



WEEK TO
seek

Name:



2022 RE

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Week to Seek

Prayer Schedule

Wednesday, January 5th

6:30pm-6:45pm PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

Thursday, January 6th

1:00-2:00pm ALL CHURCH PRAYER

Friday, January 7th

6:30pm-7:30pm LADIES PRAYER

& Soup Fellowship following

Saturday, January 8th

4:00-5:00pm ALL CHURCH PRAYER

Sunday, January 9th

6:30pm-7:30pm ALL CHURCH PRAYER

Monday, January 10th

6:30pm-7:30pm MEN'S PRAYER

& Soup Fellowship following

Tuesday, January 11th

1:00-2:00pm ALL CHURCH PRAYER

Wednesday, January 12th

6:30-6:45pm PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

7:00pm NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Scriptures to Meditate On

**New King James Version unless noted*

Jeremiah 29:11-13 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 AMPC If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. ³For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory.

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Psalms 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

Psalms 27:4-8 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. ⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. ⁸When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

Psalms 105:1-4 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! ²Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! ³Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! ⁴Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Proverbs 8:17 AMPC I love those who love me, and those who seek me early and diligently shall find me.

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6 AMPC Seek, inquire for, and require the Lord while He may be found [claiming Him by necessity and by right]; call upon Him while He is near.

1 Chronicles 16:8-11 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! ⁹Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! ¹⁰Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! ¹¹Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

Lamentations 3:22-25 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Psalms 40:16 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"

Psalms 119:44-45 So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. ⁴⁵And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.

Psalm 119:44-45 TPT I will observe your laws every moment of the day and will never forget the words you say. ⁴⁵I will walk with you in complete freedom, for I seek to follow your every command.

Psalm 119:10-11 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 119:10-11 AMPC With my whole heart have I sought You, inquiring for and of You and yearning for You; Oh, let me not wander or step aside [either in ignorance or willfully] from Your commandments. ¹¹Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.



Excerpt from Sparkling Gems

The Real Gift that Keeps on Giving—Rick Renner

...Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. — Matthew 6:33

...The greatest gift my parents ever gave me on Christmas was a study Bible — a very nice, leather-lined study Bible. I was so *proud* of it! They hit it right on the target when they gave me that Bible, as my heart was *afire* to know more about God’s Word at that time in my life.

I still have that Bible today. Dad wrote his favorite Bible verse right in the front of the inside cover. There, in Dad’s handwriting, it says, “...Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

Dad would quote this verse to us kids all the time. He wrote it in birthday cards, in letters that he occasionally wrote to us when we were at the university — and, of course, in the front covers of *every* Bible he ever gave to each of us. He really believed this verse, and he wanted to embed it in our souls.

Dad quoted Matthew 6:33 so often, and wrote it to us so many times, that one day I decided to pick up my Greek New Testament and look at the word “seek” to see what it means. It is the present imperative active form of the Greek word *zeteo*, and it depicts *a constant attitude to actively and constantly seek for a thing*.

Furthermore, *zeteo* is a *command*. Jesus was literally commanding us to actively and constantly be seeking after the Kingdom of God. Jesus promised that if we did, everything else we needed in life would be supplied to us. No wonder Dad wanted to get that verse into our hearts! He knew that if we got this right, everything else would be okay in our lives. So I want to ask you: Are you obeying Jesus' command to habitually, constantly seek the Kingdom of God? Are you *on-again, off-again* in your spiritual passion, or would Jesus say you are consistent in your seeking of Him and His Kingdom? All those other things you need to be supplied for life *will* come if you'll place Jesus first and never stop seeking the purposes of His Kingdom. *Jesus truly is the Gift that keeps on giving!* This is Jesus' promise to you — and these are my words of encouragement to you

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

Father, I don't want to be on-again, off-again in my pursuit of You. But as You command, I want to be habitual and constant in the way I seek You and Your Kingdom. There are many other things I need in life, but You promised that if I seek Your Kingdom first, all these other things will eventually be added unto me. So today I ask You to help me focus on the Kingdom of God and to keep my focus there for as long as I live on this earth!

I pray this in Jesus' name!

MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

I confess that nothing in the world is more important to me than seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. God's Word promises that if I'll remain focused and constant in seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness first, before anything else, He'll make sure every other need is met in my life. So I confess by faith that starting today — and for every day following this new commitment — I am going to make God's Word, His Kingdom, and His righteousness the chief priority in my life.

I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

- What do you do on a practical basis to seek the Kingdom of God above everything else in your life? For example, do you start your day out by reading the Bible and praying? That might be a good way for you to start this important commitment if you're not already doing it.
- I start my day with a cup of coffee and my Bible in a secluded part of our house, where I read the Word as the highest priority of my day. I suggest that you consider doing this. Would you be willing to give this schedule a try?
- Do you have any other ideas about how you can make the Kingdom of God and His righteousness the first priority in your life? Why don't you think it over and see what the Lord shows you that would work best?

Sunday Devotional 1-2-22

- REJOICE -

Pastor Dan Olson - *Senior Pastor*

Deut. 12:18B NKJV "...You shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all to which you put your hands".

Psalms 5:11 NKJV But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.

There may be times when we are tempted to doubt or feel discouraged. Perhaps even times when we feel worried or afraid...however, we must always remember that God wants us to approach life with an attitude of continual rejoicing. Our strength comes from joy and receiving joy each time we are in the presence of the Lord.

- **Psalms 16:11 NKJV** You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
- **Psalms 95:1-2 TPT** Come on, everyone! Let's sing for joy to the Lord! Let's shout our loudest praises to our God who saved us! Everyone come meet his face with a thankful heart. Don't hold back your praises; make him great by your shouts of joy!
- **Psalms 100:1-2 NKJV** Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.
- **Psalms 98:4 NKJV** Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

We have joy, a fruit of the born again spirit (Gal. 5:22). We need to exercise our faith and stir up our joy. We can be joyful knowing God loves us and has forgiven us and has given us eternal life. We can **rejoice by remembering** all His benefits as Psalm 103 declares.

We can be joyful knowing that God is with us and will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5-6).

We can be joyful knowing we can come boldly to His throne of GRACE and obtain mercy and find GRACE to HELP in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

If you have been disappointed or discouraged or worried about things lately, I encourage you to renew your confidence in the Lord AND BEGIN TO REJOICE.

Prov. 3:5 says to trust in the Lord and not lean on your OWN understanding. Phil. 4:4 AMP says to rejoice in the Lord always (delight, gladden yourselves in Him), again I say, REJOICE. Phil 4:6-9 AMP says to not worry or have anxiety about anything, but to think on things that are worthy of praise. I Peter 5:7 says "Casting all your care upon Him, for he cares for you".

Rejoicing is a choice and is not based on circumstances. Go ahead and shout for joy!

1 Thessalonians 5:16 AMP Be happy [in your faith] *and REJOICE and be glad-hearted continually (always)*; Keep the Joy! The joy of the Lord is your strength! If your joy level has gotten low.....re-joy! Refill your joy level in the presence of the Lord by rejoicing. Do it by faith...start today. You'll be glad you did!

Philippians 4:4 NKJV REJOICE in the Lord always. Again I will say, REJOICE!

Philippians 4:4 TPT Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow!

Monday Devotional 1-3-22

- REVIEW & RESTART-

Janice Bass - *Ushers*

REVIEW – How did you do in 2021?

How far did you come this past year? What accomplishments did you achieve? How many of your 2021 goals were met?

Remember to thank God for the goals that were met, and instead of being discouraged about what didn't happen, consider what needs to change to do better in 2022.

Consider some things that keep us from reaching our goals.

- Lack of diligence – We lose heart and grow weary
- Lack of funds – We fail to save up money, sow seed, and trust God for finances.
- Lack of faith – We set goals too high and beyond what we can believe for at this time, or we don't take the time to build our faith with the Word so that we can believe.
- Lack of energy and strength – Health issues can prevent us from reaching goals.
- Lack of direction – Were our goals God-inspired or just something that sounded good? Were they a good-plan or a God-plan.?
- Lack of planning – Did we do the necessary research to formulate a good plan of action that could be followed? Did we set aside time to accomplish a goal?

Allow the Holy Spirit to show you the adjustments you can make to accomplish more in 2022. Failure to plan is planning to fail.

RESTART – Have a vision for 2022

Make goals and plans for the coming year based on the leading of the Holy Spirit. What are His plans and desires for you? Yes, He wants to give us the desires of our heart; but, He also wants

to put His desires in our heart. We must open our heart and submit our will to His will, allowing His desires to become our desires. Sometimes what we think we need isn't the best choice and what will benefit us the most. By allowing His desires to become our desires, we come into agreement with His best plan—and it will be better than anything we could have dreamed up, and it will bring us the most joy.

Take time to think about what you want to accomplish in 2022 and the steps it will take to bring it to pass. What do you want to accomplish spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially? Some goals should be “out there,” so big that only God can bring them to pass. Feed your faith with the Word so you can believe it is possible. Other goals will be what we know we should do. Do research and make a plan to accomplish them. What challenges do you already know that you will have to face? Planning ahead can take the fear and anxiety out of difficult situations. Plan to meet those challenges armed with a word from the scripture.

Write down your plans and goals (and the plans and goals that God impresses upon your heart) so they will not be lost and forgotten as the year goes on. Develop a mission statement or confession for the year declaring what you want to see accomplished. Review your goals often and check them off as they are completed. Even if every goal isn't reached, it's better to accomplish something rather than nothing due to a lack of vision.

Restart the year like hitting a reset button. 2021 is gone. You probably had some successes and you probably fell short a few times. It's a new year, a new beginning. Make any adjustments the Holy Spirit shows you. Then press forward and don't look back.

Tuesday Devotional 1-4-22

- REVIVE -

- Ashley Wolf Pastoral Assistant, Children's Ministry Director

When I think of the word revive, two things immediately come to mind: plants and Psalm 119.

One thing I've never been successful in doing (yet) is keeping a plant alive. Most of the time, I forget about the plant, and when I do remember it...it has become a very sad looking plant. But something that always amazes me is how just a little bit of water could **revive** the plant and bring it back to life.

The Word revive means *making alive, keeping alive, and giving more life. Isn't that a perfect description of what God does for us. When we are saved, He makes us alive, but thank God that's not the end of His work in our lives. The Word of God keeps us alive and continues giving us more life.*

When reading through Psalm 119, I am always intrigued at the Psalmist's use of the word revive. So many times he says "revive me." Every time, I get the image of those plants that would need to be revived by something just as simple as a little water. What do we need to water in our lives... water by the Word of God, water by the Holy Spirit?

Psalm 119

- v25 Lord, I'm fading away. I'm discouraged and lying in the dust; **revive me by your word**, just like you promised you would.
- v37 (TLB) Turn me away from wanting any other plan than yours. **Revive my heart toward you.**
- v40 See how I long with cravings for more of your ways? Let your righteousness **revive my spirit!**

- v49-50 Never forget your promises to me your servant, for they are my only hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and **revive me!**
- v88 (MSG) In your great love **revive me** so I can alertly obey your every word.

So what needs REVIVED in your life today? Maybe it's a passion for the things of God. Maybe it is a love for the Word of God. Maybe it is finding JOY in serving God with your gifts. Ask the Holy Spirit to help REVIVE those things in your life today. Listen to what he prompts you to do and water those things with the **Word of God**.



I was recently challenged by a post Pastor Joan shared by John Bevere. He made the comment that we are not to be conformed to this world, and that the way that happens is to be transformed by the Word of God (Rom 12:2). He challenged us with how much time we are spending in the Word vs Social Media. That will tell us what we are letting “conform” or shape our lives. What a powerful thought. This year, specifically ask God to REVIVE a passion for transforming our mind by the Word of God in our life!

Wednesday Devotional 1-5-22

- REMEMBER -

Sam Wolf *Sub30, Audio/Visual*

Faster than a speeding bullet!... No it's not Superman. It's time! The hours, days, weeks, and years can zoom past us in a blur. That's why it's important to take time at the beginning (and throughout) the year to pause and **remember**.

The people of Israel were told many times to remember and not forget the great miracles that God performed, His faithfulness, and His covenant with them.

Deuteronomy 4:9a AMP "Only pay attention and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life..."

Take time to reflect on what God has done for you this year, what He's done in you, and what He's done through you. God doesn't want us to forget what He's done. When we remember, our gratitude grows; we are encouraged in the present, and our faith and hope for the future are strengthened.

This remembering is more than just reminiscing about the "good ol' days" of the past. But it inspires and fuels us in the present. Remember: the same God Who was with you then is with you now!

2 Peter 1:12-13 AMP "Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are established in the truth which is held firmly in your grasp. I think it right, as long as I am in this earthly tent, to inspire you by reminding you,"

Thursday Devotional 1-6-22

- REFILL -

Rev. Denny Funderburg - *Hospital Ministry*

Today's word for our devotional is "REFILL." In order to understand the importance of this word, we must learn what the prefix RE means. It is from Latin, meaning , "again and again and again." In other words, it means to replenish and to restore as much as can be held and to have a full supply again and again and again. Therefore, being filled once is not enough. Of course, I am referring to being filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

In John 20:22 (paraphrased), Jesus breathed on the ones there and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." At that time, they were born again and had the Holy Spirit in them, but they were not filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus continued in Acts 1:4-5 NKJV (paraphrased). He told them to wait in Jerusalem, and they would be baptized (filled) with the Holy Spirit in a few days. He went on in Acts 1:8 to say they would receive power to be witnesses of Him in all of the world. Jesus had laid the groundwork for what we then see in Acts 2:1-4 NKJV (paraphrased): V1 – they were in one place in one accord, V2 – a sound from heaven came and filled the whole house, V3 – there appeared tongues as of fire that sat on each of them, and V4 – they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In our study, we can readily see that being filled with the Holy Spirit is vital to everything we do for God. However, being filled once is not enough. In reading the book of Acts and Paul's letters, we see the need to constantly REFILL ourselves with the Holy Spirit. This is essential to fulfilling God's call on our life and living the life He has given us.

In Paul's writings, he brings out this point and the importance to REFILL ourselves on a daily basis. In 1 Cor.

14:2 (paraphrased) Paul tells us, “For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for he speaks mysteries (a person is actually being taught the mysteries by the Holy Spirit when they are speaking or praying in tongues). In V18 Paul said, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than anyone.” In Eph. 5:18, Paul also tells us to “Be filled with the Spirit.” In this passage, the verb “be filled” is a continuous present tense verb. It means we are to REFILL with the Holy Spirit on a regular basis.

Continuing on, we read in Jude 1:20 NKJV, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit”. This means we are to pray in the spirit in order to keep our life built up and be able to handle anything that we encounter in our day to day activities.

It was impossible to list every REFILL scripture that tells us to be in a constant act of speaking, praying and singing in the Spirit. I encourage you to make that a self- study plan. Research all of the scriptures and begin to REFILL your spirit with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. Don’t set your goals too high to start with. Begin by praying in the Spirit for fifteen minutes a day or whatever you can do. Also, remember, you can pray in the Spirit as you drive, during breaks at work, and at other times in your daily routine. It doesn’t have to be limited to a set time or place.

In closing, I believe this word REFILL is one of the most important things we can do to help us in our daily walk with the Lord. You will find there will be a closeness and a knowing that He is there helping you and showing you each step to take that day. Also, you will find that this will be a major factor as you also REFILL yourself with the word of God every day. Studying the WORD and praying in the Spirit go hand-in-hand because you will find that you are speaking the WORD more and more, rather than speaking negatively. Be blessed as you study the messages in this devotional book. They will help you to REFILL every area of your life.

Thursday—All Church Prayer
1:00-2:00 pm at LWC

Prayer Time or Study Notes

Friday Devotional 1-7-22

- **RESTORE & RECLAIM** -

Sarah Stump - *Worship Leader*

*“What was lost will be restored.
In your presence I’m made whole.”*

These are the words the Lord spoke to me so graciously in a time of loss. In this moment I had to determine right then and there if I was going to allow the enemy to steal my peace, joy, purpose, or if I was going to shift my mind and heart off the circumstances and onto the promises of God I know to be truth. In Psalm 51:72 it says, “**Restore** to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing Spirit.”

Revelation of the Word of God determines how you react to the situation(s) you are facing today. Maybe this past year the enemy has tried to steal your joy or peace within your job, your family, raising your children, your marriage, or whatever it might be. You need to be reminded DAILY what the Word of God says about that which you are facing. As a steward of God, you always have the power and authority. Use your words to speak life. You have the ability to **reclaim** what God has appointed and purposed in your life.

Reclaim: RE-sume position of, RE-quest what is due, RE-turn and bring back, RE-call, RE-store

Where His presence is, there is freedom from anything trying to take you captive. What is something that you need to reclaim that the enemy has tried to take? Write it down, take authority and speak the Word over it. Speak the promises of God over it. Refuse to stay put. The things lost this past year, He will restore in a way that only He can do.

Saturday Devotional 1-8-22

- REFOCUS -

Pastor Jessica Gibson - *Associate Pastor, Missionary*

Staying focused on God in today's ever changing world is not easy. Life happens so fast that if your cell phone is 12 months old it's out of date! We have all been taught well that God is to be our primary focus, but the happenings of life constantly try to steal our focus away from our first love. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4 KJV

Today I want to talk about ways that we can refocus our thoughts and passions on God!

1. Begin the day with God

I know it sounds simple enough, and it's going to be one of the first suggestions you'll find in any devotional like this, but that's for good reason. If you or I are going to be focused on God, we have to make the things of God a top priority in our daily lives! I don't care how spiritual you think you are; if you do not have a consistent intake of the Word of God on a daily basis, you will be a weak and powerless Christian! You've probably heard that when something is repeated twice in the Bible, it's something to pay attention to, right? How about something that's repeated 10 times in one teaching? That's how many times Jesus used the word "abide" or "remain" in John 15:1-11!

Jesus said in John 15:4, "Abide in me." He repeated that in two other ways in John 15:5-7 while also providing a warning and a promise: "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If

anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” Staying focused on God requires abiding in Him.

I know your mornings are rushed, but if you create the discipline to spend the first minutes of your day reading the Word of God and talking to Him about the day ahead, you will have a greater focus on Him throughout the day.

If you don't know where to start, try reading John 15:1-11 each morning for a week.

2. Refocus through prayer

When you get distracted by the cares of life or by a new crisis in the news or maybe a new financial challenge, you are just a prayer away from being re-focused on God!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 makes one simple yet bold command: “pray without ceasing.” This is a habit worth developing and isn’t as difficult as you might think. Plus, prayer has a way of changing lives. When you see or hear a news report that bothers you, pray for the people and the situation. When you come across someone that annoys you or tries your patience, silently pray for them. When you hear of someone facing some problem, large or small...pray for them. My parents taught me to offer up a quick prayer every time I heard the sirens of a police car, ambulance or fire truck. God doesn’t need your eloquent, long-winded prayers, that include “these,” “thous” and “almighties.” He wants your heart, and often in prayer that sounds as simple as “God, help!”

3. Refocus by speaking the Word!

This point is very simple. It's hard to talk about one thing and think about another. When your mind starts wandering in the wrong direction, just start speaking the powerful, life-giving Word of God! The Word of God will help you refocus on the truth of the Word of God and the God who can meet all your needs, answer all your prayers and make a way where there seems to be no way.

“Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak.” 2 Corinthians 4:13 AMPC

4. Refocus by limiting the distractions

When we fill our lives with all kinds of conveniences and distractions, it becomes very difficult and even impossible sometimes to see where the Lord is leading us. We can overcome this by limiting the distractions, the busyness and our own lack of discipline by making a conscious effort to keep our Lord in the number one spot in our lives. In the world of constant notifications, this will be not just a daily challenge, but a minute to minute challenge of your priorities.

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18 KJV

5. Refocus by serving God

If you're serving God with your resources of time, energy, talents, and with your money; then staying focused on God will naturally follow.

“As each of you has received a gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor].” 1 Peter 4:10 AMPC

6. Refocus by removing sin from your life

What I mean by this is to remove the habitual, continuous sinful habits and patterns from your life. Hebrews 12:1 says, “Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us.”

If there is something, someone, or someplace in your life that leads you away from God in any way—keeps you out of prayer, away from fellowship with other believers or distracts you from reading your Bible- you have one option: remove that thing from your life. Daily refocusing on God and growing in your Christian walk in any way with any habitual sin in your life is next to impossible. Kill the sin or it will kill you spiritually, physically, or both.

Running the Marathon

It's been said countless times that life is a marathon, not a sprint. When staying focused on God, this becomes especially evident. Hebrews 12:1 tells us that “We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up,” and the next verse tells us how to do that: “We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2).

Taking these six steps and making them habits will deepen your spiritual life and they will help you refocus on God daily.

Sunday Devotional 1-9-22

- REFRESHING -

Rev. Mike Stanton - *Prayer Partners, Safety Ministry*

The English word “refreshing” is found only two times in the Bible, once in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament.

Isaiah 28:12 NKJV To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the **refreshing**”; Yet they would not hear.

