



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER





# 01

## DAY 01

GOD PROMISES TO HEAR YOU

JANUARY 8, 2024

### Andrew Rutledge

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 5:14 NIV

*Today's promise: "...if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

You know when someone isn't listening to you. It's obvious in the blank look on their face. I've been on many Zoom meetings where someone looked like they were staring at the screen but they were obviously not present. I regularly will say good morning to someone only to have them respond "I'm good. How are you?" Sometimes I politely tell them that I hadn't asked that question yet. Sadly, it is often our families that get the worst of us. They know when we haven't heard a thing they said when they just poured out their heart about a bad day at work or school.

I do understand that we all live busy lives these days. There are a dozen things going through our minds at any time. Appointments we need to book. Upcoming special events that need to be organized. Families getting kids to sports events. Getting out the door for church. Car breakdowns. It's a lot to keep track of. Because of this noise it can be difficult for us to really focus on what is going on around us. As much as we want to, we just can't promise people that we will always hear them when they talk to us.

There is one person who promises to always hear us. Today's verse is a reminder that God will always hear when we talk to him. The verse starts by saying that "this is the confidence we have." Confidence is defined as being "full trust, belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing." In this case, it is the full trust and belief in God that He is trustworthy. God will not be distracted by the things going on. He will hear you.

Our focus this year is praying through God's promises. As we start this 21 day journey, know that, when you pray through the promises these coming 3 weeks, God will hear you. He is faithful and trustworthy. This is not an empty promise of someone who is too busy to really care about what you are saying. It is rooted in the very nature of God. He is trustworthy. So, pray these promises with the confidence that He is listening!



## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ How do you feel when you know someone is not listening to you?
- ▶ What do you do when it is obvious they have tuned you out?
- ▶ Do you have confidence that God is listening?
- ▶ What do you want God to hear from you today?
- ▶ What is most pressing on your mind?
- ▶ Will you commit to praying through the promises of God?

# PRAYER

God, thank you that you hear me. Thank you that I have the confidence that my prayers are heard. I will trust in you that, over these next 21 days, you will listen.

A large, stylized number 6 is centered on a background of horizontal lines. The number is white with a thick outline and is set against a light blue background. The lines are dark blue and evenly spaced. The number 6 is composed of a large circle with a vertical line extending from the bottom right, ending in a small horizontal bar.





# 02

## DAY 02

GOD PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN YOU

JANUARY 9, 2024

### Jesse Kataha

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 41:10

*"**Fear not**, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for **I am your God**; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

It feels like everywhere we turn, there is something new to be worried about. All it takes is a few minutes listening to News Talk radio about conflict overseas or engaging in an elevator conversation about the plummeting economy. There's no doubt, there is a lot to "fear" about the state of the world today. Or is there?

I want to ask you. What are the things that keep you up at night? **What are the thoughts that try to claim ground in your mind and steal your peace?**

I think about the unknown myself and wonder what life will look like just a few years from now. Am I worried? Sometimes. Is there hope? Yes. **Because of Jesus, we can trust that we are not alone** in our struggles and that He is there "strengthening" and guiding us like the perfect Shepherd that He is.

Fear can be a natural response when we don't

know what comes next or when we start to lose control over life or the lives of others. When my father was diagnosed with cancer, I felt fear deep within me. I feared that he would suffer, I feared that my family would fall apart, and obviously most of all, I feared that he would pass away.

How do we respond to fear when it comes our way? **Do we wallow in the anguish of things unknown, or do we pause to reflect on God's words?**

The truth is, there will always be something that tries to cause fear in our hearts, but remembering what God's word says can completely shift the narrative of life's troubles. We learn through God's word that fear is not our future because **through Jesus we are liberated to see hope beyond our situations.** We have Jesus (God himself) who takes us by the hand and walks with us in even the hardest parts of life.

My father finally succumbing to his illness was one of the hardest parts of life...and yet Jesus was there in the midst of it. I had a choice whether to be bound by the very fear of him passing or choosing a hope beyond my immediate understanding. There's something unexplainable about the peace that comes from God



when we surrender our fears to Him: it simply passes understanding. It doesn't make sense to "fear not" in those moments, and yet that's when He does as he says and "upholds us". **You can't experience the presence of Jesus and simultaneously experience fear.** Like oil and water, the two just can't mix, because trusting that "He is God" and that He is altogether good

means trusting that He sees the bigger picture that we just can't always see.

## KEY POINTS

- Trouble is inevitable, but fear is optional.
- God's presence is greater than our surroundings.
- God promises to strengthen, help, and uphold us in difficult times.

## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ What are the things that are causing you to fear in life?
- ▶ How can you surrender these fears to God?
- ▶ What measures can I take to avoid fueling fear?

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the comforting words you spoke that still ring true today. Thank you that you are with me in every circumstance and season of my life. Lord, help me to see beyond my fear and trust that you are in control of my life. Dear Lord, please give me the wisdom to turn away from the things that might try to create fear in my heart and instead turn towards Your word daily.

In Your name I pray,  
Amen.

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# 03

## DAY 03

GOD PROMISES TO GIVE YOU REST

JANUARY 10, 2024

### Janet Collins

KEY SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 11:28-30

*“Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”*

#### 1. To find Rest people must throw off the yoke of the world

A yoke was a heavy wooden harness that was put on a pair of oxen or other animals which would enable them to pull together on an attached piece of equipment.

Pharisees and religious rulers in Jesus’ day had a lot of rules that were added on to their faith. Their relationship with God was based on doing all the right things and obeying all the rules. This was a heavy burden to carry and created exhaustion. You would never know if you were “good enough” so the tendency to keep working, keep trying harder is always there. Jesus promise of rest means we cannot be tied to a list of do's and don'ts when we live out our faith. If we yoke ourselves to the world, and its expectations, we will never rest.

#### 2. To find Rest we need to take the yoke of Jesus on

In the ancient agricultural world when two oxen are yoked together one is a trained seasoned ox the other is a new young ox. The farmer chooses who will be yoked together. When Jesus says “Come” it is in invitation to trust him. For us, we have a choice to make, will we surrender and be yoked to Jesus? Taking on the yoke of Jesus implies there is still work to be done. We will have challenges and responsibilities to carry out. However, we must choose to surrender our will, desires, plans, and be yoked to Jesus and his leading. This is not easy, as it goes against our human nature to want our own way. However, there is rest to be found when we surrender and choose to be His disciple.

