

7  
7  
21 DAYS

*of Prayer & Fasting*

TOGETHER  
FORWARD

5-25 JANUARY 2017

#21daysprayandfast



Greetings my beloved brothers and sisters, fellow fighters in Christ!

As we enter this New Year together with a new theme **Together Forward**, I would like to personally invite everyone to seek God together through 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. We will pray for strength so we remain connected with God no matter what challenges we may face. Trusting God for the promise He said in Mark 1:17 “I will make you fishers of men”. He will give us the authority, ability, opportunity, and vision to become living witness and make disciples. And we will see testimonies and breakthrough happen in our lives.

This great devotional book has been prepared by IFGF Pray to guide our journey in this 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting in 2017. Let us come, grow, serve, and lead together as one body of Christ!

Together Forward,

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Oentoro  
Founder & Chairman



Shalom my Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Entering 2017, let us dedicate 21 days of our entire year to seek Him in praying and fasting. I believe His guidance, wisdom and revelation will direct us as we involve God in every aspect of our life. Prayer holds an unimaginable power where the impossible becomes possible in the hands of God.

We might face uncertainties and rapid changes in the upcoming year. However, I believe God, in the midst of uncertainties desires to move us forward in every aspect of our life by revealing His power and miracles through us. My prayer is may we pray and fast with heart focus on God alone and will together grow, serve, and lead others as Christ has done for us!

Together Forward,

Rev. Hanna Kristanto, M.Th  
Vice President-Equipping



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In life, we are faced with various uncertainties and struggles, but in the midst of them all, let us all know and understand that God is our safe haven, the safe anchor of our lives, and He is always in control. As we enter the new year of 2017, let us once again dedicate our lives to pursue God and His perfect will for our lives through this 21-days of Daniel Prayer and Fasting. We will learn together that by coming together, we can move forward and be more than a conqueror.

*"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*  
(Romans 8:37 ESV)

This is a journey meant to be taken by all of us together. Let us focus our lives to seek God, to know, love and enjoy Him. Out of that intimate relationship with God, we will be empowered to grow, love, serve, and lead others in Christ. Our prayer is that you may come together and we will be able to live life victoriously anchored in Christ alone and grow into the person God has always intended you to be.

Together Forward,  
IFGF Pray

# » INTRODUCTION

## **What is 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting?**

Daniel 10:2-3

“In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled”

Daniel fast is a type of fast that is done in a very specific way. During this fasting, we avoid eating meat and decide to choose healthy and simple foods instead.

## **The Purpose of 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting**

1. To obtain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, along with new dreams and visions, to live the year ahead (Daniel 1:17).
2. To dedicate everything we do in the year 2017 unto Him alone.
3. To discipline our flesh.



## Prayer Guideline during Fasting

1. During 21 days, pray for at least 1 name that is in need of Christ. Call or text them, set aside time to meet them personally and pray over their needs.
2. Reduce the time we spend on our gadget or watching television. Set aside routing time to have devotional time with God. Worship Him, read 21 Daniel Fasting Guide book and meditate upon His word.
3. During our devotional time, spend time to intercede for family members who are in need of salvation, proclaim blessings upon our family, intercede for our nation and the government official, and proclaim soul harvest upon our local church.
4. Ask God for His wisdom and vision to lead us throughout 2017.
5. Attend corporate prayer at your local church and share testimony to strengthen the body of Christ.

Foods to be avoided during fasting period include pork, beef, fish, poultry, and any kind of meat.

## Entering 2017

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**Entering 2017**





## 1. INQUIRING THE LORD

### 1 Samuel 30

Children always ask questions. Mom, why is the sky blue? Why babies cry? Where are we going? May I play at my friend's house? When will you come home? However, children will ask less question as the grow older. They feel that they already know the answer or they want to be independent to make their own decision. This is normal.

It goes the same with our relationship with God. Perhaps when we are new born Christians, we have so many questions. God, why this? Why that? What should I do? What is your will? May I accept this job? Hopefully that as time passes by, our questions to God do not stop, just as what David did.

David asked God, "Lord, should I keep chasing?" In facing every crisis in his life, David was in no hurry to make a decision. David took the time to be calm and inquired the Lord. David wanted to take the step according to God's will and this is what God appreciated of David the most.

Perhaps it was that he didn't have many friends to talk to in the meadow. There was only sheep who could bleat but couldn't listen, let alone understand. So David chatted with God and God heard him and answered him. David learned to not push his decision on God, but instead he listened and followed God's answers which is already proven. "In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:6)

Prayer Points:

What do you want to ask God right now? Be patient and learn to listen to His voice.



## 2.THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM

2 Samuel 5:17-25, 1 Chronicles 14:9-13, Proverbs 4:7

In the battle against the Philistines, David always sought for wisdom and direction from God before he fought. David was an excellent and capable soldier who had gone through many battles. In his early age, he fought Goliath, a Philistine. David was trained to fight and he understood the strategies of the Philistines. But David did not fail to ask wisdom from God, whether he should step forward to fight or not in every battle (2 Samuel 5:19, 23). As a result, God gave him different instructions and the best strategy to win every battle (2 Samuel 5:24-25).

With knowledge advancing, people rarely seek God's wisdom. Humans create the theory of the creation of the universe and deny the existence of God. People, with their own understanding, even change the definition of marriage to go in line with their will.

In making decision we often overlook the most important thing, which is asking for God's wisdom. Especially during those time when we think that we are capable due to our experiences. Often times we act based on our experience, knowledge and skill. Wisdom gives us the ability to differentiate between right or wrong, the action to take, and the right time to act with minimum error. God's wisdom not only give us success, but also guide us to live according to God's will. Knowledge and experience are important, but only God's wisdom will lead us to the victory He has provided (Ecclesiastes 9:18).

Prayer Points:

▶▶▶ What decisions and plans that we are making for 2017? Ask God for His wisdom and strategy.  
▶▶▶ Make the wisdom and the word of God as the foundation of our lives everyday.



### 3. GOD'S PRESENCE

Exodus 33, Romans 8:31-37

God instructed Moses to lead Israelites on a journey to the promise land. Moses was given a task to lead a nation whom god Himself has called to be a stiff neck people. God was very angry to the Israelites and decided to send His angel to defeat their enemies and refused to go with them. Receiving that task, we can imagine that Moses was filled with fear, anxious about all the upcoming uncertainties, and Moses realized that he needed help to take on the journey (Exodus 33:12). In the tent of meeting Moses asked for God's presence to accompany him on this journey.

Entering 2017 we might not know what journey, challenges, or adventure awaits us. Lately, news that we hear or watch are filled with economic and political uncertainties. The only certain thing in life is uncertainty awaits us on a daily basis. However we should remember in all things, God's presence is in us, with us, and greater than any name that exist in the world. In every situation, we are more than a conqueror through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37). God's presence will:

1. Teach us to live in His ways (Exodus 33:13). Let us commit our time to study His word and allow His word to direct and guide us.
2. Give us rest (Exodus 33:14). God's presence sustains us in tough time and gives strength to the weary.
3. Distinguish us from other people (Exodus 33:16). Imagine living as children of president of The United State of America. Their life are portrayed and treated differently from other children. As children of the creator of the universe, His presence set us apart from other people because His favor, promises, and purpose are for us.

Entering 2017, let us use this praying and fasting time to seek His presence wholeheartedly and what He desires us to do this year. As we seek Him with all our heart, He will be found by us (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

Prayer Points:

Let us build a lifestyle that always prioritizes seeking God's presence. Pray for a heart that always hunger and thirst after His presence.



## 4. OBEDIENCE

Genesis 22, 1 Samuel 15:22

Parents often advise their children with commands that seem illogical in their children's mind. A Mother tell her children to stop and look right and left before crossing the street or to be careful when holding sharp objects. A child may not fully understand all the reasons behind the command of a mother. But they still should be obedient to that command because they trust that their parents always want to protect and give the best for them.

