

AWAKEN

by

Claude V. King and P. Douglas Small

A 21-day Prayer Guide

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Preface

Awaken is a guide to enrich your participation in fasting and prayer for a revival of God's presence and work in your own life and church as the start to your year. Across the nation, thousands of churches urge their members to begin the New Year by praying. The goal of that revival in you is for God's glory to be revealed to a watching world that needs to know Him. When large numbers or high percentages of people are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, spiritual awakening is the result. Communities change. Cities change. And yes, nations can change. Spiritual awakening is what we need in our nation, but revival of God's people is a spiritual prerequisite.

Each day in this prayer guide, there are Scriptures designed to fix your focus on God and what He has to say to us through His Word - thoughts that will challenge or encourage. May God increase your own hunger for His presence and power to such a degree that you will make every adjustment required to experience revival and awakening. I'm praying that God will increase your faith to believe Him for all He wants to do where you are. Don't focus attention on how bad things may be around you. Get your eyes fixed on Jesus and what He can do. He is our Hope.

There are daily suggestions for prayer. Prayer is a relationship with the Creator of the universe. Jesus wants you to spend time getting to know Him and His purposes and His ways as you pray. He wants to speak to you about your life and your part in His plan for world redemption. You will notice that each day you are being asked to talk to the Lord about what you should *do* to apply what you are *hearing* from Him. Do not be a hearer only; become an obedient 'doer' of the word.

Fasting may be a new discipline for you. If so, do some research or ask someone about fasting. That may include denying yourself food, or it could include a fast from television or media for a season. Fasting heightens your hunger for God and your focus on Him, but it also provides you with additional time to pray. Fasting and prayer go together – as does giving. There are some helpful guides in the appendix.

Introduction to Fasting

P. Douglas Small

If you have never fasted before, here some quick talking points for review.

There are a number of ways you can fast – water fast (no solid foods, also called a Biblical fast), a partial fast (selected meals), a juice fast (only liquids), a Daniel fast (no meat or desserts), a dessert fast (no sweets or delicacies), a coffee-soda-caffeine fast, an intimacy fast (no sexual relationships, by consent), an entertainment fast (no TV, sports, games, etc.), a ‘talking fast’ (commitment to quiet for specific hours), a social media fast (No facebook, twitter, email, etc). You can fast for 21 days, or for three days a week, or one meal a day, or twenty of the 63 meals in the 21 day period.

Remember this, fasting is not about not eating. It is spiritual matter. It is declaration of war against the domination of the flesh over the Spirit, and the flesh and the body are not same. The ‘flesh’ is the dark spiritual energy that we wrestle with from within. Fasting is also a shot fired over the head of the Evil One. And it often wakes up very real resistance – from within and without. Don’t over-spiritualize. Avoid sensationalizing resistance, but expect it – from within, from others, from situations that seem to call you to break the fasting effort, and from your very real adversary, Satan.

Three things control all of life – prayer, fasting and giving. Prayer is our relationship to God, time and eternity. It is the one thing that keeps working after we die. And prayer is a declaration of we value God and our use of time – we take time to pray. We make room for God in our daily schedule. Fasting controls all things internal. It is a call to discipline the body, and make it a servant of the Spirit. To subordinate all appetites to the greater hunger for God. Giving controls all things external. It is our relationship with the world. If there is something we cannot give away, we don’t own it, it owns us. In these three disciplines is the whole Christian life. In prayer, we connect with God. In fasting, we submit our will to the will of the Father. In giving, we engage the world.

Fasting is not dieting. During the time we would have eaten – we are to pray! And food we would have eaten, we are to give away. Thus – all three elements come together. Seeking God (prayer). Surrendering to Him (fasting). And serving Him (giving). So the road you are now traveling is transforming. Here is what you can expect.

1. Great discipline will be required – but that is the path to becoming a true disciple.
2. Just saying ‘No,’ so consistently to temptation will press you to greater spiritual sensitivity. The goal is not to merely say ‘No!’ to the world and the flesh, but to say, ‘Yes!’ to the will and way of God.
3. As distractions are pushed aside and God is pursued daily, spiritual clarity will increase. Discernment will grow.
4. As you ‘draw near to God’ expect him to reveal himself. The scriptures may come alive with new clarity. You should find yourself praying more, praying throughout the day, becoming more aware of God’s presence.
5. Faith should increase as will a sense of joy. If you are on a total fast, the first three days are brutal. Beyond the 5th day, you feel renewed energy. Your body begins to purge itself; and so does the spirit. You will emerge from the fog of hunger and early spiritual confusion. The physical pangs leave you, and there is a fresh appetite for things spiritual.
6. The trap now – is pride. Overconfidence. You are defeating the flesh, saying ‘no’ to the world. Watch out for the third nemesis. Expect uncanny resistance. Stay committed. The best is yet to come.
7. Fasting is only a tool, a gateway, a platform to invert the dynamic of our lives from being so worldly and self-centered, to being conscious of another world. It is not an end. It is doorway into another dimension, a way of living a spirit-directed life. Don’t fast, and sigh, “I’m glad that is over with.” It is not an experience that you seek, but a life-style change.

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CAUTIONS

Jumping into a fast can be brutal. You may experience withdrawal from caffeine abstinence, sugar and sweets. Your body may react rather abruptly. For some, preparing themselves for a fast is good advice. Create an approach ramp to the fast. Days before, ease off addictive beverages and food.

A fast gives your body a chance to cleanse itself of toxins. You may experience headaches – even migraine-like moments. Hunger pangs are natural, but ease up after about three days. At times, they disappear almost completely. Metabolism changes and your body draws on its reserves, so limit strenuous exercise and activities. Take time for extra rest. Drink plenty of water. During a fast, the liver – the body’s filter – is working overtime. And it needs liquids, especially water to function well. Don’t confuse fruit ‘juices’ with fruit ‘punch.’ The latter is loaded with sugar, more toxins, and lacking in genuine nutrition. It creates a problem rather than solve one.

Your body will often tell you when it needs to break the fast. If severe hunger pangs return before the 21 days are over, and you are experiencing faintness or other physical problems, consider – for health reasons – breaking the fast.

If you are pregnant or nursing, remember that your voluntary choice to fast is a fast forced on another – and that is violation of an important principle. Pregnant and nursing moms need to consult a pediatrician before even a partial fast. If you are diabetic or have other health concerns, for example, an eating disorder – don’t tempt fate. Be creative, but wise. Get the advice of a godly physician who understands fasting, and listen to sound recommendations.

When you complete you fast, especially a total fast – exercise restraint. Going from fasting to feasting can be treacherous. Your body may react violently. Start with liquids. Move to semi-solids. Ease back toward a normal meal. You may want to take as much as three days to make the transition.

Some things, you may want to permanently forego. Life does go on with coffee and sugar-weighted desserts. Consider making fasting a regular part of your life – one day a week, one week out of the month, one meal a day for a three-day period weekly during which time you regularly pray.

Ready to Begin?

1. Have a plan – know your fasting capacity. If you have never fasted, you may not want to take on a 21-day solid food fast. Then again? Choose what fits you after prayer.
2. Choose the type of fast you will employ. Get the foods lined up if it is a partial fast.
3. Make the necessary calendar adjustments – lunches that need to be changed. Travel that might need to wait.
4. Monitor and pace yourself physically. This is a great time to learn to pay attention to your body, without letting it control you. This is especially true if you have any physical challenges or health concerns.
5. Don’t be legalistic. Be sensible. You may choose in the course of the fast, to intensify your effort – to move to a more rigorous schedule; or you may need to lace into your fast some grace! Remember, the goal is not fasting – it is a deeper encounter with God, and that is always by grace. Fasting is the discipline we impose on ourselves to ‘present ourselves a living sacrifice’ that draws the fire of God, to break the world’s grip, and offer ourselves to God.
6. Set a prayer and Bible reading goal alongside your fasting goal.
7. Crave out seasons of time for prayer. Begin to meet God early in the morning, when you would have eaten breakfast. Find a place for a spiritual lunch-break. Take whole days to get away and read the Bible, and pray. Plan a special day of prayer with your spouse and family.

As you read the Scripture, use the READ-REFLECT-REASON-REST-RENEW model. Whatever you do, don't merely read passively. Read it, and engage it. Enter into a dialogue with God over your open Bible. Reflect on meanings, implications for you. Reason with yourself, and God. And then Rest – let God read you. Tell him, that only with the power of the Holy Spirit can you live-out, become what you have read. Let him Renew you!

Day 1

Spiritual Awakening

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

Thoughts for Today

When a nation sins – and all else has failed, there is stop-gap remedy. God's people can cry out to him. *"If my people, who are called by name, shall humble themselves ..."* Humility describes the attitude, the disposition of the heart, the posture of deference and dependence. The Septuagint, interestingly enough substitutes the idea of repentance. The Septuagint then captures the act; the Hebrew the attitude – both are necessary.

Second, they are to 'pray.' Here the word is 'palal,' a courtroom term. The idea is that of prayer as an intermediary. Having repented, and approaching God with humility, the penitent stands before God in behalf of the nation, between God and impending judgment – and prayerfully pleads for grace and divine intervention. There is more. Words are not enough.

Third, the focus of prayer is not to be merely on the hand of God, on blessings that need to be restored, but on the 'face' of God. It is a broken relationship that they now realize is in jeopardy if the sin and rebellion continue. The problem is rarely ever sin – mere acts. It is something deeper, something that is misplaced in the relationship. A first love is lost. Passion has cooled. The world and its allurements have become dominant.

It is the 'face' of God that is sought – the kind of fatherly kindness and grace seen by the prodigal in the eyes of his father. It is never law that brings the most compelling change, it is love. It constrains us. It motivates us. It is the impetus for lasting change. Finally, the people of God must also demonstrate righteousness – they must 'turn' from their wicked ways. This is more than sentiment. Repentance has to be modeled. The great need is not for the world to repent of their obvious sin, but for the church to repent of its rationalized sin. In doing so, we show our respect for God's holiness, we evidence a reverence for God that is largely lost today.

God's people, gladly and openly called by his name, can by their response to his grace in prayer – set off a chain of events that see national sins forgiven, their land healed.

It's Time to Pray

1. Determine to demonstrate your humility before God. Pray. Not just for yourself, but for the sake of the nation.
2. Ask God to change you – to show you where a change in your attitudes and actions might reveal Christ to people around you.

Prayer Exercise

Go to a nearby river and pray. Think about its force and the tiny stream from which it originally flowed. Pray for God's river to flow through you. Remember, the revival that launched the ministry of Jesus began at a river with the baptism by John. Elijah ended his ministry and Elisha's ministry began by crossing a river. What river do you need to be on the other side of? Pray for those who are in dry places.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Silti of Ethiopia

There are many opportunities to work with the youth of Silti because the only recreation for them is to gather and play. Pray for ministries such as football friends, water aid, etc.

Day 2

Revival

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Zechariah 1:1-6

Thoughts for Today

When churches conduct “revival” services, they frequently see many people place their faith in Christ. Consequently, many think of revival as evangelistic services. But revival is what God accomplishes with His people when they return to Him. Revival comes when God restores life and vitality to His people. Revival is evident when His power and presence is made know in a community. When genuine revival comes to God's people, God's activity becomes the talk of the town.

On a recent Wednesday night, I [Claude King] spoke about prayer to about 25 members of a church that had run about 50 in attendance for 50 years. At the end of the session, the pastor and people confessed they had not been people of prayer and they repented. I explained that when John the Baptist preached a message of repentance, he required “*fruits of repentance*.” I asked, “What is the fruit of repentance for prayerlessness?” ...Prayer! So we concluded in small groups of prayer. Many wept over their sin and pledged to pray.

That pastor resigned and a new one came a few months later. I was asked to speak again. The deacon chairman said, “We are not the same people we used to be. We took that prayer thing seriously.” They had begun to pray in classes and services. Their mid-week prayer meeting became a real prayer meeting. They had been meeting weekly on Fridays to pray for a new pastor and God had sent them a man of prayer. I was excited to think what God might do with a praying people led by a praying pastor.

A few months later, a Methodist pastor asked if I had heard about the revival in this church I just described. I had not. He said the Methodists were praying it would spread their direction. So I called the new pastor and asked what was happening. Inactive church members were getting right with God and reconciling with the church. Life and vitality had replaced apathy. People were coming to faith in Christ and the church was running 175 in attendance. Now they were on mission with God in their community and they were going to the world. That is revival!

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray that God will reveal His requirements for genuine revival in your church. Ask God to start that revival in your own heart and life.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?

Prayer Exercise

Sit in a church or its parking lot. Pray that Christians would come to love God more, and that love would be measured not only in the way we pray, but also, in the time we spend with God. Pray for a revival and renewal among pastors and believers. Pray that people will no longer be merely disillusioned, but they will step out of the current paradigm and launch a new effort toward national revival.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Somali of Ethiopia

Very few Somali children attend school, and over half of the adults are illiterate. This is not surprising since they did not have a written script until 1972. Pray for effectiveness of the Jesus film among the Somali. Ask God to anoint the Gospel as it goes forth via radio and television to the Somali.

God's Pattern for Revival and Awakening¹

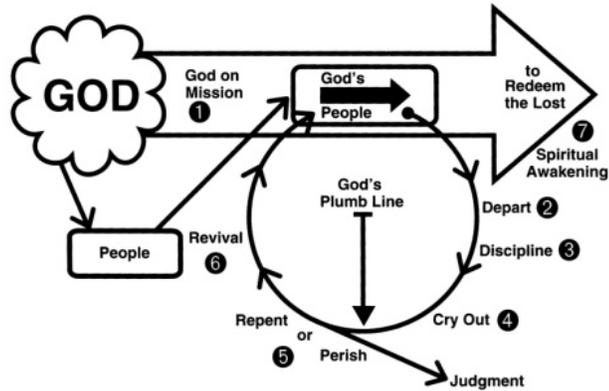
Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Thoughts for Today

The diagram above and the phases described below illustrate the connection between revival and spiritual awakening. When God disciplines us and we repent and return to Him, He revives us. He then can work through us to draw others to faith in Jesus.



- Phase 1 God is on mission to redeem a lost world. God calls His people into a relationship with Himself and He accomplishes His work through them.
- Phase 2 God's people tend to depart from Him, turning to substitutes for His presence, purposes, and ways.
- Phase 3 God disciplines His people out of His love for them.
- Phase 4 God's people cry out to Him for help.
- Phase 5 God calls His people to repent and return to Him or perish.
- Phase 6 God revives His repentant people by restoring them to a right relationship with Himself.
- Phase 7 God exalts His Son Jesus in His people and draws the lost to saving faith in Him.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to reveal where you are and where your church is in this pattern. Have you departed? Are you being disciplined? Are you crying out for help? Do you need to repent and return to Him? Are you ready to be used by God to draw others to new life in Christ?
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take to be of maximum usefulness to His kingdom?

Prayer Exercise

Pray at some wide open space or a vista point. Ask God to open your eyes to the world you can't see in the natural, to eternity. Ask God to free you and your prayer life from narrow concerns. Pray for peace in and over your city!

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Yawo of Malawi

A full Bible in Ciyawo was completed and published in late 2014. Two other translation efforts are ongoing. Pray for the Scriptures to be accepted by the majority Yawo Muslims as well as other forms of Scriptures (such as audio Bibles, etc.).

1. Diagram and phases from Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King. *Fresh Encounter: Seeking God Together for Revival in the Land*, (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2006), p. 65. Reprinted and used by permission. Available at www.lifeway.com.

Day 4

Making the Gospel Attractive

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read 1 Peter 3:3-4

Thoughts for Today

There was something compelling about Jesus. Something that attracted others to him – something that was intangible. Peter urges women – but the same principle applies to us all, *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward ... rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible **beauty** of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God”* (emphasis mine). The high priest wore garments for ‘glory and beauty.’ The Scripture speaks of the *‘beauty of holiness’* – of purity and innocence, of wholeness and unspoiled integrity. It is attractive.

Some police units have learned the importance of taking a chaplain along with them into tense situations. A chaplain’s weapons, it turns out, are more powerful than guns. He can breach an edgy situation, connect with an overwrought person. It isn’t his uniform, but his demeanor, his spirit and heart. In certain situations, a chaplain can disarm someone without a gun, more easily than the person can be taken by force. And so it is with us and the love of God. What the law could not do, love did.

Gospel language alone, without a gospel life – is ineffective as a witness. As someone has said, “Share the gospel as often as you can, and if necessary, use words.” Of course, evangelism demands words. The gospel is news. It demands that the gospel’s propositioned truth be grasped and believed. However, the best evangelism is the good news of God’s grace being shared by a transformed person who imparts hope of change.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to reveal to you anything in your life that might hinder others from choosing to follow Him. Ask Him to enable you to live in such a way that others will want what they see in you.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?

Prayer Exercise

Prayer-walk some area that is resistant to the knowledge of God. Intercede for law enforcement officers. Tell an officer, “Thanks for being a minister!” (Rom. 13:1-4)

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Kanjar of India

The Kanjars earned their poor reputation by prostituting their women and engaging in a variety of other illegal and illicit activities. They have earned a bad reputation in God’s eyes by choosing to worship Bhavani and the goddess Prabha. Pray that these activities will end.

Day 5

Revival and Harvest in Wales

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Isaiah 40:1-5

Thoughts for Today

Religious and church life had reached a low point in Wales in 1904. Church attendance was low and apathy and sinful behavior were high. Many were praying for revival. A young man, Evan Roberts, had been praying for 13 years. Sensing God's call to vocational ministry, he left working in the coal mines to go to school.

He sensed God gave him a message to share with his home church. On a Monday night, he shared a four point message with 17 young people and all responded with a desire to obey. They met the next night with more responding and attendance began to grow nightly. As Christians got right with God and others, God began to convict unbelievers of sin and many began turning to faith in Christ. In six months over 100,000 had professed faith in Christ.

Because so many people's lives were being changed, the society changed as well. Crime decreased so much that judges and policemen had little to do. Taverns went out of business because of the decline in drinking alcohol. That affected family life for the good. Even the animals in the coal mines had to be retrained because of the clean language of the converted miners.

Read Evan's four points and consider what changes you would need to make to apply these in your life.

1. You must put away any unconfessed sin.
2. You must put away any doubtful habit.
3. You must obey the Holy Spirit promptly.
4. You must confess Christ publicly.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray for God to bring such conviction throughout your region that masses will put away sin and doubtful habits. Pray that God will guide and empower your witness and that of others.
2. Pray that so many people will come to faith in Christ that the society in your community will change for good as lives are changed for God's glory.
3. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?

Prayer Exercise

Go to a public place where people drive or walk about such as a shopping center or mall. Sit quietly, and pray for those – like yourself – running here and there. Pray for their inner peace. Pray for a greater awareness of His presence.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Newah of Nepal

The Bible has been translated into the Newahi language, and several other Christian resources are available to the Newah at this time. Prayer is the key to reaching these precious people with the Gospel.

Day 6

Confession

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read 1 John 1:9

Thoughts for Today

It is so easy for Christians to develop an 'I'm in – he's out' philosophy. It is a version of them-us. We the holy and saved; they the unyielding world. Salvation for us is 'in the bag!' No worry. No concern. It is 'the world' that needs to repent. Not so in the Scripture. The issue of national revival is not on the back of the world. Rather, it only comes if *"My people, called by my name repent, and turn from their wicked ways ..."* Judgment begins in the house of the Lord. Were God to correct the nation, He could very well start with us.

We keep waiting for the world to repent. But they have little conception about sin; it is a lost notion. And they have less understanding of the holiness of God. What must happen is that we, with a view of God's holiness, must repent. With sincere brokenness and humility (Isaiah 6), there must come a wholesale turning from sin without reference to whether or not others join.

Sin is never to be measured by how near or far we are from the world, how alike or different we are from so-called sinners. No. Sin is measured by how near or far we are from God, how alike or different we are from Jesus.

At our new birth, God gave us blood transfusion that saved our lives. But we live in a world of sin – and its germs are as deadly as ever. We stay healthy by purifying ourselves, by recognizing the symptoms of the deadly disease called sin – and the medicine, the anti-viral treatment prescribed, is confession. Before God, the Divine Physician, we consistently name the symptoms, that is, 'we confess our sins, and he is faithful and just to forgive us.'

It's Time to Pray

1. Go to the Complete Spiritual Inventory on pages 25-31. Sometime during this day get alone and prayerfully go through each section of the Complete Spiritual Inventory.
2. Allow God to reveal any unconfessed sin. Confess, repent and claim 1 John 1:9—*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Prayer Exercise

Get a map of your city. Mark places in the city where the witness of godly people is sorely needed. Pray for God to "show up!" in these places where his grace is needed, through godly people. Trace the developments in those places.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Bairwa of India

The Bairwa are influential despite their relatively smaller population. Feeling exploited by the higher castes, they have been involved in the struggle for social rights for the poor and farmers. Pray that the Bairwa will be open to missionaries.

Day 7

What Is the Evidence?

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:19-25

Thoughts for Today

Apologetics is that branch of theology that fashions a defense of the faith before the unbelieving. It is technical and judicial, a specialized discipline. And yet, the average Christian, applying the principles of the New Testament to life, may be the best apologist alive.

What is the connection between an apologist and an apology? They are glued. Inseparable. The greatest defense of the faith may be in our sensitivity to faith standards. There is a line of right and wrong that runs through every heart. Even criminals have code of ethics. And the line lights up, not when we wrong others, nearly as much as when we are wronged. Christians, who recognize, that they have violated the line, hurt another, and admit it. Indeed, confess it. Apologize. In that moment, they reveal their sensitivity to the Word of God, affirm what is right and wrong, and exemplify humility. Without witnessing, they have witnessed powerfully. They have pointed to the supreme standards of right and wrong. Less than perfect, they have nevertheless demonstrated their deep commitment to submit to Biblical truth.

Our greatest witness may be to humbly offer a quiet apology when we have violated the principles of Scripture. By repentance and confession, we testify to truth. Without such acts, we declare our practical disbelief in the consequences of sin and disobedience to God.

It's Time to Pray

1. Paul asked the Corinthians, *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith"* (2 Cor. 13:5). What proof do you have that you are really a Christian? Are the works of the flesh alive? How is the fruit of the Spirit coming along? Are you a new creation? Have you been filled with His Spirit and power?
2. Take steps to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray for a friend who has yet to believe in Christ. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Pray walk your neighborhood. Pray for your neighbors who live on each side of you. Pray that they might be aware of God and live lives conscious of His Presence.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Arora of Rajasthan, India

The Aroras are divided into three religions (Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism), yet they are open to visiting the sacred places of other religious communities. They are noted for their religious tolerance. Pray that prominent Arora from all three religious communities will find Jesus to be the only way to eternal life.

Day 8

Be Filled with the Spirit

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:4-8, and Ephesians 5:18

Thoughts for Today

It was never man who was to continue the work Christ started – it was ‘the Ghost.’ The Holy Spirit, already at work in the earth, clearly evident on the Old Testament, was to now do something additional. He was to work out of the office and in the name of Jesus, to reveal that he was alive. And this was to be done in and through the believers, the Church. Jesus insisted that they go nowhere, do nothing until the Spirit came. And he would teach and lead, guide and direct, work with and through them.

This was not simply an indwelling, but an empowering. It required a fullness of the Spirit. Throughout Acts, we see the Spirit, working with the Church, speaking to them, directing them, confirming. Peter said, *“While I was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on them ...”* He is declaring, “It wasn’t me. I didn’t do it.” The ‘Ghost’ was at work. Neither the work nor words were those of men. They spoke by the Spirit.

You will never be effective by your own effort alone. Are you full of the Spirit? The disciples were filled, and then filled again. This is not a matter of salvation, but of anointing! We are called to a task we cannot do alone. It is impossible – even to live the Christian life, without the power of the Holy Spirit.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to fill you to overflowing with the Holy Spirit! No, move beyond ‘asking’ to ‘seeking.’ Make spirit-fullness a preoccupation. Go after God with all your heart. Let go of things that hinder your holy pursuit.
2. Think about the Holy Spirit in his role as ‘the ghost’ of Jesus, coming to live and walk with you to provide proof that Jesus is not dead, but alive. Practice the presence the Spirit. Be conscious that you are traveling with a ‘ghost.’ Jesus is not dead, he is alive.
3. Pray again today for someone you hope will trust Christ. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Pray for pastors and Christian leaders to fall in love with Jesus all over again! Write a note to a spiritual leader. Tell them how their relationship with God has inspired you.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Bagdi of India

The Bagdi inhabit some of the most remote and inaccessible areas of India. Unfortunately, their scattered settlement pattern has hindered government efforts to provide services for the people. Pray for access to this people group.

Day 9

Restitution

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read Matthew 5:23-24 and Mark 11:25

Thoughts for Today

Years ago, the town in which I live, Kannapolis, had one of the largest cotton mills in the world – tens of thousands were employed by Mr. Cannon. When pay-day came, unregenerate men would gather at ‘gambler’s rock’ high in the middle of the mill-village. There they would wager their wages away and drink themselves silly. Their families would suffer. Into that drunken party came an uninvited preacher – Harry Whittington. He talked to them, sometimes preached to them. And at gambler’s rock, one night, an old-fashioned revival broke out.

As a result, men went home changed. They stopped drinking. Their wives noticed the difference. Across the mill-village, indeed, the whole city, the change spread. Suddenly, in the ‘Mill Store’ workers began to appear with lists of items they had stolen, asking for permission to pay for the goods ‘on-time.’ Language changed. Sensitivity to others exploded. Consciences were pricked. Mr. Cannon, the veritable owner of the city, summoned Preacher Harry Whittington. Gambler’s Rock was given to the preacher and a church was built on the site. It became, in the early 1900’s, one of the largest Pentecostal congregations in the nation – the Elm Street Church of God.

What moved Mr. Cannon was the sincerity of acts of restitution. To say one had changed was different than exacting a penalty by making a matter right! This was proof of change, the fruits of repentance. Cannon would often worship at the church and eventually help them build an orphanage – and more.

Is there someone, somewhere who needs to know about the change in your life? Who needs more evidence than words? Should repentance be more measurable? What happened to the teaching of restitution and the fruits of repentance?

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to reveal any relationships you may have that need reconciliation or forgiveness. Pray for those people today.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?

Prayer Exercise

Go to work early and find a quiet place to pray. Walk and pray, if possible. Invite God into your workplace and into your work. Look for other Christians who might share such a vision. Begin to pray together. Respect company policy, but do so without disobeying the Great Commission. Few businesses and employees will resist prayers for blessing. Ask God to bless the place and the people.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Chenchu of India

Alcoholism is a serious problem for many of the Chenchu. Their addictions allow them to temporarily escape from the reality of their difficult lives. Pray that find the permanent source of peace.

Day 10

Return to Your First Love

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Revelation 2:1-5

Thoughts for Today

Our intimate relationship with Christ and our concern for those He loves are dependent on our love for Him. If we depart from our first love, we need to return. Our renewed love for Him could change our world.

In 1727 Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf resigned from all his governmental responsibilities to provide spiritual leadership for a group of about three hundred people who had moved to his estate to escape religious persecution. Internal conflict was about to destroy the community. Zinzendorf and the elders drew up a covenant of brotherly union, and on May 12, 1727, the entire community repented of their divisions, reconciled with their brethren, and entered a covenant to live together in harmony.

On August 13, 1727, they had a significant encounter with their Savior at a Lord's Supper observance. During the service, they were deeply touched by their awareness of the sacrificial love of their wounded Savior. They determined that the best way they could express their love for Christ was to win for Him the souls for whom He died. Their battle cry was "to win for the Lamb that was slain the reward of His suffering."

Following that encounter with Christ, the Moravian Brethren were possessed by a zeal for missions. They began a 24-hour prayer watch for the causes of the Kingdom, which continued for more than 100 years. During the following 25 years, they sent out more than one hundred missionaries around the world. Moravian missionaries were instrumental in leading John Wesley to genuine faith in Christ, and God used him as a key instrument in the First Great Awakening in America and the Evangelical Awakening in England.²

It's Time to Pray

1. Thank God for His love shown through Christ's sacrifice. Ask Him to reveal the quality of your love for Him and how to increase your love.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Pray for kings and those in authority. Drive by some seat of government near you. Stop. Pray for those who work there, who are invested with power – that God would call them to follow Him, that Christians in that place would be empowered, emboldened to use their influence.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Badaga of Karnataka, India

The pantheistic Hindu religion provides a very different worldview than that of the Christian Bible. Pray that the worldview of the Badaga would be enlightened and their hearts would be open to hearing the Gospel.

2. Adapted from *Come to the Lord's Table*, Claude V. King, Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2006, pp. 10-15. Reprinted and used by permission. Available from www.lifeway.com.

Day 11

Surrendered Lives

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Romans 12:1-2 and 1 John 3:16

Thoughts for Today

Paul explained that God's mercy for us deserves the surrender of our lives and bodies to Christ as living sacrifices. Then John wrote that because of Christ's love for us, we ought to lay down our lives for others. As the Moravians began to pray for missions needs, they were told about the significant need for the gospel among the Negro slaves in the West Indies Islands. As they prayed for laborers, Leonard Dober and Tobias Leupold sensed God calling them to go. But they were told that the slave owners would not permit them to preach to the slaves.

Leonard and Tobias came up with a plan. They would sell themselves as slaves so they could live and work among the slaves and lead them to faith in Christ. Count Zinzendorf said that was too high a price to pay and would not allow them to go. They insisted that God called them, so the community held a prayer meeting to draw lots and seek the Lord's will. The lot revealed that Leonard should go and Tobias should wait. They continued praying and sensed God wanted David Nitschmann to accompany Leonard. The love for Christ caused these men to be willing to lay down their lives for others. When they reached St. Thomas Island, they found that the slave owners would allow them to preach to the slaves without having to sell themselves. And thus began the missionary work that impacted the world.

Though God may not require you to lay down your physical life for His cause, His call to salvation is a call to lordship. Jesus is Lord. We are His servants. We need to be prepared to obey His every command because we love Him. And we love Him because He first love us and gave His life for our salvation.

It's Time to Pray

1. Thank God for all the mercy and grace He has shown to you. Now, I beg you to present yourself to the Lord as a servant who will obey His Lord's commands.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for a person or group who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Study a map of the 10-40 window, the area of the world most unreached. Pray for the people who live there. Pray for the nations. For a global awakening.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Chamar of Bangladesh

With a population of over 50 million, they are among the largest untouchable, or Dalit communities in the Hindu world. Pray for the Chamar people to break through the caste barrier; be accepted and accept other communities.

Day 12

The Blessings of Obedience

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read John 14:15-23 and Matthew 7:21-27

Thoughts for Today

Hasn't Jesus made some wonderful promises to us? He has promised the Holy Spirit as our Counselor who will never leave us alone. He has promised us life in Him and in the Father. When we love Him and obey His commands, the Father will love us and Christ will reveal Himself to us. When we love and obey God, He takes up residence in our lives to live in us and with us! Did you notice the importance of obedience in all those promises? Those who do not obey, do not love Him. And their experience with God will be very different.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable about the two builders. One built his house on a rock, and the other built his on sand. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm and the other was destroyed. He said our lives are like those two builders. Those who obey are wise like the man who built his house on the rock. When the storms of life come, we can remain strong through the tough times. Those who do not obey are foolish like the man who built his house on the sand. People like that cannot remain strong when the storms of life rage around them.

If God were to grade your obedience to His commands, what kind of grade would you receive from Him? Based on your obedience and what He has said in His Word, what can you expect from Him? Can you expect a strong life even during the storms? Can you expect Him to reveal Himself to you and take up residence in your life? Or can you expect to collapse when the storms of life come. Could you possibly hear Him say, *"I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers"* (Matt. 7:23)?

Jesus said, *"Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven, that person is My brother and sister and mother"* (Matt. 12:50). Though we are not saved by obedience and our good works, they are evidence that we share the family resemblance. They show others that we belong to His family.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to evaluate your obedience. What does that reveal about your love for Him? Your relationship to Him?
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take to obey Him and experience His best?
3. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Prayer walk your house. Pray in every room. Ask yourself, how can the home itself more fully honor Christ?

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Shaikh of Bangladesh

There are only a few believers in Jesus among the very large Shaikh community of Bangladesh. They need much prayer support. Pray for their physical and spiritual protection. Pray they will be lights reflecting the goodness of Christ in a dark land.

Day 13

The Power of Love

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read John 13:34-35 and John 15:9-17

Thoughts for Today

The world will know we are followers of Jesus Christ by the love we demonstrate toward one another. This past summer I saw this reality during a trip to Sierra Leone (West Africa). I heard story after story of former Muslims who had come to faith in Christ. Their lives were so radically changed by Christ, they began to act like Him and love like Him. They could not contain the good news of the gospel's power to change lives. I met one former sheik who had helped start 100 churches in the past four years. I visited one of those churches that was less than a year old. They already had plans to take this good news to five other villages around them.

I was told how over 35 (they quit counting) villages sent their Muslim leaders to ask the storytellers (church planters) to come to their villages. They saw the way people in other villages loved one another. They saw the way men treated their wives and children differently and they wanted that for their village. The love of Christ demonstrated through the lives of Christ-followers is a powerful testimony and makes the gospel attractive.

In *Concentric Circles of Concern*, Oscar Thompson said, "Love is meeting needs" (p. 157). Another demonstration of love I saw in Sierra Leone came through ministry to the needs of people. Following the civil war, a seed bank provided seed and farm tools to a community on the verge of starvation. Today, there is a church planting movement among the Susu people because the love of Christ opened the door. Storytellers offer to help dig wells (by hand), start schools, provide medical and dental care, provide job training, and a host of other access ministries to communities in need of the gospel. In six years, they have started over 3,000 churches and they are sending missionaries to other nations throughout Africa.

What does your love for others reveal? Would people know you are a disciple of Jesus Christ because of the sacrificial way you love?

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray that God will so fill you with His love that it will overflow to those in your circles of relationships. Pray that God will draw people to Jesus because of the love they see in your life.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take? As you pray for people on your prayer list, ask the Lord to show you ways to show love to them.

Prayer Exercise

Intercede for the oppressed! Drive through an area of the city you typically avoid. Places where the street people gather, neighborhoods that have high crime. Can you feel the oppression? Can you hear the cries? Adopt a section of the city or some group – widows, the disabled, veterans, single moms, an ethnic or immigrant group. Put them on the family prayer list. Ask God to intervene – to meet both spiritual and material needs.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Chalvadi of Southwest India

Pray this low caste community will be able to increasingly educate their children, find improved employment situations, and see their standard of living rise in years ahead.

Survey Your World

Claude V. King and P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read John 1:35-51

Thoughts for Today

The disciple-band that followed Jesus was not comprised of all friends or acquaintances. Andrew heard about Jesus from John, the Baptist. And he brought his brother Simon Peter. Jesus found Philip, and then he found Nathaniel. It has been hypothesized that every person on the planet is 'six degrees' away from any one of us. Meaning, that between you and any other human, are only six others. This friend knows him, who knows her, who met them – and so on. It is a small world. We make evangelism so complex; it is really a matter of relationships. Your life must have integrity. Right with God, you long for others to know him. You can't change them, perhaps in the beginning you cannot even talk to them about God. But you pray; and He works, and orchestrates opportunities to build bridges, and demonstrate love. And love creates an open door for the truth of the gospel. And then, it is matter of sharing with them, what you know and believe.

It's Time to Pray

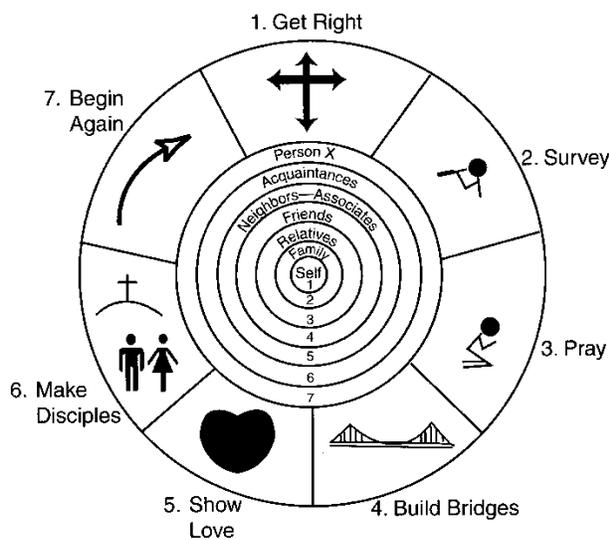
1. Think about the person who introduced you to Christ. Reflect on how different you are now.
2. Identify people in your circles of concern – family and friends, neighbors and associates, acquaintances and beyond them – the world.³ Keep building your prayer list.

Prayer Exercise

Pray for your children as well as fatherless and abandoned children. Pray for the next generation. You could even prayer walk near an abortion clinic.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Tharu of Nepal

Pray for their rich culture to be preserved and for good medical care. Pray that God will raise up qualified linguists to translate the Bible into their language.



3. W. Oscar Thompson with Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann and Claude V. King, *Concentric Circles of Concern: Seven Stages for Making Disciples* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 95. All rights reserved. Reprinted and used by permission.

Day 15

Praying for Those Yet to Believe

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read Daniel 3:34-36; 4:22-30; Acts 9:10-19; 12:1-4, 21.

Thoughts for Today

Nestled between the great dreams and visions of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel that reveal the sweep of history and the coming kingdom of God, are stories of persecution of the faithful – the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the Lion's den. They encourage faithfulness in the midst of a pagan world: "Don't bow to an idol; and don't stop praying." And there are two other amazing stories, often overlooked. The first is the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar. The pagan king gets saved. And there is the judgment on Belshazzar, whose heart is hard. It is a message on the sovereignty of God, when the world seems out of control. It is a reminder that the heart of the king is in the hand of God. Prayer may not affect the king, but it mysteriously moves the hand of God.

In Acts, there is a reflection of this narrative. Saul, leading the cause of the oppression of the church, is struck down, blinded, and gloriously saved. Herod, who perceives himself as God is judged. God is sovereign – and so the church, told not to speak in the name of Jesus, is reminded, "*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge ... we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*" This is not a time for silence. The disciples, when threatened prayed, "*Lord, look on their threats, and grant ... boldness [to] speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.*"

Who knows what persecutor of the faith God might save. What leader of the opposition he might draw to faith. This is a time to pray fervently, and witness humbly, but boldly.

It's Time to Pray

1. Add a high profile non-believer to your VIP list, and begin to ask God to speak to them.
2. Look over the prayer suggestions in this guide. Ask God for boldness. Ask him to work around the lives of these unbelievers to cause them 'to wonder.'

Prayer Exercise

Go to a seat of power – a courthouse, city-hall, a federal building. Pray that Christians will have influence there. Watch and listen in a courtroom. Sit and intercede. Send a prayer-gram to a judge. Tell him you are praying for God to give him wisdom, for justice and righteousness in the land.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Ansari of Bangladesh

Pray for an openness to scripture, a desire for hearing the story & reading the scriptures will be created in the Ansari hearts and minds.

Day 16

Live with Urgency

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read Luke 16:19-31 and Luke 21:25-28

Thoughts for Today

Richard Hornbuckle had three passengers in his yellow Buick headed south over the St. Petersburg Bay bridge. The weather was horrible. The rain was fierce and visibility was bleak. Hornbuckle slowed to a crawl – twenty miles an hour. Suddenly, peering through the fog and rain, he was horrified. It was not what he saw, but what he could not see. The roadway in front of him, the bridge just vanished. It wasn't there, just a gapping span. He slammed on the brakes. The car skidded, turned sideways. Ever closer it slid to the broken edge of the bridge and the yawning bay waters below. No power could stop it. They were going over. A blue pickup had passed them. A bus had raced by them, too impatient for their cautious pace. Would they join them in the wreckage below? The section of the bridge on which the car stopped was pitched downward toward to water, and they were 14 inches from the chasm. Three passengers exited the car and crawled up the sharp incline to safety. For a moment, Richard sat in his car astonished. In shock. He would live another 20 years, but that day – he almost died.

For years, an urban legend was circulated, that Hornbuckle ran back to warn others. That the bus raced passed him ignoring his warning and taking its' passengers into the deadly waters below. But there was no one to warn the bus. Emergency responders quickly mobilized rescue efforts, shut off access to the bridge, and began to aid passengers of the ship that had slammed into the bridge below, and fish passengers out of the waters. Sadly, there are no warnings to keep people from plunging headlong from the bridge we know to be out!

Life is so uncertain. Every day is a gift. Storms cause accidents, and take bridges out. Certainty degenerates to confusion. The only certainty is Christ, the bridge from one world to another. You and I know that there is a chasm. Who should we warn, if we could? How do we do that? Gerald Chalmers was on the fire-fighter rescue team. To this day, he won't cross the new bridge if a ship is going under it. His brother says he is 'crazy.' Chalmers laughs it off, but remembers the chilly evening in the waters. Others may belittle his reaction; but he believes, even with a new, higher and stronger bridge, there are still dangers. We know what it is like for some to belittle our warnings. How do we keep from being conditioned into silence?

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to reveal to you the people around you that would listen to a well-intentioned warning, people who are now racing headlong into an open chasm without Christ. Beyond friends and family, acquaintances and associates – what about the many who don't know the bridge is out?
2. Ask God for a greater sense of urgency in your living and testifying for His sake. What actions will you take?
3. Add a few more names to your list. Include those just beyond your circle, the ones in the category – "If I could tell them, I would ..."

Prayer Exercise

Take a prayer drive. Look for places of light, positive places. Ask God to bless them. Look for places that invite darkness. Ask for God's light to invade those places.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Mirasi of Pakistan

There is an indication that a few hundred people have identified themselves as Christians in this group. Please pray they won't re-convert back to Islam, and will be protected from harm. They need to fellowship together, so pray for this to occur.

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Day 17

Pray for Workers in the Harvest

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Thoughts for Today

When Jesus "*saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them*" (v. 36). The closer you get to Jesus and the more time you spend with Him, the more your heart will begin to beat with love for those He loves.

Think about the crowds Jesus may have seen in Israel 2,000 years ago. How large were they? Five, ten, or twenty thousand? Maybe more? Now think about the crowds you have seen live, in books or magazines, on television, or in the movies. Have you seen some of those crowds with hundreds of thousands of people? Have you seen crowds in the cities where masses of people go by continually? In our world the numbers of people in the spiritual harvest field are multiplying rapidly. Who will tell them the good news? Who will go? Who will have the privilege of reaping the spiritual harvest among them?

When Jesus saw the crowds of His day, He asked His disciples to pray for workers in the harvest fields. If you still have your Bible open to Matthew, take a look at chapter 10. Just after the disciples prayed for workers, Jesus told them to go into the towns and cities to preach the good news about His kingdom.

Today, keep your eyes open to see the crowds around you, in newspapers or magazines, or on the Internet or television. When you see a crowd, pray that God will call and send out workers to that harvest field.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray for the workers who are already working to bring in a spiritual harvest. Pray for their protection, wisdom, spiritual and physical health, and fruitfulness. Pray that God will call and send workers. Pray that He will call some from your church and even from your family.
2. Give God permission to call and direct you to work in the harvest. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for one person or even for a crowd or people group who have yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Intercede for the arts and entertainment sector of the city. Make a list of godly and ungodly influences touching your city and your home. Pray near a news outlet or a TV station. Read the newspaper. Mark items for prayer. Note people who need prayer. Ask, could prayer change our community, its people?

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Danuwar Rai of Nepal

Ask the Holy Spirit to complete the work begun in the hearts of the few Danuwar believers through adequate discipleship. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of Nepal's governmental leaders to the Gospel and that those few Christians would not be shunned by their families for their beliefs.

Day 18

Jesus' Final Command

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21-22; and Acts 1:8

Thoughts for Today

Final words of famous people are long remembered and often quoted. When a person knows he is on his death bed, he might even prepare a final statement of challenge to family and friends. Final words can have great significance for the next generation.

Jesus Christ came to provide salvation for all mankind. Following His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus spent forty days giving His disciples their final instructions to guide the church until His second coming. Not many of those words were recorded in the Scripture for us to read. But some were recorded, and they were perhaps His most important last words.

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave one final command to His disciples. He didn't want His disciples to miss this most important commission for the church. The future of His kingdom would depend on their obedience. Each of the Gospel writers records a variation of this command indicating that Jesus gave special attention to it during His final days on earth. You read those in the Scriptures above.

How faithful have you been to obey Christ's final command? Are you making disciples as you go about your daily living? Have you preached the good news? Are you talking with others about repentance and forgiveness that is available through Jesus Christ? Since Jesus was sent to seek and save the lost, are you seeking to point lost people to Him for salvation?

It's Time to Pray

1. Talk to God about the status of your obedience to Christ's final command. If your obedience is lacking, confess your sin. Ask Him to guide and enable your obedience.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Pray for the family court system. Prayer walk your neighborhood and pray specifically for marriages. Pray for a family social services department. Pray at an area where family life is under stress or even attack.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Konda Dhora of NE India

Pray that poverty through the slavery of greedy moneylenders would be broken and the Konda Dhora people could lift their heads from their toil long enough to hear about and receive Jesus Christ.

Day 19

Go Home and Tell

P. Douglas Small

God's Word for Today

Read Galatians 1:23

Thoughts for Today

My grandfather was a godly man – I never knew him to be anything but Christian. And my mother came to faith very early. But my father was slow to believe. He had a tender heart, but he resisted the faith. One night, in a revival meeting, he came to church and went forward to the altar. I was very small, too little to understand theological concepts. But when my father picked me, squeezed me, and spun me around in his arms at that altar – I knew something magical had happened to him. Even as a child, I could discern a difference.

When the man, possessed by evil spirits was radically saved, the village showed up to see him ‘clothed and in his right mind.’ The gospel changes us. It isn’t a new leaf we turn over. Christ is not a life-enrichment option added to our lives. The old becomes new. The sinner is on his way to becoming a saint – holy, separated from the world.

Often, we seek opportunities to witness to strangers. But the most powerful witness is when we take the gospel home; when we share faith with family and friends. Witnessing is not a set of memorized Scriptures and theological components. It is your story. The tale of what you were and what you are becoming. And yet, it is not about you and your goodness, but about God and his goodness. You are message board. Many, even those close to you, may have never heard your ‘Before and After Christ’ story. Don’t force the matter. And don’t think you have to share the whole story at once. But with sensitivity to the Spirit, you will find moments when you can say, “I remember once ...” Theology – that may be a stretch. Who wants to start a religious argument? But people love a good story. Who knows the story of God’s grace and intervention in your life better than you? You are the expert. Tell it with confidence, mixed with grace and gentleness. God’s story is in your story. And it that is an invitation for friends to know Him.

It's Time to Pray

1. Thank God for all the good things He has done for you. Be specific. Tell someone about one of those things today.
2. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. Add their name to your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.
3. Pray about when and how you will share your story with your people back home. Are there people who knew your “before Christ” story that you need to tell?

Prayer Exercise

Ask yourself whether or not you are a bold Christian? Be specific. When was the last time you took a stand, alone if necessary, for Christ? Pray that you will become a bold witness. Ask for boldness, tempered with humility. To speak the truth, but never without love. Repent of any silence, when you know that you should have spoken up. Or, when you allowed another believer to stand alone and you hid your identity with Christ. Pray – “Lord direct me to the places in the city where Christians need more boldness..”

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Rajbansi Koch of Bangladesh

Nearly all Rajbansi Koch practice the traditional religion follow one they call “Sonaton.” This appears to be a mix of Hinduism and animism. It’s very possible some have heard about Jesus through their Garo neighbors, who are Christian. There used to be a church in a Koch village, but it is no longer open. Pray that these glimmers of light become a strong spark in this culture.

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Day 20

A Testimony for Your “Town”

P. Douglas Small

God’s Word for Today

Read John 4:28-30, 39-42 (or the larger passage John 4:1-42)

Thoughts for Today

In the wonderful story of the woman at the well, the disciples leave Jesus and go to town for food. When they return, they are shocked that he is in a conversation with such a woman! Gently, Jesus has been probing her spiritual thirst. She has been holding forth on her religious views, somewhat open and somewhat resistant. “*Would you give me some water,*” he request of her, putting her in the position of control. “*How is that you, a Jew, would ask water of me, a Samaritan?*” He is either an uninformed Jew or a non-practicing one. “I could give you water ...” he says to her. The conversation dances between the natural and spiritual, her empowered position and his probing of her spiritual hunger. Finally, she pleads, “*Give me this water!*”

Who knows how long Jesus persisted in the tenuous conversation. Long enough for the disciples to go and come from town. He engaged. He built a bridge. He showed sensitivity. He refused to be offended. And finally, she is open. “*Go call your husband!*” There is more conversation. “You have had five, and the man you are now with, you are not married to ...” Her response now is sudden. “I perceive you are a prophet!” This is a conclusion that His disciples have not yet reached. He is a holy man of God. No, He is ‘the’ holy man of God – the Messiah. She drops her water-pots. Goes into the same settlement to which the disciples went. They returned with vittles; she returns with the village. She woke up the town.

What has to happen to us in order for us to drop our water pots, break out of the routine of the ordinary, and spontaneously become an advocate for the Messiah? Are we not thirsty enough for the living water? Too content with this world? Have we, like the disciples, become strangely familiar with Jesus, without knowing ‘who’ He really is?

It’s Time to Pray

1. Ask God to ignite a new fire in you to tell others, and to reveal the people in your “town” who may already be prepared to respond when they hear your story. Is your “town” the people who knew you in your “before Christ” days? Ask God for the boldness to share your story!
2. Who needs Christ in your city? Who, if they became believers, could affect the city?
3. Review your prayer list. Review the ways to pray in this guide.

Prayer Exercise

Intercede for gangs, for the homeless, the displaced, and unreached ethnic groups in your community. Make a list of people whose relationship with God is in doubt. Gather a small group of people and each of you go to some corner of the community, some gateway. Drive a stake of prayer there. Connect with one-another by cell phone. Mark off the city. Pray for a revival between the stakes.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Mahratta of India

The religion of the Mahratta is Hinduism. They usually worship Shiva as their family gods, and consider Shivaji as their leader, and fiercely defend their culture, language and history. Pray that their traditions and myths would no longer be enough and their hearts would seek the one true God.

The Coming Harvest

Claude V. King

God's Word for Today

Read John 4:27-38 and Acts 1:8

Thoughts for Today

If you have been fasting from food in order to seek the Lord in prayer for revival and awakening, you can identify with Jesus. The disciples were trying to get Him to eat, but He was preparing to reap a spiritual harvest of a city. His food was to obey the will of His Father. Sometimes a spiritual purpose will be far more important to us than taking time to eat.

Jesus' disciples were surprised when they found Him speaking to the woman. A Jewish man would not be caught in public talking to a Samaritan woman, especially a divorcee with five ex-husbands. What was He doing? The disciples may have expected a spiritual harvest when Jesus established His kingdom. Jesus essentially said, "Why wait? It's harvest time now!"

Let's hear His words for us. We could be saying something like this:

- Maybe awakening will come when all the churches experience revival.
- We can't expect a harvest when the lost world is so cold and hardened.
- He's delayed 2,000 years to come back. We don't need to rush now.
- We have tried before (fished all night). This isn't a good time.

One day Peter and his partners had been fishing all night. But Jesus told them to go into the deep water and drop their nets. They reluctantly obeyed and caught so many fish they nearly sank two boats! "*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!' "*" (Luke 5:8). That's the day Jesus called him to fish for men. Did you notice the great harvest of fish came before Peter confessed his sin? Sometimes God's kindness brings repentance (Rom. 2:4).

The harvest is the Lord's work. He has chosen us to be workers together with Him in this great task. He is bringing in a harvest in many places around the world. He is fully able to do that where we live also. Let's pay attention to His final statement of His final command to us and be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Jesus would say to us, "*Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest*" (John 4:35).

It's Time to Pray

1. Pledge your willingness to obey God, and ask Him to bring in a great harvest for His glory. Continue to pray for workers for the harvest.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed.

Prayer Exercise

Pray for a small, out-of-the-way church. Park in the lot of the church, and pray. Call the pastor's name. Have lunch with a person who practices another denomination. Pray with them for unity among believers and pastors.

Pray for an Unreached People Group: Shuar of Ecuador

The group remains resistant to assimilation. Ninety percent are still immersed in animism – only a small percentage have had any authentic connection with Christianity. Pray for open doors, light for their hearts, a tender heart, a harvest among these people.