



COMMUNITY
BIBLE CHURCH

GREENWOOD

40

*Days of
Prayer and
Fasting*

Church Family-

I am excited to begin this journey with you over the next 40 days. The number 40 is often used in Scripture as a time of preparation, testing, or trial. For our journey, 40 days is a designated season of time for us to focus on Scripture/Devotion, Prayer, and Fasting. Each day beginning Monday, February 23, we will read a short devotional written by some of our CB leaders. We will read and meditate on the Scripture and devotion, spend time in focused, uninterrupted prayer, and fast from something.

What is fasting?

Fasting is the practice of abstaining from eating for a period of time. Fasting is an outward expression of an inward commitment to pursue God. When you fast, you slow down to hear from God. Fasting can take various forms and last different lengths of time. Christian fasting is always combined with prayer.

What's the point of fasting?

- Fasting is a concrete way to offer God a sacrifice. It's a way to praise Him.
- Fasting intensifies your ability to pray.
- Fasting helps you focus and hear from God more clearly.
- Fasting is a spiritual discipline: it helps us grow in our faith.
- Jesus fasted (Matthew 4:1-4). Fasting is one way we follow Jesus.

Our 40-day journey will conclude on Good Friday, April 3, with worship at 7:00 PM.

This guide is intended to be a resource and support for your spiritual journey. If you currently have other Bible-reading plans or ongoing devotions, continue using them as you intend.

I am excited for our journey!

Maclane Forbus

Pastor | Community Bible Greenwood

Day 1- February 23

Prayer- Psalm 25

"Is there anything you aren't telling me?" I read this question recently in a book about relationships. The author shared that the secret to authentic friendships was being vulnerable enough and honest enough to tell everything. In fact, each of us needs someone in our lives whom we can tell everything. We need a relationship with no secrets; nothing hidden, and nothing kept in secret.

When we evaluate our prayers to God, we might recognize that we can often have a reluctance to tell Him everything. Whether it is our shame or our guilt, we can be deceived into thinking that if we don't confess it to God, He will not know it, and therefore cannot use it against us. And while that might work in our earthly relationships, it does not work with a God who knows everything, including our hearts and our motives.

Psalm 25 is a beautiful picture of a soul poured out in honesty before the Lord. In vs. 1, the author, David, says, "I lift up my soul..." This means that he opened up his life to the Lord. He did not pray empty prayers, but prayers full of honesty, directed toward a God who loved him. Often, we hold back in our prayers. We allow our thoughts, hurts, needs, and frustrations to remain in our hearts, and our prayers become superficial. The great irony in keeping things from God in our prayers is that He already knows our hearts. He already knows our struggles, and He already sees our sinfulness. Yet He loves us deeply and wants to commune with us in fellowship. Honesty in our prayers opens the door to intimacy with God.

Have you ever considered why David was willing to be unwaveringly honest with God? In Psalm 25:2, he writes that he trusts in God. When we choose to trust others, we can be free to share our lives with them. Since we know God to be faithful, we can trust in him and cry out to him in prayer.

When you pray today, do so with heartfelt honesty. Pray in such a way that if God were to ask, "Is there anything you aren't telling me?" you could confidently say, "No, I have told you everything."

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 2- February 24

Fasting- Esther 4:16

Fasting aligns us with God.

“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me... When this is done, I will go to the king... And if I perish, I perish.”

A decree threatened Esther's people with destruction, and she alone had access to the king. Yet approaching him without invitation could cost her life.

Before she took a step toward the earthly king, she turned her heart toward the heavenly One and called for a three-day fast. Why? Because fasting aligns us with God. It quiets the noise of fear. Esther surrendered her will, her safety, and her outcome to the Lord.

Fasting positioned her to move in courage because it had anchored her in God. Esther was acting out of trust instead of fear.

We often want clarity before obedience, but alignment comes first. When we fast, we humble ourselves and invite God to reorder our priorities. Our fears shrink, and His purpose grows clearer.

Lay down your appetite and your control. Ask God to tune your heart to His. Because fasting does not change God's will, it aligns us with it.

Devotional by Craig S

Day 3- February 25

Gratitude- Psalm 111:2

Do you ever allow yourself to truly marvel at God? Sinners in every way, yet we are forgiven, not because we earn or deserve to be, but because Jesus willingly laid down his life to be the perfect sacrifice in our place. The greatest act of love, mercy, and grace allows us to approach the throne of our holy, perfect creator. And yet, this is just the beginning.

Once surrendered, by his kindness, God begins to reveal himself to us through his Holy Spirit. Suddenly, Jesus is all around. We are brought to tears by the beauty, joy, and love in our lives. We freely give praise. We are spurred into a life of thankfulness for our salvation and urgency for those who are lost. As the love of God washes over us, we develop a deep spirit of gratitude that calls us into the abundant life that Jesus promises. The Lord draws us into his Word, unveiling wisdom that encourages obedience, repentance, and thankfulness. Forgiveness and love flow freely because we understand that Jesus first forgave us. When trials or death approach, instead of fear, we feel God's peace and holy presence, knowing one day we will join the chorus of gratitude sung by the multitudes. "Holy is the Lord God Almighty!"

Oh God, thank you for the mercy and grace that we receive through Jesus. Holy Spirit, renew our spirit of gratitude daily.

Psalm 111:2, John 3:16, John 10:10, Colossians 3:13, Psalm 90:14, Psalm 100:4, Hebrews 4:16, Acts 2:38, Revelation 4:8, etc.

Devotional by Sarah G

Day 4- February 26

Confession- Psalm 51:1-3

Confessing our sins before God communicates something God already knows, yet somehow the confession binds the relationship and allows a closeness that could not otherwise exist. When Nathan approached David after his adultery with Bathsheba, David wrote in Psalms 51:1-3, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." David wrote of the heaviness of not confessing when he writes Psalms 32:3-5, "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not hide my iniquity. I said, "When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was drained as in the summer heat. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not hide my inequity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin." David was a man who often felt the forgiveness of God through confession.