Acts 3:19 NKJV Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of **refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord,

The word refreshing always refers to rest. The Hebrew word for refreshing means “to rest or to place at rest.” The Greek word means recovery of breath, or to revive. A note in the Passion Translation compares the word to “a cooling breeze.” The Holy Spirit is referred to as a wind or breeze. So how do we become refreshed?

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Rest and refreshing are found in Jesus’ presence. Psalm 100:4 tells us how to come into Jesus’ presence. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

When we need refreshing, start being thankful to Him. This will lead us into praise and as we praise, worship will come easily. Psalm 22:3 tells that God “...is enthroned in the praises of Israel.”

Thanksgiving + praise + worship = rest and refreshing from the Holy Spirit.

Monday Devotional 1-10-22

- REPLY -

Joe Wolf - Youth Pastor

I vividly remember the moment I was ready to ask that important question to Melissa: do you want to be my girlfriend? I had built up the courage and sent a text message asking her to go on a walk with me (we were working at a camp together at the time). Seconds passed... minutes passed... still, no response. Did she see it and not know what to say? Was her answer no, but she didn't know how to tell me? Was I a coward to text her even though we were in the same building?



Turns out, her phone didn't have signal, so she had left it in her room. With my heart pounding, I asked her for a walk face-to-face, and I guess you can say it went well (eight years later, we are married with three kids).

For those few moments when I checked my phone every three seconds, I was begging for a reply. I smiled and chatted with friends around me, but all I cared about was hearing back from Melissa. Maybe you've felt this way before. I certainly think God has.

God speaks to us through many means: His Word, inward still small voice, his preachers, etc. It is an honor for the Creator of the Universe to speak to us; however, listening is not enough. God desires a reply.

Here are a few lessons heroes from the Bible have taught us about replying to God.

Eli and Samuel taught us to reply by responding with a desire to hear carefully what God is speaking:

So he [Eli] said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. (1 Sam. 3:9 NLT)

Jeremiah taught us to reply with a positive YES to God's calling on our lives:

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?"

I said, "Here I am. Send me." (Isa. 6:8 NLT)

Jesus taught us that it is simply not good enough to simply hear God speaking; we must reply by following through and obeying:

I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.

(Luke 6:47-49 NLT)

Are we sometimes like that friend that reads a text message but never replies? Has God spoken to us, but we still have not followed through? Whenever we hear a sermon, read the Bible, or pray in the Holy Ghost, we ought to ask God, "Lord, speak to me; I'm ready to listen and obey."

Tuesday Devotional 1-11-22

- RETHINK -

Sue Battaglia - Welcome Center/Greeters, Youth Pastor

Wise thinking leads to right living; Stupid thinking leads to wrong living. - Ecclesiastes 10:2 MSG

Sometimes I think we get 'spiritual amnesia'....

We forget: Who God is
 What He's already done
 Who we are in Christ
 Where He has taken us
 How He has set us free
 Who the Word says we are
 What the Word says we have
 What the Word says we can do
 God resides/lives in us through His Holy Spirit

God tells us that we have to change the way we think...

RETHINK HIS THOUGHTS... which is His Word....the Holy Bible.

*Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a **total reformation of how you think**. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes. Romans 12:2 TPT*

In the Message Bible... don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it **without even thinking**....

If we are not proactive in renewing our thoughts we will succumb to the thoughts of the flesh & the lies of the devil. God's way of thinking will not just happen.

If we don't take our thoughts captive, they'll take us captive... keeping us in bondage and deception. (2 Cor.1-:3-6)

God doesn't think the way we do...His thoughts are higher.. As we **REthink** - replacing our way of thinking to His way of thinking --His Word, it will do the work it is sent to do and accomplish/complete its assignment. (Isaiah 55:8-11)

Every Word of God is God-breathed & profitable to instruct, correct, reproof, convict, discipline, train and thoroughly equip us to do every good work....and renew our mind! WOW!

Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMPC

Since we love the Lord we want every area to reflect His love... especially with our thoughts because our life will always move in the direction of our strongest thoughts.

'You must love the Lord God with all your heart, all your passion, all your energy, and **your every thought**. And you must love your neighbor as yourself.' Luke 10:27 TPT

The prefix 're'... is a prefix occurring originally in loanwords from Latin, used with the meaning 'again' or 'again and again' to indicate repetition.

It's an ongoing fight to **rethink**... get rid of our thoughts and think God's thoughts again and again and again...

Wednesday Devotional 1-12-22

- REFUEL -

Melissa Wolf - *Bus Kids Director*

How many of you would admit to being hangry before? For those of you who haven't used this term, it is simply a combination of the words hungry and angry together. It describes the state of being angry because you are hungry. If I'm being honest, this state of "hangry-ness" has happened to me on several occasions, and if you've ever been around toddlers when they are desperate for a snack, you've seen it in action. A person in a hangry state can act irrational, impatient, and just plain mean.

A few weeks ago I was having a string of terrible days. The kids had been battling sickness, and none of us were getting much sleep. I kept waking up crabby and so did the kids. Nothing seemed to be getting better, and I was just tired of it. I couldn't figure out why we couldn't just shake off the moods we were in even after the sickness had tapered off. I walked out on my back porch to hang up my laundry and started complaining. The Lord immediately told me that I was spiritually hangry. It seemed like a silly thing for Him to say, but I quickly realized how accurately He described my current condition. I hadn't been taking the time needed to spiritually refuel myself, and my spirit was hangry. My spirit desperately needed the nourishment that only God's Word and His presence could satisfy. I had also missed several church services because the kids had been sick. I had watched the services online, of course, but it was never the same as being with my church family and seeking God together. This meant I was also deprived of fellowship with like-minded believers.

It may seem like no big deal to miss time spent with God or to

miss church, but it is. We can get caught up in the busyness of our lives so easily, and before we know it, we are spiritually hangry. We've allowed ourselves to become deprived of God's presence, and then we turn to the ways of the flesh and not of the spirit.

Jesus had a time where he endured hunger both spiritually and physically. Read the account in Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus walked through those temptations and came out victorious because he knew the Word of God. I imagine he knew that time of difficulty was coming, and he prepared for it. He told Satan, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

We have to be purposeful to refuel ourselves spiritually every day just like we do with food. It's not enough to just read the Word when we feel like it or come to church when our schedules allow it. We have to make time for both! We will be stronger spiritually and can fight off the hangry-ness. Ask yourself if there are some areas where you are in need of refueling that you neglected this past year, and then commit to refueling them this year.

Wednesday— Corporate Pre-Service Prayer
6:30-6:45 pm at LWC

Prayer Time or Study Notes

Thursday Devotional 1-13-22

- RECOMMIT -

Pastor Joan Olson - *Pastor*

As we have taken this week in the beginning of the year to seek the Lord, we know that the Holy Spirit has spoken to each one of us to recommit some areas of our lives to the Lord. I would like to address several areas that the Holy Spirit may have spoken to you to recommit to Christ. Take time to pray and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and be quick to obey His prompting. Delayed obedience is not obedience.

Recommit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:18 AMPC He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].

The Bible is very clear about keeping Jesus first place in every area of our lives.

Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If we have placed anything else as a priority before Christ, we cannot call Him Lord. Lord, means He is above everything and everyone else.

Recommit to spiritual growth

2 Peter 3:17-18 TPT As for you, divinely loved ones,

since you are forewarned of these things, be careful that you are not led astray by the error of the lawless and lose your firm grip on the truth. 18 But continue to grow and increase in God's grace and intimacy with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May he receive all the glory both now and until the day eternity begins. Amen!

To stay focused and growing, we must recommit to the basics of spiritual growth: time in the Word, prayer, and faithfully coming to church.

Colossians 1:10 AMPC That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition].

When we are growing spiritually, it will be evident in our daily lives. Spiritual growth pleases God and causes us to bear fruit.

Recommit to your family

1 Timothy 5:8 NLT But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.

“Caring for your relatives” is not just providing for them financially and physically, it's praying for them, loving them, honoring them, serving them, and letting them see Jesus in you. If you live at home with your parents, recommit to be honorable, respectful, and helpful to them. If you're married, recommit to meet your spouse's needs and be a blessing. If you're a parent, recommit to teach your kids to be faithful and to love and serve God. This is so important because life is short. Prepare your children for eternity.

1 Timothy 5:4 TPT But if they have children or grandchildren at home, then it is only proper to let them provide for the ones who raised them when they were children, for kindness begins at home and it pleases God.

It is honorable and right to commit to care for elderly or ailing parents.

1 Timothy 5:4 AMP But if a widow has children or grandchildren, see to it that these are first made to understand that it is their religious duty [to defray their natural obligation to those] at home, and make return to their parents or grandparents [for all their care by contributing to their maintenance], for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

Recommit to excellence

Colossians 3:23-24 NCV In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. 24 Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, always do your very best. God will reward you for it! Commit to excellence.

Philippians 1:9-10 TPT I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight[in all things. This will enable you to choose [the most excellent way of all—becoming pure and without offense until the unveiling of Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10 AMP

And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater

depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment],
10 So that you may surely learn to sense what is
vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value
[recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the
moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure
and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and
certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not
stumbling nor causing others to stumble].

Recommit to the vision of your church

Ephesians 2:21-22 NKJV in whom the whole building,
being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in
whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of
God in the Spirit.

YOU are important to Living Word Church! God is putting us
together and growing us up to do His will right here in the
Ozarks.

Ephesians 4:16 NLT He makes the whole body fit together
perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the
other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and
growing and full of love.

EACH one of you is important to keep the church family
healthy and growing and full of love. Recommit to do your part.

Galatians 5:13 TPT Beloved ones, God has called us to
live a life of freedom. But don't view this wonderful freedom as
an excuse to set up a base of operations in the natural realm.
Constantly love each other and be committed to serve one
another.

As we recommit to all these things, let's also recommit to love
and serve one another. Time is short. Let's be fully committed
to run our race and finish well!

Prayer: Vision for a Church

Father, in the name of Jesus, we come into Your presence thanking You for Living Word Church. You have called us to preach the Gospel and let our lights shine in this area and around the world. As we lift our voices in one accord, we recognize that You are God and everything was made by and for You. We call into being those things that be not as though they were.

We thank You that we all speak the same thing. There is no division among us; we are perfectly joined together in the same mind. Grant unto us, Your representatives here, a boldness to speak Your Word, which You will confirm with signs following. We thank You that we have workmen in abundance and all manner of work. Each department operates in the excellence of ministry and has everything it needs to function excellently.

We continue growing spiritually and receiving from the ministry till we all come into the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a mature person. None of our people will be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. Our people will stay spiritually strong and guard their lives from distractions and deception. We will speak the truth in love.

We are a growing and witnessing body of strong believers. We have every need met. Father, we thank You for the ministry facilities that will more than meet the needs of the ministry You have called us to. We call the church mortgage paid in full. We thank you, Father for abundant provision for the vision of Living Word Church.

Our church is prospering financially, and we have more than enough to meet every situation. We have everything we need to carry out Your Great Commission and reach the Ozarks for Jesus. We are a people of love as love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

We thank You that the Word of God is living big in all of us and Jesus is Lord! We are a supernatural church, composed of supernatural people doing supernatural things, for we are laborers together with God. We thank You for Your presence among us, and we lift our hands and praise Your holy name! Amen.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CHURCH

Dr. Mark T. Barclay

1. Attend—be there!
2. Make this about God.
3. Serve—find something to do!
4. Work God's system, not your own.
5. Submit and Obey
6. Have Fun
7. Honor the man and woman of God in your midst.

Prayer for Revival

Pour out Your Holy Spirit like a mighty flood into the hearts of all the people of Living Word Church - those who are called by Your name. May our hearts be washed by the water of the Word and the purifying light of the Holy Spirit cleanse the thoughts, wash the hearts, and purify the minds of those who are part of the church.

Lord we pray that You would purify the hearts and minds of all Your people, so that our thoughts are ever turned toward the Lord Jesus and may we as individual members and also as a body of believers continue to learn to seek Your will in our lives, so that our prayers are filtered through the light of Your will - so that they are turned into Your perfect plans and purposes. May the desires of all the believers be to lift up Your name so that you are honored by having the first place in our lives. May You be our focus every day. We pray that we would have a heart to serve You by serving our church.

Lord we pray that You would revive the hearts of all believers at Living Word Church and especially those who have left their first love, become involved in wrong teaching, or become lukewarm toward You and draw each one back into a right relationship with You and with each other. We pray that they would leave wrong relationships and follow after only godly ones. Revive Your people we pray and turn the hearts of all Your people back to Yourself. Work within each and every heart to stir up our passion and fire the things of Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Rejoice Review
Restart Revive
Remember Refill
Restore Reclaim
Refocus Refresh
Reply Rethink
Refuel Recommit



LIVING WORD
CHURCH

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