

2018



MY
SACRED
SEASON

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

#MySacredSeason

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Scripture References:

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CALVARY
CHRISTIAN CENTER

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SACRED SEASON 2018

Sacred Season is 21 days of fasting and prayer devoted and dedicated to the pursuit of God's presence, hearing His voice and surrendering to His will and purpose for our lives. It is both a personal pursuit and a corporate commitment of our church, to annually set aside this time and honor God with the "first" of the New Year.

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

Each day, we commit to give God the "first" of our day through prayer and devotions. Each devotion in the Sacred Season journal is written by one of the Pastors or Staff at Calvary Christian Center.

The Sanctuary will be opened during the week from noon – 1:00pm for prayer. We will also join on Wednesday, January 3rd, at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary and on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary for prayer.

The final day of our fast is Sacred Sunday. This is the day we bring our "first fruits" offering to the House. As we put God first, we establish Him in His rightful place in our lives. In doing so, He promises to bless our lives and make them prosper.

Why We Fast During Sacred Season

Fasting was an expected discipline in both the Old and New Testament. Jesus fasted and reminded His followers to fast, "when you fast", not *IF* you fast.

- Fasting and prayer can restore the loss of the "first love" for the Lord and bring you into a more intimate relationship with Jesus.
- Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God. Psalm 35:13, King David said, "I humble myself through fasting".
- By denying ourselves, we are provoked to rely more on God and yield entirely to the leading of the Holy Spirit instead of living under the power of the flesh.
- Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance and a transformed life.
- When you fast, The Holy Spirit will quicken the Word of God in your heart and His truth will become more meaningful to you.

- Fasting is a gateway through which God releases His supernatural power.
- Fasting breaks the work of the enemy and sin from our lives. Mark 9:29, “Jesus said, this kind can come forth by nothing, but prayer and fasting.”
- Fasting can transform your prayer life and result in a dynamic personal revival and make you a channel of revival to others.

The enemy knows that there is nothing that does damage to him or his kingdom like a praying Church. When the Church has received on their knees ‘power from on high’, then the powers of darkness will be shaken and souls will be delivered!

There are several types of fasting. The one you choose is between you and God. He will honor your best sacrifice.

Full Fast

Drink only liquids.

The Daniel Fast

Eat no meat, no sweets and no bread. Drink water and juice. Eat fruits and vegetables. <http://www.ultimatedanielfast.com/ultimate-daniel-fast-food-guidelines/>

Partial Fast

A partial fast is from 6 am - 3 pm or from sun up to sun down. You can select to do a Full Fast, Daniel Fast or give up at least one item of food. Whichever fast you choose, remember, this is a fast (which means to restrict food for spiritual purpose). One of the most powerful lessons you can learn during this time is how to put your flesh in its rightful place and realize that you don't have to give in to the desires of your flesh. Invest most of your time and attention on the Lord. Keep the main thing the main thing. Keep Jesus and your relationship with Him as the foundation of the fast.

Remember that it is the attitude of a heart sincerely seeking Him to which God responds with a blessing. May God greatly bless you as you join the Calvary family in our annual corporate fast and Sacred Season.

Scripture references for Corporate Fasting:

1 Samuel 7:5-6, Ezra 8:21-23, Nehemiah 9:1-3, Joel 2:15-16, Jonah 3:5-10, Acts 27:33-37

JANUARY 1, 2018

DAY 1

2018 “THE YEAR OF THE NEW THING”

By Pastor Jim Raley

Happy New Year!

I'm so excited as we embark on this exciting journey into 2018, “THE YEAR OF THE NEW THING”. I believe this is our year to see NEW THINGS in our lives, families and church. As we begin this year, TOGETHER, we as a family of believers are putting God FIRST! Throughout the first 21 days of January, we will pray, fast and prepare our Sacred Season First Fruits gift.