In Genesis 22, God gave a command which seem strange to us. Abraham was told to sacrifice his only son whom he loves very much as a burnt offering. Can we imagine? Abraham had waited for decades for a child and after he had one, God asked that the child to be killed as burnt offering. It is hard to imagine what Abraham would have felt at that moment. But because of his trust in God that God is the one who provides, Abraham obeyed God's command.

What is it that God wants to do in our life right now? Though the command may sound weird or seem impossible, if we obey it with a childlike faith towards a parent, He will give us the victory. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Prayer Points:

Pray that we could understand God's will in our life and we have the courage to obey His command.

## 5. PRAYING WITH PERSISTENCE

Luke 18:1, 2 Chronicles 20:9

Before Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) was one of the world's largest restaurants, Colonel Sanders drove all across the country trying to sell his chicken recipe. Colonel Sanders persisted through 1,009 rejections until he got one "yes". At age 74, Colonel Sanders had more than 600 franchised outlets KFC in North America. Results and breakthrough does not come overnight but require persistence.

What about our prayer life? When we have prayed for years over the same thing and nothing seems to change, do we give up, lose faith, or do we continue praying in persistence to the giver of all things? In 2 Chronicles 20:9, Jehoshaphat was facing great distress and he prayed for God's deliverance and refused to stop praying until God hears and saves them. In Luke 18, God assures us that even a judge who fears neither God nor man answer the prayer of a persistent widow and would not our God who is loving, kind, and just do even more? God wants us to never give up in our prayer and have faith that He truly is a God who hears our prayer, cry, and able to deliver us in His time.

Entering 2017, there might be some unanswered prayer from years before. What if it only takes persistent prayer, one more leap of faith, and a little bit more patient to achieve our breakthrough? Do not give up and stop praying until we see the answer, until God Himself says no, and until He gives us confidence that the spiritual warfare is over and we have won it. He is never too late to answer prayer and God is only a prayer away.

### Prayer Points:

Do not give up and lose hope. Be faithful in our prayer life, proclaim His promises upon our situation and have faith that He is a God who hears our prayer.



## 6. VICTORIOUS PRAYER

### 2 Chronicles 20:1-29

Jehoshaphat experienced great distress in his life when a vast army of Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites gathered to wage war against him. Alarmed and faced with great uncertainties, Jehoshaphat earnestly seek the Lord. His prayer was no ordinary prayer, but a victorious one. How can we pray a victorious prayer?

#### 1. Pray with focus set on God (2 Chronicle 20:12)

Jehoshaphat did not know what to do, but he fixed his eyes on God. When we use a magnifying glass to see an object. The object will appear bigger. When we focus our thoughts on our problem alone, our problem will appear bigger than what it actually is. However, when we focus our thoughts on God, His greatness and ability will be greater than our problem.

#### 2. Pray with unity (2 Chronicle 20:3-4)

There is power in unity. We can pray and fast together with our family, co-worker, church members and leaders for soul harvest, breakthrough, God's guidance, and even nations.

#### 3. Pray with faith (2 Chronicle 20:17)

God told Jehoshaphat to do not be discouraged and afraid and to march forward. In our prayer and action, do not be afraid because He is with us.

#### 4. Pray with authority (2 Chronicle 20: 29)

There was great fear among the Kingdom for what the Lord has done for Israelites. Ephesians 6:12-13 instructs us to take on the armor of God and use God's given authority to fight against the authorities of this dark world and not against flesh and blood.

The result of Jehoshaphat prayer was not only victory but also great plunder (2 Chronicle 20:25). Plunder in our life means soul harvest, expansion in workplace, restoration in family, and expanded ministry. Therefore, let us pray with god given strategies to experience victorious prayer life.

#### Prayer Points:

Let God fill us with the spirit of prayer and let us discipline ourselves to build a prayer life until we see victory happens through prayer.