#### 3. The yoke of Jesus

The yoke of Jesus is humble, gentle and rest for your soul. We are saved from a “try harder” mentality. The burden Jesus gives us is light, easy to bear, because He is pulling with us. He has broad shoulders and is able to bear the brunt of the weight. We still need to pull, and be active, but we do not need to do it on our own, our job becomes to keep in step with Jesus and follow his lead. This is a process of learning



from the satisfaction of fulfilling the purpose Jesus has for us to accomplish in His time and His way. Rest that comes from leaning on Him.

- ▶ Read Matthew 11:28-30 what truth do you hear God speaking to you from this passage?
- ▶ Confess to God; what are you yoked to and what are you experiencing as a result?
- ▶ Jesus promises rest when we are yoked to him. What does true rest look like to you? Pray that God would open your eyes to His picture of rest for you.

Lord Jesus, thank you for promising me rest. So many days I feel exhausted and worn out trying to meet all the expectations of those around me and the ones I put on myself. I find myself yoked to the wrong things and being pulled in the wrong direction. Today I choose to be yoked to you, knowing that it is here I will find peace, contentment, and rest as I keep in step with you. Today I choose to lean on you for rest. In Jesus' Name Amen.

[illegible]





# 04

## DAY 04

GOD PROMISES TO REWARD YOU WHEN LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

JANUARY 11, 2024

### Tammy Palumbo

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

#### LUKE 6:35

Today we are looking at the Gospel of Luke. Let's begin with a little context. Of the four gospels, Luke is the third, immediately after Mark and before John. The study of the Book of Luke is extensive and ongoing. Luke identifies that this book is written so that Theophilus, "may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed" (Luke 1:4). What is great about reading Luke is his ability as a story-teller to tell us the events of Jesus' life, but present them not as a biography, and instead as a story that relates "a faithful account of the most important aspects of Jesus' life and teaching."

In Luke chapter six, we find today's verse: *"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked."*

This verse is situated near the end of a section marked "Love for Enemies" in the NRSV translation. It forms the part of the book of Luke scholars label "Luke's Sermon on the Plain" (found in Luke 6:17-49), parallel to Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount" (found in Matthew chapters 5-7). This sermon that Jesus gives in Luke is shorter than the one found in Matthew,

but begins and ends in the same way with the Beatitudes and the lesson of the builders. The one we will explore here is the Love for Enemies and what Jesus tells the listeners that should look like practically.

How many of us love our enemies? How many of us even have enemies? I think every person has encountered (or will encounter) someone who is actively opposed to us, but on the day-to-day in Canada, we don't encounter enemies in the broad sense of the word like Jesus' followers did in the Biblical accounts. Someone disagreeing with you online isn't the same as fearing for your life. What about lending something to someone without expecting it to be returned? For the most part, in our Canadian culture, we will lend things to people, but it will only be to people we know, or to people whom we trust will give the item back (usually in the same condition it was lent).

Our verse today challenges this notion. As Jesus says in Luke 6:34 "And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full." So what is Jesus trying to convey here? The key rests in the later part of Luke 6:35 "Your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High." By loving and lending to enemies, and



expecting nothing in return, we are able to show others that we are children of God. By doing what Jesus instructs, we show God's love to all: because God loves "the ungrateful and the wicked." If we behave like everyone else in the world, where we lend and expect things in return, we may have a good reputation, we may even be considered generous. But that

is an earthly reward. God wants us to love and act in a way that benefits those who are less fortunate-even opposed to us-as well. As believers, we must follow God's example: "the pattern for our kindness to others is God's kindness to us." Our reward is being children of the Most High.

## REFLECTIONS

And so here is the challenge: what can we do today, or this coming week, that puts this verse into practice? Take a moment and think about what God is saying to you through today's reading. Because reading this verse isn't just to reaffirm you feeling great about your donations. Or about making a casserole for that family and not expecting to get your dish back. This is about heart transformation: love your enemies. Do good things. Lend to people. Expect nothing. Be an example to others that leads them to Jesus. This is our reward.

## PRAYER

God as I freely receive your love, help me to extend it daily to those around me, even when it is challenging. Continue to change to be more like Jesus in my words and actions, so that others would be drawn to you, and find true life.

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# 05

## DAY 05

GOD PROMISES TO GIVE YOU WISDOM

JANUARY 12, 2024

### Les Markham

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

JAMES 1:5

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask of God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."*

It is not difficult to see that the Bible places high value on the benefits of receiving divine wisdom. The book of Proverbs alone is laced with exhortations to seek the wisdom of God and to walk in His ways. Our text in James says that "If we lack wisdom", and I am quite confident that we have all fit into that category at some point of time. Have you ever said or done something that later you wish you had done differently? James 1:5 is a promise that we all need to heed!

Why does God ask us to "Ask Him" – because we need to recognize our lack and our need for Him. But here's the good news, when we ask God is happy to respond in a generous and non-condemning way. When God gave Solomon the opportunity to make any request he wanted, God was so delighted with Solomon's request for wisdom the He gave Solomon wealth and power as a bonus.

Let me list some of the benefits of asking for, and receiving Divine Wisdom (which is different than worldly wisdom – see James 3:13–17, 1 Corinthians 1:25.

1. Divine wisdom gives us a better and deeper understanding of who God is and what He is like – His character and nature – Proverbs 2: 1 – 6.
  2. God's wisdom will give us the right direction and correct guidance for life. Divine wisdom is our spiritual GPS that will lead us in the paths of righteousness and to a glorious destination – Proverbs 4:11.
  3. Divine wisdom gives us God's protection from following dangerous paths where we might stumble and fall – Proverbs 2:11.
  4. God's wisdom will give us spiritual understanding and strength – Proverbs 24:3–5.
  5. Divine wisdom opens the door to blessing and joy – Proverbs 2:10, Proverbs 3:13 & 17.
  6. Divine wisdom leads to true whole person prosperity (possibly material wealth but more importantly spiritual and social riches) – Proverbs 8:17–21.
  7. God's wisdom is connected to good health and long life. – Proverbs 3:7, 8, 16, Proverbs 8:35
- If we ask God for wisdom, He will freely give – it's a promise! So why would we lean on our own understanding when heaven's provision is available for us? Proverbs 3: 5 & 6.