When we merge these three acts of faith together, incredible miracles and breakthroughs will manifest. The Bible declares in the book of Ecclesiastes, “A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” Fast, pray, and sow this year with expectancy, GOD WILL DO NEW THINGS IN YOUR LIFE IN JESUS' NAME. As you fast, begin to pray especially for what you're trusting God for. A great example of this is found in the book of Ezra.

Ezra 8:21 – “Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.”

The Bible says that Ezra instructed the people to join him in humbling themselves. They fasted for a “right way”. This year fast and pray for God's abundant direction in your life. They also fasted for their “little ones”. Throughout this month, speak the blessing and favor of God over your family for 2018.

Lastly, they fasted for “all their possessions”. For the next 21 days, as you fast, pray, and sow your Sacred Season seed, DECLARE THE BOUNTIFUL BLESSING OF PROSPERITY OVER YOUR LIFE AND FAMILY.

I'm so excited to start the journey with you today; Get ready, 2018 is “THE YEAR OF THE NEW THING” I love you all!

With Great Expectancy,

Pastor Raley

JANUARY 2, 2018

DAY 2

EAGERLY PURSUE LOVE

By Pastor Dawn Raley

1 Corinthians 13:2, And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all the secret truths and mysteries, and possess all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love (God's love in me) I am nothing.... 14:1, Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire this love (make it your aim, your great quest)...

LOVE. It changes everything. You were created by love and for love. Love is not only why God made you; it is also how He made you. He made you to receive His love; His unconditional, forgiving, relentless love! Until you are established on the inside in the love of God, you will always end up looking for it in all the wrong places. Only the Father's love and acceptance can satisfy your soul and give you a sense of self-identity. Your purpose is found in Him!

We become what we receive. According to the Apostle Paul, despite our gifts and works, without love we are nothing. More than God is concerned about what you're doing, He's concerned about who you're becoming. He loves you despite your issues and your quirky ways, but He desires you to know His love, because when you do, you respond by living as you were made to live: like Him!

Pursue your dreams for 2018 as you fast and pray, but above all else, eagerly pursue God's love in you; make it your aim, your great quest.

Prayer "Heavenly Father, You said if I seek You, I will find You. I eagerly pursue Your love. Let me encounter it until it changes me, until I love others the way You love me. I pray my life will begin to radiantly express Your love in the world around me, that all will see that You are the answer! In Jesus' Name, Amen!"

Notes: _____

JANUARY 3, 2018

DAY 3

SPRING CLEANING

By Pastor Jeremy Caffman

Leviticus 26:9-10 "I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you. You shall eat the old harvest long stored, and clear out the old to make way for the new."

Can you remember a time, maybe when you were 5 or 6 years old? You may have even seen this with your own children ... The gifts have all been unwrapped. Boxes and wrapping paper are now in the trash and the new gifts and toys have finally made it to the bedroom. When, all of a sudden, one is faced with the life changing conundrum, "Where am I going to put all these new toys?"

So, we make room. We move, we shift, we adjust our shelves so that we can keep those things that are important to us and let go of stuff that may not fit us for the future. Oh, the challenges of childhood. But sometimes those childhood lessons follow us into our adulthood.

In Leviticus 26:9-10 God is talking to the nation of Israel and telling them to get ready. Create space for the new things God desires to do in your life. As we grow in our relationship with God, some of our old "toys" or old ideas and behaviors won't fit us or carry us into our future. So, we start the "Spring Cleaning" process. Today, search your heart. Ask God to reveal those old thoughts, methods and behaviors that would keep you from moving into the "new" that God has for you. Let Him remove those things and make room for the fresh blessings that are to come.

Prayer: "Father, thank you for loving me enough to get me out of my clutter. I ask You to search my heart and remove those old things that would keep me from the fresh blessings that You desire to pour into me this year. I choose to "make room"!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 4, 2018

DAY 4

I CAN DO IT AGAIN

By Pastor Jacqui Dominick

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This scripture of reconciliation reminds me that no matter how separated someone is, He has given us an opportunity to make it right. Jesus' death on the cross has brought man and God together again. I'm excited for 2018. It feels like a fresh start, a new beginning, and a time when I can do it all over again. Hallelujah!!!

