own.

"And when you pray, do not do like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you". Matthew 6:5-6

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:16-18

We challenge you to approach God about whether your heart is in the right place to practice prayer and fasting. And if God says yes, we challenge you to do it! You'll be amazed at what the Lord can accomplish in your heart and life if you choose to take this path.

Spend a few moments to search your heart and document what and why you are fasting.

*What am I fasting*

*Why am I fasting*

# How To Pray

MATTHEW 6:10-13

**P PRAISE**

FOR WHO HE IS.  
FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.

*Our father who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.*

**R REPENT**

OF SINS I HAVE COMMITTED.  
OF COMMANDS I HAVE NEGLECTED.

*and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors*

**A ASK**

FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.  
FOR MY NEEDS.

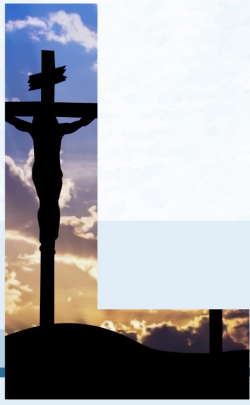
*Give us this day our daily bread. And  
deliver us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.*

**Y YIELD**

MY WILL TO GOD'S WILL  
MY AGENDA TO GOD'S AGENDA FOR  
ME.

*Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on  
earth as it is in Heaven. For thine is the  
Kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.*





**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022**



*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:1-3*

## *Love that Endures*

Have you ever heard (or even used) the phrase “the honeymoon is over” when describing a relationship or a new job, hobby, etc.? In most cases, the honeymoon doesn’t last forever. Life happens, conflicts arise, and eventually, you must make a choice.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, *“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

Will you give up on the relationship, quit that job or hobby, or push through? How do we keep going when we feel tempted to “throw in the towel?” How can we live out an enduring love?

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*Heavenly Father, thank you that You never give up on me. You love me no matter what. Please help me to love like that. Show me where I lack love for You and the people around me. I choose to trust You in this process. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

LOVE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022**



*And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Matthew 22:37-39*

## *Love that is Unconditional*

Agape is by far the most special, most respectful of all the Greek types of love. It is a universal, unconditional, selfless love for others. It is the kind Jesus refers to again and again throughout His ministry.

Jesus perfectly exemplified agape love when He died on the cross to save us from sin and death. He suffered so we could be set free. Jesus repeatedly taught His disciples and thousands of others about agape love and openly displayed it everywhere He went. From the Sermon on the Mount to countless healings, from raising Lazarus from the dead to dying for us all on the cross, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of agape love.

Jesus is the finest example of love we have, and it is the one we should strive to copy every day.

To give agape love is to be like our Lord Jesus Christ. Make it a daily goal to put others first and to love them generously. God will bless you for it in unbelievable ways.

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*Father God, help us to follow the examples You taught about unconditional love. This world needs more kindness and less criticism. Keep our eyes focused on You as we strive to live a life worthy of Your sacrifice. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# LOVE



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022**



*"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." - John 15:12-13*

## *Love that is Sacrificial*

The phrase "love of Christ," as opposed to "love for Christ," refers to His love toward humankind. His love is His willingness to act in our best interest, especially in meeting our greatest need, even though it cost Him everything and even though we were the least worthy of such love.

Sacrificial love is giving EVERYTHING and is a rare type of agape love reserved for few humans. Jesus is the perfect example, but we see others...the kind of love shown by police officers and firefighters who run INTO danger to save complete strangers.

It is the type of love that makes a man save a drowning child with no thought of self; the kind of love that members of our armed forces possess that makes them sacrifice their lives for others they do not know. We can understand people who willingly give their lives for those they deem worthy - a friend, a relative, other "good" people - but Christ's love extends to those most unworthy of it and is God-like love, not man-like love.

We need to honor this type of love by trusting Him as our Savior; He makes us God's children, co-heirs with Him!