## REFLECTIONS

- Can you recall an occasion when your own wisdom failed you? What did you learn from that experience?
- How (or where) can we seek and receive the wisdom of God?
- What is one of the benefits of divine wisdom that you especially want (need) at this time? Have you asked for it?

# PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge my constant need of you. Forgive me for the times when I have gone ahead with my own ideas without consulting you or asking for your wisdom. Thank you for your promise that, if I ask, you will direct me to the best way and guide me in the path of righteousness. I don't want to depend on my own limited understanding so please remind me regularly that your wisdom is available to me when I seek your face. Thank you God.

05





# 06

## DAY 06

GOD PROMISES TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

JANUARY 13, 2024

### Conrad Huggins

KEY SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 4:19

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."*

I just love the Christmas season. I love getting together with family. I love the food. I love the atmosphere. It just feels different. From the time our tree goes up in mid-November, there is just something about the feeling Christmas brings that puts joy in my heart. It's a feeling I want to hold onto – even amidst the talk of new beginnings and a brand new year. It's (partially) why my Christmas decorations won't get taken down for at least another month – or two!

The part of the Christmas story that I gravitate to the most lately is the Magi who followed the star and visited Jesus. God draws people by His Spirit. What a powerful truth. He continually draws people to places where His people should be. Who knows what the star actually was that the men followed. Jupiter? The shekinah glory? There's some kind of scientific explanation for sure. We just know that it led them to where they needed to be. They show up and even before they encounter Jesus, Matthew 2:10 says they responded with exceedingly great joy.

We don't know how long it took them to get to Jerusalem. But, the gifts they brought were premeditated. They anticipated in hope that they were seeing the king of all kings. In faith, they said they were going to bring the best of the best. They knew that the gifts they had to give in return were sacrificial.

Do we approach God the same way? I find we typically pray, God, help me. God, feed me. Their response was, 'God, what can I give you?' They knew who they were going to see.

After their sacrificial gift to Jesus, they were warned in a dream to go home a different way. They changed their course. Spiritually speaking, how can anyone encounter the presence of Jesus and not allow Him to change their course?

Jesus' offer to the first disciples reminds me of this because it changed the course of their lives. When Jesus calls you, you cannot go back to being the same. You've got a different path. When you encounter Him, He'll alter your course. Now, you're headed into life (and life more abundantly) because Jesus changes your direction.

This is the Gospel message. Change your direction so you can be agents of change for others.



## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Have you changed the direction of your life ever since you encountered Jesus?
- ▶ Are there things in your life that you need to drop or sacrifice so that you can live the life Jesus has called you to?
- ▶ Are there people God has put in your life so you can lead them to Him?

# PRAYER

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for calling me just like You did to Your very first disciples. I ask that You help me, Lord to point others to You. Help me to live my words, not just speak them. Thank You for the message of hope that knowing You brings and the joy that comes from serving you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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# SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

**Central Community Church**

**9am or 11am**

**680 York Rd. NOTL**

**Stream Online**

**[centralcc.ca/watch](http://centralcc.ca/watch)**

**Facebook, YouTube**







# 08

## DAY 08

GOD PROMISES TO GUIDE YOU

JANUARY 15, 2024

### Bill Markham

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 58:11 NIV

*"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."*

In the journey of life, we often find ourselves walking through deserts of uncertainty, facing challenges that seem insurmountable, and thirsting for hope and strength to persevere. Isaiah 58:11 paints a beautiful picture of God's promises for those who trust in Him. This verse offers us encouragement, assuring us that even in the most challenging times, God remains our unfailing source of guidance, provision, and strength.

**1. Guidance:** "The Lord will guide you always." Life can sometimes feel like a maze of choices and decisions, leaving us feeling lost and directionless. But take heart! God promises to be our constant guide. His wisdom and insight are like a compass, leading us on the right path. As we seek His guidance through prayer, meditation on His Word, and a surrendered heart, we can trust that He will lead us toward His perfect will for our lives.

**2. Provision:** "He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land." Just as a traveler in a desert craves water, we often find ourselves in places of need and longing. But God, our Provider, assures us that He will meet our needs. His provision goes beyond the physical; He satisfies the thirst of our souls. In times of scarcity or lack, trust that God's abundant grace and provision will sustain you.

**3. Strength:** "And will strengthen your frame." Life's challenges can weaken us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Yet, God promises to strengthen us. His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). When we feel weary and burdened, we can turn to Him, and He will renew our strength, enabling us to keep moving forward with confidence.

**4. Fruitfulness:** "You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." God's promise extends to our spiritual well-being. When we remain rooted in Him, our lives become like flourishing gardens, abundant with spiritual fruit. The living waters of His Spirit flow through us, bringing life not only to ourselves but also to those around us. We become a source of refreshment, hope, and blessing to others.

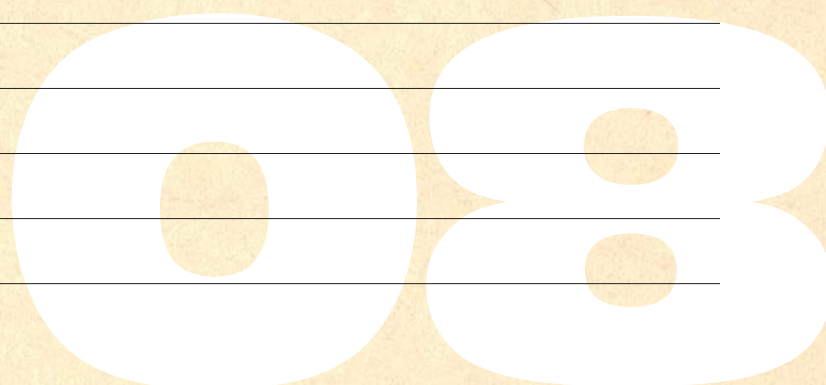


Today, as you reflect on Isaiah 58:11, may you find comfort and encouragement in the promises of our faithful God. Regardless of the deserts you may encounter in life, remember that God

is with you. He will guide you, provide for you, strengthen you, and make you fruitful. Trust in Him, and you will discover that His streams of living water never run dry.

## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Are you presently navigating a difficult circumstance (your desert), where your faith is being put to the test as you lean on God's promises?
- ▶ How are you discerning His guidance in this situation (listen)?
- ▶ What actions do you believe He is prompting you to take (act)?
- ▶ What aspects of this challenge is He encouraging you to entrust to Him (let go)?"







# 09

## DAY 09

GOD PROMISES YOU AN ETERNAL HOME

JANUARY 16, 2024

### Mike Hicks

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14:2-3 NKJV

*"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Jesus was spending time with His close friends. Jesus is always willing to let us ask questions. He is not scared that we have questions. His friends had a few questions for Him that day. When His friends talked about Jesus going away and they were upset, Jesus said to them "don't let your heart be troubled".

Sadness and depression or "Heart-trouble" is commonplace in our world even today. No rank, or class, or condition is exempt from it. No bars, or bolts, or locks can keep it out. Partly from inward causes, partly from outward, partly from our body, partly from our mind, the journey of life can present trouble in many forms. We are often tempted to look at other people and think "oh they don't have problems" or better yet "they are such mature Christians I'm sure they don't get depressed". Each one of us has problems and can be caught in sadness and what seems desperation if we do not keep our focus on Jesus Christ.

The remedy Jesus prescribes here is a simple one, and that is trust. Trust in Jesus, the man they knew and lived life with for years. The faithful mediator between God and man. "Trust" used here means to be persuaded in the integrity of and having total confidence in and reliance upon. Our trust in God and our Lord Jesus turns our troubled hearts into comforted hearts, keeping them freed from the agitation and worry.

Jesus, always knowing the condition of His followers, begins to speak in their ears these wonderful words of encouragement – rich in truth. They are certainly just as important to us today as they were to His disciples when he first spoke to them. He would indeed be going but in His going He would be preparing a place for us so that we may always be where He is. If that were not so, He would tell us. Our assurance is built on the integrity of our Lord's word as well as the example of sincere love and affection. As believers we would do well to remember that we are just travellers, visitors here. Earth is not our home, it never was. Heaven is, and heaven is a real place. That is the promise of Scripture. Heaven is a place – not a fluffy cloud – the Father's house – my Father's house. It is a place of mansions – lasting, eternal and permanent.



## REFLECTIONS

Take some time to reflect and pray on these following statements:

- ▶ Trust in Jesus is the remedy for “heart troubles”.
- ▶ Earth is not my home. My home is in heaven.
- ▶ A place with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for eternity should be my main focus.

## PRAYER

Father thank you. Jesus, I come to you today, I want to tell you thank you. Holy Spirit thank you for being my guide and my helper. Spoken words are one way to express my gratitude to you. Seeing how you cared for your followers when you were on this earth helping them understand who you were is a wonderful example to me of your care for me.

Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who goes with me wherever I go. Holy Spirit because I am a believer, I ask you to not only help me today but to help others as they travel from here to eternity. I pray a prayer of exchange and cast out fear and call-in faith and hope. I reject anxiety and worry and speak peace and calm to come into my heart and mind.

Finally, Lord I pray for a revival in Niagara. Help me to take my faith in you to those who you bring into my life. Lord I do this remembering what you did, and what you asked me to do while waiting for your return. In Jesus' name amen.

[illegible]





# 10

## DAY 10

GOD PROMISES AN ENDLESS SUPPLY

JANUARY 17, 2024

### Mike Hicks

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NIV

*"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."*

Everyone has needs. I have needs. You have needs. I have heard of people borrowing many different things, money, cars, tools but have you ever heard of borrowing someone else's needs? Of course not, you have enough of your own! Let's think about them right now. A need is something necessary, important and essential. Put them in a row, a long row. Needs for your body, needs for your soul, needs for your family, needs for the present, needs for the future and needs for eternity. Your needs are as many as the minutes in the day or the hairs on your head.

Where do needs come from? They are like black holes always consuming and never satisfied. They seem to grow and they crave attention! Needs are a part of our daily life. How do we cope? How do we manage the daily barrage?

God tells us a story about how He is very willing and able to supply our needs. He can supply them better than we can think or imagine. It is the story of a poor widow. She was unable to

pay the debts that her husband had accrued before he died and now the creditor was coming for payment. The creditor was going to take her sons as payment if she could not pay off the debt. This lady was desperate. Very desperate. What does she do? She searches out God's representative. What does he do? He asks her what she has, and she replies, "just a small jar of oil". He tells her to go and borrow containers as many as she can find and then pour out the oil filling the containers. "Go to your friends, go to your neighbours", he says. Once she has collected the containers God honoured her obedience. As she pours the little oil she has left into the bigger container the bigger container is filled right to the top! She goes to the next container and starts to pour. Soon each container is filled! This story is found in 2 Kings Chapter 4. I hope you take time to read it and remind yourself how good God is and how much He cares whenever you feel overwhelmed by what you are facing.

Having faith in God and a relationship with Him is the first and greatest need we have. If you want God to meet your needs, you need to believe what He says in His Word. I often repeat this to myself "you can't outgive God". Be generous with others, be generous with your words, your time, your talents, and be generous with your resources. God's Word



Life” by Robert Morris (I give it as a wedding gift to couples I marry). God wants to bless you. He will meet your needs according to His riches (and He owns everything). Trust God to meet your needs; spiritual, emotional and physical.

- ▶ God is love and God is generous.
- ▶ God's generosity gave us Jesus Christ (the greatest gift He could give).
- ▶ Generosity makes an impact in the natural world and the supernatural world.
- ▶ You can't outgive God.

Father thank you that you gave the greatest gift you could give when you gave your son Jesus Christ to die for me. You are my Lord, my counsellor, my guide, my encourager. Thank you that you care about my needs and help me to trust you to meet my needs in every circumstance. May I choose to be generous with you and with others in every area of my life.

In Jesus' name. amen.







## DAY 11

GOD PROMISES TO PROVIDE HEALING WORDS

JANUARY 18, 2024

### Jeffrey Tuffour

KEY SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 4:20-22 NIV

*"My son, pay attention to what I say;  
turn your ear to my words.  
Do not let them out of your sight,  
keep them within your heart;  
for they are life to those who find them  
and health to one's whole body."*

What is the best advice you have ever received?