How Can you do it Again?

1. Make Up Your Mind – Are you satisfied with where you are? Are there things you'd like to change? If you've answered yes to the last question, you've made your first step. Begin to think, I'm determined to start fresh.

2. Don't Go Back to Dead Stuff- Proverbs 26:11 (amp) Like a dog that returns to his vomit, is a fool who repeats his foolishness...(yuck). That person, place, or thing was the reason you were separated from the Father.... today is a new day and I encourage you to reach ahead. Declare this with me...NO MORE!!!!

Prayer: "Father, I believe what I have done in the past can hinder my future. I ask you to forgive me of anything that's not like you. I want a fresh start and YES, a new beginning. As I'm fasting this month, release me from dead things, dead weight, and dead relationships. As I prepare to sow my Sacred Season Seed into 2018, I am declaring, I depend on your strength to make it through In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Notes: _____

JANUARY 5, 2018

DAY 5

STEPPING FROM THE OLD SELF TO THE NEW

By Kamiel McCoy

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together”, says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

What promise this scripture holds! The color scarlet is a bright red, permanent color. In the ancient world, it was prized because nothing could remove the color: not dew, rain, washing or long-usage. It was a set or fixed color. Saul clothed the daughters of Israel in scarlet.

In our lives, scarlet suggests the strong power of sin. When sin is set in our hearts, no efforts of man, no external rites, no tears, no sacrifices are able to take them away. They are as deep-fixed in the heart as the color scarlet is fixed in a web of cloth. An Almighty Power is needed to remove them.

White is the emblem of innocence. Only Jesus can take away the power of sin to hold us; we can't escape it on our own. When we ask Him to come into our hearts, He is the only cleansing agent that can forgive us, deliver us, and set us in a place of innocence before His Presence; as if it had never happened! Think about it, we don't have to struggle with the grip of sin anymore. Jesus paid the price for our sin. That permanent scarlet mark is transformed to a condition of being as white as snow. Sin is pardoned and our soul renewed!

Prayer: “Jesus, forgive me of any sin that is holding me back from truly knowing You. I pray for my family, loved ones and co-workers. Let them step into a personal relationship with You. Restore us from sin to freedom through Your cleansing power. In Your name I Pray. Amen!”

Notes: _____

JANUARY 6, 2018

DAY 6

NEW MOUNTAINS

By Pastor Jennifer Woods

Mark 11:23 Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly I say unto you, whoever says to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

God has put a dream, vision or obstacle in front of you that is so much bigger than you. It seems intimidating and overwhelming, but you know that this is your assignment, your purpose in life for this moment in time. So, how do you conquer the mountain?

1. Believe- Not that you alone can do it, but God through you will do it.

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

2. Speak- Stop reminding yourself how big the mountain is, instead continually remind the mountain how big your God is.

"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Proverbs 18:21

3. Pray- When you pray, you get connected with the One who will give you the power daily to face your mountain.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us...we know that we have what we asked of him" 1John 5:14

Prayer: "Lord, I recall all the mountains that You have already helped me overcome. Now by faith, I declare..."

"I've seen You move the mountain and I believe I'll see You do it again! In Your name I pray. Amen!"

Notes: _____

JANUARY 7, 2018

DAY 7

INSIDE VOICES: “Cave Talk”

By Pastor Josh Carter

The world we live in is BUSY and FULL OF STATIC. Everything is vying for our attention & contending for our ears. The ability to hear God’s voice can be smothered by environments with bad acoustics.