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*Father God, this is a tall order - to love sacrificially in a sin-filled world. We know the heart of the evil one is to kill, steal and destroy. You call us to be Your ambassadors, to represent You, as we seek to do Your will. Fill us with Holy Spirit so that our prayers and desires would be of our Heavenly Father for all to repent, believe in the Gospel, and be saved. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LOVE

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022**



*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:13*

## *Love One's Self*

When thinking of self-love, initially, we may think of 2 Timothy 3:2-5. This type of self-love does not seek freedom from negative thoughts about oneself, whether guilt, insecurity, or even awkwardness. Rather, it promises that if you look inward and can find a way to love what you see, you will find peace. Not true!

On the other hand, righteousness, not vanity, seeks to see ourselves as God sees us: "Sinful, guilty, inadequate humans who have been washed clean and declared righteous by faith in Jesus Christ." (Roman's 3:24)

Learning to love ourselves is a process, flaws included. Flaws are a part of who we are and how we mature in Christ. Only when we can love ourselves and who He created us to be can we love one another as Christ loves us.

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*Speak these verses over yourself and into the atmosphere.*

- 1 John 4:16-19
- Psalm 36:7
- Proverbs 19:18
- Mark 12:31
- Romans 12:10

LOVE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**



*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. - 1 John 4:7-8*

## *Love for One's Brother*

All around us are people who need an encouraging word, a financial gift, a prayer, or a friend to bear their burdens.

Roy Kiser shares his experience, "My support group often prayed for us when I was without a full-time job for four years. Some unknown person sent my family a large check each month for the first year while we got on our feet. Another family allowed us to live in the basement of their home. Each of these people shared what resources they had with us."

How has the Lord blessed you? How does the Lord want you to show His love for others? It could be anything from a financial gift to a word of encouragement or prayer over the phone. The possibilities and needs are unlimited.

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*Lord, this day, show me how I can share Your love with those around me by using the resources You have gifted me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LOVE



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022**



*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." - Ephesians 5:31*

## *Love between a Man and His Wife*

Do you remember those first few times you saw your future mate?

Heart pounding, blood pressure rising, cheeks flushed, words twisted, sound familiar?

Soon after, you said, "I do," and began happily ever after.

Later, in the throes of real life, you might wonder where all the excitement went. Like anything else, you must spend intentional time working on the relationship.

The Bible gives us the boundaries for marriage between a man and a woman bonded together to become one. The bond should encompass all that we are, our spiritual self, intellect, emotions, and our bodies. This intimacy enables us to be open and honest, doing life together. Then the relationship has the opportunity to mirror Christ's relationship with the church, one of sacrificial love.

As our love for the Lord grows, so will our love for our spouse, and those first exciting feelings will morph into something lasting and precious.

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*Lord, You are a loving God, understanding the depths of sacrificial love. Move my heart off me, my selfish desires and wants, and more on You, obeying and serving You. In this way, Your love will enable me to love those around me deeper with Your sacrificial love, and our relationship will deepen. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LOVE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022**



*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*  
- John 13:14

## *Love for Family*

Love is the greatest commandment. Love your family. Love your neighbor. Do all of these with Christ-like love. As our pastor often says, a family must include a church family. We often lean on family for love and support.

We must love those that cause harm to us. When we love those, who hurt us, we model how we love others. The Bible has many examples of family love: God for His Son, the Centurion for his servant, and the woman for her daughter.

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*Lord, I pray for an outward showing of love toward others. Help me love myself, my family, and my neighbors. God, highlight someone to me today who needs Your special love shown toward them. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LOVE





**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022**



*Jesus praying to His Father: "I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." - John 17:15-16*

## *Separating from the World and Making Good it's Choice*

During Jesus' final night on earth as a human, He expressed deep concern for the future welfare of His followers. He even prayed about the matter to His Father. Clearly, it was of great importance to Jesus that His followers stay separated from the world.

The "world" Jesus refers to was all humankind alienated from God, ruled by Satan, and enslaved to the selfish, prideful spirit that comes from Satan. God did not create us to live in a sin-filled world, but because sin came into the world, He wants us to live like Christians and be a light for Christ.