As I reflect on the words of Solomon to his son, I cannot help but ask myself, what is the best advice I have received over the years? I realize how good counsel gives me a perspective change. I decided to ask a few friends to share some nuggets of wisdom they have received over the years. These were some of their responses:

*Do not always jump on a bandwagon. Be patient because time will tell.*

*Work hard and leave the results to God.*

*You are not perfect and nobody else is perfect, so look for the good in people and forget the rest.*

*You are not the only pebble on the beach.*

*Whatever you sow, you will reap.*

*If you want to drink water from the rock, you must be patient.*

*And lastly, do not eat the yellow snow.*

Wisdom passed on from the older generation is so valuable. I realize the importance of these words, as I tend to compare myself to people around me who I find are so much better than I am. I was stunned to realize; my friends' words enforced these words for me: "Do good to all people and leave the results to God." Similarly, the father's encouragement in Proverbs 4 seems to direct his son to anticipate the results of paying attention to his words: meaningful and abundant life. Living a full life comes from God, through his son Jesus Christ. Much like the father who wants his son to be successful in life, God longs for us as his children to live full lives. In a broken world where self is the focus, I find myself being drawn to the Christian ethos to focus on God for life. Distraction from this focus for me is disastrous. I find myself being a recluse, not wanting to engage in community and being very self-centered. I have come to realize that this is not a healthy, satisfying life. Neither are the excesses of life. Living life in seclusion, or loudly surrounded by all types of things and people, without having God direct my heart and motivation, misses the mark of life. I am learning to be shaped by the words



(life – attained in and through him) for me I find my life fulfilling. Living a rewarding life does not mean an absence of my distractions, but rather an embrace of the power which overcomes the distractions. It means allowing the Lord to help me “Guard [my] heart, for everything [I] do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23, NIV). I pay attention to his words, not letting them out of my sight and keeping them within my heart, because they guide my life and my passions.

[illegible]





# 12

## DAY 12

GOD PROMISES TO RESTORE YOUR LOST TIME

JANUARY 19, 2024

### Mario Caracciolo

KEY SCRIPTURE

JOEL 2:25 ESV

*"I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter..."*

In the book of Joel, we are reminded of a promise God made to his people after they experienced consecutive waves of locust invasions which left long-lasting devastation in the land. Crops were destroyed, and provisions for their nation became scarce. But perhaps, what was most disheartening was witnessing the many years of hard work that went into cultivating the land vanish... unable to recover that time. The people of Judah were brought to their knees.

Many things like broken-down-cars, failed jobs, or even strained relationships can be restored. But time cannot be restored. Thoughts like; "I should have made this decision earlier..." or "if only I had done this..." can circle around in our minds. Wrong choices or missed opportunities can often leave us with feelings of guilt, regret, or even anger.

However, with God nothing is impossible. He restores the "years," (or time) that has been lost or wasted when we surrender to him. Just as

God promised Judah abundant harvests for the years of desolation brought about by the locusts, he can restore our lost time.

Perhaps you've felt that you've lost years by acting selfishly, preoccupied only with temporal things rather than focusing on what is eternal. Perhaps you've regretted a decision that brought division in the family. Perhaps you've felt that the injustice done to you long ago robbed you of any sense of security. Perhaps you've felt that your illness will prevent you from a better future. Perhaps you've thought that the loss of your loved one could only mean despair.

Whatever your regrets or disappointments may be, allow God to restore those "lost years" by first deepening your relationship with Christ. The beauty of God's restoration is not merely about reclaiming what was taken away; it's about the transformation that occurs within us as we trust in Him. God doesn't just return what was lost; He redeems those years, infusing them with purpose, wisdom, and a deeper understanding of His faithfulness. Our losses become testimonies of His power to heal and restore.

Second, allow God to restore lost years by



multiplying your fruitfulness. Jesus taught that a harvest that could be 30, 60, or 100-fold (Matthew 13:8). Well, three years at 100-fold is just as much fruit as a decade at 30-fold.

What could happen if you stopped dwelling on the past and looked to the present in the light of what God can do?

The point is, it's never too late to allow God to work in you and through you.

# REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Take a moment to consider the seasons in your life where you have felt a sense of loss or where circumstances seemed to have stolen precious time. How did these experiences impact your faith and perspective? In prayer, invite God to reveal His presence and purpose even in those challenging times.
- ▶ Consider the transformative power of God. In prayer, invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate areas where you might need to let go of bitterness, regret, or past wounds. Ask for the strength to surrender these burdens and allow God's work of restoration to craft beauty out of brokenness.

# PRAYER

God, restore to me the years the locusts have eaten. I believe that you are always good. May I be even more grateful today for the love you have shown me. May my love for you grow as you reveal yourself to me. Use me, and may my fruitfulness in this season be greater than the past. In your name I pray. Amen.

A large, stylized white number '12' is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image. The background is a textured, light brown surface, possibly representing aged paper or cardboard, with horizontal lines running across it. The number '12' is rendered in a clean, modern, sans-serif font, with the '1' and '2' connected. The '1' has a small notch at the top, and the '2' has a thick, rounded base. The overall composition is minimalist and modern.





# 13

## DAY 13

GOD PROMISES TO GIVE YOU GODLY SUCCESS

JANUARY 20, 2024

### Jennifer Williams

KEY SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 16:3

*"Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."*

Every ability we have that will lead to success in life is given by God. 1 Corinthians 4:7, Paul asked; "What do you have that you have not received?" His question to the Corinthians implies that a person's ability to achieve success, could come only from God. So, it is God's plan for us to succeed in life.

Measuring success can be different for everyone. For some, it's about a great career, and trying to find satisfaction in all that it offers. And although God gives us the ability to achieve, many credit their work to their success, with no acknowledgement to God. Since having a great career is a gift from God, if you should lose everything, would you consider yourself a failure? Or would you recognize the hand of the Father working for you to become even better?

Achieving worldly success is hard, because you then believe that you must work even harder to keep what you have. But that should not be the mindset of those who commit whatever they do to the Lord.

Joshua's success depended on him studying the book of instruction continually, and obeying it, for only then he would prosper and succeed in everything (Joshua 1:8). Godly success comes from doing the will of God, it is more than a lucky break or sheer hard work. "...God works all things together for the good of those who love him..." (Romans 8:28)

In Proverbs 3:6 we are encouraged to "trust in the Lord with all of our heart" and "acknowledge him in all our ways" the promise is that he will direct our path". It is the wisdom of God that guides our lives and brings us successful outcomes.