So how do we de-clutter? How do we cut through the static and find clarity? What good are His life giving, trouble removing, storm calming, world creating words if your life’s environments are constantly cluttered by trouble, noisy relationships and even unwarranted confusion. There’s an answer in:

1 Kings 19:8-9 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.⁹ And there he went into a CAVE, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

A cave? The answer is in a cave? This hardly seems like a reward for Elijah until you realize that the Noise Level of Elijah’s life was at an all time high. Then it hit me! It’s the ACOUSTICS of the cave that had become the AMPLIFIER of Gods Voice! God was using the cave to cut through static and communicate with Elijah (See 1 Kings 19:11-12).

What is it about the dark, dry, and dreary places of life that make us listen more closely for God’s Voice? Don’t misunderstand your “cave”.

God has perfectly tuned its acoustics to the frequency of your ears. Maybe you’re in a CAVE moment right now.

Prayer: “Lord, I close my eyes to what’s inside the cave, and I open my ears to Your Inside Voice. God, give me the answers I need for my troubles without having to scream over the chaos of my outside environments. I’m listening closely for Your Voice Lord. In Your name I pray. Amen!”

Notes: _____

JANUARY 8, 2018

DAY 8

DON'T LOOK BACK, YOU'RE NOT GOING THAT WAY!

By Pastor Jamie & Tanysha Hartsgrove

Luke 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Jesus makes it clear that you must break your attachments to this world and move forward with your whole heart. How many times have you decided to follow Jesus and for one reason or another you look back? You may be looking back at those who have stayed behind on past regrets, fear, grief, or all of the above.

The great news is that God wants to bring you into a new season. For you to walk in the new season, it will require you to let go of everything you are carrying and asking Him what new thing He wants you to carry. But how can you carry a new thing when your hands are full?

Offer Him empty and willing hands. This will be an indication that you are ready for the new thing. God responds to preparation, so when you position yourself to receive, God is ready to give. Clear vision is required to capture all that God has for you. Look forward with clarity and just wait and see all the new things God will reveal to you: new perspective, vision, open doors, assignments, relationships, and endless possibilities.

Prayer: Lord, I make my hands available to You in this next season. I want to position myself to receive everything You have for me. As I fast, pray and prepare my Sacred Season Offering, help me to be in the perfect position to experience Your blessing and favor in my life this year. Empty me of the old and fill me with the new! In Your name I pray. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 9, 2018

DAY 9

FOLLOWING JESUS BRINGS YOU IN TO THE NEW

By Pastor Troy McCoy

Matthew 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Jesus spoke these words in His Sermon on the Mount. In this context, “abolish” is set in opposition to “fulfill”. Jesus came not to abolish, but to fulfill the law. Jesus did not come to this earth for the purpose of acting as an opponent of the law. His goal was not to prevent its fulfillment. Rather, He obeyed the law and brought it into fruition. Jesus led the way into the new. (Heb. 8:6 says) “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

The writer of Hebrews was explaining that Jesus came to bring a better covenant on a better promise.

With this better covenant two things happened:

- There became a cancellation of the Levitical Law.
- There became open access to God.

Jesus was the ONLY High Priest who could open the way straight to God. This completely changed our access to God. Before Jesus, the only way to God was by following the law and we know that following all the laws in the Old Testament is not humanly possible. This year we need to leave the old things that are holding us down in 2017 and grab ahold of the new in 2018.

We must fully understand the concept that Jesus gives us access to God. But, it’s what we’re going to do with that access that matters. Jesus came from the line of Judah not Levi. And we know that Judah means Praise. We need to stop struggling with what happened in the past and start Praising God for what He is going to do in the future. We can’t change the past, but we can sure follow Jesus into our future!

Prayer: Lord, today I thank You that my past is behind me and I focus on following You into a new and better life as I trust in Your promises. In Your name I pray. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 10, 2018

DAY 10

THE BLESSING OF CHANGE

By Pastor Christian Oliver

Genesis 8:22 - "As long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Wow, what a statement! As we glean a little deeper into the text we see that God is speaking about much more than just seasons in the Earth. In essence, He is declaring to all of humanity, that as long as we're in the earth we will inevitably experience perpetual change. Now, I know you may be asking yourself, "Why would God place us in such an uncomfortable and unstable environment?" Here's why, God in His infinite wisdom understands that in order to reveal greater glories of His eternal nature, He must allow us to move through ever changing circumstances.