For a confession to be taken seriously, there should also be a promise that we will not repeat the same transgression. Confessions are not just naming where you have transgressed in the past, but also an attempt not to repeat it. Confession is not just praying a prayer or making excuses, but naming sin for what God calls it, whatever it may be. Confession simply means being honest with ourselves and with God. True confession is a heart of repentance.

Devotional by Randy D

Day 5- February 27

Forgiveness- Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times'" (Matt.18:21-22).

In this verse, Peter (a disciple and friend of Jesus) asks Jesus how many times he needed to forgive people who hurt him. In response, Jesus says, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

How often do we feel like the words or actions of others have harmed or wronged us? A hateful word spoken by a family member, getting cut in line at the coffee shop, or maybe not receiving an invite to a friend's social function. It is very easy to tally up the "wrongs" done to us by others, to nurse grudges and hold fast to hurts. Jesus is not just calling us to forgiveness with this command, though, but also to obedience.

We often think of forgiveness as a feeling, but when you look at it as an act of obedience to God, this command offers us far more than we are extending to others. When we forgive others, we become a reflection of the grace we've received from God. This transforms our hearts, allows for healing, and lets us mirror the very character of God to a lost and hurting world.

Devotional by Nichole R

Day 6- February 28

Worship- John 4:23-24

What is worship, and why do we worship?

This is probably the last thing you thought you would hear a worship leader say, but worship is more than singing songs on Sundays. The songs should come after we have surrendered our hearts, our thoughts, our desires, our decisions, our lives, and everything that we are to God. This is our spiritual act of worship to God.

John 4:23-24

23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Jesus describes worship as being in spirit and in truth. Meaning, as we worship God at our church, our homes, our workplace, and in our communities, we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. In spirit, meaning that we are to be led by the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and when we gather for worship. In truth, meaning the truth of who God is as described in His word. This reaffirms the importance of spending time in God's word daily to understand Him better as we worship Him.

Why do we worship? God created us for worship.

Isaiah 43: 21

21 the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Our worship is praising God and giving Him glory with our words and our actions. Worship that pleases God is authentic and genuine.

So let us pray today that we move closer to complete surrender to God and His will for our lives, so that we may worship Him fully in spirit and in truth.

Devotional by Justin T

Day 7- March 1

Prayer- James 5:13–19

Prayer strengthens our dependence.

This passage from the book of James shows us that prayer belongs in every part of our lives. Are you hurting? Pray. Are you happy? Pray. Are you sick? Ask others to pray with you.

Prayer is how growing believers stay connected to God.

James also says something that can feel heavy: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

It's easy to think this verse is for someone else. We know our doubts, our failures, and the moments we trusted ourselves more than God.

But James points to Elijah and says, "a man with a nature like ours.." Elijah had the same nature we do. He wrestled with fear, exhaustion, and sin. God still listened to him. Not because Elijah was perfect, but because he depended on God.

I find that my faith has grown the most in moments when I stopped relying on my own gut and truly leaned on God. Dependence has stretched my faith further than confidence ever could.

Prayer is not about having it all together. It is about trusting God in the middle of not having it together. He invites you to come honestly. When you confess your sins, ask for help, and pray for others, that's when healing begins. God hears you, and He delights in your dependence on Him.

Devotional by Craig S

Day 8- March 2

Fasting- James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you – James 4:8

Fasting is an act of obedience, worship, and humility. Jesus modeled fasting for us (Luke 4:2) as a way to connect with the Holy Spirit and a way to resist temptation, and said that His disciples would fast (Matthew 9:15). When we think about the rhythm of our lives, I would venture to say that fasting may not yet be a regular part of our spiritual disciplines. Yet, most of us would say that we want to draw near to God.

Fasting allows us to do just that. By putting aside an earthly desire of the flesh, we are taking an action, an action that helps us realize how often our pursuits are simply about satisfying our own desires. As we begin our fast we must do so with humility for it to be an act that is pleasing to the Father (Matthew 6:16-18). Fasting is not about what we can gain physically from denying ourselves (i.e. physique, financially, or productivity) it must simply be a pursuit of that connection with the Holy Spirit for we do not lay up our treasures here on earth. Still, we know that this body will pass away, and as followers of Christ, we should already begin pursuing the eternal to be in the world but not of the world.

Devotional by Isaac R

Day 9- March 3

Gratitude- Psalm 107:1

As I think about gratitude, I am reminded of the internal struggle the Apostle Paul faced, recorded in Romans 7:15-20. In that short passage, Paul shares the struggle he faces in knowing what to do, yet having a hard time finding the will to do it. That is often my story when it comes to gratitude. I have so much to be grateful for because of God's goodness to me, yet I still struggle with bad attitudes and a prideful heart.

In Psalm 107:1, we read, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." When I find myself struggling to live with gratitude, I often run back to this Scripture. It reminds me that our hearts are made ready for gratitude. Even when I am experiencing seasons of grief, pain, and frustration, I can be reminded of God's goodness and His everlasting love for me.

Read Psalm 107:1-3 and consider its context. These verses would be read aloud to the congregation as a hymn of worship and praise. The hymn leader would set the purpose for worship, and in this passage, it is gratitude. The leader would call the church to worship, doing so with hearts of gratitude. Next, the hymn leader would declare the theme of worship: the goodness and steadfast love of God. As the church began to worship, gratitude would become an essential part of true, Biblical worship.

On those days when I struggle, gratitude is often the spiritual discipline I need to recalibrate my heart for worship. As I remember the goodness of God and the everlasting nature of His love, I sense the peace that comes from a heart filled with gratitude for who God is in my life.