Our text verse gives us the blueprint on how to succeed in life. Here we are told to commit our actions to the LORD. So, what does it mean to commit? The word here simply means to "roll upon", in the same way we are encouraged to roll our burden on God and leave it with him. To commit implies a close relationship that requires trust in the one that you are committed to.

The key to godly success is to commit to the Lord in prayer everything you do. Bring the word of his promise to him and obey him. This applies to every area of our lives. He is not ignorant of our needs, but we must bring them to him and trust His providence. He will give



you the desires of your heart! Why? Because He gave them to you! To be ignorant of his promises, is to forfeit his divine providence. As in the words of Joseph M. Scriven:

*O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry,  
Everything to God in prayer.*

My father always encouraged us to tell the Lord everything. For when it's urgent for us, He is already there working it out!

When the Lord establishes our thoughts, we achieve the best in life because his plans for us are good. It is quite the opposite when we make decisions without him. This is why we often find ourselves in the wilderness of life because God is having to put things right and making them work together for our good.

The promises of God are for every one of us. So, what are your plans? Have you rolled them on to the Lord? Then you will have godly success!

## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ In your own words, define worldly success v. godly success?
- ▶ Many compare themselves to others when measuring their success. How should success be measured considering 1 Corinthians 4:7?
- ▶ The key to godly success is to commit all that we do to the Lord: What does that look like to you?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for all your promises and for the understanding that they are for each one of us. May we roll everything we do onto you so that you will establish our thoughts. In Jesus' name.

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# **SUNDAY EXPERIENCE**

**Central Community Church**

**9am or 11am**

**680 York Rd. NOTL**

**Stream Online**

**[centralcc.ca/watch](http://centralcc.ca/watch)**

**Facebook, YouTube**







# 15

## DAY 15

GOD PROMISES TO BE YOUR REFUGE

JANUARY 22, 2024

### Judy Lundrigan

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

PSALM 91: 1-2

*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand]. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!"*  
(Amplified Bible)

Recently we were caring for our one-year-old granddaughter. That day, all she wanted was to get up in my arms and snuggle. I reciprocated by wrapping my arms around her, holding her close and stroking her hair. She was quite content to stay there, indefinitely. To be honest, I was enjoying that cuddle time just as much as her. There was an intimate connection there, she trusted me. It reminded me of Psalm 91.

**He who dwells ...must trust.** Regarding our relationship with God, that same connection, I believe is depicted in verse one, **"he who dwells,"** There is a closeness and **mutual** connection when we dwell in God's presence. There are various meanings to the word dwell, such as to abide, inhabit, hunker down, settle in, remain secure. Nevertheless, it takes a lot of **trust** to be that close to someone.

When you do, without a doubt, it becomes your safe place, your place of refuge. (V.2).

**He who dwells ...shall abide.** This wonderful Psalm is conditional upon our drawing close to God and standing on his faithful promises. **"Whoever dwells...shall abide."** The word **abide** speaks of rest, again, settling into that safe place of trust, knowing because we dwell there, everything is going to be all right.

**He who abides ...will remain secure.** To abide can be compared to the parable of Jesus regarding the vine and the branches, (John 15.) The branches are secure, grafted into the vine. Similarly, we are to "abide in him," (or be connected to.) In the natural, to know someone deeply, to really hear their heart, you spend a lot of time together "abiding" (doing life, hanging out). The more time you spend, the closer that relationship grows and strengthens. You know you can trust and depend on them. It is the same with your spiritual relationship with God. As you dwell, abide, rest in Him, you are stronger in your faith and more secure in trusting God no matter what.

The author of this Psalm is assumed to be Moses. It is believed to have been written before the Israelites were to enter the wilderness for their 40 years of wandering.



This could have been around the same time as Moses was passing on the leadership to Joshua. He encouraged Joshua and reminded him that “God never leaves us or forsakes us,” (Deuteronomy 31:8). It is good to know that even when our humanity fails, God remains faithful. (2 Timothy 2:13)

We were born for relationship with God and others. Being in God's presence is key to both

knowing him and trusting Him, regardless of what comes your way. You can stand with unwavering faith, and boldly declare, ***“He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!”***

**Finally:** Be confident in knowing ***“God is our refuge and strength”*** ... Psalm 46: 1a

## REFLECTIONS

- Read Psalm 91 in at least 3 different versions for comparison. Feel free to use the You Version app. (I suggest, TPT: NIV: NASB: KJV. AMP) Write down anything that stands out to you personally regarding God being your refuge and strength. Reflect on what you have written. What does your place of refuge with God now look like?
- Note verses 2 and 9: They both depict declaration, “I will say”. Read these verses over again, then declare them, bearing witness to these truths. How does speaking the word of God aloud have a powerful effect on your faith?
- Read John 15: 1-8. Reflect on your relationship with God. Are you grafted deeply into the vine? Or do you need to make some adjustments? Journal a short reflection on how that looks for you moving forward.

## PRAYER

Dear God, I know sometimes I am not as close to you as I want to be. I know there are times I fall short of spending time with you, even though not intentionally. Lord I long to be so close to you that no matter what comes my way, I am safe and secure in your promises. Help me Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit to be intentionally drawn into your presence, that safe place of refuge, trust, and rest. Help me Lord to find my strength in you. I want to be all you intend me to be. In Jesus Name. Amen.

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# 16

## DAY 16

GOD PROMISES TO WORK FOR YOUR GOOD

JANUARY 23, 2024

### Conrad Huggins

KEY SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 8:28

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

God will work it out. What a beautiful thought. What a promise to hold onto. That sentiment has been made into a recent song even. We love the idea that all things can work together for good, right? The problem however, is that too often this verse is misunderstood and misrepresented.

God can use any situation – good bad or indifferent for His glory and purpose. Hallelujah, end of story! The original language identifies the word “good” as useful or purposeful. God works together for making His use and purpose thrive. Here’s the rub: His promise to bring it in every situation is not available to everyone – contrary to what many would suggest. Paul says it’s only available to those who love God. That’s the caveat. If all things work together, it only works for those who love God. It may seem harsh, but the reality is that if you don’t love God, this promise is not for you.

There’s a huge difference between simply believing in God and loving God. The verse does not read, “I believe in God, so He can make everything good for my purpose.” Loving God means submitting your will to His. Allowing him to guide you. The key here is obedience.