Oftentimes we fear and resist change not realizing that when you're in the Kingdom, change actually works in your favor. I've learned that it's not that we fear change because of the change itself, but because of the vulnerability that manifests during the process of change. It is that place of vulnerability that He is after. In His goodness, He uses change to give us more of Himself. So today as you're with Him, I encourage you to ask Him what of Himself is He trying to reveal and be to you.

Prayer: Father, I ask You for the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of You. I desire to know you in all the ways You are trying to reveal Yourself to me. Help me to be sensitive and vulnerable to You so that I miss not one thing that's in Your heart for me. In Your name I pray. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 11, 2018

DAY 11

ON THE VERGE OF NEW

By Pastor John Wilds

Isaiah 43:19 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

The events happening in our nation and around the world are a clear indication of the enemy's nervousness. God is doing something new, so the enemy is pulling out his old tricks; Racism isn't new, division isn't new, immorality isn't new; these are schemes and snares of the devil. They're pathetic at best and he knows it. So why are these things receiving so much more attention and fuel these days? I believe it's because we are all on the verge of another great awakening! God's Spirit is about to be poured out at unprecedented proportion and I believe the enemy is beginning to hear the sound of revival. The devil will always use the old in his attempt to avert the new.

You see, church as usual is fading quickly. People are finding their hope in Jesus and all of hell is panicking! This is not the time to be distracted. When the scripture says "See, I am doing a new thing", it means that we are to continually look, see, and perceive what the Lord is doing. We must not focus on what's happening in the natural. Does that mean we need to bury our heads in the sand and ignore everything happening around us? Absolutely not! What it means is that we are to see deeper than the surface; see in the Spirit that God is making a way even in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. He's speaking to you, leading you, guiding you, and directing you and He will continue to shine through the darkness around you!

You are on the verge of new!

Prayer: Father, I pray that You will help me to remain focused in this next season. Don't let me be distracted and miss what You are doing. I set my gaze upon You. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 12, 2018

DAY 12

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT

By Natasha Carter

Habakkuk 2:2-3 Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

The dreaded waiting room. You booked the appointment weeks ago, you got up in plenty of time, and left the house well in advance only to arrive and, yes, you've got it, the wait in the waiting room! This common scenario seems to happen way more often than it should in our daily lives. However, what if I told you that this a common scenario in our spiritual lives as well.

The scenario plays out similarly. We have a life-changing moment in God's Presence in which He speaks a Word to us, and gives a promise that floods our soul with faith and hope. We walk away ready to embrace everything God says, not knowing that with every promise there's a thorough process that must be embraced and endured. But before you lose hope and let your faith dwindle, don't forget our verse.

The Bible says that God's promises, The Vision, is for an APPOINTED TIME! In other words, God's promises are not just coming, they are coming in HIS PERFECT TIMING! Sometimes the test is not can you handle it, but can you wait for it. In this NEW SEASON don't lose hope, don't give up faith, stand on God's promises and know...IF GOD PROMISED IT, YOU WILL SEE IT! Don't leave the waiting room, your answer is on the way!

Prayer: Father, today I believe that every one of your promises to me are yes and amen. Help me to believe and be fully aware of all that You are doing in my life. As I'm fasting and praying and giving this season, renew and strengthen my walk with You.

Notes: _____

JANUARY 13, 2018

DAY 13

ALREADY THERE WAITING

By Liz Caffman

Psalms 139: 7-12 (Message) Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute— you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night, I'm immersed in the light!" It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

Have you ever been in moments in life where you wonder, "Do I matter"? Loneliness can exist in any situation whether you are married, have a house full of family, single, lots of friends, no friends, successful career or going through a career change. The feelings that attach themselves to being alone can be heart wrenching and painful. Sometimes it feels like life and breath has been sucked out of you and you are stranded on a desert island with no one within ear shot. Lost and alone.

Be encouraged today. Jesus knows where you are. He is never far from you. He is closer than your very breath! He is always holding you, supporting you, speaking to you and listening to you. Let Him fill the void and become the strength you need to move from lonely to loved. He loves you so much that He goes ahead of you, to that lonely, lost place and waits with open arms to embrace you, comfort you and heal you. Take a few moments every day and practice memorizing this verse. When the enemy tries to flood your emotions, remind yourself that the Lord is always close.

Prayer: Lord thank you for the gentle reminder of Your never ending, unfailing love that is always with me. I pray that even in my darkest time, You will give me the strength to persevere and run into Your open arms. In Your Name I Pray. Amen.

Notes: _____

JANUARY 14, 2018

DAY 14

THIS IS MY STORY

By Courtney Raley

Psalm 139:16 "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in your Book they were all written. The days you fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."

One of my favorite things to do is get lost in a great story. I think that's why I get overwhelmed at the thought that I'm featured in God's book. One morning as I was spending time with the Lord I saw a picture in my mind's eye. I saw a large ancient book resting on a wooden vanity in a dark attic. Just like the stuff in our attic, it was hidden under clutter, covered in dust and long forgotten. I felt like the Lord spoke to me and said, "I am releasing Kingdom purpose and Kingdom destiny within my people. It's time for them to remove the clutter and discover what they were made for. It's time for them to open the Book, blow the dust off the pages, and let my dream for them set them free. Now is the time for my people to move into their Kingdom assignment." Nothing is more draining or distracting than doing what we aren't made for. You see, the thing about our story is that it's already been written, we only have to say yes to it. We can either say yes to His dream for our lives, or choose a different path. But in saying yes to His dream for us, we will find more joy and fulfillment living out that dream than anything we could dream for ourselves, because it's what we were made for!

God has a specific assignment for you to fulfill. I believe God is going to shine a light on the dreams He has for you in His heart. This is your year to step out of what has been and step into something new and off the beaten path. Maybe He'll resurrect dead dreams; maybe He'll reveal new ones. This is your year to take greater risks and see God show up and show out as you walk in obedience to His voice! Ask God today, "Lord what is written of me in heaven?"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I ask that You would shine a light on Your dream for my life. Give me the courage to step out and be all that You've called me to be. Doubt and fear will no longer keep me from moving forward. I say YES to Your dream for me! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes: _____

JANUARY 15, 2018

DAY 15

DON'T FORGET TO FORGET!

By Evangelist Allen Griffin

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Do you remember when we were in junior high school? Every fall, we would create a fresh identity by merely selecting a new style of clothes and shoes for school. One year we could be “sweatpants guy”, the next year, a chic fashion trendsetter. Since we were just kids, we were willing to allow each other to change.

Jesus taught His disciples to be more childlike when He said, “The Kingdom of Heaven is for such as these” and “If you would come into the kingdom, you must enter like a child”. Could it be we have neglected ourselves one of the greatest gifts of childhood in our rush to maturity? We have forgotten to forget! When we forget our failures, we give ourselves a chance to start again. We extend grace for growth into our NEW season. When we forget our successes, we give ourselves a chance to achieve and build something great in the kingdom of God. We draw on the power of God by faith to become and produce more for God.

The scripture teaches us one of the greatest principles of stepping into the “NEW” for our lives: FORGET! Forget the old pain, forget your past failures, forget your past troubles, and pursue God’s presence with a NEW reckless abandonment. “Forget your failures AND successes from 2017, and step into your NEW in 2018! It’s a new year, a new season, a new opportunity, a new moment! Let’s believe for the NEW... Inside and Out!

Prayer: Lord, as we seek your face in this NEW Sacred Season, what NEW thing can we do for You? What NEW person can we disciple? What NEW way can we lead in this house? In Your name we pray. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 16, 2018

DAY 16

DREAM | WORK | PRAY

By Ronnie Woods

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Too many times in our lives we just choose one of these three to help us out in a situation. When someone in our family is struggling with something, we turn to prayer. When a daunting task is in front of us, we "tighten up our boot straps" and get to work. Our dreams may not disappear, but that's all they can become, just dreams.

Don't just dream, don't just work, and don't just pray; the three need to be woven together. We need to be specific, and be bold.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

Pray Big, Dream Bigger; Work Hard, Pray Harder. Pray about the situation, and then dream up ideas for it. Write them down, but don't stop there. Now it's time to get to work, and finally pray that God will bless your dreams, and your hard work. Without Him, our work is futile.

God wants you to chase your dreams, and work hard at everything you do, but don't leave him out of the equation.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

Prayer: Father, help me to pray more, dream big, and work hard. Help me to weave the three together in all that I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes: _____

JANUARY 17, 2018

DAY 17

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

By Pastor Eric Danner

Mirrors are things that give a faithful representation. You place something in front of the mirror, and the reflection will match what you see. When you look into the mirror, which man do you see? Yourself, or Christ in you?

It is important to examine who we really are, and where we really are in our relationship with Christ.

Why is it important to know what it is you are reflecting? As we look deeply into the mirror, realize that examination brings revelation, and revelation inspires transformation.

I'm praying that transformation would take place in your life, as the mirror we look into is the Word of God. The Word of God tells us where He is and what He is doing, and how we are to participate with Him!

James 1:22-25 – 22 says, "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."

We are to HEAR and to HEED what the Word of God says! Let me ask you, do you find yourself doing the word as often as you hear the word? This is important because if you Hear and Heed, the image you see in the mirror should start to transform. We should begin to see less of US and more of HIM!

Revelation follows Jesus! Transformation follows Jesus! Miracles and answers to prayer follow Jesus! When we begin to act like Him, and walk like Him, and talk like Him, don't be surprised when these things follow you, because you follow Jesus! When you decrease, He can increase, "...God will bless you for doing it."

Prayer: Lord, as I look in the mirror, which is Your Word, help me to examine my heart. My desire is for You to look in my heart and see a reflection of Yourself. In Your name I pray. Amen!

Notes: _____

JANUARY 19, 2018

DAY 19

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

By Pastor Jeremy Dunn / CLife Orlando

Genesis 32:24,28 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; (The New Thing)

New seasons and fresh beginnings are always filled with anticipatory excitement as we dream about all that God is going to do. With good reason, our spirits should leap with joy at the thought of God moving in our lives in any capacity. What must be understood as we transition into the "NEW THING" is that it requires us to endure the process of eradicating the "OLD THING"

Jacob was born grabbing onto the heel of his brother and was identified by name as one who was left out, heel grabber, trickster. He had lived his life until this divine intersection feeling left out and forgotten. The only way he knew how to move forward, which actually wasn't forward at all, was to maneuver with his own power. This philosophy of Jacob's would come to a screeching halt in the darkness of night, alone with God.

The bible said that a man (Christ in flesh) began to wrestle him until the breaking of day. The word wrestle is derived from an ancient Hebrew word meaning to "grapple back to the dust". On the heels of being grappled into the dust Jacob is done away with and in steps ISREAL! You see God formed us out of the dust and it was the only time he breathed life into humanity. That's right, when you allow God to bring you back to the place He created you only then will he breathe life onto your NEW thing.

This year let's remove all labels and allow God to wrestle us back to a place that obtains His gracious breath of life!

Prayer: I declare 2018 is the ISREAL YEAR for me and my family! A year God breathes on the "NEW THING" in our lives. In Jesus name. Amen!

Notes: _____



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