Take a few minutes today and focus on gratitude. Remind yourself of God's goodness and of His everlasting love. Let this practice guide you as you worship God and experience the peace of His presence.

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 10- March 4

Confession- Psalms 32:1–5

Confession frees us from guilt

In a TV show I recently watched, a young boy stepped in to protect a friend from a man who was attacking her. In the heat of the moment, he accidentally killed the man. Afraid and overwhelmed, the two of them covered it up and swore each other to secrecy. As the days passed, the boy's guilt grew heavier. Shame stole his peace. What he tried to bury began to consume him. Eventually, the weight became unbearable, and he confessed.

King David describes that same burden in Psalms 32: "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away... day and night your hand was heavy on me... Then I acknowledged my sin to you... and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Silence did not protect David; it drained him. But confession brought freedom to David's guilt.

We always hope time will erase what happened. Yet unconfessed sin quietly steals our joy, disrupts our fellowship with God, and distances us from others. We tell ourselves no one should know, but God already knows. Confession is not informing Him; it is aligning with Him. And Scripture promises that when we confess, He forgives and cleanses.

If something has been weighing on your heart, don't carry it any longer. Bring it into the light before the Lord. The same God who convicted David also forgave him, and He wants to do the same for you!

Devotional by Craig S

Day 11- March 5

Forgiveness- Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Forgiveness. The easiest yet most complicated command given to believers. In a complicated world, we get caught up in the wrongs done to us and others, and we become bitter or hardened to so many things. This feeling is so common and, honestly, has become a very natural reaction. But as believers, aren't we called to not conform to the worldly view? There are many commands we are given in Scripture that, as believers, we read and feel are extremely difficult, sometimes near impossible, forgiveness being one of them. Still, Scripture lays it out for us in very simple terms.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Even on our best days, we are not worthy of the grace that we are afforded by Christ's dying on the cross for our sins. One of the best examples of this in Scripture is found in Luke during the crucifixion. Luke 23:34 says, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". Jesus was hanging on the cross and asked the Father to forgive the same people who had sentenced him to the cross. This exact moment comes to mind when I think about forgiveness. Christ's ability to forgive those people is the ultimate example we should strive for as believers in forgiving others.

Devotional by Calvin L

Day 12- March 6

Worship- Genesis 22:1-14

For people who have been attending church for a long time, worship has become synonymous with music, so a religious service without music would feel incomplete. But genuine worship is not solely about music; it is about sacrifice. In Genesis 22, we read the story of Abraham and Isaac. As the story goes, Abraham and Isaac are preparing to sacrifice an animal to the Lord. Still, they have not selected an animal, as was customary at the time. I can only imagine Isaac's curiosity as he carried the wood for the burnt offering, yet there was no animal in which to sacrifice. Yet his father knew that God had told him that Isaac would be the sacrifice.

Genesis 22:5 reads, "Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." This is the first usage of the word 'worship' in the Bible. As we peel back the layers of the story, we recognize that worship means sacrifice. It means a willingness to give up everything you are and everything you have. It means a desire to sacrifice yourself for God, rooted in your deep trust in His provision.

When Abraham heard from God that he would need to offer his son as a sacrifice, it was an act of worship because he trusted God and believed that God would provide. Worship then is a deep trust in the Lord and a willingness to give up what you have for what He has prepared for you. In Romans 12:1, it says, "I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Worship is the act of presenting our lives to Jesus Christ so that He might use us as He sees fit to do so. Think of it this way: "Worship is not the songs we sing; worship is the sacrifice I bring."

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 13- March 7

Prayer- 1 Thessalonians 5:15-23

" See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the WILL of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

GOD is Good, HE has given us His Truth and Power of the Holy Spirit to overcome and endure the struggles of this world. Brothers and sisters be encouraged, pray without ceasing, knowing that we may be thinking many things at one time, keep that prayer thought open at all times, open to praise, intercessions and prompting of the Spirit. For God is always present, HE will never leave you or forsake you. Press into HIM moment by moment, day by day, year by year, with continuous prayer for HE alone is Worthy of All Praise, Honor and Glory.

Devotional by Randy B

Day 14- March 8

Fasting- Ezra 8:21-23

In Ezra 8:21-23, we find an important story about fasting. As Ezra is about to begin what could be a difficult journey, he declares a fast. In vs. 21, Ezra states that he is declaring a fast to "humble ourselves before God." In Scripture, fasting is a spiritual discipline that followers of Jesus are to practice regularly. Like prayer and Bible reading, fasting should be a regular spiritual rhythm. In the Ezra 8 passage, fasting is the bridge from pride to humility.

Ezra faced the struggle each of us faces: the idea that we have our lives under control and can make it without God. Now, we don't say or declare this out loud most of the time, yet we live as though we believe it. Too often, we live without thought or even consultation with God. We go our own way, do our own thing, and trust our own leadership. And we live this way because of pride.

When fasting becomes a regular rhythm in our spiritual life, it helps to keep us in a posture of humility. Fasting from food so that we can feast on God reminds us that He is all we need, and that it is through our humility that we are protected from the world's challenges. Ezra humbles himself and then prays for safety. It is his posture of fasting that humbles him, leading him to recognize that safety comes from God, not from him. It is a recognition of complete dependence upon God.

As you honestly evaluate your life, you will discover there are areas where you rely on yourself, thinking you have it all under control. Fasting is a bridge from pride to humility. Fasting reminds us of our complete dependency on God. As you fast today, ask God to help you live with greater humility. Let your fasting posture your heart for full dependence on Jesus.

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 15- March 9

Gratitude- Luke 17:11-19

Gratitude keeps our eyes on God.