## 7. THANKSGIVING

1 Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 4:6-7, Proverbs 17:22

*“Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose, I chose gratitude.” – Nick Vujicic*

Nick Vujicic was born without limb in 1982, Australia. Due to his physical condition, he had a difficult childhood and adolescence. He was familiar with bullying, loneliness, and even attempted suicide. However, he found faith in God and God has used his life to be a motivational speaker that changed many lives, bringing messages of hope and life purpose throughout the world. How can someone who needed so much effort to brush his teeth, to put on clothes, or to learn to swim live a life filled with gratitude? One thing we can learn from Nick Vujicic is that he always chooses an attitude of thanksgiving for whatever happen in his life.

Some of us might experienced 2016 as the greatest season of our life or the toughest one. Regardless which season we were in, let us choose to enter 2017 with an attitude of thanksgiving. If we experienced our greatest breakthrough in our life, do not forget to give Him praise to whom it's due. If we experienced darkest season in 2016, let us choose gratitude because He is in control of our life and will work everything for our good. He is an unchanging God that remain true to His characters and His word. When we feel difficult to give thanks, take time to reflect back upon His work on the cross and how he has redeemed us to be His sons and daughters will help us to maintain a heart of gratitude. Let us choose to give thanks because it is God's will in Christ Jesus in us (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Prayer Points:

What we struggle about entering 2017? Let us choose to cast it upon Him and maintain a heart of thanksgiving.





# COMING TOGETHER



## 8. TOGETHERNESS

Mark 3:14

Every culture has its traditions or values that are being passed on from one generation to another generation. The tradition then develops, takes its roots until it becomes a value which is held closely by generation after generation. Sometimes the generation below doesn't even understand the reason behind this tradition. The only thing they know is that this tradition comes from their great ancestors.

In ancient culture, the process of passing down a tradition usually takes place around a campfire. The elder will tell the story while the young ones listen attentively to him. After these young people grew up, they will repeat the same ritual so that tradition is passed from generation to generation.

The Kingdom of God also has its tradition which is being passed on by our 'ancestor', Jesus. Our duty is to continue this tradition in the Kingdom of God to the people under us so that values of those truths will not fade away. How to do it? Through togetherness. In the past, values were passed through togetherness around a campfire. The point here is not about campfire but togetherness. Being together as one church, one body of Christ is the best moment to pass on the Kingdom of God's creation.

*"All the great legends are templates for human behavior."*

-John Boorman-

Prayer Points:

Ask God that when we gather together, there will be moments to share values and not just a mere gathering.



## 9. TOGETHER WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Mark 3:16-19

One of the most memorable moments in the history of the modern Olympics is in 1936 Berlin Olympic in Germany. When Jesse Owens, an American athlete, won the gold medal, Hitler who was the head of the German country back then, refused to award the medal to him just because Owens was black. He rather chose to walk out and not giving the medals to all the winners from various countries.

Having a prejudice towards a person will hinder our life from moving forward because basically prejudice is pre judgement. Prejudice will make our team to feel uneasy and divided, which eventually cause the team to be ineffective. Jesus understood this, and that's why He didn't have any prejudice towards His team who came from various backgrounds and had the potential to cause division: tax collector, Zealot, fishermen.

Perhaps we don't possess the racial prejudice like Hitler, but are there any other more discreet prejudices that we have towards our brothers and sisters in faith? Or towards our pastor? Or towards other people?

As one family in God, let us learn to accept every Christian in the church as our fellow believers. Let us look pass their backgrounds, accept them as they are, thus we can move forward together.

*"Prejudice means you don't see the other human being anymore, but only your own concept of that human being."*

-Eckhart Tolle-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to cleanse our heart from all prejudices which potentially destroy our relationship with other people.

## 10. TOGETHER GREATER

Mark 3:14-15

In the history of battle against colonialism in any country, victory could not be achieved when the people of the nation were not united. Victory or freedom from invaders can only be obtained when there is unity among the whole colonized nation.

This shows us that there is power in unity. There is power that enables us to do anything when we are united. Jesus understood this principle. He appointed twelve people to be His apostles. To them, He gave power to cast away the devil. However, their power relied on unity and not in their individual ability. After they were given power, the twelve apostles were sent two by two to all the cities in Israel to proclaim the Gospel, cast out the demon, and heal the sick.

