

FOLLOW ME



A 21-DAY DISCIPLESHIP HANDBOOK

*Learning to Follow Jesus
and Help Others Do the Same*

—— FOLLOW JESUS. WALK WITH ONE. REPEAT. ——



*“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will
send you out to fish for people.”*

MATTHEW 4:19



KATHY JONES

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(NIV)

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Follow Me: A 21-Day Discipleship Handbook
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Dedication

This workbook is dedicated to every person who has said "yes" to following Jesus.

Whether your journey with Christ began yesterday or many years ago, my prayer is that these twenty-one days will help you know Him more deeply, trust Him more fully, and follow Him more faithfully.

I also dedicate this book to the faithful men and women who invest their lives in making disciples. Your willingness to walk beside others reflects the heart of Jesus, who called ordinary people and transformed them into world changers.

May generations continue to know Christ because someone chose to simply walk with them.

Acknowledgments

This workbook would not exist without the faithfulness of God and the encouragement of those He has placed in my life.

To my husband, Sean, thank you for walking beside me in ministry, for your unwavering support, your wisdom, your prayers, and your love. Serving Jesus together has been one of the greatest blessings of my life.

To every pastor, leader, mentor, and faithful believer who has invested in my walk with Christ, thank you for living out the call to make disciples.

Above all, I give all glory, honor, and praise to Jesus Christ. Every page of this workbook belongs to Him. My prayer is that He uses these words to help people know Him more deeply, love Him more completely, and faithfully follow Him all the days of their lives.

How to Use This Workbook

Jesus never intended His followers to simply believe in Him. He called us to follow Him.

Discipleship is not a class to complete—it is a lifelong journey of becoming more like Jesus.

Over the next twenty-one days, you will spend intentional time in God's Word while developing practical habits that will strengthen your relationship with Christ.

Each day includes:

- Theme Scripture
- Biblical teaching
- Reflection Questions
- Walking It Out
- Prayer
- Declaration

Set aside approximately 15–20 minutes each day.

Bring your Bible, a journal or notebook, and a willing heart.

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you read.

Don't rush through the pages.

The goal is not simply to finish twenty-one days.

The goal is to begin a lifetime of faithfully following Jesus.

Welcome

Congratulations on taking this next step in your walk with Jesus.

Whether you are a brand-new believer or have followed Christ for many years, this workbook is designed to strengthen your foundation as His disciple.

These twenty-one days are not about gaining more information, they are about transformation.

As you spend time in God's Word, pray, reflect, and put His truth into practice, you will begin developing the habits of a lifelong disciple.

My prayer is that these pages draw you closer to Jesus and encourage you to know Him, trust Him, obey Him, and share His love with others.

Welcome to the journey. Let's follow Jesus together.

Equipped to Go

“To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

— *Ephesians 4:12* (ESV)

This is the heart behind these 21 days.

Jesus did not call us only to believe in Him. He called us to follow Him, grow in Him, and join Him in His work.

Disciples are made so they can make disciples.

These pages are meant to help equip you to know Jesus more deeply, walk with Him daily, recognize His voice, obey His leading, love people as He does, and step into the work He has prepared for you.

You are not simply completing a 21-day journey.

You are being equipped to go.

WEEK ONE

Following Jesus

The Foundation of a Disciple

Every journey begins with a single step.

When Jesus called His first disciples, He didn't begin by giving them a list of rules or expectations. He simply said, "**Come, follow Me.**"

Discipleship begins with relationship. Before we can live like Jesus, we must first know Him. Before we can lead others, we must first learn to follow. This first week is about laying a strong foundation by discovering what it truly means to become a disciple of Christ.

As you journey through these seven days, you'll learn to seek Jesus first, recognize His voice, obey what He says, trust Him when you don't understand, walk by faith, and remain in Christ

Don't rush through these pages. Take time to read the Scriptures, reflect on what God is saying, and allow the Holy Spirit to shape your heart.

Remember, Jesus isn't inviting you into a religion. He's inviting you into a relationship that will transform your life forever.

Welcome to the journey.

Let's follow Jesus.

DAY 1 — COME, FOLLOW ME

Theme Scripture

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”— Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

The Invitation

There is something beautifully simple about the way Jesus called His first disciples.

He said, **“Come, follow me.”**

He did not hand them a list of everything they needed to know first. He did not require them to understand their calling, discover their spiritual gifts, or have their lives completely figured out before they could begin.

He simply invited them to follow Him.

Peter and Andrew were ordinary fishermen when Jesus approached them. They were in the middle of an ordinary day, doing what they had probably done hundreds of times before. Yet one encounter with Jesus changed the direction of their lives.

Scripture tells us:

“At once they left their nets and followed him.”— Matthew 4:20 (NIV)

Those nets represented more than fishing equipment. They represented what was familiar. They represented their livelihood, their routine, and the life they knew.

Jesus was inviting them into something they could not yet fully see and they followed. That is where discipleship begins not with having all the answers, not with knowing exactly where God is taking you and not with becoming spiritually mature overnight.

It begins with saying **yes to Jesus**.

More Than Believing

It is possible to know about Jesus without truly learning to follow Him. We can attend church, listen to sermons, read Christian books, know Scripture, and still find ourselves living much of our everyday lives independently from Him.

But Jesus did not simply call people to believe information about Him. He called them to follow Him. A disciple is a learner, a follower—someone who stays close enough to Jesus to learn His ways and increasingly become like Him.

The disciples walked with Jesus. They listened to Him teach. They watched how He treated people. They saw Him pray. They witnessed His compassion. They watched Him confront

hypocrisy and respond to opposition. They saw His dependence upon the Father and over time, walking with Jesus changed them.

That same invitation is extended to us. Jesus is not simply asking to be included somewhere in our lives. He wants to lead them.

Following Requires Leaving

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they left their nets.

Your “nets” may look very different. Sometimes following Jesus means leaving behind obvious things—sinful habits, unhealthy relationships, destructive patterns, or choices that no longer agree with the life God is calling us to live but sometimes the things Jesus asks us to release are much less obvious.

Control, comfort, fear, people-pleasing, or maybe it is following our own plans or the need to understand everything before we obey.

Following Jesus requires trust because He rarely shows us the entire journey at once. He simply says, **Follow Me** and then He asks us to take the next step. There may be areas of your life where you have been asking Jesus to follow *you*.

“Jesus, bless this plan.” “Jesus, make this work.” “Jesus, open this door.” “Jesus, give me what I think I need.” But discipleship reverses that posture.

Instead of asking Jesus to follow our plans, we begin asking: **Jesus, where are You leading me?**

That question can change everything.

You Do Not Have to Be Ready

Perhaps you are beginning this journey feeling excited or perhaps you feel unsure. Maybe you look at other believers and think they know so much more than you do. Maybe you wonder whether you are spiritual enough, disciplined enough, or knowledgeable enough to truly become a disciple.

Remember who Jesus called? He called fishermen, a tax collector and ordinary men with different personalities, weaknesses, questions, and struggles.

They did not become disciples because they were already qualified. They became disciples because they followed Jesus and Jesus taught them along the way.

He corrected them, encouraged them, challenged them, showed them the Father and he taught them how to pray. He taught them how to serve, how to love and eventually, He prepared them to make disciples themselves.

That is where this journey is going but we do not begin with what we will eventually **do** for Jesus.

We begin with Jesus Himself. Before ministry comes relationship and before serving comes following. Before making disciples comes becoming one.

One Step at a Time

You do not need to know everything that God will do through your life. You simply need to stay close to the One who does.

Over the coming days, you will begin developing rhythms that help you walk with Jesus intentionally. You will learn to seek Him, spend time with Him, listen to His leading, trust His Word, obey what He shows you, and remain connected to Him.

There will be moments when He challenges you. There may be things He asks you to surrender. There may even be things you thought were part of your identity that He begins to reshape.

Do not be afraid of that process because Jesus knows where He is taking you. The same Jesus who says, **“Follow Me,”** is the One who walks with you as you learn how.

Today you only need to answer the invitation. Will you follow Him?

Walking It Out

Take a few quiet minutes with Jesus today.

Ask Him: **Jesus, is there anything I am holding onto that is keeping me from following You fully?**

Do not rush to answer the question yourself. Sit quietly. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring something to your attention. It may be a habit, a fear, a relationship, a plan, a distraction, a mindset or simply an area where you have been insisting on doing things your own way.

Write down whatever comes to mind and bring it honestly before God.

Then ask Him: **“Jesus, what is my next step in following You?”**

You do not need ten steps. Just the next one.

Reflection

What does following Jesus currently look like in my everyday life?

What might Jesus be asking me to leave behind or surrender?

Where have I been asking Jesus to bless my plans instead of asking Him to lead me?

What is one step of obedience I believe God is asking me to take?

Prayer

Jesus,

Today I hear Your invitation: "Come, follow Me."

I do not have to understand everything before I begin. I do not have to have every answer or know exactly where You are taking me. I simply want to follow You. Show me anything I am holding onto that keeps me from walking closely with You. Give me courage to lay down what You ask me to release and faith to take the next step when You lead me.

Teach me Your ways. Help me recognize Your voice, trust Your Word, and obey You even when I cannot see the whole road ahead. I do not want to simply know about You. I want to know You, walk with You, and become more like You.

My life belongs to You. Lead me, Jesus, and I will follow.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I am a disciple of Jesus. I do not need to know the entire journey before I begin. Jesus is my Lord, my Teacher, and my Shepherd. I choose to follow Him one step at a time.

DAY 2 — SEEK HIM FIRST

Theme Scripture

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” — Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

What Comes First?

Every day, something will compete for your attention.

Responsibilities, family, work, finances, schedules, phones, problems that need solving or people who need something from you.

Even good things can begin filling our lives until we realize that Jesus has quietly moved from the center to the edges.

We may still love Him, we may still believe in Him, and we may still go to church, pray when we need help, and turn to Him when something goes wrong, but Jesus did not call us to fit Him into whatever space remains. He calls us to seek Him first.

In Matthew 6, Jesus was speaking to people who had real concerns. They worried about what they would eat, what they would drink, and what they would wear. Jesus did not pretend those needs were unimportant. Instead, He redirected their attention to the Father who already knew what they needed.

Then He gave them a different priority:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Jesus was teaching them where to look first before worry or striving. Before trying to control the outcome, seek God.

First Is About Priority

Seeking God first does not simply mean giving Him the first few minutes of your day and then going on without Him. It means He becomes the first place your heart turns.

When you have a decision to make—seek Him.

When you are worried, seek Him.

When you are confused, seek Him.

When something wonderful happens, seek Him.

When someone hurts you, seek Him.

When you do not know what to do next, seek Him.

This is how discipleship begins moving from something we believe into something we actually live. We develop a new instinct: **Go to Jesus first.**

Many of us have developed other instincts over the years. We worry first, we call someone first, we search online first, we replay the situation in our minds first and we try to fix everything ourselves first. Then, when nothing seems to work, we pray but what would change if prayer were not our last response?

What if seeking God became our first one?

Bringing God into the Ordinary

Sometimes we imagine that seeking God only happens during obviously spiritual moments like reading the Bible, praying, going to church or worshipping.

Those things are important, but walking with Jesus reaches far beyond them. God wants to be involved in the ordinary places of your life too like in the conversation you need to have, the way you respond when someone frustrates you, the decision about your finances, the way you spend your time, the words you speak in your home, the thoughts you allow to remain in your mind, the opportunities you say yes to and the things you need to say no to.

Following Jesus means learning to invite Him into all of it. You can stop in the middle of an ordinary moment and simply pray: **Jesus, what do You want me to do here?**

That small prayer changes our posture, instead of assuming we already know the answer, we acknowledge that He is Lord.

Instead of depending only on our own understanding, we make room for His wisdom and instead of asking God to join what we have already decided, we allow Him to lead.

Seek the Kingdom

Jesus did not only say, "Seek God." He said: **"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."**

The kingdom of God is about His rule and His reign so seeking His kingdom means asking more than, "What do I want?"

We begin asking: **What does God want?** What honors Him? What agrees with His Word? What reflects His character? What would love look like here? What would obedience look like here?

This changes the way we make decisions. A disciple does not simply ask whether something is possible. A disciple begins asking whether it belongs in the life Jesus is leading her/him to live.

Sometimes God's direction will agree with what we already wanted and sometimes it will not. That is where surrender becomes real. Seeking Him first means giving God permission to redirect us.

He Already Knows What You Need

One of the most comforting parts of Matthew 6 is what Jesus says before telling us to seek the kingdom.

“Your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” — Matthew 6:32 (NIV)

Your Father knows. He knows what you need before you explain it. He knows the situation you are worried about. He knows the bill, the relationship, the unanswered question, He knows what you are carrying.

Seeking God first does not mean pretending those things do not exist. It means deciding that they will not become greater in our hearts than the One who holds our lives. We can bring our needs to God while keeping our eyes on Him. There is a difference between seeking **God’s hand** and seeking **God Himself**.

Sometimes we come to God primarily because we want Him to change something. Fix this, provide this, open this door, remove this problem, answer this prayer. God invites us to bring our requests to Him, but discipleship takes us deeper. We begin wanting the Giver more than the gift. We want His presence more than the answer and His will more than our preferred outcome. We want Him.

Reordering Your Life

Seeking Jesus first may require some rearranging not because God is trying to make your life difficult, but because whatever receives our attention consistently begins shaping us.

If our first and strongest influence is fear, fear will shape us. If it is culture, culture will shape us. If it is social media, social media will shape us. If it is the opinions of others, those opinions will shape us, but when we consistently seek Jesus, His truth begins shaping the way we think, respond, choose, and live.

Little by little, our priorities begin changing. Things that once seemed important may lose their grip. Things we once overlooked may become important. Our desires begin coming into alignment with His and that is part of becoming a disciple. We are not simply adding Jesus to the life we already have but allowing Jesus to reorder our lives around Him.

Walking It Out

Today, pay attention to where your heart naturally turns first. When something happens, notice your first response.

Do you immediately worry? Reach for your phone? Call someone? Try to solve it? Become frustrated? Do you turn toward God?

There is no condemnation in recognizing an old pattern. Awareness gives us an opportunity to establish a new one.

Throughout today, practice one simple response:

Seek Him first.

Before responding to a difficult message, pray.

Before making a decision, pray.

Before allowing worry to take over, pray.

Before trying to solve everything yourself, pray.

It does not have to be complicated. Simply turn your heart toward Jesus and say:

Jesus, I want You first. Show me how You want me to respond.

The more often you practice turning toward Him, the more natural it becomes.

Reflection

What currently receives most of my attention and energy?

When I face a problem, where do I usually turn first?

Is there an area of my life where I have made my own plans without truly seeking God?

What would it practically look like for me to seek God's kingdom first in that area?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that You already know what I need. Forgive me for the times I have allowed worry, distractions, responsibilities, or my own plans to take the place that belongs to You. Teach me to seek You first. When I am uncertain, let my heart turn toward You. When I am worried, remind me that You are my Father. When I have decisions to make, help me desire Your

wisdom more than my own way. I do not want to simply add You to my life. I want my life to be centered around You. Reorder my priorities. Shape my desires. Teach me to seek Your kingdom and Your righteousness in the ordinary decisions of every day. More than what You can give me, I want You.

Lead me as I learn to follow.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

God is first in my life. I will seek Him before worry, before striving, and before relying on my own understanding. My Father knows what I need, and I trust Him to lead me as I seek His kingdom first.

DAY 3 – HEARING THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Theme Scripture

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 (NIV)

Learning to Recognize His Voice

One of the greatest privileges of being a disciple is knowing that Jesus still speaks to His people. He is not a distant Savior who simply gave us His Word and left us to figure life out on our own. He is our Good Shepherd, and a shepherd leads his sheep.

Jesus said, **"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."**

Notice the order. First, they listen. Then, they follow.

Discipleship is not simply learning about Jesus. It is learning to walk with Him day by day, listening to His direction and responding with obedience.

Many believers wonder, *how do I know if God is speaking to me?*

That is an honest question. The good news is that recognizing God's voice is not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or spiritual giants. Every believer can grow in discerning the voice of the Shepherd.

Just as a child learns to recognize the voice of a loving parent, we learn to recognize Jesus as we spend time with Him. The more familiar we become with Him, the more easily we recognize when He is leading us.

God Speaks Through His Word

The primary way God speaks is through Scripture. The Bible is not merely a collection of stories or wise sayings. It is God's living and active Word, revealing His character, His heart, His promises, and His will.

As you read the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit brings them to life. A verse you may have read many times suddenly speaks directly into your current situation. A passage brings conviction, comfort, wisdom, or encouragement exactly when you need it. This is one reason daily time in God's Word is so important. If we want to recognize God's voice, we must become familiar with what He has already said. God will never lead us in a way that contradicts His written Word. His Spirit and His Word always agree.

The Gentle Prompting of the Holy Spirit

While Scripture is our foundation, the Holy Spirit also leads us in our daily lives. Sometimes He prompts us to encourage someone. Sometimes He reminds us of a verse we need. Sometimes He gives us wisdom before we decide and sometimes, He quietly convicts us when our attitude, words, or actions are not reflecting Christ.

Often His voice is not loud or dramatic but like a gentle prompting that draws us toward Jesus. The Holy Spirit never manipulates through fear or confusion. He leads with truth, conviction, peace, and love. Learning to recognize those promptings takes practice and the more quickly we respond in obedience, the more sensitive our hearts become to His leading.

Removing the Noise

One reason many people struggle to hear God's voice is not because He has stopped speaking. It is because life has become so noisy. Our minds are constantly filled with notifications, conversations, entertainment, responsibilities, and endless opinions and without realizing it, we can spend hours listening to everyone else while giving only a few quiet moments to the One who knows us best.

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray and if the Son of God intentionally made space to be with the Father, how much more do we need quiet moments with Him?

Sometimes hearing God simply begins by slowing down, turning off the distractions, opening His Word, praying, listening and waiting.

God is rarely in a hurry, and disciples learn not to rush His presence.

Testing What You Hear

Not every thought that enters our minds comes from God. That is why Scripture calls us to test what we hear.