When I think about gratitude, I think of the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. All ten were healed. Yet only one returned to thank Him. Jesus responded to that man, "Your faith has made you whole."

All ten were blessed, but only one was transformed.

Gratitude is often overlooked, yet it is incredibly powerful. It is more than good manners; it is a posture of the heart. Gratitude protects us from entitlement and reminds us that every good thing we have is an expression of grace. The nine received a miracle, but they missed the deeper relationship found in returning to Jesus with thanks.

This story serves as a good reminder that we can experience God's goodness and still grow distant if we don't intentionally come back to Him in gratitude. It's easy to run to God when we are in need. It takes humility to run back and say, "Thank you."

Practicing gratitude shifts our focus from what we are still waiting on to what God has already done. It tenderizes our hearts and fixes our eyes on Jesus, the true source of every blessing.

So consider this: Are you walking forward with the blessing before pausing to thank the One who gave it?

Devotional by Craig S

Day 16- March 10

Confession- Psalm 32

Confession is one of the most tender and freeing gifts God gives us, though it rarely feels that way at first. 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He does not expose us to humiliate us. He invites us in to heal us. The heart of God is not condemnation, but cleansing.

In Psalm 32, David writes, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away... For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me." We know that heaviness. It's the replay of a sharp word we wish we could take back. The quiet compromise at work. The hidden struggle we promise ourselves we'll fix tomorrow. Silence doesn't protect us—it slowly drains us. David goes on, "I acknowledged my sin to You... and You forgave the iniquity of my sin." In a single moment of honesty, the weight began to lift.

We often believe that if no one knows, we're safe. But secrecy isolates, and isolation suffocates the soul. We were never meant to carry our burdens alone. God designed us for community—for grace-filled conversations and prayed-over confessions.

Today, take a gentle but brave step. Bring your heart into the light. Tell the Lord. Reach out to a trusted friend. Watch how His grace washes away shame, softens pride, and restores joy. Freedom is waiting on the other side of honesty.

Devotional by Carah S

Day 17- March 11

Forgiveness- Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness frees us.

Relationships are a gift from God, but we all know that they are also fragile. The longer we walk with people, the more opportunities there are for misunderstanding and hurt. No friendship is perfect; that's why forgiveness is essential.

The Bible says in Colossians 3:13, "Bear with each other and forgive one another... Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Paul reminds us that living as followers of Jesus means putting on compassion, humility, and patience. We "bear with" one another because we know we all fall short.

Forgiveness doesn't pretend the hurt didn't happen, nor does it erase the pain, but it keeps the pain from becoming poison in your heart.

This verse also reminds us that we forgive for one powerful reason: because we have been forgiven.

Jesus did not wait for us to deserve grace. He went to the cross knowing our failures. When we remind ourselves of this, it becomes harder to cling to resentment. Forgiveness is a decision to release the offense and trust God with the outcome. Who do you need to forgive today?

Devotional by Craig S

Day 18- March 12

Worship- Psalm 96:3

³Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.

Worship is the practice of declaring and describing the worthiness of God. It means to ascribe to Him the worth that is due His name. We often worship through music and song, which means the words we sing to God in worship should ascribe to Him worthy glory, honor, and praise. This is why the words of our worship are so important.

Throughout the Scriptures, we find words and phrases that we can declare back to God in our worship. When we read that He is holy and righteous, those words become our worship as we declare to Him that He is holy and righteous. The best worship songs are those that declare the glory and the holiness of God.

I read a quote from Pastor Francis Chan that said, *"Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can't contain Him. Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?"*

Think about that last sentence. Have you ever thought or realized that God is so good and so holy that our worship of Him will never be exaggerated? No matter how many words we use to describe and ascribe God's character, it will never be enough. We can never exaggerate the majesty and holiness of God in worship. He is all that the Bible declares Him to be, and He will always be worthy of our worship.

What are the adjectives you can use to ascribe to God in worship? How do you feel knowing that through your worship, you can never exaggerate the goodness and power of God?

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 19- March 13

Prayer- Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Philippians 4:6 NLT

Can you talk to Jesus like you talk to a friend? In CB Kids, we teach that Jesus is our friend forever, so the answer to this is yes! You can imagine He is sitting with you and talking to Him about everything on your heart.

God wants to hear from you. In Hebrews 4:16, God tells us to come boldly before His throne, but we must do so with right motives. He isn't a genie here to grant our every request. James 4:1-3 tells us our motives must be pure in what we bring before our Holy God, so check your heart, then check your step... right up to the throne and empty your heart to the One who hears.

Be specific in your prayers. When sharing with a friend, you include all the details, right? The same is true of prayer. Cover every inch of your request in prayer.

Praise Him for who He is, thank Him for all He is and has done, share your requests, and tell Him how much you love Him. Prayer can also be a quick request...God help me do _____. But the most important prayer anyone can pray is the one asking for God to forgive them and for Jesus to be Lord of their life. We all need a Savior.

Devotional by Regina C

Day 20- March 14

Fasting- Psalm 107:1

God is greater and more worthy of worship than we will ever understand outside of Heaven.

We live in a world full of distractions. These distractions constantly compete to get more of our attention. Every app on our phones and computers wants us to enable notifications so it can grab more of our time. Other fleshly desires compete, as well. Food, work, money, television, sports, drugs, alcohol, gambling, shopping, gossip, resentment, and all other forms of licentiousness. As a result, the urgent and unimportant can dominate our day.

Fasting can be a tool to combat these spiritual leeches.

Traditional, Biblical fasting is abstaining from food. This abstinence can be extended to other areas of your life to help you restrain the things that come between you and the Lord.

Prayer is a form of worship reserved only for God. Fasting is pleasing to God insofar as it leads to increased prayer. To fast in a manner pleasing to God, we must INCREASE prayer and supplication while we DECREASE that from which we are fasting!

For today, pray for grace to help you make your fasting more fruitful. Meditate on ways to deepen and broaden how and when you worship God through prayer. Spend time reflecting on God's Holiness and our call as Christians to put to death the trappings of this world.

We may not fully understand God's greatness, but as we grow more faithful in worship, we grow as believers.

Devotional by James W

Day 21- March 15

Gratitude- Colossians 3:12-17

Gratitude isn't a personality trait; it's a discipline.

Have you ever actually appreciated the tension—the pull between where you came from and where you stand now? Real consequences between those two points. No pretending. That tension mirrors Paul's words in Philippians. Writing from prison, he speaks not of resentment, but of rejoicing. Not of scarcity, but of contentment. "I have learned," he says. Gratitude was not automatic; it was forged.

Again, can we show gratitude toward the tension life brings?

For those who carry responsibility—whether leading a family, a youth group, a team at work, or even a church—gratitude can quietly erode. Pressure narrows our vision. Targets, decisions, and the weight of stewardship can train us to see only what's missing, what's broken, what's next.

But Paul reminds us that gratitude is rooted in partnership and purpose. He thanks God for people. He rejoices in shared mission. He names what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy. Gratitude grows when we deliberately notice grace.

Growing up in a farming community, you learn quickly that harvest is never guaranteed. Rain, timing, unseen forces—much is outside your control. Leadership teaches the same lesson. You can plant and plan, but increase is a gift.

Gratitude, then, is humility expressed. It is the steady acknowledgment that every good thing—provision, endurance, brotherhood, even hardship that shapes us—comes from a faithful God.

And when gratitude takes root, joy follows. Not because circumstances are easy, but because Christ is enough.

Devotional by Jeremy R

Day 22-March 16

Confession- 1 John 1:9

Throughout the Bible, we come across conditional statements. We usually identify these statements with the clause, "...if... then..." These statements will give a premise of something that will happen or occur, followed by a statement of the conditions necessary for the premise to come to fruition. One of these conditional statements is found in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, [then] he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we confess our sins, God forgives them!

Confession of our sins is agreeing with God about our sins. He already knows when we sin, and He knows that we are sinners. Yet He calls us to confess our sins in agreement with Him as our action of inviting His forgiveness into our lives. Notice what happens when we confess our sins. God not only forgives our sins, but He also cleanses us. This means that God completely forgives our sins and also restores us through His righteousness.

Confession can seem counterproductive when we consider that God is omniscient and knows the sins we have committed and those we will commit in the future. Yet He still commands that we confess our sins to Him. Why does He do so? It's because confession of sin requires humility. When we humble ourselves in confession, it is then that we are rightly postured to receive all that God desires for us to receive. Confession is an act of humility, acknowledging our sins and inviting God's forgiveness into our lives.

What sins are there in your life that need to be confessed?

Practice confessing your sins today, and in doing so, you will invite the presence of God into your life. He will forgive and bring peace to your heart and passion to your life.

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 23- March 17

Forgiveness- Psalm 103:12

"He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west."

Psalms 103:12

God, through the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross, is faithful to forgive our sins when we have owned them, confessed them and asked for forgiveness. Yet sometimes we have a hard time letting our poor choices go. As followers of Christ, we can sometimes feel guilt over things we have done in the past. We need to lean into the promise in Psalms 103:12.

With that knowledge, we must also remember that, when sin has been forgiven, its consequences do not always disappear. We must still live with the consequences of our choices, but we can rest assured that God isn't punishing us - He has forgiven us. We are recipients of His Grace and Mercy. When our enemy sets in to remind us of things we have done in our past that are shameful, hurtful, dark, selfish..... we have a choice to either wallow around in that guilt OR press into the fact that when we asked for forgiveness, our sin is now as far as the east is from the west!

Lean into this promise. And then be generous with our own forgiveness of others.

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13

Devotional by Sandy B

Day 24- March 18

Worship- Isaiah 6:1-3

Worship doesn't start with us.

In Isaiah 6, the prophet saw the Lord sitting on His throne, high and lifted up. Around Him were angels calling out to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

Worship was already happening before Isaiah said a word.

When we come together on Sunday or worship throughout the week, we're not trying to make God show up. We are simply joining the praise that is already rising before Him.

When Isaiah encountered that vision of God's holiness, he was undone. He became deeply aware of his own unworthiness in the presence of a holy God. But because of Jesus, we do not stand alone in the throne room.

Hebrews 7:25 reminds us that He "always lives to intercede" for us. Jesus stands before the Father and covers us by His grace when we enter a relationship with Him.

Remember, worship is not about performing. It's about lifting your eyes and joining in on the eternal worship song:
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord."

Devotional by Craig S

Day 25- March 19

Prayer- Matthew 6:9-13

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, God commands us to pray without ceasing. As humans, we tend to treat prayer as either a ritual or a rescue plan. Many people either pray out of obligation or desperation. Prayer is intended to be our lifeline to the Father, our means of daily and continuous communication in our relationship with him.

1 Peter 3:12 tells us that God hears the prayers of the righteous. People may worry about the content or polished structure of their prayers, feeling they need to sound more proper.

What God really wants from us in prayer is honesty; He desires our hearts. See, the truth is we aren't really telling God what we need... he already knows before we ever breathe a word. We are just being faithful in coming to him in prayer.

Based on Romans 8:26-27, we know that God understands the deepest, inexpressible, and wordless groans of the heart when we lack the words to pray. It's at this point that the Holy Spirit intercedes, taking our silent utterings and turning them into prayers perfectly aligned with God's will.

Prayer should be honest and from the heart. A short, simple, heartfelt prayer while mowing the lawn or doing the dishes makes prayer a real part of daily life. It is and should be a part of building and maintaining your relationship with God, and it does far more than a long, perfectly rehearsed, eloquent prayer without true feeling.

Prayer teaches us to trust in God. As humans, we tend to want things NOW! The Bible tells us that God's timing is perfect, and through prayer and the development of that relationship, we learn to trust him and his perfect timing.

The most notable prayer is probably The Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. In this passage, the Lord teaches us how to pray.

Devotional by Kenneth P

Day 26- March 20

Fasting- Isaiah 58:3

Concern For the Heart

In Isaiah 58:3, the people declare, "We have fasted before you! ... 'Why aren't you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don't even notice it!'" The Lord's response was clear, "I will tell you why ... It's because you are fasting to please yourselves'."

While Jesus clearly gives a mandate for fasting, "when you fast" (Matt 6:16), the Lord's concern is always with the condition of our hearts and not mere actions. Jesus later told the most pious individuals of his day to "show mercy, not offer sacrifices." So, whether in the Old Testament, as the Lord spoke to the Israelites through Isaiah, or in the New Testament as Jesus spoke, the Lord's message is the same. He calls us not only to fast, but also to check our hearts' posture and long for a true change internally that will spill out in our actions toward Him and others.

Prayer: Father, let me come humbly before You during this period of fasting with awe and reverence of Your glory and majesty. Search my innermost thoughts, point out anything in me that offends You, and let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You.

Devotional by Jared H

Day 27- March 21

Gratitude- Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.

As Christians, Gratitude should be an everyday practice for us. Easier said than done, right? Many studies have proven that sitting down for just 3-5 minutes a day, to write down 5 things you're grateful for, will greatly improve a person's struggle with anxiety and depression. Have you ever thought, what if I wake up tomorrow and only have what I thanked God for the day before? I'm so grateful for this life He's blessed me with, and I must show Him my GRATITUDE every day.

I'll never forget the heartbreak over the miscarriages that my husband and I experienced. The feeling of hopelessness, loneliness, and devastation. Wondering if there was something I had done wrong or anything I could have done differently to prevent each one. In that struggle, I prayed a lot, mostly questioning the Lord and his will over my life. Through that time of prayer and constant struggle to stay connected with God through His word, I learned to cultivate gratitude. The Lord provided for me in ways I never could have imagined. If you practice gratitude, even in the hard things, you'll look back and start seeing silver linings. I'm living proof.

I'll leave you with this quote by A.W Tozer. "Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."

Devotional by Brandi L

Day 28- March 22

Confession- 1 Peter 2:24

1 Peter 2:24 tells us, *Christ bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.* If Christ died for our sins so we might be saved, why do we, as believers, need to confess our sins? Even though we are Christians and our sins are washed by the blood, we still have a sin nature. We have been redeemed for our past, present, and future sins, but that does not give us a free ticket to live life as we please.

For us to have a relationship with God, much less anyone, we need to converse with Him. A generic prayer, such as *God, forgive me of my sins,* doesn't cut it. We need to be honest and let God know we are sorry and ashamed of what we've done.

Having a conversation with God in prayer draws us closer to Him. Being close to God is an awesome place to be. Praise Him, thank Him, and let Him know we are sorry for our sins, and He will bless us beyond all understanding.

Devotional by Kiley L

Day 29- March 23

Forgiveness- Ephesians 4:32

"Forgiveness is one of the most beautiful words in the human vocabulary. How much pain and unhappy consequences could be avoided if we all learned the meaning of the word?" Billy Graham

The purpose of this devotional is to help learn the meaning of the word forgiveness, or at least better understand why it is a "beautiful" word. The definition of forgiveness is ceasing to feel resentment against (an offender). On the surface, this seems like a simple definition. Still, when we have been offended, it is often more complicated because of the emotions surrounding the offense or the person who offended us. We can come up with many reasons to withhold forgiveness: "They don't deserve forgiveness, they don't think they did anything wrong, they will offend me again, or I'll forgive later after I feel better."

Paul says to "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" in Ephesians 4:32 (ESV). This level of forgiveness means that Christians are not to resent the offender, but also to consider how God has forgiven us. God forgives the sinner, even if they are uninterested in forgiveness. He doesn't become angry with his creation when they don't recognize their offense. He forgives completely, even knowing that the sinner will make the same mistake again, and he doesn't require a probationary period before forgiving.

God's forgiveness offers complete restoration. He loves, honors, and associates with those who once offended Him—counting the offender as equal in the inheritance of eternal glory in Heaven. It is the duty of Christians to forgive in a way that makes the offender feel loved, honored, and wanted, showing a glimpse of who God is.

Devotional by Josh K

Day 30- March 24

Worship- John 4:24

Worship is more than just singing songs at church or going through the motions. It is how we respond to God because we know Him and love Him. Jesus said, **“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24)**. That means worship starts in our hearts. It’s not about putting on a show or just feeling emotional. It’s about truly loving God and following what His Word says. When we worship in spirit, we are fully focused on Him. When we worship in truth, we live the way He teaches us to live.

The Bible also says, **“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3)**. God is greater than anything we face—bigger than our fears, our problems, and our questions. When we remember how powerful and amazing He is, worship becomes natural. We praise Him not just because of what He gives us, but because of who He is.

Worship doesn’t stop when the music ends. Paul writes, **“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1)**. This means obeying God, making good choices, and trusting Him every day is also worship.

So today, worship God not just with your words, but with your whole life.

Devotional by Troy J

Day 31- March 25

Prayer- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

There's a brief section in 1 Thessalonians 5 in which the author, Paul, writes about how followers of Jesus should live and behave. Within the list of behaviors is the exhortation to pray. Here is what he writes: *16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* At first glance, it appears the language that Paul uses in this passage is metaphorical. He connects each behavior with ongoing language: *always, without ceasing, and in all circumstances.* The idea is not that we spend every moment of every day in active practice of these spiritual disciplines. The principle is a posture more than a practice.

Have you ever had one of those days when things began with wonderful success? You had a good morning and an encouraging devotional time. You enjoyed uninterrupted prayer and communion with God and sensed you were ready to tackle whatever the day would bring. Yet by mid-morning, your attitudes and actions seemed far from reflecting the morning devotion you had just experienced! That scenario has likely happened to all of us. As we read these verses in 16-18, we should understand that the goal is to maintain a posture of prayer, rather than simply continuing a practice of prayer.

In our daily lives, it is not always possible to remain in constant prayer, but we can maintain a consistent attitude of prayer. We can set our hearts to prayer and ask the Lord to help us remain constant in our thoughts and attitudes toward prayer. Then, as we face the struggles of our day, we can do so with our hearts turned toward the Lord and our minds focused on prayer.

As you pray today, ask God to help you maintain an attitude of unceasing prayer. Ask Him to guide you to maintain a spirit of prayerfulness in all things and at all times. And as you face the ups and downs that today might bring, you can do so as you "pray without ceasing."

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 32- March 26

Fasting- Matthew 6:16

Fasting is often misunderstood as merely giving something up, but it is about making room for God. Throughout Scripture, fasting is connected with humility, repentance, breakthrough, and renewed focus. Fasting shifts us from performance to dependence.

When we fast, we intentionally feel our need. Hunger becomes a reminder to pray. Weakness becomes an invitation to rely on God's strength. Fasting prepares us spiritually. It clears distractions and exposes what may be controlling us—comfort, routine, even fear.

Fasting is about aligning our hearts with His will. As we deny ourselves, our spiritual sensitivity increases. We begin to recognize His voice more clearly and respond more quickly in obedience.

If you choose to fast, let it be rooted in love, not obligation. Pair it with prayer and Scripture. Ask God to reveal areas that need refining. Trust that He sees the quiet sacrifice and honors the humble heart.

Devotional by Angie R

Day 33- March 27

Gratitude- Psalm 118:24

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Have you ever considered why gratitude is an important part of our spiritual disciplines? Throughout the Bible, the people of God are encouraged to live with an attitude of gratitude. In both the Old and New Testaments, the Scriptures teach that we are always to fill our hearts with gratitude for who God is and for all that He has done. Yet, at times, it is a struggle for us to maintain a heart of gratitude.

Here's why we must choose a heart that is grateful: without intent, our hearts will naturally move toward pridefulness and ingratitude. In John 10:10, we read, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Every day, the thief will attempt to steal our hearts. He will prompt us toward ingratitude and resentment. He will tempt us to believe that our circumstances should dictate the posture of our hearts. He will attempt to deceive us into believing things about God that are not true!

There is so much for which we have to be thankful. God is good and loving, and He has provided for us all that we need. Even though the enemy will attempt to steal from us, we can choose gratitude each day so that our hearts remain faithful to Jesus.

The Psalmist in this verse reminds us that gratitude is a daily decision. It is recognizing each day that God is good, and He has given us another day. We can rejoice in today and be glad because God has made today good.

Choose to rejoice in today and remember that every day is a gift from God. Although there will be days when our circumstances are difficult, we can still rejoice because God is good and He has made today good! Choose today to rejoice in the Lord.

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 34- March 28

Confession- 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." – 1 John 1:9

"I cried out to Him with my mouth... If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." – Psalm 66:17–18

Confession is not about humiliation - it is about liberation. We sometimes treat confession like standing in a courtroom, bracing for punishment. But Scripture paints a different picture. God does not invite us to confess because He is unaware of our failures, but because He longs to restore our hearts.

Can you remember a time when you tried to pray during a season when you were holding onto resentment? Did your words sound spiritual, but something felt blocked? Psalm 66 says that if we "cherish" sin in our hearts, it hinders our fellowship with God. It's not that He cannot hear, it's that unconfessed sin disrupts closeness.

1 John 1:9 promises that when we confess, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse us. That is restoration. But Psalm 66 also reminds us that clinging to sin harms our intimacy with Him. We cannot cling to what separates us and expect deep communion at the same time.

Today, don't just pray around the issue. Pray through it. Name it. Release it. Let confession clear the way for renewed fellowship.

Closing Prayer

Father, search my heart and give me courage to confess what I've been holding onto, so nothing stands between us. Amen

Devotional by Bo M

Day 35- March 29

Forgiveness- Psalm 86:5

The forgiveness that God extends to us is from the deep love that He has for us. Psalm 86:5 says, *"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you."* Isn't it beautiful that God's forgiveness is connected to His goodness? The character of God is rich with traits that describe who He is. Everything flows from the characteristic of love. God is love, which means He is good and can forgive.

Too often in my own life, I forget how much God has forgiven me and that His forgiveness is a result of His love for me. And it is from His love that we experience His goodness.

In other passages in the Bible about forgiveness, we learn that withholding forgiveness from others can hinder not only our fellowship with them, but also with our fellowship with God. When I am facing those moments when it feels hard to forgive, I remember how much I have been forgiven. I think about all the sin, shame, and pain I have caused others, and all the times I have failed in my relationship with God. Yet every time I humble myself before and ask for His forgiveness, He forgives me fully and restores my relationship with Him.

Are you withholding forgiveness from someone who has wronged you? Have you been hurt so deeply that the idea of forgiving your offender seems impossible? Take a few moments today and remember the forgiveness that God has extended to you. Think of the Cross and the sacrifice of Jesus, and the extent to which He endured to purchase your forgiveness. Humble yourself and refuse to let unforgiveness hinder your fellowship with God.

"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you."

Devotional by Maclane F

Day 36- March 30

Prayer- Matthew 6:9-13

Prayer isn't about having the perfect words or knowing exactly what to say. It's about showing up. Sometimes prayer is confident and full of gratitude, and other times it's quiet or messy. All of it counts. God isn't looking for perfect speeches. He's looking for honest hearts.

Prayer creates space to slow down in a world that rarely does. It's a pause to breathe, reflect, and remember that life doesn't have to be handled alone. In prayer, worries can be named instead of carried silently, and questions can be spoken without fear of judgment. Even short prayers, just a sentence, a sigh, or a moment of silence, can be meaningful.

Prayer doesn't always change situations right away, but it often changes perspective. It reminds people that God is present, listening, and involved, even when answers don't come quickly. Over time, prayer builds trust, not through perfection but through consistency.

Prayer isn't meant to be a last resort only for hard moments. It's meant to be part of everyday life, during ordinary routines, quiet mornings, and long days. It's a way to stay connected, grounded, and aware of God's nearness.

At its core, prayer is simple. It's choosing to turn toward God instead of carrying everything alone, trusting that He hears, He cares, and He is already at work.

Devotional by Kristan W

Day 37- March 31

Fasting- Matthew 5:6

Fasting is more than abstaining from food or social media. It's about drawing near to God with an undivided heart. When we fast, we intentionally quiet the noise of the world and/or our own appetites so we can better hear His voice. Throughout Scripture, fasting is a spiritual discipline used to seek clarity, renewal, and breakthrough. Jesus Himself fasted for forty days before beginning His ministry, demonstrating that spiritual power often comes through physical surrender.

In fasting, we acknowledge our dependence on God. Every hunger pang or FOMO thought becomes a reminder that we do not live by bread alone or instant gratification, but by every word that proceeds from His mouth. It is a sacred exchange—our weakness for His strength, our emptiness for His presence. Fasting helps realign our hearts with His will and teaches us to hunger more for righteousness than for earthly pleasures or instant gratification.

When we fast with humility and purpose, our prayers deepen and become more sincere. God promises that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him. Fasting is not a way to earn His favor, but a means to focus wholly on His grace.

Whether it's a day, a week, or a specific type of fast, let the Holy Spirit guide it. As you deny yourself, invite God to fill the space you create. You'll find that true fulfillment doesn't come from what you consume—but from Who consumes your heart.

Scripture: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Matthew 5:6

Devotional by Kelsea M

Day 38- April 1

Gratitude- Hebrews 12:28

Gratitude is not just an appreciation of the things we receive. Gratitude requires that we acknowledge the benevolence of the gift-giver. C.S. Lewis describes gratitude like this: "Gratitude exclaims, very properly, 'How good of God to give me this.'"

It should be a posture we take towards God, who is not obligated to give to or bless us (other than His own love). In its essence, gratitude is a core aspect of the Christian walk. While discussing the externality of the new covenant, the author of Hebrews instructs the church:

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe," (Hebrews 12:28)

A true posture of gratitude toward God should produce in us reverence. That reverence should ultimately lead us to respond in worship. As Christians, we have been blessed beyond anything we could have imagined. Not only have we been given mortal life, but we have also been redeemed and regenerated from the plague of sin and made righteous through Christ's sacrifice so that we may live eternally in the presence of God.

Unfortunately, until that time, it is a daily struggle for us to push back our pride and complacency and respond with gratitude. As followers of Christ, we must make a conscious decision each day to acknowledge our blessings and extend our gratitude to God in everything, because He rightfully deserves it.

Studies have shown that expressing gratitude builds social bonds and improves relationships. By recognizing the true sources of all our blessings, we are not only rightly responding in worship but also drawing closer to the Father.

Paul tells us that we should: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Even in our times of struggles, there is so much to be grateful for, because God has already done so much for us. Take time today to consider the mercy that has been extended to you, the sanctifying act of Christ, the countless blessings that permeate each of our lives, and proclaim your gratitude to the source of all that is good.

Devotional by Stephen N

Day 39- April 2

Confession- Romans 10:9-10

Romans 10:9-10 says, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Confession is more than just repeating words or phrases. Confession is when we profess outwardly that we have surrendered our lives to Jesus. This provides us with an opportunity to show what is in our hearts. In this passage, Paul shows the correlation between the heart and the mouth. The heart is what we truly believe, and the mouth is how we boldly declare and show that belief. Faith begins deep in our hearts, and confession shows that true belief by declaring that Jesus is Lord.

Declaring that Jesus is Lord shows that we give up our authority to him. It shows that we acknowledge that He controls all aspects of our lives. Confession is a daily expression that Jesus rules our lives.

We are not saved by perfection, but rather by our sincere faith in Christ. The Resurrection assures us that sin and death do not have the final word. When we confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in the Resurrection in our hearts, we overcome sin and death with eternal life through Christ.

Today, make confession part of your Easter worship. Let your heart believe boldly, and your mouth confess courageously to all that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Devotional by Jason T

Day 40- April 3

Forgiveness- Colossians 3:12-13

Webster's Dictionary defines forgiveness as "pardoned" or "to be granted relief from payment." Praise be to God for the forgiveness offered to all who have accepted Christ and the free gift of salvation! "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

However, we often overlook how the gift of forgiveness influences our ability to forgive those in our own lives. If God forgave us for the penalty of sin we deserved, shouldn't we also be quick to forgive others for the ways they have wronged us, whether real or perceived? Paul addresses this very issue in his letter to the Colossians. Encouraging them in their path to spiritual maturity, he urges them to "set your minds on things that are above" (Col 3:2) and to "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you" (Col 3:12-13).

On your journey toward spiritual growth and maturity, ask God to reveal to you today the areas in your life where forgiveness is needed, and pray for the strength to forgive others — just as Christ forgave you.

"And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12)

Devotional by Josh W