He wants us to live daily in the world, surrounded by sin and temptation, and rise above it all. We should befriend the sinner without partaking in sin. We are to be light to the world without allowing the world to diminish our light. Christians have always struggled with how to understand this call. We are set apart because we pray for our enemies, remain humble, and above all, do not fear because we know that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39).

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*Father God, forgive us for the way we, as a body, have turned from You and adopted false teaching and thinking. We have not always lived as "lights in the darkness" the way Jesus taught us. We are truly sorry and ask Your forgiveness. Our world needs peace and healing right now - a peace that can only come from You. We ask You to fill our hearts with hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022**



*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. - Psalm 37:5*

## *Faith for Individual Choice*

Looking back over our lives, we can see God gives us choices. We can choose to follow biblical principles or go our own way. If we look at scripture, we will see that Moses had a choice - be rich and powerful in Egypt or go with his people.

There are so many choices shown in the Bible. Some were good choices; others weren't. We see this with the prodigal son and also Joseph's brothers. We should seek God's will through prayer and Bible study when we have decisions to make.

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*Lord, today I pray that my choices are pleasing to You.  
Provide me with clear answers that align with Your will,  
Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022**



*"Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.*

- Deuteronomy 6:1-2

## *Faith for the Family*

Roy Kiser recalls his upbringing, "My father passed on to me the love of the outdoors, growing a garden, the value of hard work, caring for others, and a love of Christ, serving Him faithfully." We are unable to control our adult family, but we are responsible for passing on our faith.

How? By having a loving relationship with our family, having spiritual conversations, asking questions, and asking, "how can I pray for you?" Having the Bible visible and sharing verses that have meant something to you this past week will be powerful.

Let us be intentional in praying for opportunities to share and encourage faith growth in our family and the next generation. The best thing is to live a faithful and growing life in Christ.

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*Lord, I pray that you allow me to plant or water a seed of faith in someone today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022**



*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. - Hebrews 11:17-19*

## *Stepping Out and Going Forward on the Word of God*

In the 1989 film "The Last Crusade," there is an iconic scene known as "the leap of faith" where Indiana Jones has to literally step out into the air and have faith that he won't fall. As soon as he takes his first step, an invisible bridge is there to support him! That is such a tangible example of what it looks like to step out in faith on the Word of God.

It's not enough to just believe God will be there for us; we must ACT in faith and take the next step. When God told Abraham (Genesis 17:5) that He would make him the Father of many nations, Abraham believed Him.

How do we know? Fast forward to Genesis 22:5 where Abraham tells his servants to "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." THAT is faith in action. How will you act out your faith in God's word? In what way is God calling you to step out in faith knowing that God will do what He said He would do?

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*Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me enough to put my faith to the test. I want to be used by You. Reveal the doubt in my heart and replace it with the courage to step out on Your holy word. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022**



*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*  
- Ephesians 2:13

## *Appropriating the Blood of Christ*

We can have faith in God today, knowing Christ suffered and bled for us. By His blood, He forgives our sins. We know that God used blood many times to lead His people. He used the lamb's blood on the door post during Passover to save the firstborn from death. He used Jesus' blood to lead us to eternal salvation.

We need to acknowledge Christ's victory through the shedding of His blood. The blood can only wash us if we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

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*Lord, thank you for the shedding of Christ's blood for me. Help me remember daily the sacrifice and life Jesus gave for me. Please forgive me for my sins and help me to stay in His will and live accordingly. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022**



*By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. - Hebrews 11:31*

## *Faith that Lifts the Worst Sinner into the Highest Place of God's Blessing*

Have you ever heard someone say, "there are people on this earth that don't deserve to be here." God's Word tells us that God is love and does not want any soul to perish.

It reminds us of the mercy of God for the worst sinner and helps us blend the work of salvation with the higher work of sanctification. A great example of this is the story of Rahab in the book of Joshua. It was not by chance that those spies found their way to Rahab's house.