Ask yourself:

- Does this agree with God's Word?
- Does it reflect the character of Jesus?
- Will it produce the fruit of the Spirit?
- Does it lead me toward obedience and love?

God never contradicts Himself, and He will never lead us into sin, pride, bitterness, or fear.

The Shepherd's voice always draws us closer to Him.

Following the Shepherd

Hearing God's voice is not the final goal. Following Him is.

Jesus said, "**My sheep listen to my voice... and they follow me.**"

The purpose of hearing is obedience. Every time we choose to follow His leading, our trust grows deeper and every act of obedience strengthens our relationship with Him.

Little by little, we begin to recognize His voice more clearly because we are walking closely with the One who is speaking.

That is the beautiful rhythm of discipleship, we seek Him first, we hear His voice and we follow where He leads.

Walking It Out

Today, set aside at least fifteen uninterrupted minutes with God.

Begin by asking: "**Lord, speak to me through Your Word today.**"

Read John 10 slowly.

As you read, notice any verse that stands out to you and write it down.

Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to teach you through it. Then, throughout the day, pay attention to the gentle promptings that align with Scripture.

If God places someone on your heart to encourage, do it.

If He convicts you to change your attitude or actions, respond quickly.

Practice listening—and then following.

Reflection

When I need direction, whose voice do I tend to listen to first?

How consistent am I in spending time in God's Word?

Are there distractions that make it difficult for me to hear from God?

What is one step I can take this week to create more space to listen to the Lord?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for being a Shepherd who knows me personally and desires to lead me each day. Thank You that You have not left me to navigate life alone. Open my ears to recognize Your voice and give me a heart that is quick to respond in obedience.

Help me to treasure Your Word and allow it to shape my thoughts, decisions, and actions. Remove the distractions that compete for my attention and teach me to make room for Your presence.

Give me discernment to recognize what is from You and the courage to follow wherever You lead. May my life become one that listens carefully, trusts completely, and follows faithfully.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I belong to the Good Shepherd. I know His voice because I spend time with Him through His Word and His Spirit. As I seek Him first, He faithfully leads me, and I will follow wherever He calls me.

DAY 4 — DO WHAT HE SAYS

Theme Scripture

"Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

— James 1:22 (NIV)

Living What You Believe

Jesus never intended for His followers to simply collect knowledge about Him but he called them to follow Him.

Throughout the Gospels, the disciples spent countless hours listening to Jesus teach. They heard the Sermon on the Mount. They watched Him heal the sick, calm storms, cast out demons, and show compassion to people everyone else overlooked.

But Jesus was never interested in producing listeners alone. He was raising disciples. A disciple is someone whose life is transformed because they not only hear the words of Jesus—they live them.

James writes, *"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."*

Those are strong words. James reminds us that it is possible to know God's truth without allowing it to change us. We can read our Bible every day, attend church faithfully, listen to excellent teaching, and even memorize Scripture, yet still resist the very things God is asking us to do.

Knowledge is valuable but knowledge without obedience produces little spiritual growth.

Jesus is not simply inviting us to learn more. He is inviting us to become more like Him. Every time we obey what He has shown us, His truth moves from our minds into our hearts and begins shaping the way we live.

Obedience Begins with Trust

At the heart of every act of obedience is trust. When God asks us to forgive someone who hurt us, He is asking us to trust His justice. When He tells us not to worry, He invites us to trust His provision and when He calls us to love difficult people, He teaches us to trust His wisdom over our emotions. When He asks us to wait, He is asking us to believe that His timing is better than ours. Obedience is rarely about whether we understand everything. It is about whether we

believe the One who is leading us. The disciples often did not understand why Jesus asked them to do certain things.

Peter probably didn't understand why Jesus told him to cast his nets after fishing all night. The servants at the wedding didn't understand why they were filling jars with water and the blind man surely wondered why Jesus placed mud on his eyes. Understanding came after obedience.

The same is often true in our own lives.

Faith Is Seen in Action

Faith is more than agreeing with biblical truth. Faith takes a step. For instance, Noah built an ark before he saw rain. Abraham left his homeland before he knew his destination. Joshua marched around Jericho before the walls fell. Peter stepped out of the boat before he discovered the water would hold him.

Their obedience was not perfect because they understood everything. It was possible because they trusted the God who spoke and our lives are no different. Sometimes obedience looks dramatic. Often, it looks beautifully ordinary. Such as, choosing honesty when dishonesty would be easier. Speaking words that build others up. Refusing to participate in gossip. Forgiving when pride wants revenge. Keeping your promises or showing kindness to someone who cannot repay you. Like, praying for someone who hurt you or serving without needing recognition.

These everyday decisions may seem small, but they shape our character far more than the occasional extraordinary moment.

Discipleship is built one obedient step at a time.

When Obedience Feels Difficult

There will be moments when following Jesus stretches your comfort. Sometimes He asks you to let go of something you've held tightly. Sometimes He asks you to wait when you want to move and sometimes, He asks you to move when you would rather stay comfortable.

Obedience does not mean life will always become easier, but it does mean you will never walk alone.

The same Jesus who calls you to follow Him also gives you the grace to obey Him. His Holy Spirit strengthens you, reminds you of His Word, and gives you courage when your own strength is not enough.

God has never asked His children to obey Him by their own power. He walks with us every step of the way.

The Joy of Saying Yes

There is a beautiful freedom that comes from a heart that has learned to say, *"Yes, Lord."* Not because every answer is easy. Not because every instruction makes immediate sense but because we have come to know the One who is speaking.

Every act of obedience deepens our relationship with Jesus, and every step of faith increases our confidence in His faithfulness. Every surrendered "yes" shapes us to look a little more like Christ.

This is the life of a disciple, not perfection, not performance but simply learning, day after day, to trust Jesus enough to do what He says.

Walking It Out

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where He has already spoken to you. Maybe there is someone you need to forgive or a conversation you've been avoiding. A step of faith you've delayed or a habit He has been asking you to surrender. Don't focus on everything at once.

Choose one step and then take it today.

Remember, God is far more interested in a willing heart than in impressive accomplishments. Small acts of obedience, repeated over time, become a life that reflects Christ.

Reflection

What has God been asking me to do that I have been slow to obey?

Why do I think I have hesitated?

How has obedience strengthened my faith in the past?

What is one practical step I can take today to say "Yes, Lord"?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for loving me enough to lead me. Thank You that Your commands are not meant to burden me but to draw me closer to You. Forgive me for the times I have heard Your voice but delayed responding.

Give me a heart that trusts You completely. Help me believe that Your ways are always better than my own, even when I do not understand everything. Fill me with the courage to obey promptly and the humility to follow wherever You lead.

May my life reflect not only what I know about You, but how faithfully I walk with You. Teach me to live each day with a willing heart that joyfully says, "Yes, Lord."

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I trust my Savior, and I choose to obey His voice. My faith is demonstrated through my actions, and every step of obedience draws me closer to Jesus. I will follow Him with a willing heart, knowing that His ways lead to life.

DAY 5 — TRUSTING GOD WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

Theme Scripture

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."— Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV)

Walking by Trust, Not by Sight

There will be moments in every disciple's journey when following Jesus does not make sense. You may pray for direction and still not see the whole picture. You may obey God and wonder why the circumstances around you have not changed. You may believe He is leading you, yet the road ahead still feels uncertain. These moments are not evidence that God has abandoned you. Often, they are opportunities to deepen your trust in Him.

One of the greatest differences between simply believing in Jesus and becoming His disciple is learning to trust Him when you cannot yet see what He is doing. Anyone can trust when the outcome is obvious. Faith grows when we choose to trust before the answer comes.

That is why Proverbs tells us, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*

God is not asking us to ignore wisdom or stop thinking. He is inviting us to stop placing our confidence in our own limited perspective. His view is always greater than ours. He sees what we cannot, and He knows what tomorrow holds. He understands every detail that we cannot yet see. Because He sees the whole picture, He is worthy of our trust.

When God's Timing Is Different

One of the hardest parts of following Jesus is accepting that His timing often differs from ours. We usually want immediate answers. Immediate healing, immediate provision, immediate direction and immediate change. But throughout Scripture, God frequently accomplished His greatest work through seasons of waiting.

Abraham waited for the promised son. Joseph waited through slavery and prison before stepping into leadership. David was anointed king long before he wore the crown. The disciples waited after Jesus' ascension until the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

Waiting was not wasted. God was preparing them. The same is true for us. Sometimes God is changing our circumstances. Other times, He is changing us. Both are expressions of His love.

Trust Is Built Through Remembering

When uncertainty comes, our minds naturally focus on what we do not know, but Scripture repeatedly calls God's people to remember. Remember His faithfulness and His promises. Remember how He has carried you before. Think about the times God provided when you didn't know how things would work out. Think about the prayers He has already answered. Just think, wow you are walking in those prayers right now. Think about the doors He has opened and the strength He has given. The God who was faithful then, has not changed. He is just as faithful today.

Remembering God's past faithfulness gives us confidence for today's uncertainties.

Peace Comes Before the Answer

Many people think peace comes after everything works out but God's peace often comes long before we understand what He is doing. Later, we then realize that He was right there the whole time, we just didn't see it while we were going thru it.

Peace is not the absence of questions. Peace is the confidence that Jesus is with us in the middle of them and the disciples experienced this firsthand. While a storm raged around them, Jesus slept peacefully in the boat. The storm was real; the danger was real but so was His presence.

The greatest source of our peace is not knowing how everything will end. It is knowing who is with us as we walk through it. When we fix our eyes on Christ instead of our circumstances, fear begins to lose its grip.

One Step at a Time

God rarely reveals our entire journey at once. Instead, He faithfully gives us the next step. If He showed us every detail of our future, we might become overwhelmed or attempt to depend on ourselves. Instead, He teaches us to depend on Him daily. That is how trust grows. Not by knowing every answer but by faithfully taking the next step He places before us.

Each step reminds us that He is trustworthy. Each step strengthens our faith and draws us closer to the One who promises never to leave us.

The Faithfulness of God

God has never failed to keep a single promise. His faithfulness is not determined by our circumstances; it is rooted in His unchanging character. His word says He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Even when we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart.

He is working in ways we cannot yet see. He is preparing what we cannot yet imagine.

He is leading us with wisdom that reaches far beyond our own understanding. The disciple learns that trust is not blind optimism. Trust is confident dependence on a faithful Father.

Walking It Out

Think about an area of your life where you have been asking God for answers. Instead of asking Him to reveal every detail, ask Him for grace to trust Him with the next step. Write down one way God has been faithful to you in the past.

Read it aloud.

Thank Him for it.

Then pray: **"Father, because You have been faithful before, I choose to trust You again today."**

Whenever worry begins to rise, remind yourself of God's faithfulness instead of rehearsing your fears. Choose trust one decision at a time.

Reflection

What situation am I finding difficult to trust God with right now?

When have I clearly seen God's faithfulness in my life?

Am I waiting for God to reveal the whole journey before taking the next step?

How can I choose trust instead of fear today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for being completely trustworthy. Even when I cannot understand what You are doing, I know that You are good, faithful, and always working for Your glory and my good.

Forgive me for the times I have leaned more on my own understanding than on Your promises. Help me release my need to control every outcome and teach me to walk by faith instead of by sight.

Remind me of the countless ways You have already been faithful in my life. When fear whispers that You have forgotten me, help me remember that You never change. Strengthen my heart to trust You one step at a time, knowing that You are guiding my path even when I cannot see what lies ahead.

Thank You for walking with me every step of the journey.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I trust the Lord with all my heart. I will not rely on my own understanding, but I will follow His leading one step at a time. My Father is faithful, His timing is perfect, and I rest securely in His unfailing love.

DAY 6 — WALK BY FAITH

Theme Scripture

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”— 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

Faith That Shapes the Way We Live

Walking by faith is more than believing that God exists. It is building our lives upon what God has said.

Many people believe in God, but a disciple learns to live as though His Word is true. His promises influence our decisions. His character steadies our hearts. His truth determines our response—even when visible circumstances have not changed.

Paul wrote:

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”

Walking by sight means allowing what we can see, feel, measure, or explain to determine what we believe. Walking by faith means allowing God’s truth to carry greater authority than our circumstances.

Faith does not deny what is happening. It simply refuses to let what is happening have the final word.

God’s Word Becomes Our Foundation

Biblical faith is not positive thinking, wishful thinking, or trying to convince ourselves that everything will work out exactly as we want.

Faith rests upon the character and Word of God.

Romans 10:17 says:

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

Faith grows as we become familiar with what God has said. When fear tells us we are alone, His Word reminds us that He will never leave us. When shame tries to define us, His Word declares that we are new creations in Christ. When circumstances appear impossible, His Word reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.

The question is no longer simply, “What do I see?”

We begin asking, “What has God said?”

The more deeply His Word takes root in us, the less easily we are moved by every changing circumstance.

Faith Acts Before Evidence Appears

Hebrews 11 is filled with people who acted upon what God said before they saw the outcome.

Noah built the ark before the rain came.

Abraham left his homeland before he knew where God was taking him.

Moses led God’s people forward before the Red Sea opened.

The Israelites marched around Jericho before the walls fell.

Their actions did not earn God’s faithfulness. Their actions revealed that they believed Him.

Faith becomes visible in the way we live.

If we believe God is our Provider, we can remain generous instead of allowing fear to close our hands.

If we believe He hears prayer, we continue praying before the answer appears.

If we believe His way is right, we choose integrity even when compromise seems easier.

If we believe He restores, we continue loving, forgiving, and believing in redemption.

If we believe He has called us, we move forward even when we feel inadequate.

Faith does not merely agree with God’s Word. Faith responds to it. Faith Continues

Sometimes the first step of faith feels exciting. The greater challenge is continuing when the result does not come quickly.

What happens when you have prayed, obeyed, and believed, but nothing appears to be changing?

This is where faith develops perseverance.

Hebrews 10:36 says:

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

Walking by faith means remaining faithful between the promise and its fulfillment. It means continuing to pray when the answer seems delayed. It means continuing to worship when emotions feel quiet. It means continuing to do what is right when no one seems to notice.

Faith is not only demonstrated when we begin, it is also demonstrated when we continue.

The delay does not mean God has forgotten you. The silence does not mean He has stopped working. Roots often grow beneath the surface long before anything becomes visible above the ground.

A disciple does not abandon what God has said simply because the result has not appeared.

Walking by faith does not require us to deny reality or hide our emotions. We can acknowledge that a situation is painful while still believing God is good. We can admit that we feel afraid while choosing not to let fear lead us. We can say that we do not see the answer while continuing to believe that God is working.

Faith is not pretending the storm does not exist. Faith is knowing that the storm does not determine who Jesus is.

We do not have to manufacture confidence or speak as though we never struggle. We bring our honest hearts to God and ask Him to strengthen us.

A sincere prayer of faith may sound like:

“Father, I do not see the answer yet, but I still believe You.”

God isn’t intimidated by our questions. He meets us in them and teaches us to keep walking with Him.

Faith in Everyday Life

Walking by faith is not reserved for dramatic moments. It becomes a daily way of living.

Faith gets up and prays.

Faith opens the Bible and expects God’s Word to bring truth.

Faith forgives when offense tries to take root.

Faith gives when fear says there will not be enough.

Faith speaks truth when silence is more comfortable.

Faith keeps serving when no one applauds.

Faith praises before the breakthrough.

Faith chooses peace instead of rehearsing every possible disaster.

These decisions may seem small, but a life of faith is built through ordinary moments in which we continually choose to agree with God.

Our feelings may change. Circumstances may change. People may change, but God does not.

Our confidence isn't in our ability to remain strong. Our confidence is in the faithfulness of the One we follow.

A Life That Testifies

When we continue living according to God's Word before the outcome is visible, our lives become a testimony.

People begin to see peace that circumstances cannot explain. They see generosity in uncertain seasons. They see hope in difficulty, perseverance in waiting, and worship before the answer comes.

This does not draw attention to the greatness of our faith. It points people toward the greatness of our God.

Faith says, "I may not see it yet, but I know the One who has spoken. He is faithful, and I will continue walking with Him."

Walking It Out

Identify one circumstance that has been influencing what you believe or how you live.

Ask yourself:

"What does this situation appear to be saying?"

Then ask:

"What has God said that I can stand upon?"

Find one Scripture that speaks God's truth into that situation. Write it down and read it aloud.

Now identify one practical way you can live according to that truth today.

You may need to continue praying, forgive someone, act with integrity, remain generous, speak encouragement, resist fear, praise God, or keep doing what He has already asked you to do.

Don't focus only on what you are waiting to see, instead choose to live today according to what God has said.

Reflection

Where have I allowed circumstances to determine what I believe?

What promise or truth from God's Word do I need to stand upon?

Have I stopped doing something God asked me to do because I did not see an immediate result?

What would it look like to live according to God's Word in this situation?

Where is God asking me to persevere in faith?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that Your Word is true and Your character never changes. Teach me to walk by faith and not be controlled by what I see.

When circumstances contradict Your promises, help me remain grounded in truth. When answers seem delayed, give me strength to persevere. When fear tries to direct my decisions, remind me that You are faithful.

I do not want faith to be something I only speak about. I want it to shape the way I pray, respond, give, forgive, serve, and live.

Help me continue doing what You have asked me to do even when I cannot yet see the result. Let my life demonstrate that I believe You and point people toward Your faithfulness.

I choose to build my life upon Your Word.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I walk by faith and not by sight. God's Word is my foundation, and His truth carries greater authority than my circumstances. I will pray, obey, persevere, and live according to what He has said—even before I see the result. My confidence is not in what I can see. My confidence is in the faithfulness of God.

DAY 7 — REMAIN IN CHRIST

Theme Scripture

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." — John 15:5 (NIV)

The Secret to a Fruitful Life

As you have walked through this first week, you have taken the first steps of discipleship.

You responded to Jesus' invitation to follow Him and learned to seek Him first. You began listening for His voice. You discovered that disciples obey what He says.

You chose to trust Him when you could not understand. You committed to walking by faith instead of by sight. These are not separate lessons to master and then leave behind. They are all expressions of one relationship. A relationship with Jesus. The center of discipleship is not a list of spiritual habits. It is a Person. Jesus did not say, *"Try harder and you will bear fruit."*

He said, *"Remain in Me."*

Everything we have learned this week flows from those three simple words.

What Does It Mean to Remain?

To remain means to stay, to dwell, to continue. To make your home with Jesus. It is the picture of a branch connected to a healthy vine. The branch does not struggle to produce fruit. It simply remains connected. Life flows from the vine into the branch, and fruit becomes the natural result. In the same way, our spiritual lives flourish as we stay connected to Christ. The closer we walk with Him, the more His life is reflected through ours.

Love begins replacing selfishness. Peace quiets anxiety. Patience grows where frustration once ruled. Kindness becomes more natural. Faith becomes steadier.

Transformation is not something we manufacture. It is something Christ produces in us as we remain with Him. As you remain in Him, the fruits become vibrant. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Following Is Daily

One of the greatest misconceptions about discipleship is that it is a destination. It is not. Following Jesus is not a decision we make once and then leave behind. It is a relationship we nurture every day.

Every morning, we choose again. *Today I will follow Jesus. Today I will seek Him first. Today I will listen. Today I will obey. Today I will trust. Today I will walk by faith.*

The Christian life is built through thousands of ordinary moments where we continually turn our hearts back toward Christ.

That is what it means to remain.

When You Feel Spiritually Dry

There will be seasons when your walk with God feels vibrant. There will also be seasons when it feels quiet. Prayer may feel difficult. Your emotions may seem distant. You may wonder whether God is still working.

Remember this: The branch remains connected to the vine whether it feels growth happening or not.

Fruit develops over time. Roots grow long before fruit appears. Do not measure your relationship with God by your emotions but by your willingness to remain faithful. Continue opening His Word and praying. Continue gathering with other believers and worshiping. Worship alone and worship together in community. Continue obeying the last thing He showed you.

God is often doing His deepest work beneath the surface before it becomes visible.

Fruit Is Evidence, Not the Goal

Many people become discouraged because they focus on producing fruit. They try harder, work harder. They tend to serve more. They become more disciplined while spiritual disciplines are important, fruit is never the result of striving alone.

Fruit grows because the branch remains connected. As you continue walking with Jesus, people will begin noticing something different about you. Not because you are trying to impress them. But because Christ is changing you. You begin to shine and bring the light wherever you go. Patience where there was once anger. Peace where there was once fear. Joy in difficult circumstances. Grace toward others. A growing love for God's Word and a desire to serve instead of being served. This is the fruit of a life rooted in Christ.

It is His life flowing through yours.

The Journey Is Just Beginning

You have completed the first week of this journey, but discipleship is not measured in days. It is the lifelong privilege of walking with Jesus. The habits you have begun establishing this week are not temporary exercises. They are invitations into a lifetime of fellowship with Christ.

As you begin Week Two, you will discover that remaining in Jesus does more than strengthen your relationship with Him. It changes you from the inside out.

The One you are following is also transforming you into His likeness.

Walking It Out

Set aside time today simply to enjoy the presence of Jesus. Do not come with a long list of requests. Instead, spend time thanking Him.

Read John 15:1–17 slowly and notice every time Jesus uses the word *remain* or *abide*.

Ask yourself: **"Am I trying to produce fruit on my own, or am I remaining close to Jesus?"**

This week, choose one daily habit that helps you stay connected to Christ. It may be reading Scripture before checking your phone, beginning your morning with prayer, taking a quiet walk while talking with the Lord or ending each day by thanking Him for His faithfulness.

Start small. Remain faithfully and trust God with the fruit.

Reflection

How has my understanding of following Jesus grown during this first week?

Which habit from this week do I want to continue developing?

Am I striving to become more like Christ, or am I learning to remain close to Him?

What changes have I already begun noticing in my relationship with Jesus?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for inviting me into a relationship with Your Son. Thank You that You have not called me to follow Jesus in my own strength but have given me everything I need through Him.

Teach me to remain in Christ every day. Help me stay close to You through Your Word, through prayer, through worship, and through simple obedience. When I become distracted, gently draw my heart back to You. When I become discouraged, remind me that You are faithfully working even when I cannot see it.

May my life bear fruit that brings glory to You—not because of my own effort, but because I remain connected to Jesus, the true Vine.

As I begin the next stage of this journey, continue transforming my heart so that I become more like Christ each day.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

Jesus is the true Vine, and I am His branch. I choose to remain in Him every day. His life flows through me, His Word guides me, His Spirit strengthens me, and His love transforms me. As I remain in Christ, He will faithfully produce fruit in my life.

WEEK TWO

BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Following Jesus is only the beginning. The more time we spend with Him, the more He transforms us.

Discipleship is not merely learning new information or adopting better habits. It is allowing the Holy Spirit to reshape our thoughts, our desires, our character, and our lives until we increasingly reflect Jesus.

Transformation does not happen overnight. It happens one surrendered day at a time.

As you begin this second week, invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Ask Him not only to teach you His truth but to change you from the inside out.

The One who called you to follow Him is also faithful to transform you.

"And we all... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

DAY 8 — BE TRANSFORMED BY RENEWING YOUR MIND

Theme Scripture

"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."— Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Becoming Like Jesus

Following Jesus is more than changing what we do—it is allowing Him to change how we think.

The moment you placed your faith in Christ; your spirit was made alive. You became a new creation in Him. Yet although your identity changed instantly, your mind still carries old ways of thinking that have been shaped over many years.

Before coming to Christ, you may have believed lies about yourself, about God, or about the world around you. You may have thought you were unworthy, unloved, forgotten, or that your past defined your future. You may have believed that your value depended on your achievements, your appearance, or the approval of others.

These patterns of thinking do not disappear overnight.

Discipleship is the lifelong process of allowing God's truth to replace every lie we have believed.

Paul tells us not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The word, *transformed*, describes a complete change from the inside out. It is the same word used to describe a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. The transformation begins within before it is ever seen on the outside.

This renewal happens as we spend time in God's Word, listen to the Holy Spirit, and choose to believe what God says over what our feelings or circumstances may tell us.

Jesus never asks us to pretend our struggles do not exist. Instead, He invites us to bring every thought into His presence and compare it with His truth.

When fear whispers, "You're alone," God says, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

When shame says, "You're not enough," God says that you are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

When anxiety tells you everything is out of control, Jesus reminds you not to worry because your heavenly Father knows exactly what you need.

Every day we are presented with a choice: will we believe the voice of fear, the opinions of people, or the unchanging truth of God's Word?

As we choose God's truth day after day, our thinking begins to change. Our attitudes change. Our decisions change. Our relationships change. We begin to see ourselves, others, and our circumstances through the eyes of Christ.

This is the beautiful work of the Holy Spirit. He lovingly renews our minds so that our lives increasingly reflect Jesus.

Transformation is rarely dramatic in a single moment. More often, it happens one surrendered thought at a time.

Walking It Out

Read **Romans 12:1–2** and **Philippians 4:8** slowly today.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one recurring thought that does not align with God's truth. Write that thought down, then find a verse that speaks God's truth over it. Read that verse aloud several times throughout the day, allowing His Word to reshape your thinking.

Reflection

What thought or belief do I struggle with most that does not agree with God's Word?

What truth from Scripture can replace that lie?

How can I intentionally fill my mind with God's truth this week?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for making me a new creation in Christ. Thank You that You are not only changing my actions but transforming my heart and my mind. Reveal every lie I have believed and replace it with Your truth. Help me recognize thoughts that do not come from You and teach me to dwell on whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Renew my mind each day through Your Word and by the power of Your Holy Spirit. May my thoughts become more like Yours, and may my life increasingly reflect Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

Today I choose to believe God's truth above every lie. My mind is being renewed, my heart is being transformed, and I am becoming more like Jesus every day.

DAY 9 — A LIFE OF PRAYER

Theme Scripture

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

— Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Talking with Your Heavenly Father

One of the greatest privileges of following Jesus is that you can have a personal relationship with God through prayer. Prayer is much more than reciting memorized words or bringing God a list of requests. It is the ongoing conversation between a loving Father and His children. through prayer, we grow in intimacy with God, align our hearts with His will, and learn to depend on Him in every area of life.

Jesus modeled a life of prayer. Throughout the Gospels, we see Him regularly withdrawing to quiet places to spend time with His Father. Before choosing His disciples, before performing miracles, during times of great joy, and in moments of deep sorrow, Jesus prayed. If the Son of God made prayer a priority, how much more do we need it?

Prayer is not about saying perfect words. God is not impressed by long speeches or religious language. He desires sincere hearts that come before Him with honesty, humility, and faith.

Sometimes your prayers will be filled with gratitude and worship. Other times they may be cries for help, confession of sin, or quiet moments when words are difficult to find. The wonderful truth is that God welcomes you in every season.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "pray continually." This does not mean we spend every moment with our heads bowed and eyes closed. Rather, it describes a lifestyle of continual awareness of God's presence. Throughout the day, we can thank Him, seek His wisdom, ask for His strength, and simply enjoy His companionship.

As your prayer life grows, you will also discover that prayer is not only speaking to God—it is listening to Him. After sharing your heart, take time to be still. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring Scripture to your mind, impress truth upon your heart, or give you peace and direction. God's primary way of speaking is always through His Word, and the Holy Spirit faithfully applies His Word to our daily lives.

Prayer also changes us. While we often come asking God to change our circumstances, He frequently begins by changing our hearts. As we spend time in His presence, our fears begin to lose their grip, our priorities become clearer, and our desires become more aligned with His.

One of the most fruitful habits you can develop is setting aside time with God each morning. Before the demands of the day begin, choose to meet with Him. Throughout Scripture we see men and women of God seeking the Lord early, offering Him the first part of their day. Jesus Himself rose early to pray in a solitary place before beginning His ministry each day.

Beginning your day with God is not about earning His favor—it is about positioning your heart to walk with Him. As you seek Him first, you invite His wisdom, His peace, and His strength into every moment that follows.

Never believe the lie that your prayers don't matter. Your Father hears every prayer offered in faith. He delights in spending time with you, and every conversation with Him strengthens your relationship.

Prayer is not a duty to complete; it is an invitation to know God more deeply.

Walking It Out

Set aside **at least fifteen uninterrupted minutes** with God today. If possible, begin your morning with Him before checking your phone or starting your daily routine. Spend time thanking Him, reading a portion of Scripture, sharing your heart honestly, and then sitting quietly for a few moments to listen.

Consider writing down anything the Holy Spirit brings to your mind that aligns with God's Word

Reflection

How would you describe your current prayer life?

What distractions most often keep you from spending time with God?

What practical steps can you take to make prayer a daily priority?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for inviting me into a personal relationship with You. What an incredible privilege that I can come before You at any time and know that You hear me. Teach me to make prayer a priority, not out of obligation, but because I desire to know You more. Help me quiet the distractions around me and create space to listen for Your voice through Your Word and by Your Spirit. May prayer become as natural as breathing and may my relationship with You grow deeper each day. Thank You for always welcoming me into Your presence.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I am a child of God, and I have direct access to my Heavenly Father. I will seek Him daily through prayer, trust that He hears me, and walk in close fellowship with Him.

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DAY 10 — LIVING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Theme Scripture

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him “
— Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

You Were Never Meant to Do This Alone

Following Jesus was never meant to be accomplished through human strength.

We can read Scripture. We can know what Jesus taught. We can desire to live differently. We can even try very hard to change ourselves, but lasting transformation does not come through willpower alone.

God has given us the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them alone. He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to live within them, teach them, strengthen them, guide them, and empower them to live the life He was calling them to live. The same is true for us.

The Holy Spirit is not simply an influence or a feeling. He is the Spirit of God living within every believer. He is our Helper, our Teacher, our Comforter and He is continually working within us to make us more like Jesus.

Transformation From the Inside Out

Sometimes we approach spiritual growth by trying harder.

We think:

I need to be more patient.

I need to stop getting frustrated.

I need to love people better.

I need to control my words.

I need to overcome this temptation.

Those desires may be good, but God never intended for us to transform ourselves. The Holy Spirit works from the inside out.

Philippians 2:13 says:

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

God is at work within you and as you surrender your thoughts, attitudes, desires, reactions, and choices to Him, the Holy Spirit begins changing what comes out of your life.

You are not simply learning to be better. You are becoming more like Jesus.

The Evidence of His Work

Galatians 5 describes the qualities the Holy Spirit develops in a surrendered life:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” — Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

These qualities reflect the character of Jesus.

As the Holy Spirit works within us, His transforming work becomes visible in the way we live. We begin loving people more deeply, responding with greater patience, walking in peace, showing kindness, and exercising self-control.

This does not mean we become perfect overnight. It means there is growing evidence that God is changing us.

We are not producing this transformation through willpower. We are surrendering to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to form the character of Jesus within us.

The Battle Between Flesh and Spirit

Transformation also means there will be moments when what the Holy Spirit desires conflicts with what our flesh wants.

Galatians 5:17 explains:

“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.”

You may want to respond angrily, but the Spirit is producing gentleness. You may want to hold onto an offense, but the Spirit is leading you toward forgiveness. You may want to make a decision based entirely on fear, but the Spirit is developing faith and peace. You may want to put yourself first, but the Spirit is forming the heart of a servant.

This is where surrender becomes practical. Walking with the Holy Spirit means allowing Him to have greater influence over our responses than our old patterns, emotions, or desires.

Surrender Is a Daily Choice

Jesus has already begun a work in you, but transformation requires cooperation.

The Holy Spirit may reveal an attitude that needs to change. He may convict you when your words do not reflect Jesus. He may expose unforgiveness, pride, jealousy, fear, selfishness, or another area that you have been holding onto. Conviction is not condemnation. The Holy Spirit reveals these things because He loves us too much to leave us unchanged.

When He reveals something, we can surrender it.

We can pray: **“Holy Spirit, change this in me.”**

That simple prayer reflects the heart of a disciple. Not: *I can fix myself*, but: **God, I surrender myself to Your work.**

Becoming More Like Jesus

The goal of the Christian life is not merely to become a nicer version of ourselves. It is to become more like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit forms His character within us and over time, people should begin encountering something different in us: More love, more patience, more grace, more compassion, more self-control, more peace not because we have mastered Christianity, but because Jesus is changing us from the inside out through the power of the Holy Spirit and that transformation does not stop with us.

The more we become like Jesus, the more His love begins flowing through us toward the people around us.

Walking It Out

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you **one area of your character He wants to transform**. Maybe it is your patience, your words, your reactions, your attitude, your thought life, your ability to forgive, or the way you treat someone who is difficult to love.

Don't try to change everything at once.

Bring that one area before God.

Pray: **“Holy Spirit, I surrender this area to You. Produce the character of Jesus in me.”**

Then pay attention throughout the day.

When that area is tested, remember: **You do not have to respond from your old nature. The Holy Spirit is at work within you.**

Reflection

Where have I been trying to change myself through willpower?

What area of my character is the Holy Spirit currently transforming?

Which fruit of the Spirit do I most want to see growing in my life?

What would surrender to the Holy Spirit look like in that area today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for your Spirit living within me and for never leaving me to follow Jesus in my own strength. I surrender myself to Your work. Show me the places in my heart that still need to change. Reveal attitudes, reactions, desires, and habits that do not reflect Jesus. Produce Your fruit in my life. Grow love where I have been selfish and peace where I have been anxious. Give me patience where I have been frustrated and kindness where I have been harsh. Bring me self-control where I have allowed my emotions or desires to lead me. I do not want to simply know more about Jesus. I want my life to look more like His. Continue Your work in me and teach me to surrender to You every day.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I do not have to become like Jesus through my own strength. The Holy Spirit lives within me and is transforming me from the inside out. I surrender to His work and trust Him to produce the character of Christ in my life.

DAY 11 — SEE PEOPLE THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Theme Scripture

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

— Matthew 9:36 (NIV)

Seeing Beyond the Surface

As you continue following Jesus, you will discover that He is not only transforming your mind and your heart but transforming the way you see people.

Our natural tendency is to judge by outward appearances. We notice mistakes, personalities, opinions, lifestyles, and first impressions. We can make quick assumptions without knowing a person's story.

Jesus saw differently.

Where others saw a failure, Jesus saw someone the Father loved.

Where others saw a sinner, Jesus saw someone worth pursuing.

Where others saw an outcast, Jesus saw someone who belonged at His table.

Where others saw a hopeless situation, Jesus saw the possibility of redemption.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus continually looked beyond what people had become to what they could become through the transforming power of God.

Peter was an ordinary fisherman with many weaknesses, yet Jesus saw a man who would help lead the early church.

Matthew was known as a dishonest tax collector, but Jesus saw a faithful disciple.

The Samaritan woman had a broken past, yet Jesus entrusted her with sharing the good news with her entire village.

The world often labels people by their failures but Jesus sees what His grace can do in a life.

As disciples, we are learning to see people through His eyes.

Grace and Truth

Seeing people through the eyes of Jesus does not mean ignoring sin or pretending wrong choices do not matter. Jesus never compromised truth. He lovingly confronted sin because He wanted people to experience freedom.

Grace and truth walked together in Jesus, and they should walk together in us.

When we begin seeing people through His eyes, we stop defining them by their worst moment.

Instead, we remember that every person is created in the image of God and deeply loved by Him.

A person's present condition does not tell us the end of their story.
God may be working in places we cannot yet see.

Look Beyond What You Can See

Sometimes we encounter someone who appears angry, difficult, distant, or hard to love. Our first reaction may be judgment but compassion asks a different question: **“What might this person be carrying that I cannot see?”**

Maybe anger is covering deep hurt, maybe pride is hiding insecurity or maybe harsh words are flowing from years of rejection. We may never know the entire story, but we can choose compassion instead of quick judgment.

Matthew tells us that when Jesus looked at the crowds, He saw that they were harassed and helpless. He saw beneath the surface and saw their need and His response was compassion. The more we become like Jesus, the more we learn to do the same.

See What God Sees

There is another part of seeing people through the eyes of Jesus. We learn not only to see where someone has been, but also to believe God for what their life can become in Him. This doesn't mean pretending we know God's exact plans for another person. It means refusing to let someone's weakness, failure, past, or present struggle become the final word over their life. God is still working.

The person who seems far from God today may become a passionate follower of Jesus. The person struggling today may someday help someone else walk through the same struggle. The person who feels forgotten may discover their identity as a deeply loved child of God. We don't have to know exactly what God will do. We simply refuse to put a period where God may still be writing the story.

Speak Life, Not Labels

Our words reveal how we see people. It is easy to reinforce someone's weakness, and we may think or say: *They're always difficult. They'll never change. That's just who they are* but disciples of Jesus should be careful about placing permanent labels on people God is still transforming.

Words matter. Begin declaring good things for people and this comes by seeing them the way Jesus does. Our words can strengthen, encourage, comfort, and point people toward truth. This doesn't mean flattering people or speaking things God has not said. It means allowing our words to agree with God's heart. We can remind people that they are seen and that they matter and that God's grace is greater than their past. We can let them know that Jesus offers forgiveness, freedom, restoration, and new life. Sometimes one sincere word of encouragement can help someone begin seeing themselves differently.

Compassion Changes the Way We Respond

When we see people differently, we begin responding differently. Instead of immediately criticizing, we may pray. Instead of assuming, we may listen. Instead of avoiding someone, we may show kindness and instead of reminding someone of who they used to be, we may encourage the growth we see God producing.

The more time we spend with Jesus, the more His heart becomes our heart. His compassion begins shaping our compassion, His mercy begins shaping our mercy, His love becomes visible through the way we treat people.

The world does not need more followers of Jesus who are simply skilled at identifying what is wrong with everyone.

It needs disciples who carry both **truth and compassion**.

Walking It Out

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring **one person** to your mind today. Maybe it is someone who is difficult to love. Maybe it is someone you have misunderstood. Maybe it is someone whose failures have shaped the way you think about them. Maybe it is someone others tend to overlook. Pray for that person by name.

Then ask: **“Jesus, help me see this person the way You see them.”**

Pay attention to your own thoughts and attitudes.

Have you placed a label on them?

Have you assumed you know their whole story?

Have you focused more on their weakness than on what God may be doing in their life?

Ask the Holy Spirit to replace judgment with compassion and give you an opportunity to speak truth, encouragement, or kindness. You may be surprised by how seeing someone differently begins changing the way you love them.

Reflection

Do I tend to judge people by outward appearances, or do I seek to understand them through the compassion of Christ?

Is there someone I have allowed a past failure, personality, or struggle to define in my mind? How might Jesus see that person differently?

Are my words reinforcing people's failures or pointing them toward hope and truth?

Who is God asking me to see differently today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for loving me even when I was far from You. Thank You for seeing beyond my failures and calling me Your child through Jesus Christ. Forgive me for the times I have judged others too quickly or focused more on their weaknesses than on Your love for them. Give me the eyes of Jesus. Fill my heart with compassion. Help me see people as You see them—not as problems to avoid or projects to fix, but as people You created and deeply love. Teach me to extend grace without compromising truth. Guard my words so that I do not place labels on people You are still transforming. Help me speak truth, hope, life, and encouragement. When I encounter someone who is difficult to understand, remind me that I do not know their entire story. Help me look beyond what I can see and trust that You are able to redeem, restore, heal, and transform. May my life reflect the heart of Jesus in the way I see and treat every person You place before me.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

Today I choose to see people through the eyes of Jesus. I will not define people by their failures, labels, or present circumstances. I will see their God-given value, love with compassion, speak with grace and truth, and remember that God is still writing their story

DAY 12 — SET APART FOR GOD

Theme Scripture

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”— 1 Peter 1:15–16 (NIV)

Called to Be Different

As Jesus changes us, something begins happening inside us. The things we once desired may no longer satisfy us. The places we once enjoyed may no longer feel comfortable. The conversations we once participated in may begin to grieve our hearts. This is not because we suddenly believe we are better than other people. It is because we belong to Someone.

The Bible calls this holiness, and it simply means to be set apart. When something was holy in Scripture, it was set apart for God's purposes. It belonged to Him and in the same way, your life now belongs to Jesus. You have been called out of darkness and into His light. You have been redeemed and made new! Now God is teaching you how to live as someone who belongs completely to Him.

Set Apart Does Not Mean Separated From People

Being set apart does not mean isolating yourself from the world. Jesus did not avoid people who were lost, broken, or living far from God. He ate with them. He talked with them, He loved them and He welcomed them, but He never became like the world around Him. Jesus could enter broken places without allowing those places to change who He was. That is the life we are called to live.

We do not separate ourselves from people who need Jesus. We love them. We serve them. We pray for them and we point them toward Him, but we don't have to compromise what God has called holy in order to love people well. We can carry both **truth and love**.

A Different Kingdom

The world around us is constantly discipling us. Culture tells us what to value, what to pursue, what to celebrate, and what to accept but disciples of Jesus belong to a different Kingdom.

Culture tells us to follow our feelings. Jesus calls us to follow Him.

Culture says truth is whatever we choose. Jesus declares that He is the Truth.

Culture encourages compromise. Jesus calls us to obedience.

Culture tells us to live for ourselves. Jesus teaches us to lay down our lives.

Being set apart means we allow Jesus, not culture, to define how we live.

Romans 12:2 reminds us: ***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”***

We are not called to blend in with every pattern around us. We are called to belong completely to Jesus.

Holiness Touches Every Part of Our Lives

If our lives belong to Jesus, then no part of our lives is excluded from His lordship. Our words belong to Him, our relationships belong to Him, and our bodies belong to Him. Our time belongs to Him, our entertainment belongs to Him, our attitudes belong to Him, our decisions belong to Him, and our private lives belong to Him.

Being set apart means we stop asking only: *“Is this allowed?”* We begin asking: ***“Does this honor Jesus?”***

There may be things God asks us to lay down, not because He is trying to take something good away from us, but because He is calling us into something better.

Holiness isn’t about earning God’s love. We obey because we already belong to Him.

Grace Does Not Lower the Standard

Sometimes holiness can sound like a list of rules, but holiness begins with relationship. We do not pursue holiness so God will love us. God already loved us enough to send Jesus for us. We do not obey so we can earn salvation. Salvation is a gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience is a response to what He has already done.

Jesus said: ***“If you love me, keep my commands.”***— John 14:15 (NIV)

Obedience flows from love. Grace doesn’t give us permission to remain unchanged.

Grace brings us into relationship with Jesus, and because we belong to Him, we desire to live in a way that honors Him.

Living as Someone Who Belongs to Jesus

There should be something different about the life of a disciple. Not arrogance. Not self-righteousness. Not judgment. Jesus should be visible. We represent Him wherever we go.

Our lives should reflect that we belong to a different Kingdom, not through isolation or superiority, but through love, truth, integrity, purity, humility, and obedience.

People may not understand every choice you make and there may be times when following Jesus means standing apart from what everyone else seems to be doing. That is okay.

You were never called to blend in. You were called to belong to Jesus.

Set Apart for a Purpose

God does not simply set us apart **from** something. He sets us apart **for** something. You have been set apart for His purposes. Your life carries purpose, your gifts carry purpose, your testimony carries purpose and your relationships carry purpose. Even the ordinary places God has positioned you carry purpose.

Holiness is not about hiding from the world. It is about belonging so completely to Jesus that we can enter the world carrying His presence without allowing the world to determine who we become.

We are His and because we are His, our lives are available for His purposes.

Walking It Out

Take a few quiet minutes with God today and ask:

“Lord, is there anything in my life that doesn't reflect You?”

Do not rush to answer the question yourself. Allow Him to search your heart. Maybe He brings attention to a habit, a relationship or something you watch or listen to. Maybe an attitude, or the way you speak, or an area of compromise. Maybe something you know He has already asked you to surrender. Whatever He reveals, bring it honestly before Him.

Do not respond with shame. Respond with surrender and ask for His grace and strength to obey. Then thank Him for His grace, remembering that holiness is not about earning His love. You are set apart because you belong to Him, and your obedience is a response to that love.

Reflection

Is there any area of my life that I have not fully surrendered to the lordship of Jesus?

Are there habits, attitudes, relationships, or influences in my life that do not reflect who I am becoming in Christ?

Do my choices reflect that I belong to Jesus, even when they make me different from the culture around me?

Am I able to love people deeply without compromising what God has called holy?
What might God be asking me to surrender today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for calling me to be Yours. Thank You for loving me, redeeming me, and setting me apart for Your purposes. I do not want to simply blend into the world around me. I want my life to reflect Jesus.

Forgive me for the places where I have compromised, followed the culture around me, or held onto things You have asked me to surrender.

Holy Spirit, show me any area I have not fully surrendered to Jesus, and give me courage to lay it down. Teach me to love people without judgment while still walking in truth.

Help me live with integrity in public and in private. Let my words, relationships, choices, attitudes, and actions honor You. My life belongs to You. Use it for Your purposes.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I belong to Jesus. I have been called, redeemed, and set apart for God's purposes. I will not be shaped by the patterns of this world. I choose to live in love, truth, holiness, and obedience because my life belongs to Him.

DAY 13 — WALK BY THE SPIRIT

Theme Scripture

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” — Romans 8:14 (NIV)

Who Is Leading This Moment?

Following Jesus reaches into every part of our lives. It reaches into our conversations, relationships, decisions, attitudes, schedules, and reactions. It affects how we respond when someone frustrates us, how we handle disappointment, what we do when temptation appears, and how we behave when no one is watching.

God has given us the Holy Spirit so that we do not have to navigate these moments through our own strength or understanding.

Walking by the Spirit means continually surrendering the leadership of our lives to Him.

The question is not merely, **“Does the Holy Spirit live in me?”**

The question becomes: **“Am I allowing Him to lead me in this moment?”**

The Pull of the Flesh

Galatians 5:16 says: **“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”**

The flesh is the part of our human nature that wants to live independently from God. It wants its own way. It reacts from pride, anger, fear, selfishness, offense, impatience, or uncontrolled desire.

The flesh says:

“Defend yourself.”

“Say what you are thinking.”

“Make them pay.”

“Do what feels good.”

“You deserve to stay offended.”

“You need to control this.”

The Holy Spirit leads differently. He leads us toward love, truth, patience, forgiveness, humility, self-control, courage, and peace.

Every day, we experience moments when we must decide which influence will govern our response. Walking by the Spirit means yielding those moments to Him.

Create Space Before You React

Many reactions happen quickly.

Someone says something hurtful, and we immediately prepare our response. Plans change, and frustration rises. We receive a difficult message and begin typing before we have considered whether our words will honor Jesus.

An emotion may be real without being qualified to lead us.

Walking by the Spirit teaches us to create space between what happens and how we respond. Sometimes that space is only a few seconds.

Before answering, pause. Before sending the message, pause. Before repeating what you heard, pause. Before making a decision while angry, afraid, or offended, pause.

That pause gives us an opportunity to surrender the moment to God.

We can pray: “Holy Spirit, do not let this emotion lead me. Help me respond like Jesus.”

We are not pretending we don’t feel angry, hurt, afraid, or frustrated. We are choosing not to hand those emotions control of our words and actions.

Your First Reaction Does Not Have to Become Your Final Response

The first thought that enters your mind does not have to become the word you speak. The first emotion you feel does not have to become the action you take and the first desire that rises within you does not have to determine your decision because the Holy Spirit lives in you, you are not powerless against old reactions.

You may feel the urge to defend yourself, but the Spirit can help you answer gently.

You may feel tempted to participate in gossip, but the Spirit can help you remain quiet.

You may want to hold onto an offense, but the Spirit can lead you toward forgiveness.

You may feel afraid, but the Spirit can give you courage.

You may want to control the outcome, but the Spirit can help you surrender it to God.

Walking by the Spirit does not mean that wrong reactions never rise within us. It means we continually bring them under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Yielding Is an Act of Surrender

Romans 8:14 says that the children of God are led by the Spirit of God.

Being led requires yielding. We can't insist upon our own way while claiming to follow His. There will be moments when the Holy Spirit's direction conflicts with what we feel like doing.

We may want to speak, but He leads us to remain quiet.

We may want to walk away, but He leads us to stay and listen.

We may want to win the argument, but He leads us to protect the relationship.

We may want to expose another person's failure, but He leads us to show mercy.

We may want to avoid a difficult conversation, but He gives us courage to speak the truth in love.

Surrender becomes practical when we choose His way over our immediate impulse. A Spirit-led life is formed through many small decisions in which we quietly say: "Holy Spirit, I yield this moment to You."

Walking by the Spirit at Home

Some of the clearest evidence of a Spirit-led life appears in the places where people know us best.

It is possible to appear patient at church while remaining impatient at home. We may speak kindly to strangers while responding harshly to our own families. We may demonstrate self-control in public but release every frustration behind closed doors.

The Holy Spirit does not only want to lead us during ministry moments. He wants to lead us in our kitchens, cars, workplaces, marriages, friendships, and ordinary conversations.

Walking by the Spirit may look like apologizing when you recognize that your words were harsh.

It may mean putting down your phone and listening. It may mean refusing to bring up an old failure during a disagreement or it may mean changing your tone, controlling your words, or extending patience when you would rather withdraw.

These moments may never happen on a church platform, but they reveal whether we are allowing the character of Jesus to govern our everyday lives.

Conviction Is an Invitation

There will be times when we recognize that we did **not** respond according to the Spirit.

We spoke too quickly. We allowed anger to lead us. We acted selfishly, ignored conviction, or chose our own way. When that happens, we do not need to hide in shame.

The Holy Spirit's conviction is an invitation to return.

We can acknowledge what happened, repent, make it right when necessary, and receive God's forgiveness. Then we continue walking. If we fall, we don't stay down. We get back up and keep moving forward.

A Spirit-led life is not a life in which we never make mistakes. It is a life that remains responsive to God.

When He corrects us, we listen and when He reveals something, we surrender it. When we fall, we return to Jesus and keep growing.

A Daily Posture

Walking by the Spirit begins before a difficult moment appears.

Each morning, we can surrender the day to God: "Holy Spirit, lead my thoughts, words, attitudes, decisions, and reactions today."

Then, throughout the day, we remain aware of what is influencing us.

Is this response coming from love or offense?

Am I being led by peace or fear?

Are my words being shaped by humility or pride?

Am I responding from the character of Jesus or from an old pattern?

We don't ask these questions to become anxious or overly focused on ourselves. We ask because we want our everyday lives to reflect the One we follow.

Walking It Out

Today, practice this simple rhythm:

PAUSE → SURRENDER → RESPOND

PAUSE before reacting when your emotions are strong.

SURRENDER the emotion, thought, attitude, or desire to the Holy Spirit.

RESPOND in the way that best reflects the character of Jesus.

Pray: "Holy Spirit, I yield this moment to You. Help me respond like Jesus."

At the end of the day, reflect on one moment when you allowed the Holy Spirit to change your response.

If you recognize a moment when you did not, bring it honestly before God. Receive His forgiveness and ask Him to help you respond differently the next time.

Reflection

Which emotion or reaction most often tries to lead me?

Do I create space for the Holy Spirit before I speak or act?

Where am I most likely to respond from anger, fear, pride, impatience, or offense?

Does my behavior at home reflect the character of Jesus?

Is there a recent response for which I need to repent or apologize?

What would it look like to yield my words, attitudes, and reactions to the Holy Spirit today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit to lead me in every part of my life.

I don't want to be controlled by anger, fear, pride, offense, impatience, or selfish desire. Teach me to recognize when my emotions or old patterns are trying to govern my response.

Help me pause before I speak or act. In that moment, remind me that I have a choice. I can react from my flesh, or I can yield to Your Spirit.

Lead my thoughts, words, attitudes, decisions, and reactions. Let the character of Jesus be seen in me, especially in my home and in the relationships closest to me.

When I respond wrongly, give me humility to repent and make it right. Thank You that Your conviction does not push me into shame but draws me back into truth.

Holy Spirit, I surrender this day to You. Govern my responses and teach me to walk in step with You.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I am a child of God, and I choose to be led by His Spirit. My emotions, impulses, and old patterns do not control me. I will pause, surrender, and respond in a way that reflects Jesus. The Holy Spirit leads my thoughts, words, attitudes, decisions, and reactions as I walk with Him today.

DAY 14 — EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Theme Scripture

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...” — Acts 1:8 (NIV)

From Led to Empowered

Yesterday, we learned what it means to walk by the Spirit. We learned to pause, ask, listen, and obey as the Holy Spirit leads us through everyday life but the Holy Spirit does more than lead us.

He empowers us.

Before Jesus sent His disciples into the world, He told them not to begin the mission in their own strength.

He said: *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”* — Luke 24:49 (NIV)

Think about who Jesus was speaking to. These were His disciples and they had walked with Him. They had heard His teachings, and they had witnessed His miracles. They had seen Him crucified and risen from the dead and knew the message they were supposed to carry yet Jesus still told them: **Wait.**

Knowing what to do was not enough. They needed the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish what Jesus was sending them to do. So do we.

The Holy Spirit in You and Upon You

When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us.

Paul wrote:

“When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”
— Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

This is why we can already walk with the Holy Spirit, hear His leading, experience His conviction, and allow Him to form the character of Christ within us but Scripture also speaks about believers being filled with the Holy Spirit and receiving power for witness and ministry.

Jesus told His disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

The Holy Spirit **within us** transforms our lives and the Holy Spirit **upon and through us** empowers us to participate in the work of Jesus.

These are not two different Holy Spirits. There is one Holy Spirit, and we are learning to surrender more fully to His presence and power. We don't want only to know that the Holy Spirit lives within us. We want to be people through whom the Holy Spirit is free to work.

Pentecost Changed Everything

The disciples obeyed Jesus and waited.

Then Acts 2 tells us: ***"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..."*** — Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Everything changed.

The same disciples who had been hiding in fear began proclaiming Jesus boldly.

Peter, who had denied knowing Jesus, stood before a crowd and preached Christ.

Thousands responded to the gospel. The Church was born and that was only the beginning.