There is power in togetherness. Alone we might be good, but when we are together, walking towards the same direction, using our talents and grace to achieve the purpose, there will be extraordinary things that we can see.

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."*  
-Henry Ford-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to unite us with our fellow believers, with our leaders, and we move forward to fulfill the vision which God has given us.



## 11. ACCEPTANCE

John 4:1-40, Romans 15:7-12

Jesus was traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee and had to go through Samaria. Tired and thirsty, Jesus sat alone by Jacob's Well. While sitting alone, a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water and Jesus had a life changing conversation with her.

The Samaritan woman was surprised that Jesus, a Jew, would be willing to carry conversation with her and even asked her for water. During that time, Jews would not interact with Samaritans because they despised Samaritans. The woman was also despised by society because she had many husbands and had to draw water during inconvenient hour in the heat of the day where she would not meet other women. In this story, Jesus taught us by examples to:

1. Accept those who are different than us.

The Samaritans woman was different in term of race, culture, and social background.

However, Jesus accepted her for who she is showing that Christ has accepted us while we were sinners (Romans 5:8)

2. It is God's part to judge and our part to extend God's grace.

God did not judge her for her immorality but extend His grace to her (James 4:12).

3. The purpose of acceptance is for the glory of God (Romans 5:7).

After the woman had a life changing conversation with Jesus and received God's acceptance and grace, she went to the city and invited others to come see Jesus. Many of the Samaritans in that city believed and Jesus stayed for two days there.

Society tends to judge people based on customs or stereotypes. It is easy to accept those who have the same background. However, getting out of comfort zone is needed to accept those who are different than us. To come together, we need to value, accept people, extend God's grace and share good news to them.

Prayer Points:

Remember how God has accepted us when we were still in our sins. Pray for a heart and eyes that see others the way Jesus sees them.



## 12. FORGIVENESS

**Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13**

Ronnie Smith, and his family moved from Texas, Austin to Benghazi to teach high school chemistry and dedicated their time in Benghazi to help students aspire to their dreams. The family saw the suffering of Libyan people and wanted to build a better future for them. After working for more than a year, four unidentified assailants in a black jeep shot Ronnie to death. After his death, Annie Smith, his wife, wrote an open letter to the attackers, telling them that she understood where they were coming from and had already forgave them. Annie said “I love you and forgive you”. It was God’s spirit that enabled Annie to be released from anger and forgive them.

Through Annie’s story we can learn that forgiveness is a matter of choice. Despite her grief and loss, Annie chose to extend the forgiveness she received from Christ to those attackers. Regardless of our sins and rebellion, God chose to forgive our sin because He simply loves us and cannot imagine heaven without us.

When we decide to forgive those who hurt us, we are actually setting our own soul free from the bondage of anger, hatred, and disappointment. There are times when we struggle to forgive. If that is the case, be honest and open to God about our pain. Ask God to fill our heart with His love and let the love of Christ help us to release forgiveness. As we are coming together, let us choose to have a forgiving attitude towards our family and everyone around us. Forgiving those who have hurt us might be an opportunity to share the love of Christ those surround us.

Prayer Points:

Take time to reflect if there is unforgiveness in our heart. Let us be confess to God about it and release forgiveness. His grace is sufficient enough in our weakness.



## 13. UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

Mark 1:22

When Jesus had conversations with the law teachers at the age of twelve, it didn't say that He tried to impress the theologians at that time. On the contrary, it is written that they were impressed by what Jesus said. How could a teenager possess such deep knowledge?

If we possess good quality in us, sooner or later, like it or not, even though we try to hide it, people will find out that quality. As the sun doesn't have to insist that it is a sun but just shines its bright, everyone knows that it has the best quality to be the main source of light.

In this life sometimes we are tempted to prove ourselves to other people, showing off our abilities. Whereas, if we possess good quality, people will realize and admit it themselves.

*"I think everyone is most confident when they are just being themselves and not trying to impress others."*  
-Bethany Mota-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to give us humility so that we don't try to show off our abilities, but instead we live ordinarily, using our talents to the max.

## 14. TOGETHER SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Mark 3:14-15

Why did Jesus have to appoint twelve apostles to help Him spread the Gospel? Because as an individual Jesus is a limited human being. When twelve people spread the same message together, there is a greater potential for the message to spread widely to many places.

Jesus and the twelve apostles are no longer living in this world. But we can still hear the echo of the news that they spread. However, there are still people who haven't heard the Gospel. Therefore, let us follow the example of Jesus and His twelve disciples. Let us spread the message of truth and this good news together so that more people will hear it and believe in God. That should be the purpose of our gathering, How can we make more people hear the Gospel?

*"Not only must the message be correctly delivered, but the messenger himself must be such as to recommend it to acceptance."*

-John Barber Lightfoot-

Prayer Points:

Ask God to give us wisdom so that when we gather together we can bring the good news of salvation to more people.





# MOVING TOGETHER





## 15. SEASON FOR A REASON

Ecclesiastes 3:1

A fairytale always begins with “Once upon a time” and ends with “they lived happily ever after”. We tend to focus on the happily ever after, but the truth is God cares more about what happens in between. A famous singer called Ray Stevens sang a song called “Everything Is Beautiful in Its Own Way.” If we can be honest, life is not always beautiful. There is no beauty in death, sickness, poverty or war. That’s different to Ecclesiastes 3:11 which says, “God has made everything beautiful for its own time.” This verse tells us that God appoints each season in our lives to bring about His good purposes and in proper time, even the “bad” can be used for good.

Things might be looking ugly for you right now. Your business financially looks ugly, your marriage looks ugly, and your outlook is ugly. But remember you are in a season for a reason. Continue to trust in Him knowing that He has appointed and wants to use those seasons to accomplish His will. He is walking each step of the way with you!

When you allow God to shape your life, He will add substance, value and purpose as He is continually preparing you for the next season. Remember, there can be no promotion without a test. Trust in God and embrace your season because He will make everything beautiful in its time.

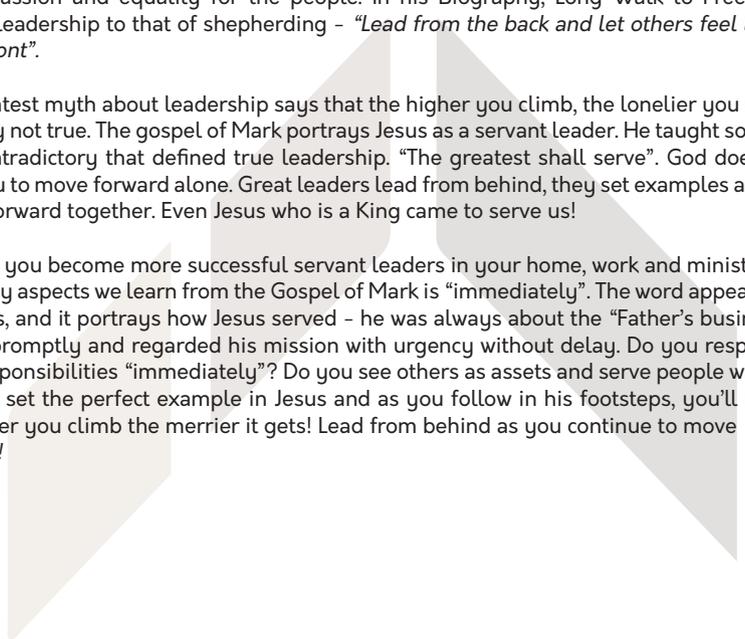
Prayer Points:

Are there any dark season in some part of our life right now? Pray for faithfulness and faith to trust God in every situation.



## 16. LEADING FROM BEHIND

Mark 10:45

Nelson Mandela is one of the most famous leaders in the world known for leading South Africa through the Anti- Apartheid Revolutionary and into democracy. He became a symbol of compassion and equality for the people. In his Biography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, he likened leadership to that of shepherding - *“Lead from the back and let others feel like they are in front”*. 

The greatest myth about leadership says that the higher you climb, the lonelier you are. That is simply not true. The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a servant leader. He taught something very contradictory that defined true leadership. “The greatest shall serve”. God doesn’t just want you to move forward alone. Great leaders lead from behind, they set examples and move others forward together. Even Jesus who is a King came to serve us!

How can you become more successful servant leaders in your home, work and ministry? One of the key aspects we learn from the Gospel of Mark is “immediately”. The word appeared over 40 times, and it portrays how Jesus served - he was always about the “Father’s business”, he served promptly and regarded his mission with urgency without delay. Do you respond and treat responsibilities “immediately”? Do you see others as assets and serve people with love? God has set the perfect example in Jesus and as you follow in his footsteps, you’ll find that the higher you climb the merrier it gets! Lead from behind as you continue to move *Together Forward!*

Prayer Points:

Think about our God given talents and strength. Let God open our eyes, creativity, and understanding to use our talents for His kingdom. 



## 17. PURPOSEFULLY BUSY

Mark 1:38

Let's start with a question. Are you feeling burned out from life? Do you feel like life is overwhelming you? You got work, family, personal and ministry to “balance”. And you feel like there's just not enough time to do everything. If all of the above is true, then it is a good indication that you have lost sight of your focus and priorities. The truth is no one is “too busy”; they're just lost in their priorities.

In Mark 1:38-39, Jesus was just in the early stages of this ministry. In the night before Jesus had just finished ministering to the mass, healing and praying for the people. Everyone was excited, they all came heard and came to see him - Jesus was gaining popularity! *“This is it! It's the perfect way to start a career!”* Peter must have thought. He said to Jesus “everyone is looking for you!” But Jesus surprised the disciples by telling them that he **MUST** go into the smaller towns to preach the gospel. In other words, the disciples were more focused on getting Jesus to fame whilst Jesus was more focused on his priority of preaching the Gospel.

We tend to the same in life. We started off strong, having clear vision of where we are going. Along the busy-ness, we start to cave into other people's demand. We lose sight of our focus and priorities and we burn out.

Do you want to recover your life? Then learn from Jesus. How? By taking time each morning in solidarity with the Father, Jesus was able to continuously focus on his priority (Mark 1:35-36). What happens in quiet time with God? He speaks to you (Isaiah 50:4)! God doesn't just want you to be busy, but He wants you to be purposefully busy by having your priorities align! And when you're priorities align, you will be able to **MOVE FORWARD** and become effective in accomplishing what's most important.

Prayer Points:

Pray for God to give us wisdom in using our time wisely so we may understand His will and set our priority straight.



## 18. LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Acts 21:13

Imagine a prophet of God came up to you, and prophesied that you would do great and mighty things, gave you your favorite verse and said God will bless you abundantly. Sounds perfect right? Then comes the big “BUT” – BUT you will suffer many things. God is going to get you out of your comfort zone. Still excited? Perhaps you start rationalizing that it's not your calling, God must have gotten the wrong person.

In Acts 21, Agabus a prophet came up to Paul and tied his hands. Told him that if he does proceed to Jerusalem, he will handed over to the Gentiles and suffer. People around him even wept and begged him not to go. What would you have done? You must think *“This must be God's confirmation to avoid Jerusalem!”* Not the Apostle Paul. He said it is not the about suffering ahead, but it's what God wants to accomplish through his life that's important, even if he had to endure hardship he was determined to remain faithful to God. Paul definitely saw through his situation, can you?

The truth is it is so easy to follow Jesus when it's convenient, when it's full of blessing and goodness. But there is more, God is calling us to be obedient. And He often uses the bumpy roads in our life to accomplish His good work. Has God called you to start a new business? Perhaps a new ministry that's beyond your comfort zone? Or reconsider a relationship you're in? When you start looking at your life through God's eyes and are obedient, then you are ready to move forward!

Prayer Points:

Pray for courage and boldness to lead us beyond our comfort zone. God wants to extend our territory and move us forward in every aspect of life!

## 19. SPIRITUAL FITNESS

Jude 1: 20

One of the biblical figures who possess great spiritual fitness is Moses. He died at the age of 120. To reach his final destination, Moses had to climb Mount Nebo. And he did that not half-heartedly, instead he climbed to the peak, Pisgah (Deuteronomy 34). His eyes were still bright and he hadn't lose his strength. From the peak of the mountain, Moses saw the whole area which God was giving the Israelites. Until the end of his life Moses still could enjoy a beautiful relationship with the Lord. Through his perfect senses, Moses still could enjoy all the blessings God had prepared!

Spiritual fitness is closely linked to and is the foundation to build health and strength in our soul and body. If there is a saying in the world "inside a strong body there is a healthy soul", the Bible gives a more complete health. Inside a strong body and a healthy soul, there is a strong spirit. For us to move forward in our faith journey, we have to build spiritual fitness. Moses gave us the example through what he did to possess spiritual fitness.

Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting" (Exodus 33:7). Moses built a tent of meeting with God. What did he do inside the tent of meeting?

1. Moses prayed, asking the Lord to show him the people who will "walk" with him.
2. Moses asked for God's favor. The compassion from God will enable him to walk through every challenge in life.
3. Moses prayed so that God will show him His ways.
4. Moses inquired for him to know God more.

It is not a surprise that Moses had a great spiritual strength. Such is also in our life. By building the "tent of meeting" with God, we can possess great spiritual fitness and will be able to become more than conquerors in this journey of faith.

Prayer Points:

Let us take care not just our physical strength, but also our spiritual health. Build the tent of meeting every morning with God to exercise our spiritual muscle and enjoy our encounter with God.



## 20. PERSEVERANCE

Romans 12: 11-12

A boxer will hesitate to walk up into a ring without ample preparation. Without enough physical and mental exercise, a boxer will not be ready to face his opponent. Unfortunately sometimes we feel that there is no need for us to exercise our spiritual muscle in this journey of faith. It is not surprising if some people feel that their spiritual journeys are stagnant.

Paul likened our faith race to a marathon or boxing (1 Cor. 9:24-26). Being patient in affliction is one of the foremost requirement if one wants to exercise his spiritual muscle. Spiritual exercise such as 21 days of prayer and fasting, we are in uncomfortable to our physical body. To build perseverance, we need to learn self control. By persevering we will possess the strength and firmness to face anything. Moreover, perseverance will draw us forward in the knowledge of God.

If we are feeling tired in facing all life challenges, take time for a moment to remember God's faithfulness and provision in our life. Persevere in calling out to God; he is an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:2). Let the peace of Christ fall down, comfort, and reign in our hearts.

Prayer Points:

Persevere and be patient in life's storm. When facing difficult situation, profess God's Word that He is our refuge and strength in times of trouble (Psalm 46:2).

## 21. START SHARING

### 2 Timothy 4: 2, 5

Guy Kawasaki is an evangelist. He is spreading “good news” but not a good news of Gospel. Guy Kawasaki shares the goodness of a product called Macintosh. Guy totally believes that all Apple products will “make people’s life more productive. If someone’s life is productive, he/she will certainly produce excellent results and it will bring success into the person’s life. Indirectly, this Apple “evangelist” believes that people who eventually use Apple products will experience success in their life.

Churches have received a complete package from God. Through salvation in Christ Jesus, all of us have received the blessings He has provided. The blessing God provides is not just powerful to make one’s life productive, but also has power to give us eternal life in heaven. How many of us is enthusiastic to bring this true good news?

The gospel – good news – is the power of God (Romans 1:16). When we share the gospel, we allow God’s power to work through our beings. Be courageous in sharing the gospel. The joy of seeing people’s life being changed by Christ’s love is greater than the fear of rejection for sharing the gospel. Use our personal testimony about what Jesus has done and changed in our life.

Prayer Points:

Pray for the chance to witness to those needing salvation. The wisdom, courage, and love from God will accompany us as we testify.



#21daysprayandfast

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