John 14:15 says, *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* What is the root of that? Obedience. Some of God’s commandments aren’t easy to keep – or they might go against what we want to do naturally. But the commands that challenge us . . . those ones are telling us about obedience. Look at the word obedience. In the middle of it is a 3-letter word: die. It’s imperative. Being obedient to Christ means **dying** to self. My will is not my will anymore. God’s will becomes my will and it is the most important one in my life.

God works for the good of those who truly love Him. Those who are obedient. To love God means to follow God. Everyone on this planet has an opportunity to be loved by God. But it’s not until we accept His will and His salvation message that we can embrace that God is for us.



## REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Have you made the step from belief in God to loving Him through obedience?
- ▶ Do you find the commands in the Bible that challenge you to be obedient fairly difficult to follow?
- ▶ Is there a situation from your past where you can look back and see that the hand of God worked it out for your good?

# PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You so much for working things out for our good. Even when we cannot see You at work, even when it feels like our situation is out of control, we look to Your promise today that You will work things out for those that love You. Help us today to keep Your commands. In Jesus' name. Amen.

[illegible]





# 17

## DAY 17

GOD PROMISES TO REWARD YOUR DILIGENT SEEKING

JANUARY 24, 2024

### Yajaira Gomez

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

#### HEBREWS 11:6

*“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”*

Have you even been through a season where everything is nothing like you imagined it to be? As I look at my life today, the past 3 years are not what I had planned. Some things changed unexpectedly, and required lots of faith to hold on to my emotional sanity, family and church life. It felt like the one time I had lost my preschooler at the grocery store for what seemed the longest 10 minutes of my life! Living by faith in a time where things are constantly changing, requires two things:

1. Believe that God exists.
2. Believe that God rewards those who seek Him.

When we pray it requires that we know in our hearts and mind that God is real. Believe that He is. The Greek form of “faith” in the above scripture is πιστις [pis'-tis] that defines as “reliance upon Christ for salvation”. πιστις is “the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and

bestower of eternal salvation through Christ” (i.e., Hebrews 11:6; 12:2; 13:7) Since this word appears over 240 times in the New Testament, it is a very important principle! We are being reminded to be in constant dependency on Him and have the assurance/belief/faith, that He does hear us when we talk to him in prayer.

When we pray, it requires us to not only believe that God is real, but that this living God makes promises that He will not break. A promise is an agreement that assures the person will do what he says he will do. God has promised that there is a reward for those who depend on Him. He gives us peace and security in the most troublesome of times. So, when we pray God’s promises, we are reminding him that we agree to His written word: **Believe God exists + Seek God = Reward.**

During the unexpected troubles or storms, let’s not keep our eyes on the storm, but focus on God’s Word and His promises in so we can get THROUGH with peace of heart and mind.



## REFLECTIONS

- What do you hope God will do for you in this season?
- What needs to change in order for you to prepare to receive this?
- What do you hear God saying to you about this?

# PRAYER

Father, thank you for giving me faith in Jesus Christ to know that you are in my favour. I pray that in the seasons when everything seems to change, that my dependency on you will help me to adapt to that change and be resilient. Help me to focus on your promises instead of my anxieties so that I may have peace of mind and heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[illegible]





# 18

## DAY 18

GOD PROMISES TO ALWAYS BE PRESENT

JANUARY 25, 2024

### Michael Piett

KEY SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 13:5 NIV

*"...Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

God gives us a promise at the end of this verse that He will never leave us nor forsake us, which means he will never abandon us. The key to this promise is found in the first part of the verse where we are challenged to keep our lives free from the love of money and be content with what we have because God's presence provides all that we need.

God knows our circumstances which we find ourselves in today. Some of us are in a 'high' expense season with children living under our roof, others may be living on a 'shoe-string' budget with little or no wiggle room. It is no mystery to anyone that we all need money to live, but the warning found in the first part of the verse is to keep ourselves from the love of money. Loving money is really trusting that money is the solution to not only our basic needs, but our inner wants and desires. If I just had more money, I could pay these bills. If I had more money, then I could help others and be more generous. If I win some money then my problems will go away.

The second challenge of this verse is 'being content with what you have'. We are bombarded with marketing that emphasizes over and over that we are missing out: there is more, you need 'the more', life will be better with 'the more', and you deserve the 'more'. The two challenges are connected. We need money to feed the desire for more. The problem is that the 'more' will never satisfy and money is not the solution. Hence the verse teaches us that we should not rely on our pursuit of money but instead on the Lord, our Provider, Jehovah Jireh, who will never leave us or forsake us. What is also powerful about this promise is that it is not only found here in the New Testament but was actually referenced from the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 31:6. At that time the Israelites faced hardships, and God promised them that He would go with them and never leave them or abandon them. God called them out of slavery to be His people. Imagine being raised in generational slavery in Egypt and never having any resources of your own. After 40 years of wandering and God's daily provision in the desert, they were about to start a whole new chapter of life in the Promised Land. God was declaring that they could continue to trust in Him to provide for them, just as he had for their forefathers. God encouraged them not to look around and put their trust in anything other than Himself, that He would



never leave them, and they would have all they needed because of Him.

The parallel to this reference in the New Testament hundreds of years later reiterates this same promise of provision. God is still declaring this to us today. We can trust in Him to provide for our needs. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never fails us, and we also can trust Him. It is our daily choice to surrender our trust in Him for our provision.

Are we going to trust ourselves, our money, our work, our education, or some future inheritance as our hope? There is a lot of unnecessary pressure we carry if we trust money to be our solution. Money is not stable nor dependable. Circumstances change. Much of life is out of our control and it is in the depth of these unknowns that God has alternatively offered us His hand to hold on to. Will we trust God with our needs or our own strength and wisdom?

## **REFLECTIONS**

- ▶ How were you taught growing up in the area of financial provision?
- ▶ Were you raised with the concept you need to take care of yourself, because no one else will?
- ▶ What area in life do you find it hard to be content with and why?
- ▶ Who or what do you trust with your financial needs?
- ▶ Can you remember a time in your life when you know without a doubt God provided for you?