Throughout Acts, ordinary believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to do things they could never have accomplished through human ability alone.

They spoke with boldness and witnessed about Jesus. They prayed for the sick and ministered healing. They received supernatural wisdom. They were led into divine appointments.

They operated in spiritual gifts and endured opposition, and they carried the gospel into new places.

Acts is not a story about extraordinarily talented people. It is a story about **ordinary people empowered by an extraordinary God.**

Power With a Purpose

The word *power* can easily capture our attention, but Jesus told us why the power would come: ***"You will receive power... and you will be my witnesses."***

The power of the Holy Spirit is not given so we can appear spiritual, and it isn't given so we can impress people. It isn't given so we can build a reputation around ourselves.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to reveal Jesus.

When someone is healed, Jesus receives the glory. When someone receives encouragement through a spiritual gift, Jesus receives the glory. When we have courage to share the gospel, Jesus receives the glory. When God gives us wisdom beyond our natural understanding, Jesus receives the glory. When a life is transformed, Jesus receives the glory.

The Holy Spirit does not draw attention away from Jesus but **points people toward Him.**

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to believers. **1 Corinthians 12** describes gifts such as *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues*.

Paul explains:

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)

Notice the purpose: **For the common good.**

Spiritual gifts are not trophies proving how spiritual someone is. They are gifts from God meant to serve people and build up the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit may give you insight that encourages someone or give you unusual faith to pray in a difficult situation.

He may lead you to pray for healing or give you a prophetic word that strengthens, encourages, or comforts someone. He may give wisdom you could not have produced on your own but whatever gift He gives, the goal remains the same:

Love people. Build them up. Point them to Jesus.

Love Must Lead

Paul's teaching about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 flows directly into 1 Corinthians 13, the chapter about love.

Spiritual gifts without love can become noise. Power without love can become performance. Knowledge without love can become pride. We never want to become more excited about being used by God than we are about the person standing in front of us.

The Holy Spirit does not empower us to make people into ministry projects. He empowers us to love them. Jesus was moved with compassion so should we be.

Before asking: **“How can God use me?”** we can also ask: **“How can I love this person well?”**
The gifts of the Spirit should always operate through the character of Christ.

You Do Not Have to Be a Pastor

Sometimes believers assume supernatural ministry belongs to a special group of people like Pastors, Evangelist, Prophets, Missionaries or Ministry leaders but Acts tells a different story. God used ordinary believers.

Stephen was not one of the twelve apostles, yet Scripture describes him as full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

Philip carried the gospel into Samaria and God worked powerfully through his ministry.

Ananias was simply described as a disciple when God sent him to pray for Saul. The early Church was filled with ordinary people who became available to an extraordinary God.

You do not need a platform to be used by the Holy Spirit. What you need is to surrender.

“Holy Spirit, I am available.”

That prayer can change the way you walk into a grocery store, workplace, restaurant, neighborhood, church service, or family gathering.

Any place can become a place of ministry when a surrendered believer is listening to the Holy Spirit.

Ask to Be Filled

Jesus taught His followers to ask the Father.

Jesus said:

“How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

— Luke 11:13 (NIV)

We don’t ask because God is reluctant. We ask because we are dependent.

We recognize: **I cannot accomplish the mission of Jesus in my own strength.**

Maybe you already know what it means to experience the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. Keep surrendering and keep asking Him to fill you. Keep depending upon Him.

Acts shows believers who had already experienced Pentecost being filled again.

Acts 4:31 says: **“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”**

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not about having one experience that we spend the rest of our lives talking about. It is about living continually surrendered and available to Him.

If you have never intentionally asked God to fill and empower you through His Holy Spirit, you can ask Him today.

You do not need to manufacture an experience, and you don’t need to copy what happened to someone else. You do not need to prove anything, simply come to your Father with faith and surrender.

“Father, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Empower me to be a witness for Jesus and to serve others through the gifts You choose to give.”

Then receive with an open heart and trust Him.

Do Not Chase an Experience

People experience the Holy Spirit in different ways. Some may feel His presence powerfully, yet some may experience deep peace. Some may weep yet some may experience joy. Some may pray in tongues, and some may feel nothing dramatic at all.

Our faith is NOT based on a feeling, and we do not measure someone's relationship with God by whether their experience looks like ours. We seek **the Holy Spirit**, not an experience. We don't chase manifestations. We pursue Jesus and welcome everything the Holy Spirit wants to do in and through us.

The evidence of a Spirit-filled life is not merely what happens in a moment of prayer. It is seen in a life increasingly surrendered to Jesus and available for His purposes.

Step Out and Trust Him

There comes a point when we must stop only learning about being used by God and become willing to step out. You may sense that you should encourage someone. So, step out. You may feel prompted to pray for someone, then simply ask if you can pray. You may sense God giving you something encouraging to share, so share it humbly. You may have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus. Speak.

You may sense the Holy Spirit leading you to pray for healing. Pray. You may feel completely inadequate, good because that reminds you where the power comes from. You don't have to create something supernatural and force God to move. You don't have to make something happen.

Your responsibility is obedience. The power belongs to God.

The Holy Spirit Wants to Work Through You

Imagine what could happen if ordinary disciples began each day saying: **"Holy Spirit, I am available. Use me."**

Not only inside church buildings but everywhere. At home, at work, at school., at the grocery store, at the coffee shop, in the neighborhood., at the dinner table or wherever God has placed us. This is how the book of Acts moved beyond the walls of Jerusalem. Spirit-empowered believers carried Jesus wherever they went and that same mission continues.

Yesterday you learned to say: **"Holy Spirit, lead me."**

Today add: **"Holy Spirit, empower me and use me."**

Walking It Out

Set aside a few quiet minutes today.
Begin by surrendering yourself to Jesus.

Then pray:

“Father, thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit. I cannot fulfill the mission of Jesus through my own strength. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Empower me to be a witness for Jesus. Give me the gifts You desire me to carry and teach me to use them in love. Holy Spirit, I am available. Work through me.”

Then remain quiet for a few moments. You don’t have to manufacture anything.
Simply receive and when you get up, remain available.

Watch for opportunities to encourage, pray, serve, share Jesus, or respond when the Holy Spirit prompts you. The purpose of being filled is not simply to have an encounter with God.

It is to carry His presence into the world.

Reflection

Do I understand the difference between the Holy Spirit living within me and being empowered by Him for witness and ministry?

Have I been trying to accomplish spiritual things through my own strength?

Do I desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit so I can serve others and point them toward Jesus?
Am I willing to be used by God even when I feel inadequate?

Am I seeking the Holy Spirit Himself, or am I chasing a particular experience?

What might change if I began every day saying, **“Holy Spirit, I am available. Use me”**

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You that I do not have to follow Jesus or fulfill His mission through my own strength. I surrender myself to You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Empower me to be a witness for Jesus.

Give me boldness when I am afraid and wisdom when I do not know what to say.

Give me faith when a situation looks impossible. Give me the spiritual gifts You desire me to carry and teach me to use them with humility and love.

Guard my heart from pride, performance, comparison, and the desire to impress people.

I do not want attention drawn to me. **I want people to see Jesus.**

Holy Spirit, I am available. Work through my words. Work through my hands. Work through my prayers. Work through my testimony and my life. Use me wherever You choose. I will not depend upon my ability. I will depend upon Your power.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Declaration

The Holy Spirit lives in me, leads me, and empowers me. I will not depend upon my own strength to fulfill the mission of Jesus. I am available to the Holy Spirit and willing to be used by God. I will receive His gifts with humility, serve others in love, and boldly point people toward Jesus. The power belongs to God, and the glory belongs to Jesus.

WEEK THREE

Living Like Jesus

Representing Jesus to the World

Jesus never intended for His disciples to keep their faith to themselves.

As we follow Him and become more like Him, our lives begin to reflect His heart, His compassion, and His love. The transformation taking place within us is meant to overflow into the lives of others.

Every day is filled with opportunities to represent Christ.

At home, at work, in your neighborhood, at the grocery store, the gas station and in the classroom. Wherever you go, you carry the name of Jesus.

This week is about living as His ambassador. You will discover what it means to love people as Jesus loved, pray with confidence, walk in the authority He has given you, share your faith, serve others with humility, and help make disciples who make disciples.

You don't have to do this with your own strength.

The same Holy Spirit who transformed the first disciples lives in you. He will guide you, empower you, and give you everything you need to faithfully represent Jesus wherever He sends you.

As you begin this final week, make yourself available to Him each day.

Ask Him to open your eyes to the people around you.

Listen to His voice.

Follow His leading.

And watch what He will do through a life fully surrendered to Him.

Now...

Let's go and live like Jesus.

DAY 15 — YOU ARE HIS AMBASSADOR

Theme Scripture

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

You Represent the King

An ambassador carries an extraordinary responsibility.

When a king sends an ambassador into another territory, that ambassador does not go representing himself. He represents the king who sent him. He carries the king’s message and the king’s interests. He speaks on behalf of the kingdom and when he has been authorized to act, he does not act with his own authority. He carries the authority of the one who sent him. Scripture says that we are **Christ’s ambassadors**.

That means wherever we go, we represent King Jesus. We do not go into the world carrying our own message, we carry His.

We do not represent our own kingdom, we represent His and we do not go in our own strength or authority. We have been sent by the King.

Children of the King

There is something even more remarkable about the identity God has given us. We aren’t merely ambassadors serving a distant king.

Through Jesus Christ, we have been brought into the family of God. We are children of the King.

John 1:12 says: **“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”**

Think about what that means. You belong to Him and carry His name. You represent His family. and you are loved by the King who sends you. We do not serve God hoping someday He will accept us. We serve from a place of belonging and we have been redeemed, adopted, and welcomed into His family.

Now our Father sends us into the world to represent His Son.

The Authority of the King

Before Jesus sent His disciples into the world, He established where the authority came from.

Jesus said: ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”***— Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

The authority belongs to Jesus!

Authority That Has Been Given

Imagine a police officer standing in the middle of a busy intersection. Cars are moving toward him that are far larger and more powerful than he is, yet the officer raises his hand and traffic stops.

Why? It is not because the officer is physically strong enough to stop the cars. They stop because of the **authority he has been given**. His authority comes from something greater than himself.

In the same way, our authority as believers is not found in our own strength, personality, experience, position, or ability. It has been given to us by Jesus.

Jesus told His disciples: ***“I have given you authority...”*** — Luke 10:19 (NIV)

The disciples were not being told to create their own authority. They were being entrusted with His and that is why our confidence is never in ourselves. Our confidence is in the King who sent us.

We do not stand before darkness trying to create authority of our own. We stand under the authority of Jesus Christ and in the victory He has already won. That does not make us arrogant. It makes us confident in Christ and just as a police officer cannot use his authority however he chooses, we do not use the authority of Jesus for our own purposes.

We remain under the authority of the One whose authority we carry.

Authority and Submission Belong Together

Kingdom authority is never independent from the King. We can't claim the authority of Jesus while refusing to submit to Jesus. An ambassador does not create the king's decrees. He does not change the king's message according to his own opinions. He does not use the king's authority to accomplish his own purposes. A faithful ambassador represents what the king has said and carries out what the king has authorized. The same is true for us.

We live under the authority of Jesus. We obey His Word and follow His leading. We represent His character and when He sends us, we can move forward with confidence because we are not going in our own name. We go in His.

The more we understand His authority, the more seriously we take His Word. We do not use His name to accomplish our own desires but surrender our desires to His. We don't decide what is true and then ask Him to support it. We submit ourselves to what He has already spoken. We do not represent anger, pride, manipulation, or control and call it spiritual authority. We represent Jesus through His character such as: Truth, Love, Humility, Compassion, Courage, Holiness and Obedience.

Jesus never needs us to become harsh to demonstrate that He is powerful.
A true ambassador carries both the **authority and the heart of the King**.

Your Everyday World Is Your Assignment

You may never stand behind a pulpit and you may never travel to another nation. You may never have a ministry title but every day you enter places where Jesus desires to be represented, such as: Your home, your workplace, your neighborhood, the grocery store, the restaurant, the school, the gym, the waiting room, the conversation with a friend or the interaction with a stranger. These ordinary places become opportunities to represent an extraordinary King.

Being an ambassador does not mean turning every conversation into a sermon. Sometimes representing Jesus looks like patience, it looks like integrity. Sometimes it looks like kindness when someone expects irritation. Sometimes it looks like refusing to participate in gossip. Sometimes it looks like treating someone with dignity when others overlook them. Sometimes it means speaking truth with love and sometimes God will open a door for you to speak about Jesus.

The question becomes: **If someone formed their understanding of King Jesus by the way I represented Him today, what would they believe He is like?**

Carry the King's Message

An ambassador must know the message of the one who sent them. Our message is not complicated.... God loves people. Sin separates us from Him. Jesus came to save. He died for our sins and rose again. Forgiveness is available. Freedom is available. New life is available. Reconciliation with God is available through Jesus Christ and that is the Gospel.

Paul explains the message surrounding our identity as ambassadors:

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." — 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV)

We carry a message of reconciliation. We are not sent into the world merely to tell people everything that is wrong with them. We carry the good news that through Jesus, people can be reconciled to God and that message should shape the way we represent Him.

You Do Not Represent Yourself

There will be moments when representing Jesus means laying down the need to defend yourself.

An ambassador's primary concern is not: *"How do I make myself look good?"*

The question is: **"How do I represent my King well?"**

That changes the way we respond when someone is rude. It changes the way we conduct ourselves when no one is watching. It changes the way we speak about people who disagree with us. It changes the way we handle conflict, and it changes the way we use social media. It changes the way we behave at home, where the people closest to us see who we really are. Our lives should not point people toward us. They should point people toward Jesus.

John the Baptist expressed this posture beautifully: ***"He must become greater; I must become less."*** — John 3:30 (NIV)

An ambassador understands: This **is not about making my name known. It is about making His name known.**

Carrying Heaven Into Ordinary Places

You have spent the first two weeks of this journey learning what it means to follow Jesus and become more like Him and now the direction begins shifting outward.

You have something to carry. You carry the love of Christ and the truth of His Word. You carry the message of reconciliation and the testimony of what Jesus has done in your life. And through the Holy Spirit, you have been empowered to participate in His work. You do not need to manufacture ministry opportunities. You simply need to recognize that wherever God has placed you, **you represent the King.** Tomorrow may look ordinary but ordinary places become Kingdom assignments when an ambassador of Jesus walks into them.

Walking It Out

As you begin your day, pray: **"King Jesus, help me represent You well today."**

Think about the places you will go and the people you are likely to encounter.

Ask yourself: **“What would it look like to represent Jesus well here?”**

Pay attention to your words, attitudes, reactions, and choices.

Before responding in a difficult moment, remember: **I represent the King.**

When you face something that makes you feel small, powerless, or afraid, remember the police officer standing in the intersection. His confidence is not in his physical strength but in the authority entrusted to him.

Your confidence is not in yourself either. **Your confidence is in King Jesus.** You do not have to force a spiritual conversation; you can simply remain available.

If God opens a door, walk through it. At the end of the day, ask: **“Did my life give people an accurate picture of Jesus today?”**

Where you represented Him well, thank Him and where you did not, receive His grace, make it right where necessary, and keep growing.

Reflection

Do I think of myself as an ambassador of Jesus in my everyday life?

What changes when I remember that I am both a child of the King and a representative of His Kingdom?

Do I understand that my authority comes from Jesus and not from my own strength?

Am I living under the authority of Jesus in the same areas where I desire to carry His authority?

Do my words, attitudes, choices, and relationships accurately represent the character of the King?

Have I ever confused spiritual authority with getting my own way rather than submitting to the authority of Christ?

If someone formed their understanding of Jesus by watching my life, what would they believe He is like?

Where has God already positioned me to represent Him today?

Prayer

King Jesus,

Thank You for saving me, bringing me into the family of God, and giving my life purpose.

Thank You that I do not go into the world representing myself. I represent You!

Thank You that I do not have to depend upon my own strength.

All authority belongs to You, and I choose to live surrendered beneath Your authority.

Teach me to carry Your name well. Help me never confuse Your authority with my own power, opinions, or desires. Keep me humble, submitted and obedient. Let my words represent You.

Let my attitudes and choices represent You. Let the way I treat people represent You.

Give me courage when You open a door to speak about You, and wisdom to know when to listen, serve, encourage, or simply show kindness.

When I feel intimidated or not enough, remind me that my confidence is not in myself. My confidence is in the King who sent me. I want people to encounter something of Your heart when they encounter me. Thank You that I am Your child, Your representative, and Your ambassador. Wherever You send me, help me faithfully carry the heart, message, and authority of the King.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Declaration

I am a child of the King and an ambassador of Jesus Christ. All authority belongs to Him, and I live surrendered under His authority. I do not go in my own name, strength, or power. I represent His Kingdom, carry His message, and confidently stand in the authority He has given. Wherever He places me today, I will represent my King with truth, love, humility, courage, and obedience.

DAY 16 — RESPOND TO THE PROMPTING

Theme Scripture

“The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’” — Acts 8:29 (NIV)

God Is Already Working

One of the most freeing truths we can learn about ministry is this: We are not responsible for making something happen.

God is already working in people’s lives. Long before we enter a conversation, send a message, offer encouragement, or pray for someone, the Holy Spirit may already be preparing that person’s heart.

Our responsibility is not to manufacture a spiritual moment. Our responsibility is to remain available when the Holy Spirit directs our attention toward someone.

A person’s name may suddenly come to mind. You may feel an unusual concern for someone. You may sense that you should check on a friend, encourage a stranger, offer practical help, or ask someone whether they need prayer.

These promptings may seem small, but a simple act of obedience can place us directly in the middle of something God is already doing.

Go to the Chariot

Acts 8 gives us a beautiful picture of responding to the Holy Spirit.

Philip had been preaching the gospel in Samaria when an angel of the Lord directed him toward a desert road. While he was there, Philip saw an Ethiopian official traveling in a chariot.

Then the Spirit told Philip:

“Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

God did not explain the entire encounter. He did not tell Philip what the man was reading, what question he would ask, or what would happen afterward.

He simply told Philip to go near the chariot.

Philip responded and as he approached, he heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked: “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man answered: “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?”

Then the purpose of the prompting became clear.

Acts 8:35 (NIV): ***“Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.”***

Philip did not create the opportunity. God was already working in the man’s heart. Philip simply responded when the Spirit directed him toward the person.

The First Step May Seem Small

Sometimes we hesitate because we want to know exactly what God is doing before we respond.

Why am I supposed to contact them?

What am I supposed to say?

What if they think this is strange?

What if nothing happens?

Philip didn’t receive the entire plan. His first instruction was simply: “Go near.” The first step may be equally simple for us.

Send the message.

Make a call.

Walk across the room.

Offer encouragement.

Ask whether the person is okay.

Offer practical help.

Ask permission to pray.

You don’t need to understand everything God may be doing before taking a simple, loving, and appropriate step.

Often, greater understanding comes after we respond.

Recognizing an Outward Prompting

Earlier in this journey, you learned that God's leading agrees with His Word and reflects the character of Jesus. Day 16 is where we begin applying that foundation to the way we minister to others.

When someone comes strongly to mind, pause and ask: "Holy Spirit, are You directing me toward this person?"

Consider whether the action you are sensing reflects love, truth, encouragement, compassion, generosity, service, or prayer.

The Holy Spirit will never lead us to manipulate, shame, control, embarrass, or frighten someone. His work reflects the character of Jesus.

We do not need to analyze a loving prompting until we talk ourselves out of it. If the action agrees with Scripture, honors the person, and can be offered humbly, we can respond.

Do Not Automatically Dismiss It

Promptings are often easy to dismiss. You may think:

"That is probably just me."

"They do not need to hear from me."

"Someone else will help them."

"I do not want this to feel awkward."

"What if I am wrong?"

Sometimes fear sounds reasonable. We can talk ourselves out of responding before we ever take the first step.

Not every thought that enters our minds is a message from God, but we also don't want fear or discomfort to become an excuse for ignoring a loving prompting. If someone comes to mind and you pray for them, you have done something good and if you send an encouraging message grounded in truth, you have offered kindness. If you check on someone and discover they are doing well, you have still shown that they matter and if you offer prayer and they decline, you can honor their answer without embarrassment.

We are all learning. We can remain biblical, loving, humble, and teachable without becoming paralyzed by the fear of making a mistake.

Respond With Humility

Following the Holy Spirit should never make us controlling, forceful, or spiritually intimidating.

There is a significant difference between saying: “God told me this about you.”

and saying: “I felt like I should encourage you. Would it be okay if I shared something?”

We might say: “You came to mind today, and I wanted to check on you.”

“I felt prompted to ask whether you need prayer. Would that be okay?”

“I have been thinking about you. How are you really doing?”

Humility leaves room for the other person. Love does not pressure.

We do not need to exaggerate what we sensed or make the moment sound more supernatural than it was. We do not need to prove that God spoke to us. We can offer what we believe the Holy Spirit has placed on our hearts and allow the other person the freedom to respond.

Ask Permission

A prompting from the Holy Spirit does not remove another person’s dignity or boundaries. Before sharing something personal, ask permission.

Before praying, ask permission and before touching someone or laying a hand on them, ask permission and if they say no, honor their answer graciously.

Our desire to obey God never gives us permission to pressure another person. Jesus treated people with dignity, and Spirit-led ministry should do the same.

Sometimes the most loving response is simply: “Of course. I understand.”

We can continue praying privately without making the person feel uncomfortable or disrespected.

You Are Not Responsible for the Result

Philip was responsible for approaching the chariot, but God was responsible for what happened in the man’s heart.

The same is true for us. You may encourage someone and never know how much they needed it. You may pray and not immediately see anything change. You may offer help and discover that it is not needed. You may share what God placed on your heart and receive very little response.

That does not automatically mean you failed. You are responsible for responding with obedience, humility, and love and the outcome belongs to God.

This removes the pressure to make someone respond, force a spiritual conversation, or produce an impressive result. We don't have to make something happen.

We simply make ourselves available.

Availability Changes Ordinary Moments

A normal day is filled with people who may be carrying needs we can't see.

Someone may be grieving quietly or they may feel forgotten. Someone may be praying for confirmation that God sees them, or someone may need encouragement before making a difficult decision. Someone may need another believer to remind them of truth.

The Holy Spirit knows what is happening in every heart. When He directs our attention toward someone, He may be inviting us to participate in an answer to prayer we know nothing about.

One message can remind someone that they are not alone. One word of encouragement can strengthen someone who feels ready to give up and one offer of prayer can open a conversation about Jesus. One act of practical help can reveal the love of God.

The action may seem ordinary, but our availability allows God to work through ordinary moments.

Keep It About Jesus

Responding to a prompting is not about proving that we are spiritual or demonstrating how accurately we hear God. The focus should remain on Jesus and the person He loves.

This is a reminder that we do not need recognition. We do not need credit, and we do not need the person to tell everyone that God used us. We are simply servants who were available.

If the person is encouraged, Jesus receives the glory. If a prayer is answered, Jesus receives the glory. If a door opens for the gospel, Jesus receives the glory and if nothing visible happens, we still trust Him with what we offered.

Our goal is not to become impressive but to become available.

Walking It Out

Today, begin with this prayer: **“Holy Spirit, if there is someone You want me to encourage, contact, help, or pray for, bring that person to my attention.”**

Then remain available. If someone comes clearly to mind, do not immediately dismiss it. Ask whether the action you are sensing agrees with Scripture, reflects the character of Jesus, and honors the person.

Then take one simple step, send the message. Make the call. Offer encouragement or check on the person. Ask if they need prayer.

Respond humbly, ask permission when appropriate, and leave the outcome with God.

At the end of the day, ask: **“Did I respond when the Holy Spirit directed me toward someone?”**

Reflection

Am I available when the Holy Spirit directs my attention toward another person?

What fears most often cause me to dismiss a prompting?

Do I feel that I must understand the entire situation before taking a simple step?

Can I respond without pressuring, controlling, or exaggerating what I sensed?

Am I willing to ask permission and honor another person’s boundaries?

Do I believe obedience can matter even when I never see the result?

Is there someone God may be bringing to my attention today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that You are already working in the lives of people around me. I do not want fear, insecurity, or discomfort to keep me from participating in what You are doing. When the Holy Spirit directs my attention toward someone, give me courage to respond.

Help me recognize the simple steps You place before me. Teach me to encourage, pray, serve, and speak with humility and love.

Guard me from becoming forceful, controlling, or spiritually intimidating. Remind me to ask permission, honor boundaries, and treat every person with dignity.

I release the outcome to You. I don't have to make anything happen or prove that You spoke to me. My responsibility is to remain available and respond faithfully.

Use my words, prayers, messages, and ordinary acts of kindness to point people toward Jesus.

Holy Spirit, I am available. Direct me toward the people You want me to love today.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I am available to the Holy Spirit. When He directs my attention toward someone, I will respond with courage, humility, and love. I will honor people, ask permission, and refuse to pressure or manipulate. I am responsible for faithful obedience; the outcome belongs to God. I will take the simple step He places before me and trust Him to work through it.

DAY 17 — SEE THE ONE

Theme Scripture

“When he saw him, he took pity on him.” — Luke 10:33 (NIV)

Look Up

We live in a world that moves quickly.

We have places to go, things to accomplish, messages to answer, responsibilities waiting, and schedules to keep. It is possible to move through an entire day surrounded by people without truly paying attention to anyone.

Jesus lived differently. He ministered to crowds, yet He continually noticed individuals.

He saw Zacchaeus sitting in a tree.

He heard blind Bartimaeus crying out from the roadside.

He stopped for the woman who touched the edge of His garment.

He welcomed children when His disciples thought He was too busy for them.

Jesus saw the one and as His disciples, we are learning to do the same.

Sometimes following Jesus begins with something incredibly simple: Look up, put down the phone and slow your pace. Pay attention.

People all around us are carrying stories, burdens, questions, disappointments, and needs we may never recognize unless we become present enough to notice.

Everyone Saw Him, but Only One Stopped

Jesus told a story about a man who was attacked by robbers and left wounded beside the road. A priest came along and saw the man, but he passed by. Then a Levite came. He also saw the man and passed by. Finally, a Samaritan approached.

Scripture says: **“When he saw him, he took pity on him.”** — Luke 10:33 (NIV)

All three men could see, but only one allowed what he saw to affect what he did.

The Samaritan stopped.

That is an important lesson for disciples. We can recognize that someone is hurting and still keep walking. We can notice a need and convince ourselves that someone else will handle it. We can become so focused on where we are going that we miss the person directly in front of us.

Seeing the one is more than recognizing that someone exists. It is allowing compassion to interrupt our indifference.

Sometimes the Interruption Is the Assignment

Many of Jesus' ministry moments happened while He was on His way somewhere else.

In Mark 5, Jesus was traveling to the home of Jairus, whose daughter was dying. The situation was urgent, yet while Jesus was walking through the crowd, a woman who had suffered with bleeding for twelve years reached out and touched His clothes. Jesus stopped.

Imagine the pressure of that moment. A desperate father was waiting. A little girl was dying, and a crowd surrounded Him, yet Jesus recognized that someone in the crowd needed His attention.

What looked like an interruption became ministry.

Our schedules and responsibilities matter. There are legitimate places we need to be and important things we must accomplish. But if we are never willing to be interrupted, we may miss some of the people God places along the way.

Sometimes the interruption is the assignment.

Give People Your Attention

Noticing someone is only the beginning. Love is often expressed through the attention we are willing to give.

When someone begins talking, are we truly listening? Or are we checking our phone, looking around the room, thinking about what we will say next, or searching for a way to end the conversation?

Jesus did not rush people through their stories, instead He asked questions and listened. He allowed people to speak and called people by name. Before trying to solve someone's problem, we can learn to be present.

Look at them and listen to what they are saying. Pay attention to what they may be struggling to say.

Ask: “How are you really doing?” or “Would you like to talk?”

“Is there anything I can do?”

Sometimes giving someone our full attention is one of the most loving things we can do.

See the Person, Not Just the Problem

When we notice someone hurting, it can be easy to focus immediately on fixing the problem, but people are not projects. Sometimes what someone needs first is not an answer. They need to know that they have been heard.

We may be quick to offer advice, explain what we think they should do, or share a similar story from our own lives. Those responses may have a place, but compassion listens before it instructs.

We do not have to know how to fix everything, but we can sit with someone in grief. We can listen while someone processes disappointment and we can acknowledge another person’s pain without rushing to explain it.

We can say: “I’m sorry you are walking through this.” or “I’m here with you.” “Would you like me to pray with you?”

Presence communicates something powerful: “You are not an inconvenience. You matter.”

It means becoming comfortable with moments of silence instead of feeling that we must fill every space with advice.

Compassion often begins before we ever say a word.

Sometimes people do not need another person to fix them. They need someone willing to sit beside them long enough to remind them:

“You are seen.”

“You matter.”

“You are not alone.”

Walking It Out

Today, intentionally slow down enough to see the one. Do not go searching for a dramatic ministry opportunity. Pay attention to the people already around you.

Look up from your phone, notice the person serving you, pay attention to the quiet person in the room.

Listen when someone begins telling you how they are doing. If someone seems discouraged, do not immediately walk past.

Ask:

“Jesus, what is mine to do here?”

Then be willing to stop if He gives you something to do. Maybe you listen, maybe you encourage or maybe you help. Maybe you pray. Or maybe you simply look someone in the eyes, call them by name, and give them your full attention.

At the end of the day, ask: “Who did I truly see today?”

Reflection

Do I move through my days too quickly to notice the people around me?

What distractions keep me from giving people my full attention?

When someone interrupts my plans, do I immediately become irritated, or do I consider that the interruption may be an opportunity to love?

Do I listen with genuine attention, or am I usually thinking about what I will say next?

Do I rush to fix people’s problems when they may first need someone to listen?

Do I sometimes feel responsible for meeting every need instead of asking Jesus what is mine to do?

Who might God be asking me to notice today?

Prayer

Jesus,

Thank You that You were never too busy to notice the person in front of You.

Teach me to slow down and pay attention. Lift my eyes from my schedule, responsibilities, distractions, and concerns so I can be fully present with the people You place in my path.

Forgive me for the times I noticed someone hurting and continued walking. Forgive me for the conversations I have rushed and the people I have only half-listened to.

Give me compassion that is willing to stop. Teach me to listen without immediately trying to fix everything. Help me recognize when an interruption may be an opportunity to love.

Give me wisdom to know what is mine to do and freedom from believing I must meet every need. I want to be present, available, and compassionate. May the people I encounter know that they matter because I gave them the dignity of my attention.

Help me look up, slow down, and see the one.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Declaration

I will slow down and give my attention to the people God places before me. I will not allow busyness or distraction to make me unavailable. I do not have to meet every need, but I will look up, listen, remain present, and ask Jesus, "What is mine to do here?" One person matters to God, and today I will take time to see the one.

DAY 18 — SHARE WHAT JESUS HAS DONE

Theme Scripture

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.”— Mark 5:19 (NIV)

You Have a Story

You may not know how to answer every question about the Bible and may not consider yourself an evangelist. You may not feel confident explaining complicated theology but if you have encountered Jesus, you have something you can share.

You have a testimony.

Your testimony is simply the story of what Jesus has done in your life. Maybe Jesus rescued you from a life far from God or maybe He brought you through a season of fear. Maybe He restored something that was broken or maybe He freed you from an addiction or destructive pattern. Maybe He healed a wounded place in your heart or maybe He answered a prayer when you had almost stopped believing. Maybe He gave you peace in the middle of circumstances that did not change or maybe you grew up knowing Jesus, and your testimony is the faithfulness of God throughout your life. Your story does not have to be dramatic to be powerful. The power of your testimony is not found in how shocking your past was.

The power is found in Jesus.

Tell Them What He Has Done

In Mark 5, Jesus encountered a man whose life had been completely overtaken by demonic torment. Jesus set him free and afterward, the man wanted to travel with Jesus but Jesus gave him another assignment:

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.”

Jesus did not tell him: *Wait until you understand everything.*

He did not say: *Go study for several years and then you will be ready.*

Jesus told him to go and tell what the Lord had done and that is exactly what the man did.

Mark 5:20 says: ***“So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.”***

He knew what his life had been like. He knew he had encountered Jesus and he knew he was no longer the same. That was enough to begin telling people about Him.

Jesus Is the Hero

A testimony is not an opportunity to make ourselves impressive but an opportunity to make Jesus known.

Revelation 12:11 says: ***“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”***

Notice what comes first: **the blood of the Lamb**. Jesus is the center of our testimony. Our story matters because it points people toward Him. When sharing your testimony, resist the temptation to spend most of your time describing everything that went wrong and only a few seconds talking about Jesus. The darkest parts of your past are not the hero of your story. Your mistakes are not the hero, and your pain is not the hero and even your transformation is not the hero.

Jesus is the hero.

Your testimony should leave people thinking more about Him than about you.

Keep It Simple

Sharing your testimony does not need to be complicated. A simple framework can help:

BEFORE → JESUS → AFTER

Before

What was happening in your life before Jesus met you in this area?

Keep this part honest but brief. You don’t need to share every detail.

Jesus

How did Jesus meet you?

What truth did He show you?

What did He do?

How did you begin trusting or following Him?

This is the most important part because this is where your story points directly to Christ.

After

What changed?

What has Jesus done in your life since then?

What are you learning?

How are you different because of Him?

Your testimony might sound something like: *"I spent years carrying fear about things I couldn't control. I loved God, but I was constantly anxious about what might happen. As I began surrendering those fears to Jesus and learning to trust what He said instead of what I felt, something began changing in me. My circumstances didn't always change, but I did. Jesus has given me a peace I didn't have before."*

Simple, honest and Jesus-centered. You are not trying to impress someone.

You are simply telling them: **"This is what Jesus has done for me."**

You Have More Than One Testimony

Sometimes we think our testimony is only the story of how we first came to Jesus.

That is such an important testimony, but God continues working in our lives.

Over time, you may have many stories of His faithfulness. You can testify about a prayer He answered or a time He provided. You can testify about a relationship He restored or a season when He carried you through grief or a moment when He gave you courage or a stronghold that He helped you overcome. You can share a truth from Scripture that changed the way you lived or

a time He redirected your life or simply a season when you learned to forgive, or a moment when you experienced His peace.

These smaller testimonies can become natural bridges in everyday conversations.

Someone may tell you they are afraid, and you can say: **"I understand that. I walked through a season of fear too. Can I tell you what Jesus taught me?"**

Someone may tell you they are struggling to forgive, and you may have a story of how God helped you release an offense.

You do not need to force your story into every conversation. Listen first.

Then, when your story genuinely connects with what someone is walking through, it can become a bridge pointing them toward Jesus.

Your Testimony Opens the Door to the Gospel

Our testimony is powerful, but our testimony is not the gospel. Our testimonies tell people: **“This is what Jesus has done in my life.”**

The gospel tells them: **“This is what Jesus has done for all of us.”**

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Sin separates us from God, but God loved us so deeply that He sent His Son. Jesus lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Through Jesus, forgiveness and reconciliation with God are available. We can't earn salvation through good works. We receive it by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

When a conversation opens the door, our testimony can lead naturally to the question that matters most: **“Can I tell you what Jesus has done for you too?”**

You do not have to deliver a perfect presentation. Just tell the truth about Jesus and trust the Holy Spirit to work in the person's heart.

Tell the Truth

Never exaggerate your testimony to make it sound more powerful. God does not need our embellishment.

If healing happened gradually, say it happened gradually. If you are still walking through part of the struggle, say so. If God gave you peace even though the circumstances did not change, tell that truth. If you do not understand why one prayer was answered differently from another, you do not need to pretend you understand.

A testimony can honestly say: **“I am still walking through this, but Jesus has been faithful to me in the middle of it.”**

That is still a testimony. Authenticity matters and people don't need polished stories that make the Christian life sound perfect.

They need to encounter a real Jesus working in the lives of real people.

Share, Don't Pressure

Remember what you have been learning throughout this week.

People are not projects. Listen before you speak and your testimony should be offered, not forced.

A natural opportunity might sound like: **“I went through something similar. Would you mind if**

I shared what Jesus did in my life?" and if they say yes, then share. Keep it relevant to the conversation. Keep it reasonably brief and pay attention to the person while you are talking. You do not need to tell your entire life story every time you share your testimony. Sometimes two or three minutes is enough.

Leave room for questions, for conversation and room for the Holy Spirit. Leave the person free to respond.

We share because we love people, not because we need to win an argument.

You Do Not Need All the Answers

One of the greatest fears people have about sharing their faith is: *What if they ask me something I don't know?*

Then you can say: **"I don't know."** There is no shame in that. You are a disciple and you are still learning.

You can say: **"That's a good question. I don't know the answer, but I'd be happy to look into it."** You don't have to pretend to know something you do not know.

Your credibility is not destroyed by admitting that you are still learning. You know what Jesus has done in your life so just start there.

The man in *Mark 5* could not have answered every theological question but no one could argue with this: **He had encountered Jesus, and his life was different.**

Be Ready

1 Peter 3:15 says: **"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."**

Preparation matters. You do not need to memorize a speech, but it is wise to think through your testimony before the opportunity comes.

What was my life like before?

How did Jesus meet me?

What has changed because of Him?

What is the clearest way I can point someone toward Jesus?

When you have thought through your story, you are more prepared when a door opens.

Then you can relax. You aren't performing but testifying. You're simply saying:
"Let me tell you what Jesus has done."

Walking It Out

Today, write a simple two-to-three-minute testimony using: **BEFORE → JESUS → AFTER**

BEFORE

Write two or three sentences describing what you were experiencing before Jesus met you in this area.

JESUS

Write several sentences explaining how Jesus met you, what He showed you, or what He did.

AFTER

Write two or three sentences describing what changed and what He is continuing to do in your life.

Now read your testimony and ask: **Is Jesus clearly the hero of this story?**

Circle or underline the sentence that most clearly points to Him. Then practice telling your testimony aloud. Don't try to memorize every word just learn the story well enough that you can share it naturally.

Finally, pray: **"Holy Spirit, when You open the door, give me courage to tell someone what Jesus has done."**

Reflection

Do I believe my testimony matters even if my story does not seem dramatic?

When I tell my story, is Jesus clearly the hero?

Can I explain simply what my life was like before, how Jesus met me, and what He has done since?

Am I willing to be honest about areas where God is still working in my life?

Am I prepared to admit when I do not know the answer to someone's question?

Who in my life might be encouraged by hearing what Jesus has done for me?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for what You have done in my life. Thank You for saving me, changing me, carrying me, teaching me, and continuing to work in me. Help me never become so familiar with Your faithfulness that I forget how powerful my story can be when it points someone toward You.

Give me courage to speak when You open a door. Help me listen before I share. Keep my testimony honest, simple, and centered on You. Guard me from exaggeration, pride, or the pressure to have every answer. When someone shares a struggle I understand, help me recognize when my story might become a bridge that leads them toward hope.

Most of all, help me remember that my testimony is not about making myself known.

It is about making **You** known.

Give me opportunities to tell people how much You have done for me and how You have shown me mercy.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Declaration

I have a testimony. I do not need to know everything to tell someone what Jesus has done in my life. I will share honestly, simply, and courageously. Jesus is the hero of my story, and when He opens the door, I will be ready to make Him known.

DAY 19 — PRAY WITH BOLDNESS

Theme Scripture

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”— James 5:16 (NIV)

Prayer Is Part of the Mission

Prayer is not only something we do privately with God. As disciples of Jesus, prayer is also one of the ways we minister to people. Someone tells you they are afraid or they share that their marriage is struggling. Someone receives a difficult diagnosis. Someone is grieving. Someone needs wisdom. Someone is carrying a burden they do not know how to handle. In those moments, we often say: *“I’ll pray for you.”* And we should, but sometimes there is another step we can take: **“Can I pray for you right now?”**

You don’t need to be a pastor or a ministry title. You don’t need impressive words. You simply need to know the One you are praying to. Prayer brings the needs of people before our Father and invites His Kingdom into the situation.

Jesus Taught His Disciples How to Pray

When Jesus taught His disciples about prayer, He did not leave them without direction. He gave them a pattern: **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”** — Matthew 6:9–13 (NIV)
The Lord’s Prayer is more than something we can recite.
Jesus said: **“This, then, is how you should pray...”** — Matthew 6:9

He was showing His disciples a pattern for approaching the Father.
When we understand that pattern, prayer becomes much less intimidating.

“Our Father in Heaven” — Relationship

Prayer begins with relationship. **Our Father.**
Jesus taught us to approach God knowing who He is. We aren’t speaking into the air. We aren’t trying to convince a distant God to notice us. Through Jesus Christ, we have access to our Father. We come knowing that He loves us, hears us, and invites us near.
Before we worry about finding the perfect words, we remember **I am talking to my Father.**

“Hallowed Be Your Name” — Worship

Prayer turns our attention toward God.

Before becoming consumed with the size of the problem, we remember the greatness of our God. He is holy. He is faithful. He is good. He is powerful. He is merciful. He is our Provider, our Healer, our Deliverer and our Peace. Worship changes our perspective. The situation may be difficult, but God has not changed.

Prayer begins with God at the center.

“Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done” — Surrender

Jesus taught us to pray: **“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”**

Prayer is not about convincing God to accomplish our agenda. It aligns our hearts with His. We can pray boldly while remaining surrendered.

“Father, let Your Kingdom come into this situation.” “Let Your will be done.” “Let what You desire be established here.”

Surrender does not make prayer weak. It puts our confidence in the right place. We are not trusting our ability to control an outcome. We trust the King.

“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” — Ask

Jesus taught us to ask.

God cares about our needs. He gives us provision, wisdom, strength, peace and direction. He is Healing, He is in our relationships. We do not need to pretend our needs do not matter.

Philippians 4:6 tells us: **“In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”**

When someone asks us for prayer, we can listen to what they actually need and bring that need specifically before the Father.

If they need healing, ask for healing.

If they need wisdom, ask for wisdom.

If they need provision, ask for provision.

If they need peace, ask for peace.

We do not have to pray vaguely when someone has shared a specific need.

Listen, and then ask.

“Forgive Us Our Debts” — Forgiveness

Jesus included forgiveness in His pattern for prayer. We come before God with humble hearts. We receive His forgiveness, and we extend forgiveness to others. We don’t want bitterness, offense, pride, or unforgiveness taking root in us.

Prayer is not merely about asking God to change everything around us. Sometimes God wants to deal with something within us. A surrendered disciple remains willing to say:

“Father, search my heart.” Forgive me and help me forgive others.”

“Lead Us Not Into Temptation” — Guidance

We need God’s leadership. We ask Him to direct our steps, guard our decisions, and help us recognize temptation. Sometimes the greatest answer to prayer is not God immediately changing the situation. Sometimes He shows us how to walk through it.

He gives wisdom and redirects us. He closes a door and exposes something we could not see. He gives us courage to make a difficult but obedient choice.

Prayer includes asking: **“Father, lead me.”**

“Deliver Us From the Evil One” — Protection

Jesus also taught His disciples to pray for deliverance from the evil one. There is a spiritual battle, but believers do not need to live afraid of the enemy. Our confidence is in Jesus, and we belong to the King. We live under His authority, and we can ask God for protection and deliverance and stand firmly in the victory of Christ.

Prayer does not magnify the enemy. **Prayer magnifies God.**

Remember the Pattern

The pattern Jesus gave us can help shape our prayer life:

RELATIONSHIP → WORSHIP → SURRENDER → ASK → FORGIVENESS → GUIDANCE → PROTECTION

This does not mean every prayer must include every part in exactly this order.

Sometimes prayer may last an hour, or it may last thirty seconds. Sometimes all you have time to say is: **“Jesus, help me.”**

God is not grading our prayers. The pattern here teaches us how Jesus-centered prayer flows. We come to our Father, we honor Him, surrender to His Kingdom and will. We bring our needs and keep our hearts clean through forgiveness. We seek His guidance and trust Him for protection.

When Someone Needs Prayer

Now imagine someone standing in front of you and saying: *"My mom just found out she has cancer."* You do not need to panic: *What am I supposed to say?*

You already know where to begin. Your Father, His Kingdom, their need, His power and His will.

You can simply say: **"I'm so sorry. Would it be okay if I prayed with you right now?"**

If they say yes, pray.

A simple prayer might sound like: **"Father, thank You that You love her. We ask for Your Kingdom to come and Your will to be done in this situation. We ask You to touch her body and bring healing. Give her doctors wisdom, strengthen her body, and fill her and her family with Your peace. We trust You and ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."**

It does not need to be complicated.

You are talking to God on behalf of someone you care about.

Lay Hands on the Sick

Scripture also gives us a physical expression of prayer for healing: **laying hands on the sick.**

Jesus laid His hands on people and healed them. His followers did the same.

When Paul was on the island of Malta, the father of Publius was sick.

Acts 28:8 says: **"Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."**

Laying hands on someone is not a magical act, there is no power in our hands by themselves.

The power comes from God through the Holy Spirit.

We are simply obedient disciples ministering in the name and authority of Jesus.

When appropriate, ask: **"Would it be okay if I placed my hand on your shoulder and prayed for you?"**

Always ask permission before touching someone and then pray with faith. You may place a hand appropriately on their shoulder, arm, or another non-sensitive area they are comfortable with. If they are of the opposite sex and you need to lay hands on an area, have them place their hand on the area first and simply place your hand on top of theirs. The laying on of hands is not about us.

It is an act of faith and obedience as we look to Jesus to do what only He can do.

Pray for Healing

Jesus was moved with compassion toward people who were sick and suffering.

Throughout the Gospels, He healed many and His disciples continued ministering healing in His name.

We should not be afraid to ask God for healing. If someone is sick, we can pray specifically: **“Father, we ask You to bring healing.”** We pray believing God is powerful. We pray knowing nothing is impossible for Him and when you pray expect God to move, but bold faith does not mean pretending we control the outcome.

We don’t make promises about what God must do in a particular situation and don’t blame someone if healing doesn’t happen the way or when we hoped.

We don’t tell a hurting person that they simply did not have enough faith. We pray boldly and we love deeply and trust God with the outcome.

Pray in the Authority of Jesus

As we learned in Day 15, all authority belongs to Jesus. When we pray for someone, we are not depending upon our own power, confidence, or ability. We minister under His authority and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the temple gate, Peter said to a man who had been unable to walk:

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

— Acts 3:6 (NIV)

Peter understood that the authority did not come from him. It belonged to Jesus.

When praying for healing, we can ask the Father to heal and, when led by the Holy Spirit, speak directly to the condition in Jesus’ name. We might pray:

“Father, thank You for loving this person. We ask You to bring healing and complete restoration. In the name of Jesus, I speak healing over this body and command this pain to leave. Let this body come into alignment and function as You created it to function.”

We are not commanding God or trying to create an outcome through our words. We are praying in agreement with His character, His Word, and the authority of Jesus.

Our confidence is not found in a formula, the volume of our voice, or how forcefully we pray.

Our confidence is in Jesus.

The authority belongs to Him, the power comes from the Holy Spirit, and the glory belongs to God.

What If Nothing Changes Immediately?

After praying for someone, it may be appropriate to ask: **“How are you feeling?”**

If they were experiencing pain or limited movement, and it is safe for them to check, allow them to tell you honestly whether anything has changed and if they experience improvement, thank Jesus.

For example: There have been times that when praying for somebody who is experiencing pain and they don't get relief, simply pray again, and again and most times, the pain subsides. If nothing changes, don't become embarrassed and don't blame the person as if their faith or doubt has prevented their healing. Don't exaggerate and claim something happened when it didn't and don't feel that you must manufacture a testimony. Simply continue loving them.

Our faith is not demonstrated by pretending but by continuing to trust Jesus. We can pray boldly without exaggerating the result and expect God to move without pressuring someone to say that He did and whether healing is immediate, gradual, comes alongside medical care, or is not something we see in that moment, **Jesus remains worthy of our trust.**

Listen → Ask → Pray → Trust

When someone shares a need, remember this simple pattern:

LISTEN → ASK → PRAY → TRUST

LISTEN - Hear what the person is actually saying. Don't assume you know what they need.

ASK — Ask permission: **“Can I pray for you right now?”** You can also ask: **“What would you like me to pray for?”** If you would like to lay hands on them, ask permission before doing so.

PRAY — Pray simply, specifically, and with faith. Bring their need before the Father. Ask His Kingdom to come and His will to be done. When appropriate, lay hands on them. Ask boldly for healing. When led, speak to the condition with the authority Jesus has given His disciples. Pray in Jesus' name and depend upon the Holy Spirit rather than your own ability.

TRUST — Leave the outcome with God. You are responsible for loving the person, obeying Jesus, and praying faithfully. God is responsible for the result.

Walking It Out

Today, when someone shares a need with you, resist automatically saying only: **“I'll pray for you.”**

When it is appropriate, take one more step: **“Can I pray for you right now?”**

Then remember: **LISTEN → ASK → PRAY → TRUST**

Keep the prayer simple. If they are asking for healing, ask whether they are comfortable with you laying a hand on their shoulder or arm while you pray. Pray boldly and ask the Father to heal.

When led, speak with the authority of Jesus against the sickness, pain, or affliction. Then trust God with the result.

If no opportunity arises today, then just practice praying aloud for someone you already know needs prayer.

Use the pattern Jesus gave us:

RELATIONSHIP → WORSHIP → SURRENDER → ASK → FORGIVENESS → GUIDANCE → PROTECTION

You are learning to pray, not perform. You are learning to minister from relationship with the Father, under the authority of Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

Do I think of prayer only as something I do privately, or am I willing to pray with others?

What does the pattern Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer teach me about approaching the Father?

Am I comfortable asking someone, **"Can I pray for you right now?"**

Do I believe Jesus has given His disciples authority to minister in His name?

Am I willing to lay hands on someone and pray for healing when it is appropriate and they have given permission?

Can I pray and speak with authority while remembering that the power belongs to Jesus and not to me?

Can I pray boldly without feeling responsible for producing the outcome?

If nothing changes immediately, can I remain honest, loving, and confident in Jesus?

Who can I pray for today?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You that You invite me to come boldly to You in prayer. Thank You that through Jesus, I can know You as my Father. Teach me to pray the way Jesus taught His disciples.

I honor you, Father. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done. Teach me to bring every need before You with faith and keep my heart free from unforgiveness. Lead me away from temptation and protect me from the evil one. Lord God thank You for the authority of Jesus and

the power of the Holy Spirit. Teach me to minister from that authority without pride, performance, or fear. Give me courage to pray for people when they share their needs. Lord, give me boldness to lay hands on the sick when appropriate and to ask You for healing. Teach me to speak with authority in Jesus' name while remaining completely dependent upon You. Father, give me boldness to ask for healing, freedom, provision, and restoration and the boldness to believe that You are able to do what I can't. Keep me honest when I don't immediately see the answer I hoped for. Help me never pressure, blame, or manipulate another person. God, I want to love people well and faithfully represent Jesus. My confidence isn't in my hands and my words or ability; Lord God my confidence is in YOU. Use me to bring hope to hurting people and to show the love and power of Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Today's Declaration

I am a child of God and an ambassador of King Jesus. I will pray boldly in His name and depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit. I will listen, ask, pray, and trust. When appropriate, I will lay hands on the sick, ask God for healing, and speak with the authority Jesus has given His disciples. I will not perform, exaggerate, or take credit for what only God can do. My confidence is in Jesus, the authority belongs to Jesus, the power comes from God, and the outcome belongs to Him.

DAY 20 — WALK WITH SOMEONE

Theme Scripture

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” — Acts 2:42 (NIV)

This Is What Discipleship Looks Like

Jesus never intended discipleship to be something we simply study but something we live. Jesus didn’t hand His disciples a book, tell them to complete the lessons, and send them away.

He invited them into His life and they walked with Him. They ate with Him and listened to Him teach. They watched Him pray and saw Him heal the sick. They watched Him love people others rejected. They asked questions and made mistakes.

Jesus corrected them and encouraged them. He taught them and gave them opportunities to do what they had watched Him do. Eventually, He sent them out after Jesus returned to the Father and the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, this same relational pattern continued in the early church.

Acts gives us a picture of disciples who were not simply attending meetings.

They were doing life together.

Living Out the Book of Acts

Acts 2:42 says: *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

Then Acts 2:46 tells us: **“Every day they continued to meet together...”**

They learned together, prayed together, ate together, they worshiped together. They opened their homes and shared what they had. They cared for needs and they witnessed the power of God. They carried the gospel into their communities and encouraged one another and as the gospel spread, more disciples were made.

This was not merely a weekly event. This was a way of life.

We are not trying to invent a new model of discipleship. We are learning to live out the pattern Jesus established and the early church continued in the book of Acts.

More Than Attending Church

Gathering with the church is an important part of following Jesus. We need worship. We need biblical teaching. We need fellowship and yes, we need the body of Christ but simply sitting in a church service does not automatically mean someone is being discipled.

Discipleship becomes personal and we need people who know us. We need people we can ask questions and who will pray with us. We need people who encourage us and who lovingly correct us when necessary. We need people who remind us of truth when we become discouraged and people who model what following Jesus looks like in everyday life.

Then eventually, something changes.... **We become that person for someone else** and that is multiplication!

You Do Not Have to Know Everything

The thought of discipling someone can feel intimidating. You may begin to think....

I don't know enough Scripture. What if they ask me something I can't answer?

I'm still learning myself. Who am I to disciple someone?

But discipleship is not saying: **"I have arrived. Follow me."**

It is saying: **"I am following Jesus. Come walk with me."**

Paul wrote: **"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."**— 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

The qualification is not perfection; the direction is Jesus. You should never pretend to know something you do not know and if someone asks a question you cannot answer, say:

"I don't know." Let's find out together."

Open the Bible and read the scripture, ask mature believers and seek wise biblical teaching. You know? You can always learn together!

A disciple is always becoming more like Jesus while helping someone else do the same.

Invite Someone Into Your Life

Discipleship often begins with an invitation. **"Would you like to get coffee?"**

"Would you like to read through a Gospel together?" "Do you want to come to church with me?" "Would you like to pray together once a week?" "Why don't you come with me?"

It does not have to begin with a formal program and sometimes it begins around a kitchen table. Over coffee, during a walk, in a living room, at lunch or through a weekly phone call.

The early church opened their homes and their lives to one another.

Discipleship requires enough relationship for someone to see what following Jesus actually looks like.

Walk Together

People need more than information. They need relationship! Walking with someone means learning their story, listening, praying and encouraging. Walking with someone means celebrating growth. Walking through struggles and speaking truth with love. Being willing to have honest conversations and it means showing up consistently enough that trust can grow. You are not becoming someone's Savior.

Jesus already holds that position.

You are simply walking beside them and continually pointing them toward Him.

Teach Them What You Have Learned

Think about what you have learned during these twenty days.

1. You have learned to follow Jesus.
2. Seek Him first.
3. Recognize His voice.
4. Obey Him.
5. Trust Him when you do not understand.
6. Walk by faith.
7. Remain in Christ.
8. Allow Him to transform you.
9. Pray.
10. See people through the eyes of Jesus.
11. Live set apart.
12. Walk by the Spirit.
13. Depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit.
14. Represent King Jesus.
15. Respond to the prompting of the Spirit.
16. See the one.
17. Share what Jesus has done.
18. Pray boldly for others.
19. You already have something you can share.

You do not have to teach everything at once. Just take what Jesus is teaching you and give it away.

Open Scripture together and talk about what you are learning.

Ask: **“What is God showing you?”**

“What does this Scripture teach us about Jesus?”

“Is there something here we need to obey?”

“How can we put this into practice?”

Discipleship helps truth move from the page into someone's life.

Model It

Jesus did not only tell His disciples what to do. He showed them.

They watched Him pray; they watched Him forgive. They watched Him serve and they watched Him respond to people. They watched Him obey the Father and they saw what He did when He was tired, interrupted, challenged, and opposed.

Our lives teach too.

Someone may learn as much from watching the way you treat your family as they do from what you tell them during Bible study. They may learn about forgiveness by watching you forgive.

They may learn about generosity by watching you give. They may learn about prayer because they hear you pray. They may learn how to treat people because they watch the way you treat the cashier, the waiter, the stranger, and the person who disagrees with you.

We will not model perfection, of course you can't be perfect, and when we fail, we can even model repentance. **“I was wrong. Please forgive me.”**

That teaches something too.

Do It Together

Now, this is where discipleship becomes activation. Don't only tell someone how to pray.

Pray together.

Do not only tell them to read Scripture. **Open the Bible together.**

Do not only tell them to serve. **Serve together.**

Do not only tell them to share Jesus. **Take them with you.**

Do not only explain how to pray for someone who is hurting. **Pray with that person together.**

Do not only tell them that the Holy Spirit can use them. **Give them opportunities to step out.**

This is the pattern we see in Jesus.

First the disciples watched and then they participated. Then Jesus sent them.

Discipleship moves from: **“Watch me.”** to: **“Let's do this together.”** to: **“Now you do it.”**

Do Not Create Dependence on Yourself

There is an important difference between discipling someone and making someone dependent upon you. This can be difficult, so it is healthy to set boundaries.

The goal is not for someone to need your answer for every decision. The goal is to help them know and follow Jesus. Instead of always saying: **“Here's what I think you should do,”** teach them to ask: **“What does Scripture say?” “Have you prayed about it?” “What is the Holy Spirit showing you?” “Does this agree with the character and Word of God?” “What would obedience look like?”**

Teach them to seek Jesus and teach them to open Bible and read Scripture.
Teach them to pray and to recognize His leading and teach them to obey.
You are not trying to become the voice of God in someone's life. You are simply helping them develop their own relationship with Jesus. They should learn to hear Holy Spirit for themselves. A healthy disciple-maker continually points people away from dependence upon themselves and toward dependence upon **Jesus**.

Then Let Them Do It

Eventually, the person you are walking with needs opportunities to step out themselves. Let them pray. Let them share. Let them serve and let them ask the questions. Let them encourage someone. Let them pray for the sick. Let them share their testimony and let them make mistakes and keep learning. You can encourage them and correct gently when needed. Celebrate their growth.

Then say: **“Now who can you walk with?”**
Because discipleship was never supposed to stop with us.

The Acts Pattern Multiplies

The gospel spread throughout Acts because disciples kept carrying what they had received to others. When one person encountered Jesus, that person told someone else. Believers gathered, learned and prayed.

They were filled with the Holy Spirit and were then sent. They carried the gospel into another place and more people believed. More disciples were formed and then those disciples carried Jesus somewhere else. This is how the Kingdom multiplies.

Not only through platforms, or through pastors and missionaries, but through ordinary believers who understand: **What Jesus has given me is meant to be given away.**

Invite → Walk → Teach → Model → Do Together → Send

Remember this simple discipleship rhythm:

INVITE- Invite someone into relationship.

WALK - Build genuine relationships and walk through life together.

TEACH - Open Scripture and share what Jesus has taught you.

MODEL - Let them see what following Jesus looks like in your actual life.

DO TOGETHER - Pray, serve, share, minister, and obey together.

SEND - Give them room to step out and encourage them to begin walking with someone else.

This is not about collecting followers. **We are making followers of Jesus.**

Walking It Out

Today, ask God: **“Lord, who could I begin walking with?”**

Do not immediately think you need to start a class. Just think of one person.

Maybe it is a new believer or maybe someone has been asking you spiritual questions.

Maybe someone recently returned to church or maybe someone wants to grow but does not know where to begin. Maybe someone is already in your life and simply needs an invitation.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring someone to mind. Then take one simple step.

Send the text, make the phone call or invite them for coffee. Ask if they would like to read Scripture together. Invite them to pray with you.

You could even say: **“I've been learning what it really means to follow Jesus. Would you like to walk through some of it together?”**

Then begin. You do not need to know everything. You simply need to keep following Jesus and invite someone to walk beside you.

Reflection

Do I view discipleship as a program, or as a way of life?

Who has helped me learn what following Jesus looks like?

Am I willing to open my life enough for someone else to learn alongside me?

Do I feel like I must know everything before I can help someone follow Jesus?

Am I pointing people toward dependence on Jesus or dependence on me?

Who might God already have placed in my life for me to walk with?

Am I willing not only to teach someone, but to **do it with them**?

Could I eventually send that person to disciple someone else?

Prayer

Jesus,

Thank You for inviting me to follow You.

Thank You for the people who have taught me, encouraged me, prayed for me, corrected me, and helped me grow. I do not want what You have placed in me to stop with me.

Teach me to live the kind of discipleship we see in Your life and in the book of Acts.

Help me open my life to others. Show me who I can walk with. Give me patience to listen and wisdom to teach. Give me humility to admit when I don't know. Courage to model what I am learning. Help me pray with others, serve with them, open Scripture with them, and give them opportunities to step out in faith. Guard me from making anyone dependent upon me because Lord God, I want to continually point people toward You. Teach me to invite, walk, teach, model, do together, and send.

And when the person I am discipling is ready, give me the joy of watching them begin walking with someone else. Let the pattern we see in Acts become more than something I read.

Let it become something I live.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Declaration

I am a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples. I will not keep what God has taught me to myself. I will invite, walk, teach, model, do life and ministry with others, and send them to do the same. I will point people toward Jesus rather than toward dependence on me. I am ready to live out the pattern of Acts and give away what I have received.

DAY 21 — GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Theme Scripture

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations... And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” — Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)

From Come to Go

Twenty-one days ago, this journey began with an invitation: **“Come, follow me.”**

Jesus called His first disciples to Himself. They did not know everything. They did not understand everything that was ahead, but they simply responded to the invitation and began following Him.

That is where discipleship begins, but it is not where discipleship ends.

After walking with Jesus, learning from Him, watching Him minister, witnessing His death and resurrection, and being prepared for what was ahead, those same disciples received another command: **“Go and make disciples.”**

First: **COME**. Then: **FOLLOW**. Then: **BECOME**. And finally: **GO**.

Jesus calls us to Himself so that He can transform us and send us into the world carrying what He has placed within us.

You were never meant to receive everything Jesus has given you and keep it to yourself.

Disciples are made so they can make disciples.

You Have Been Equipped

Think about where this journey has taken you.

You have learned to follow Jesus.

To seek Him first.

To recognize the Shepherd’s voice.

To obey what He says.

To trust Him when you do not understand.

To walk by faith.

To remain in Christ.

You have learned that Jesus is transforming you from the inside out and learned to renew your mind with truth. You learned to pray and to see people through the eyes of Jesus.

To live set apart and to walk by the Spirit and to depend upon the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Then the journey turned outward.

You learned that you are an ambassador of King Jesus.

You learned to respond when the Holy Spirit prompts you.

To see the one and to share what Jesus has done.

To pray boldly and lay hands on the sick and minister in the authority of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You learned to walk with someone and help them follow Jesus.

You have not learned everything, actually none of us have.

A disciple never stops learning but you have been equipped to begin.

And now Jesus says: **Go.**

His Authority → Your Assignment → His Presence

Notice how Jesus gave the Great Commission.

He began with: **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**

Then He said: **“Therefore go...”**

And He finished with: **“Surely I am with you always...”**

The mission is surrounded by Jesus. **HIS AUTHORITY → YOUR ASSIGNMENT → HIS PRESENCE**

Remember that you are not being sent in your own authority or in your own strength.

You are not being asked to change the world through your personality, talent, intelligence, or ability.

The King sends you. And the King goes with you.

When you feel inadequate, remember who sent you and when you feel afraid, remember who goes with you.

When you do not know what to say, depend upon the Holy Spirit and when someone rejects what you share, remember that your responsibility is obedience.

When ministry feels bigger than you, remember: **It was always supposed to be bigger than you.**

That is why you need Him.

You Will Receive Power

Before the disciples began their mission, Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit.

He said:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Jesus never intended His disciples to accomplish His mission through human strength. The Holy Spirit would empower them.

Then Acts 2 happened. The Holy Spirit came and ordinary people began doing extraordinary things through the power of God.

They proclaimed Jesus boldly and prayed. They ministered healing and they gathered in homes. They broke bread together and they cared for one another. They shared what they had and carried the gospel into their communities. They made disciples and the Church grew.

The book of Acts shows us what can happen when ordinary believers surrender themselves completely to Jesus and depend upon the Holy Spirit and that same Holy Spirit is still at work in believers today.

We are not trying to reproduce Acts through human effort.

We are learning to live surrendered to the same Holy Spirit who empowered the early Church.

Start Where You Are

When Jesus told His disciples they would be His witnesses, He gave them an expanding mission: **Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and go to the ends of the earth.**

Their witness began where they were and moved outward.

Your mission can begin the same way. You do not have to wait until God sends you across the world just look around.

Remember there are places right in front of you.

The question is not: **“How far will I have to go?”**

The question is: **“Jesus, am I willing to go wherever You send me?”**

Begin With One

The Great Commission belongs to every disciple.

You may never preach from a platform, lead a large ministry, or travel to another nation, but you can begin with one person.

Yesterday, you learned a simple rhythm for making disciples:

INVITE → WALK → TEACH → MODEL → DO TOGETHER → SEND

Today, you are not being asked to learn the process again.

You are being commissioned to live it.

Look at the people God has already placed around you. Someone may need encouragement. Someone may need to hear what Jesus has done in your life. Someone may need prayer, truth from Scripture, or another believer willing to walk beside them.

You do not need to begin with a program, a platform, or a large group. Begin with one person.

Invite them into your life. Help them follow Jesus. Practice what you have learned together, and when they are ready, encourage them to walk with someone else.

This is how disciples multiply. What Jesus has placed in you is meant to move through you.

You Cannot Save Anyone

There is something important to remember as you go. **You are not the Savior.** Jesus is.

You cannot force someone to believe. You cannot argue someone into the Kingdom, and you cannot transform another person's heart. That work belongs to God.

Your responsibility is faithfulness, to love people, tell the truth and share Jesus. Pray and listen to the Holy Spirit. Obey when He leads. Walk with people and make disciples. Then trust God to do what only He can do.

Sometimes you will plant, sometimes you will water. Sometimes you may have the privilege of watching someone surrender their life to Jesus, but God brings the growth and we don't have to cultivate and pull weeds in their garden. Leave that up to God.

That frees you from the pressure of believing every encounter must produce an immediate result. **Obedience is success.**

Carry the Gospel

Never forget what we carry.

We are not simply inviting people to become nicer people.

We are not offering another self-improvement plan. We carry **good news!**

Sin separated humanity from God, but God loved us. Jesus came and He lived without sin.

He died on the cross for our sins and He was buried. He then rose again and through Jesus Christ, forgiveness is available.

Reconciliation with God is available, freedom is available and new life is available.

Did you know that salvation is a gift of grace received through faith in Jesus Christ?

This is the message we carry.

Paul wrote: **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”** — Romans 1:16 (NIV)

Do not become ashamed of the name of Jesus. We are to love boldly, serve humbly and listen compassionately but when the door opens: **Tell them about Jesus.**

The Book of Acts Is Still Calling Us Forward

The book of Acts records the extraordinary beginning of the Church.

The gospel moved from Jerusalem outward. People were saved, lives were transformed.

The sick were healed and people were delivered. Believers were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Homes became places of fellowship and ministry and Disciples were made.

Churches were established, yet opposition came, but the believers kept going.

They carried Jesus everywhere.

Acts 17:6 records their opponents describing them as: **“These men who have caused trouble all over the world...”**

Other translations capture the accusation as those who had **“turned the world upside down.”**

They were ordinary people carrying an extraordinary gospel.

We do not add another chapter to Scripture but the mission Jesus gave His Church did not end with the final page of Acts

We are still His witnesses.

The Holy Spirit is still empowering believers. The gospel is still the power of God for salvation and people still need Jesus. Disciples still need to be made, and the Church is still being sent.

Now it is our turn to faithfully carry what we have received.

Do Not Wait Until You Feel Ready

You may finish these twenty-one days and think: *I need to learn more first.*
Good, keep learning.

You may think *I need to grow more.* Absolutely keep growing.

You may think *I still have areas where Jesus is working on me.* Yes, so does every disciple.

Do not confuse **still growing** with **unable to be used**.

Peter was still growing when Jesus began sending him and the disciples made mistakes while they were learning.

God has always worked through imperfect people who are willing to obey Him and just now that you do not need to know everything before you take your next step.

You simply need to know Jesus, stay close to Him, remain in His Word, listen to the Holy Spirit, stay connected to His Church and Keep growing.

And when He says go: **Go.**

Your Twenty-One Days Are Ending—Your Discipleship Is Not

This devotional has an ending but following Jesus does not. Tomorrow there will still be a Jesus to follow.

There will still be Scripture to read.

There will still be prayer.

There will still be opportunities to obey and there will still be people to love.

There will still be someone who needs encouragement.

There will still be someone who needs prayer.

There will still be someone who needs to hear what Jesus has done.

There will still be someone who needs another believer to walk beside them.

So do not close this book and think: **“I finished.”**

Instead say: **“I have begun.”**

These twenty-one days were never meant to become a spiritual finish line but meant to establish a way of life.

Walking It Out

Today, take time with Jesus and ask: **“Where are You sending me?”**

Then write down the names of three people or places God has already put in your world.

Ask: **Who can I pray for?**

Who can I encourage?

Who can I share Jesus with?

Who can I begin walking with?

Then choose one action. Remember what we learned....

Send the text, make the call, invite the person to coffee, offer to pray and share your testimony. Open your Bible with someone or invite someone to church. Serve a need and respond to the prompting.

Don't wait for the perfect ministry opportunity. Just simply start with the person in front of you. Start where God has placed you and remain available for wherever He sends you next.

Reflection

What has Jesus changed in me during these twenty-one days?

Which truth from this journey do I most need to continue practicing?

Do I believe the Great Commission includes me?

Am I depending upon my own ability or upon the power of the Holy Spirit?

Who has God already placed in my life for me to reach, encourage, pray for, or disciple?

Am I willing to begin where I am?

Am I willing to go farther if Jesus sends me?

What would it look like for me to live the pattern of Acts in my everyday life?

Am I ready to make disciples who make disciples?

A Prayer of Commissioning

King Jesus,

Twenty-one days ago, I heard again Your invitation: **“Come, follow Me.”**

Today I hear Your command: **“Go.”**

I have chosen to follow You, and I choose again today. Thank You for everything You have taught me. I thank You for changing me. Thank You for Your Word and thank You for Your grace. Thank You for the Holy Spirit and the knowing I don’t have to go alone.

All authority belongs to You. You have given me an assignment, and You have promised to be with me. So here I am. **Send me.**

Use my hands, my words and my testimony. Lord see my home, my table and use my gifts.

Use my ordinary days and give me eyes to see the one. Give me ears to recognize Your prompting and give me courage to obey. Lord give me compassion for people.

Give me boldness to speak the name of Jesus and the faith to pray.

Fill me continually with Your Holy Spirit and teach me to walk with people patiently and point them toward You. Make me a disciple who makes disciples and teach those disciples to make disciples. I surrender my plans to You.

My life, my future, my gifts, and my yes belong to You.

I will begin where You have placed me and I will go wherever You send me.

Here I am, Lord. Send me.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Final Declaration

I have answered the call to follow Jesus, and now I accept His commission to go. I am a child of the King, an ambassador of Christ, and a witness empowered by the Holy Spirit. I will carry the gospel, see the one, share what Jesus has done, pray boldly, walk with others, and make disciples who make disciples. I will begin where God has placed me and go wherever He sends me. The authority belongs to Jesus, the power comes from the Holy Spirit, and Jesus goes with me. Here I am, Lord. Send me.

You followed His invitation to **come**.

Now answer His command to **go**.

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.