God had plans for this pagan prostitute in a city about to be utterly destroyed because of sin. Her faith and obedience led to her ability to change her ways and encourage countless generations through the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5).

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*Father, thank you for the lessons I can learn from the life of Rahab. I pray by faith I will carry out Your good and perfect will with courage through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I face difficulties, may I always seek You first for direction and guidance, no matter how things around me look. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

FAITH

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022**



*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. - Philippians 3:12-15*

## *Overcoming and Entering into the Full Inheritance of Promise*

"By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down" (Hebrews 11:30). The wilderness is passed, the land of promise is before them, and the realization of their greatest hopes is about to begin. The inheritance of faith is awaiting.

There's always some barrier lying across our path when God has some new and glorious experience for us. Maybe we think it's too hard, something totally out of our comfort zone, some last-minute conflict, some towering Jericho.

It is then, like Jacob, that we must get alone with God. We must acknowledge trial is not punishment and know if we lean in through times of hardship, we will receive blessing and life-long victory. It is God's opportunity for spiritual triumph. Believe that it is possible, that it is for you. Then take the place of faith, stand fast, and press on.

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*May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I may know Him better. Enlighten the eyes of my heart so I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# FAITH





**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022**



*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. - Matthew 5:43-45*

## *Hope Resists Resentment*

We often harbor grudges or resentment toward those we feel have wronged us through words or actions.

The Bible teaches us to resist resentment and retaliation.

We are to show love to our enemies and not try to get even with them. God does the judging. It is not our task.

Leave the evil doers to God's judgment.

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*Lord, today I pray for peace and forgiveness in my heart. I no longer want the words or actions of others to direct my life. I pray for and forgive those who have done me wrong. Reveal yourself to them, Lord, so they can receive the same peace I have in You. I will resist any further resentment and look to You for hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

HOPE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2022**



*But for You, O Lord, do I wait; it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer. - Psalm 38:15*

## *Hope Expects God to Answer*

How do you develop the hope that expects God to answer? This kind of bold hope is developed over time through intentional personal Bible study that builds and strengthens our convictions about who God is (Ps 18:2-3), what His plan is for us (Jer 29:11-13), and God being our personal God (Isaiah 43:1). When you combine this with unrelenting prayer (Luke 18:1), God will answer.

Do you believe that God cares enough about you to give you an answer? Sometimes God says yes, sometimes He says no, but the most difficult answer is "wait." When God says to wait, we must fight to believe that He does care and He will move when He believes the time is right. (1 Cor 10:13).

The above was written by Martin Oji— *7 Examples of Hope in the Bible For When Believing Gets Hard*

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*Lord, today I pray that my choices are pleasing to you.  
Provide me with clear answers that align with Your will  
Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

HOPE

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022**



*And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. - Mark 5:25-29*

## *Hope Doesn't Stop Believing*

The bleeding woman deeply believed that physical contact with Jesus would heal her. Her decision to have faith in Jesus got His attention in a crowded group while He was on His way to healing someone else. In her pain, the bleeding woman still chose to seek Jesus.

Do you turn away from God or seek Him out when believing gets hard?

When the pain clouds our judgment and tells us it's easier to stop believing, we must choose to obey scriptures like 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We walk by faith, not by sight." This verse exudes hope. It gives us the courage to keep hoping when we want to quit.

What scripture can you memorize and carry in your heart to help you continue to believe?

The above was written by Martin Oji— 7 Examples of Hope in the Bible For When Believing Gets Hard

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*Heavenly Father, thank you for Your Word. It is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Give me faith like the woman in Mark 5. Forgive me for doubting You. I want to walk in Your ways. Thank You for giving me the grace to have faith and hope in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# HOPE

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022**



*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*  
- Proverbs 18:24

## *Hope has friends*

Have you ever heard anyone say they wished for fewer friends? Each of us longs to be more connected because God made us for true friendship. The Bible says a lot about true friendship - beginning in Genesis when He created Adam, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18) and throughout the Bible, including the ultimate restoration of friendship - friendship with God and with each other.

Noah "walked with God," Abraham we know was "a friend of God," and Moses spoke with God "face to face, as a man speaks with his friend." True friendship is more like a covenant than a contract and shows the world that we belong to Jesus.

Friendship is one of the deepest pleasures of life. Friendship did not come from us; it came from God. He gives us everything we need through his Word and his Spirit to cultivate it well for the glory of God. Our greatest joy should be in our fellowship with God and one another.

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*Father God, life can get so messy and complicated. Thank you for the friends you have placed in my life to join me in prayer when believing gets hard. I am grateful for friends who provide excellent support and encouragement as I walk by faith with you, my best friend. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

HOPE



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022**



*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40:31*

## *Hope is Louder than a Crowd*

"Who do you say I am?" (Luke 9:20). Jesus' question is louder than the crowd. Interestingly, Jesus' first question was, "who do the crowds say I am?" (Luke 9:18).

Who are the crowds in our lives? Could it be our doubt, resistance, pain, or the majority's conclusions? Any voice that calls us away from being in step with God is a distraction and keeps us from living in the hope that He promised. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, and how we walk out that hope answers who we say He is. How are we walking out that hope?

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*Meditate on Romans 5:1-6*

HOPE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022**



*For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25  
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. - Romans 8:24-25*

## *Hope Hears God*

As a child of God, we know that we should hope in the Lord, but if we're honest, sometimes that's hard. We are fallen beings and need the hope of salvation. We need the hope of a life other than the sometimes painful one in which we live.

God's Word is the story of man from beginning to end, and hope runs throughout. God told Abraham to leave his father's land, and he did. He said through Abraham will come a great nation, and it did. God spoke to Joseph through dreams. He endured hardships, but Joseph believed, and everything God showed him came to pass. At the age of 80, Moses sent the plagues upon Egypt, proving the one true God and delivering Israel's children. When Jesse lined up seven of his sons for Samuel to choose a King, David (who became known as a man after God's own heart) was absent and not considered.

Let's remember that if we ever think that we're insignificant. In our hope, we hear God. Our hope is because of Jesus Christ and his love for us!

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*Father, thank you for the gift of Your son that allows me to come before You. Thank you for the encouragement all throughout your Word that clearly tells me where I am to put my hope. My hope lies in You and You alone. Remind me of Jeremiah 29:11-13 if my hope fades. It is You who knows the plans for me. I will call upon You and come and pray. You have declared that you will listen if I seek you with all of my heart. Please help me to be thankful for the times that draw me closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

HOPE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022**



*And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. - Romans 5:5*

## *Hope Believes Anyway*

In the Christian life, there are many things we must walk out in faith. Often, we use the word - hope - meaning I wish or maybe it might happen. In the above verse, it is in terms of being confident with no doubts about our eternal future. We don't know the future in this life.

Roy Kiser reflects, "When the Lord asked me to quit my job without a job in the future, it was like leaping off a cliff, not knowing where I would land. It took four years of waiting and learning before the Lord revealed the job I have now."

The one thing we can be confident about as believers is Christ's presence now and our eternal future with Him. Paul said in 2 Corinthian 5:8 that if we are "away from the body, we are at home with the Lord."

Romans 8:23-24 says, "we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved....we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Whatever this life throws at us, let us always allow the hope of our eternal future with the Lord be our comfort and guide.

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*Lord, thank you for the Holy Spirit's presence in my life today. I pray that whatever life throws at me, I will always be confident of Your presence and my eternal future. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# HOPE

# REFLECT

YOU DID IT! Take a moment and give God thanks. Journal the promises He spoke, prayers He answered, or how He journeyed with you through these 21 days.

A large rectangular box with a blue border and corner brackets, intended for journaling. The box is empty and occupies the majority of the page below the title and introductory text.







**First Baptist Church**  
NORTH AUGUSTA  
*Disciples Making Disciples*

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