## **PRAYER**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you promise to never leave or abandon me. I thank you that I can present my needs to you and trust that you will provide. You know me better than anyone. You know what I need. Thank you that I can trust you and not have to rely on my own strength. You alone are good. Amen

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# 19

## DAY 19

GOD PROMISES TO HONOUR YOU WHEN YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF

JANUARY 26, 2024

### Jonathan Collins

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

#### 1 PETER 5: 6

*“So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour.”*

Have you ever gone through a challenging time or phase in your life and wondered when it was going to end? Have you asked, “Where is the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel?” Today’s promise is that if we humble ourselves before God and He will bless us. It is interesting because our passage today comes during a time great persecution, suffering and separation for the Church. Peter himself had suffered because he would not deny Jesus. Christians were scared at what to do. Peter wrote to Christians to remind them of their Salvation and hope in Jesus. He wrote a letter to tell them of their salvation and hope, how to live holy lives. He talks about family, and gives advice to elders in this time of struggle. Here is the promise that God gave to them and to us. “So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour.” (1 Peter 5:6)

Ok, I get it be humble before God. Yep, I know that! So how does that help me with people who mistreat me? God, I believe is warning

us not to let pride in our hearts even in hard situations. God is always concerned for our well-being. God however knows that our words and actions come from our hearts. A good example is when we feel ‘entitled’ in our situation. We cast judgement on God for what we aren’t getting, that in our minds we deserve. Then we cast judgment on those who hurt us by wanting what we feel they do deserve. Peter is reminding us that our mighty God who is all powerful is the judge, in control, and we need to let him work in our situation and in our hearts.

God cares about our hearts. In my experience that is always the starting point for Him, in our relationship with Him, in any life situation. If we humble ourselves and allow God to take control in our lives, He will honour you.

So, what does that mean to be honoured by God. In God’s timing you may be blessed and put in a better situation or God may open a door that leads to healing or restoration. He may take you in a totally different direction. You may even gain influence in whatever area you are living life in. It is not clear how, but our God will honour us for our submission to him even in the hardest of times.



## REFLECTIONS

- Read 1 Peter 5:6 and reflect on what God is saying to you?
- Is there anything that God wants you to humble yourself about so that He can bless you?
- If there is, confess it, and ask God what your next step is.

# PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are an awesome and amazing God. You see me God and you know what is happening in my life. You know how much I am struggling. Help me to let go of those who I am struggling with. Help me not to play judge because You are the judge. Help me to work on loving those who hurt me, in a way that honours you, Lord. I seek your guidance and help. I seek your blessing, Lord. Through Jesus. Amen.





# 20

## DAY 20

GOD PROMISES TO DO GREAT THINGS THROUGH YOU

JANUARY 27, 2024

### Justin Driedger

KEY SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14:12-14

Recently in my downtime I've been bingeing documentaries on sports legends. I've been struck by our collective fascination with greatness. Whether it's shelling out big bucks to see a favourite athlete or musician or diving into biographies of culturally significant figures, there's a magnetic pull toward their greatness. We yearn to understand what sets them apart, how they achieved greatness, and whether that same potential resides within us.

Now, consider Jesus—the ultimate GOAT (Greatest of All Time). What sets Him apart is not just His greatness but the promise that we, through belief in Him, can do even greater things than He did.

Let's unpack this promise together found in John 14:12-14: *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

When I read this promise it reveals three key aspects of greatness:

**#1 BELIEF.** This word believe is from the greek word *pisteuó* and it's where we get our word for faith. So it's not just believing that God exists because the bible says even the demons believe and shudder. This is talking about the simple act of a loving trusting relationship with Jesus which opens us to receiving His power and presence to then reside inside of us.

This relationship is kind of like a faucet. You can turn it all the way on and experience a greater trust in Jesus but you can also limit it and as a result experience a lack of faith which is why Jesus often talked to the disciples about their lack of faith. It's important to note faith doesn't come from us so no man/woman can boast but it comes from opening up that spiritual tap to receive Jesus power and presence and to give Jesus our whole lives.

**#2 GREATER THINGS.** The second part of this promise is that you will do not only the same things Jesus did but even greater things. Now we just have acknowledge that's a wild statement and this is where a lot of people have confused and questioned what this means. In order to better understand this passage we have to look at what are these greater things? How do



you define them? To be honest I think we have a narrow view on this. Our first thought is typically of the physical things Jesus did: turning water into wine, healing the official's son, feeding the 5000, walking on water, and/or reading the mind of the woman at the well.

Now there's no doubt those signs/wonders are amazing but follow for me a second. In verse 11 Jesus says to: follow me on account of my works and that my works are to lead people to faith (belief). So therefore the greater work that Jesus did was to lead people to faith in Himself. So Jesus is saying whoever believes in me will do the works I do - the works that point people to faith. If you are a believer that is the true definition of greatness - your life is a putting on display the trustworthiness of Jesus. Today my hope is you'd be reminded you are a co-heir with Christ meaning - your heart should break for injustice in the world as it does for Jesus but you also because of the Holy Spirit you get to experience His power and love and a bright hope.

**#3 BECAUSE I'M GOING TO THE FATHER.** The power in this statement is simply that Jesus going away meant He could send His Holy Spirit to live in every single one of us who believes. So the reason you can do greater things is on account of the all-powerful Spirit who will supply everything you need in order to bring glory to the Father.

This is why Jesus said whatever you ask in my name it will be done. Not because his name is some kind of magical incantation but rather it speaks of an endorsement (like a bank cheque) and a limitation (requests must be made in accordance with his character) meaning everything we ask or do in His name must come in alignment with His mind and motive and we know that is that everything we do is so that Jesus would be high and lifted up not only in our lives but in our world!

## **REFLECTIONS**

- ▶ On a scale of 1-10, how is your loving, trusting relationship with Jesus? Ask him to soften your heart and to fill you with faith to believe for His very best. Acknowledge it, take responsibility and surrendered it to God?
- ▶ Assess whether your life points others to faith and ask about the work God wants to do in you for His glory.
- ▶ Examine where you need Jesus to be lifted up, align with His will, and invite His power into your life.

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I open my heart to a deeper, stronger, and more loving relationship with you. Fill me with faith for greater things in my life and the lives around me. I choose to follow you again and ask to be used to lead others to faith. Thank you for making me a co-heir with Christ. Break my heart for what breaks yours, and empower me to bring hope and reconciliation by the strength of your Holy Spirit. Today, I invite you to work greater things in me and through me for Your glory. Amen.

20









# Encounter Night

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> | 6PM

**DAY**

21



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER