

EVOLUTION

40 Days of Intention, Connection, and Devotion



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INTRODUCTION

You are in a season of accelerated evolution. God wants to LEVEL UP your entire life and shift your perspective. I believe this is true for you personally, professionally, relationally, and as a church holistically. God's desire for us all is that we might evolve. If we are willing and obedient, He promised that we will eat the good of the land. In other words, we will experience God's best, and we will experience not just eternal life but abundant life. Don't you want joy everlasting on earth and in heaven? Don't you want peace in your home, and an insatiable zeal for the work you do on a day-to-day basis? That is the kind of evolution we are believing God for. But this evolution will happen quickly. It will happen suddenly. This means, we must prepare for the growth spurt that is required of us in this current chapter of our lives. We must be willing to sync with God's vision and refuse to settle for the normal patterns and conditions of this world. We must be obedient in the areas of execution, elimination, and trust. We are literally walking on water, and what took others years to accomplish, I believe God is going to give us the grace to get it done sooner, faster, and wiser. In

order to evolve, we must embrace the new. We must rid ourselves of excuses, and be willing to execute at a rapid pace. Are you willing to go further, faster? Are you willing to give NEW a try? Are you willing for God to introduce you to the you that you haven't seen yet? If you are, then this 40 day devotional will catapult you into your new season by reframing your expectations, aligning your insight, and providing significant instruction on the importance of execution in preparation for evolution.

The phrase “Just Do It” is the signature slogan and a core component of one of the most successful brands of the 20th century; Nike. The phrase, which was coined in an advertising agency meeting in 1988, has been recognized as one of the top 2 taglines of the 20th century. Although the message is not religious in origin, I believe it is relevant for us because it communicates and conveys an important message for those who are attempting to improve their lives. We can have motivation, information, and also intercession but we cannot experience improvement without execution. At some point, after all of the preparation, pontification, and planning, we have to just do it. In other words, elevation and evolution belong to those who have mastered the art of execution. Execution is the key that unlocks a person's potential. It is the magnet that draws in what one desires. It is the ultimate expression of faith. Faith executes. Faith follows-through. Faith takes the first step. Many of the

promises present in the pages of scripture are promises that are predicated on God's people engaging in the act of execution. Execution is expected from our Savior. Jesus says, "if you love me keep my commandments." It is commanded by the scriptures. The Bible warns us not to just be hearers of the word but doers also. God doesn't just instruct us to execute; he also assists us in executing. And, at the end of the day we can talk about it, pray about it, and plan for it but we will never be able to reach evolution without execution. This is the purpose of our concentrated devotional journey. Over the next 40 days, we will make a commitment to be intentional about execution. Most people will do this devotional during a season we call Lent. Others will do this in a small group class, or as a personal study tool during another season of their lives. But for those who are observing Lent, allow me to give a brief explanation of the season, the sacrifice and the significance of Lent for yearly observance.

The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word Len(c)ten, which means "spring." In early Christianity, the term was used to refer to the fortieth day before Easter. Many Christians celebrate Lent for different reasons. Traditionally, this religious observance covered a period of 7 weeks before Easter Sunday, beginning on Ash Wednesday every year and continuing for 40 days until Easter Sunday. Much like the Sabbath day God instituted in Genesis, if you commit to this journey, you are committing to

scripture meditation, worship, and prayer every day of the week except Sunday. This will result in 40 days of concentrated devotional time with the Lord (Monday-Saturday), and “six Sundays off”—you’ll be in worship anyway...so it works out pretty good! It will be challenging—especially if this is your first time committing to something like this—but the reward will far outweigh the challenge.

What is the purpose of Lent? Lent prepares the believer to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer, repentance, atonement, and self-denial. As you read and reflect, our aim this year is to express, embrace and embody the newness of God as he evolves us into who we are called to be. Thus, in the following pages, we have provided a practical guide to assist you in your devotional time. Each day includes a scriptural focus and a daily devotional. If you are so inclined, consider purchasing a writing journal to chronicle your daily thoughts or to personalize your prayers. Think about something you can give up during this time that will help you to remain focused on Christ. Some people give up television watching, social media surfing, food on certain days during certain times, guilty pleasures like shopping or junk food—whatever you deem appropriate, let it go for a season. Whatever poses as a real challenge to let go of, surrender it to God for a short period of time. It is our prayer that you will experience healing and wholeness in

Jesus, and that this 40-day experience will set you on a trajectory toward purpose and produce this year. Most of all, we pray that you will be reminded of the sacrifice Christ made for us, and be compelled to EVOLVE.

DAY 1: A NEW WAY

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43:18-19 (ESV)

Have you ever traveled down a familiar road only to be redirected by a detour sign? Many of us become upset, angry, or feel lost once we have been redirected. Often times we feel like we won't arrive at our destination or that we'll arrive much later than we anticipated. What we may not know is that the road that we're used to traveling could have some potential dangers that we are unaware of. Could it be that there was instability occurring on the bridge, a sinkhole developing, or conditions so hazardous that the road could no longer be traveled on? Could this new route introduce you to things you would have never seen had you not been redirected? Although the detour may seem inconvenient, the engineers, planners and developers, knew that the detour would provide a safer route.

As God points out in the book of Isaiah, He too wants us to focus on a new way! Sometimes the previous roads on which we've traveled have brought damage,

hurt and unexpected pain to our lives because we did not know that there was a different route to take to our peace, happiness and joy. Although His routes seem unfamiliar, His detours are never meant to harm us, but to help us. There are moments in your life when God will detour you from familiar routes such as insignificance, low self-esteem, toxic relationships, unhealthy habits and routines, and redirect you towards a greater purpose that involves a healthier, more enriched lifestyle.

Jesus expressed it clearly in John 14:6 when he says “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” As you can see, Jesus provides a proof set pathway to a better life. He will never lead you down a roadway that doesn’t lead to your destiny. If the Father (God) is our ultimate destination, then Jesus is expressing that He’s the best and only route to get there. Let this time of evolution be clearly inspired by God’s direction for your life. Your best life is straight ahead - let’s take this journey together!

Father give me guidance towards the road that leads to a fulfilled life in you. Help my vision to not be distorted so that I may see clearly what your plans are for me. As I take steps towards my purpose, help me to not get discouraged when you reroute me away from things or ways that are not beneficial or the best for me. I trust in your leadership and direction. Thank you for the pathway you have set that makes my life better. In Jesus’ name amen!

DAY 2: A NEW CREATION

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Do you remember when you received something new? It may have been a new car, a new job, a new home, new clothes or a new phone. Question - How did it make you feel? There’s something that triggers a sense of fulfillment when we have something that’s new. We’ve all heard the saying “Out with the old, and in with the new!”

The Apostle Paul may not have understood what it felt like to have a new car, haircut, or phone, however he did understand what it felt like to have a new life. Prior to becoming an apostle, Paul was previously known as Saul of Tarsus. In his former lifestyle he was a persecutor of the church, consenting to the death of those who practiced Christianity. Eventually he was blinded for three days while on the road leading to Damascus when he was questioned by Jesus who asked- “Why are you persecuting me?”

Ultimately Saul was converted and his name changed to Paul. It was there that he received his sight and viewed life, people and his purpose in a brand new way. Paul didn't keep his old ways, nor did he view things the same as he did previously, everything about him became new! His perspective, vision, attitude, heart, commitment, mission, assignment, conscience and love were now evidence of his transformation. He didn't become a better version of his old lifestyle after his encounter with Jesus. Instead, Paul became a new creation! His old lifestyle had ended and it wasn't just a mere improvement of an older version of who he was, but absolutely a new creation of something he had never been.

Not only did Jesus want this new life for Paul, he also wants it for you and I. When we have an authentic encounter with Jesus he will blind us from negativity, insecurities, self-righteousness and other things that misrepresent who we are called to be. It's a known saying, that the caterpillar that has been transformed into a butterfly will never crawl again! We should now have a new outlook on our life, our purpose, and our identity. As Paul mentioned, "...The old has gone, the new is here!" Because we're a new creation in Christ, we don't have to live with our past mistakes, shame, guilt, insecurities and failures. As Ezekiel 36:26 states "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you."

Lord I pray that you create in me a new heart and renew a righteous spirit within me. Help me to see that I've been designed by you and created in your image and after your likeness. When I am unsure about who I am, remind me of my creation. Remind me often that I am more than a conqueror and that I can do all things through you as you give me strength. Thank you for renewing my mind and heart. In Jesus name' - Amen!

DAY 3: A NEW THING

“Behold the former things have come to pass, and the new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Isaiah 42:9 (ESV)

On the hit HGTV television show “Fixer Upper”, a married couple redesigns old houses, but before they begin construction, they provide homeowners with a layout of how their new house will look. While the designers are extremely confident about their projected finished product, the buyers are often hesitant about moving forward because they don’t see the potential or what the visionaries see. After the demolition takes place and the plan starts to move into action, the homeowners start to gain a sense of what the home will look like in the end. At the end of the show before the designers reveal the new home, the homeowners stand in front of a gigantic picture of what the home previously looked like. The designers then shout to the homeowners - “Are you ready to see your new home?” After hearing “Yes” from the homeowners, the new home is revealed. As

you can guess, the homeowners are blown away by the outcome.

What if God is simply waiting for your «Yes?» Yes, to His ways, His vision, His design for your life. What if He's already given us a blueprint on how our lives will be so much better if we allow him to take control. He understands that we aren't always at our best and that there are moments when things have to be reconstructed or at times demolished in our lives so that we can have a better outlook on His promises. Realize, that we don't see things as God sees them. He sees the finished product, while we are limited to its current state the finished product, while we are limited to its current state. He sees our joy at the end, while we're busy focusing on the pain. He will walk us through the entire process with reassurance that things will get better.

Just like the TV series, sometimes we're faced with a picture of our past and how dreadful moments from it may have been. But if you give God your «Yes» he'll remove the old things and reveal the new things. As 1 Corinthians 2:9 states, "...“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him—” There are great things that God has prepared for your future. He's designed His best for your life. He's already prepared the finest people, career path, relationships, etc. to enhance you. All that he awaits from you now... is your «Yes!»

Father give me the ability to say yes. As I give you my yes, I pray that you will provide all of the necessities for my life. Expose me to the things that you know will benefit me. When I am faced with past feelings and emotions that disrupt my future, help me to know that you will complete the work that you have begun in me. I trust that your plans for my life will help me to not be afraid of the unknown ahead. Your plan is perfect and true. I thank you in advance for the outcome of your promises. In Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY 4: A NEW SPIRIT

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel 11:19

Evolution is a desire that every one of us have. We all want to live better and we all want to be better. Whether our better begins at our workplace with promotions or starting our own businesses. It may be relationally with the decision of creating more contacts, which can assist us in something that God placed on our hearts. Or we desire to produce a stronger spiritual foundation. It can be the increase of our financial status, by being better stewards of our resources. Whatever your means of evolution, we can all agree: *better is challenging*.

Evolution requires planning, patience, and persistence. In this passage of scripture, a promise of God was spoken through Ezekiel: “I will put a new spirit in them”. God understands evolution more than anyone; better yet, He created evolution Himself by giving an undivided heart along with a new spirit, to

a people who no longer had the willingness to obey his commandments. A people whom He called his own, no longer saw a need to follow the laws of their ancestors. The need for evolution was major. In this process, God gave them a new spirit; one that could help God's people to follow through with living a Godly lifestyle.

Just like today, we may be in a season of evolution and we may need the assistance of God in order to live a Godly lifestyle. That same promise of God exists for all people. No matter who you are or where you are, God is able to provide you with an undivided heart and put a new spirit in you. This spirit is a new spirit from God that directs, protects, and provides us with the capability to achieve anything! And what we aren't able to do, God can. Take time out today to dwell on where you need the help of the Holy Spirit in your life. Use the tool you have living right inside you, and achieve your evolution starting with today!

Heavenly Father, I thank you for putting a new spirit within me. Thank you for giving me the exact tools that I need to pursue and achieve evolution.

Reveal to me any areas in my life that I need to improve. Build my life with the new spirit you have placed within me. And as I draw closer to your spirit, provide me with the sensitivity to know your voice, and to obey. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 5: A NEW HEART

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel 36:26

What are you expecting to see in this season of evolution? What if I told you that God wants you to experience evolution, but needs something from you first? Are you willing to do it? If you are, then I will tell you. God wants access to your heart. Nothing can be done properly without God being in the middle of it. A new you needs a new heart. It is impossible to experience an evolution on the outside without receiving a transformation on the inside. If we are to experience a Godly lifestyle, then we must give Him what’s most valuable; our heart.

In this scripture Ezekiel speaks of removing the heart of stone and in return giving us a heart of flesh. In God’s promise of giving us a new heart, He explains to us the process of removing stones. These stones in our hearts prevent us from experiencing and producing God’s love. God’s desire is that we are

able to see Him correctly, so that we may be able to correctly see ourselves. In this we will understand that what we did doesn't represent who we are. The past mistakes of your family don't limit you in who God created you to be. And what was done does not have a hold on you.

Today is the day that you can look at yourself and say *God truly loves me*. There is nothing that you can do more of or less of, to change the heart God has for you. You can finally let go of what has been holding you back from your evolution. It's time to see yourself correctly. It's time for you to introduce your new heart to your new designed future.

Lord, thank you for giving me a new heart. Thank you also for removing the stones from my old heart. Help me to give you more access to my heart. Release me from past mistakes, hurt, and pain. Give me the correct view of who I am to you. With this new heart, I ask that you will help me to have the desire to sustain my Godly lifestyle. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 6: A NEW ATTITUDE

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, righteousness and holiness”

Ephesians 4:22-24

Attitude is defined as a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person’s behavior (Dictionary.com). So, your attitude is just the outward reflection of what’s inside your heart. Therefore, a change in attitude requires a change of heart, which takes work. Heart work. This is the kind of heart work that only the Holy Spirit can do successfully. As a child I was hurt a lot, intentionally and unintentionally by the adults in my life. To protect myself, as an adult, I became distant, I didn’t seek out friends, and I redirected or ignored anyone who offered friendship.

Then I met Christ and I learned about love. True love, the kind that makes you vulnerable because it

makes you want to be different. It makes you want to love and to give love. But again, this takes work. True love makes you want to love others, and that's what Christ's love did to me. It showed me how to love in my words and actions. Love made me want to love, and be loved. In John 5:6, Christ asked a man who had been an invalid for 38-years, "Do you want to be made whole?" Of course, the response was yes. And so when I was faced with the dilemma of being a person known to be easily offended and negative all of the time, I asked God to make me whole. I wanted to say and believe positive things. I wanted a new attitude.

So to you I ask, "Do you want to be made whole?" "Do you believe that evolution is possible for you?" "Do you believe that because you spent most of your life as a metaphorical caterpillar, that you cannot become a butterfly? Well, you can. You and I serve the God of the exception and he is able to give you a new attitude about everything, which will lead to a new altitude. Halleluiah!

Father, I thank you that I have evolved. I thank you for a new attitude that gives and shows love. A new attitude that believes that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). A new attitude that uplifts and does not tear down. A new attitude that says, "Here I am Lord, send me." And as you have answered this prayer; Father, I pray that you give a new attitude to my sister and/or brother reading this prayer. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 7: A NEW LOCATION

And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you.

Ezekiel 36:27-29

Ezekiel received a word from the Lord to give to the children of Israel about the promises of God. The children of Israel needed to move to the place God had given to their fathers. God states he will put a new spirit in them to move them to a new place. God places inside each of us a part of who he is and what he desires for us. But, we have to make a decision to follow him. Our decisions impact our destiny and our willingness to move, speaks to our participation in God's plan.

If we aren't willing to move, then we won't change. If we don't change, then everything will remain the same. God is calling us to move out of

the place(s) we were once in. Not only does our heart have to change in order for the move to occur, our minds also need to change as well. We have to make a decision to execute the change. Execution is key. In that execution we become different. We are not remaining the same.

In order to walk into your new location, move away from anything that keeps you stagnant mentally, emotionally, or otherwise. You can't get to a new place if you don't move. The scripture mentions promises from God in the movement. The promise to dwell in a new land, filled with abundance and renewal—these are all benefits of your spiritual evolution. Our new location isn't just happening to us physically, but emotionally and mentally. Listen to God's spirit, He is calling you to move.

Prayer: Sovereign God, you know where I am at all times. Thank you that you know what is best for me, when it is time to move and when it is time to stay. Thank you for giving me the wisdom and the heart to know that you are calling me to evolve. Now that you have changed my heart, I can set my mind to change and move to the new place you have for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 8: A NEW COVENANT

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:27-29NKJV

When we partake in communion, we remember that Christ died and shed his blood so that we might be forgiven. In shedding his blood, this sealed the covenant, God's promise to us. When Jesus was with his disciples at the last supper, he told them to drink of the cup each of them. Jesus was not selective in who should drink from the cup. The cup was for all.

When we live according to God's word for our lives, the promise of forgiveness is for us. We have all sinned and we have all fallen short of his glory. Jesus' blood was shed so that we can obtain forgiveness of sins. In surrendering his life, Christ sealed our pledge so that we could give our lives to God in all

holy obedience. The new covenant is the forgiveness God gives to each of us. It is new because we are no longer under the law. We can go directly to God to seek forgiveness. This cup is not offered only once; it is offered to us on a daily basis so that we can be renewed. When the enemy wants to show you who you used to be, remember God's promises, you are forgiven.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to die on the cross for me. Thank you for the blood that covers all my sins. I am grateful that through your shed blood, I have new life and forgiveness is mine. Though the blood cost you everything, you have freely given to all. I thank you for the courage to confess my sins and to know that you will forgive me. I praise you and thank you for forgiveness in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 9: A NEW MERCY

Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance and is humbled in me. This I recall to mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

(Lamentations 3:19-24 KJV)

Each day I wake up, I am reminded of God's mercy. I have a clean slate and a fresh start. It's a new beginning. I have the opportunity to start again what I should have done the day before. I'm not going to agonize over missed moments. I won't drown myself in thoughts like: *I should have prayed, I should have fasted, and all of the other I should have's*. I can't continue to wallow in misery over missed moments. Instead, I will focus on the fresh mercy God has given me. Each day, I have to make a decision to create an amazing future for myself. I am grateful that God is faithful and for this I am hopeful.

I remember being lost and hitting rock bottom. But God's love never gave up on me. I remember being overwhelmed and unfulfilled. But God's love never gave up on me. Isn't it a wonderful thing to know that God's love will never run out on you? He is merciful, kind and loving. It doesn't matter what the previous day was about. We have another chance to get it right today! Rejoice today in the fact that his mercies are new every morning. I don't get the same mercy every day. With God, it's new. That means I can expect new every day. A change, something different. God never changes who he is, He changes me.

Prayer: God of love and mercy, thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for new mercies, and for new beginnings each day for me. Just when I think you have given me much, you still have much more to give and for that I am eternally grateful. Lord, help me to show the same mercy to others that you continually show to me every minute, hour and in the days ahead, in Jesus' name. Amen

DAY 10: A NEW MISSION

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 ESV

Have you ever been referred to as acting “brand new”? This was a phrase often directed at individuals or groups who in some shape form or fashion, did not take on the persona of what people were accustomed to. In other words, they weren’t who or what others desired them to be as it related to their encounter. It’s interesting that whomever the phrase was directed at, would often times feel the need to defend why they were acting the way they were acting. As if to be brand new, was negative in nature; I would suggest to you the contrary. Contextually speaking, acting “brand new” can be a very desirable course of action; especially, if your salvation depended on it.

As followers of Christ, we should relish at the thought of being brand new. We should be grateful that we were crucified with Christ so that we could

be raised with him brand new. Now we have received our mission (purpose) and it is evident that the tasks therein required a new entity. The author, Maxie D. Dunnam writes, that “Three words capture the dynamic meaning of crucifixion with Christ: pardon, power, partnership. Dunnam explains that being pardoned means forgiveness from past sin, freedom from the law, but also a passionate urge never to sin again.” He writes, that “Power is received as we give ourselves to the Lordship of Christ. We yield ourselves to Him. Our ‘I will’ becomes dominated by ‘the mind of Christ,’ and this is our power.” With respect to partnership, the author writes, “Being crucified with Christ, we enter into his creative suffering to ‘complete what remains of Christ’s affliction’ for the sake of His Body the Church”.

The Apostle Paul spoke to this in his Epistle to the Church at Rome; he wrote, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Romans 8:17). Friends, do not allow the phrase “acting brand new” to take on a negative connotation; especially, when it relates to your salvation. For those who espouse to use it in this fashion, fail to understand that you aren’t who you used to be for a reason. You were bought with a price; a heavy one at that! In fact, it cost an innocent man his very life. So, embrace your newness because your new mission requires a new you!

Father, we thank you for newness. Now grant us the courage and intestinal fortitude to walk in it. We thank you Lord God for the mission that you have given to your church; we do not take it lightly. We thank you Father that you are leveling us up for the “New Mission” at hand. Father we pray for those who are yet in their respective situations. Many have not discovered that you are calling them to a newness Father; to that end, we pray that you would do for them that which you did for the Prophet Elisha’s servant; “Lord Open their eyes, so that they might see” (2 Kings 6:17). For your mission is of the utmost importance. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

DAY 11: A NEW LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 ESV

I can't think of anything more upsetting than having someone take away something that rightfully belongs to me; especially, something that was given to me as a gift. In our scripture today, The Apostle John records Jesus conveying words of wisdom to the disciples with respect to their need for discernment. In effect, Jesus is telling the disciples that there is one who desires to put a stop to their evolution. This thief as Jesus categorizes him, desires to sever the umbilical cord which links us to our Savior. He desires to keep us grounded and rooted in soil that has long lost its ability to provide us with the nutrients we need to grow consistent with God's perfect will and purpose for our respective lives.

Moses said to the people of Israel, "I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his

commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess” (Deuteronomy 30:15-16). Please don’t miss that Israel was headed to “A New Life”. A life full of promises and blessings. In like fashion, we too have the promise of “A New Life”. Note, that I did not say a life without challenges; but, a “A New Life” nonetheless with the promises of joy unspeakable for those that believe in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

What then shall we say or do? We must ensure that our deeds reflect that which we purport as followers of Christ. We must execute in the affirmative like Moses admonished the people of Israel wherein he wrote, “Now choose life, so that you and your children may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19). In our case, let us choose “A New Life”; one that is predicated upon the teachings and admonitions of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us not be deceived my friends; for truly, the enemy comes but to steal, kill and destroy; but, praise be to the Lord our God for “A New Life” in Christ Jesus! “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty,” who was, and is, and is to come” (Revelation 4:8).

Father we thank you for your love and protection. We thank you Lord God for provision upon provision. We thank you Lord God that you look beyond our many faults to facilitate our needs. To that end, we are grateful. We realize Lord that we are not worthy of any good measure from you and to that end, we are thankful Lord that your “thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways” (Isaiah 55:8). We bless your High Name Father and we thank you for “A New Life” in your beloved Son who sits at your right hand. Now Lord we pray for constant guidance through your “Holy Spirit” as we maneuver in and through this New Life. We thank you in advance for your mercy and grace in Jesus’ name. Amen.

DAY 12: A NEW BIRTH

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead*

1 Peter 1:3 ESV

How often have you thought to yourself, if I could but start all over again? Life has a peculiar way of causing us to long for the simpler days. The days when the cares of the world were seemingly someone else's responsibility. A time wherein our mistakes didn't hold us captive. The phrase "do-over" was commonplace and we boldly played that card without any secret evasion or mental reservation.

The author Paul A. Cedar wrote, "Mercy is a key word which we must understand in order to grasp the fullest meaning of Peter's teaching on the subject of salvation. Within the context of verse 3, Peter reminds us that new birth has come to us through the mercy of God." The Apostle later declared in his letter, that "Once you were not a people, but now you are

the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:10). Friends those of us who are in Christ Jesus, have effectively received a “do-over”. Our “New Birth”, is filled with wonder, hope, love and an abundance of grace. The Apostle Paul in his letter to his mentee in the faith; Timothy, said it best. He writes, “The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:14).

My friends, this very grace was like wine poured out on us through our “New Birth.” As a result, we are to take this “New Birth” and evolve. God is looking for us to grow beyond the constraints of this world. In other words, with each day that we are granted, we are to become increasingly more like Jesus. This, dear friends, will require us to execute on a level that will stretch us both physically and intellectually. To that end, we can look for our respective minds to receive a workout like never before. I am convinced that our God has greater for us and we must believe through faith that it’s time for next level living!

Father we thank you for our “New Birth” through Jesus our Lord and Savior. We thank you Father for the promise of evolution within this birth. We realize Father, that we have a role to play relative to our evolution. We vehemently understand, that you will do that which we cannot do and not that which we will not do. We pray Father that we would execute in excellence all that you have called us to do so that you might be glorified as a result thereof. Thank you Father for your grace, mercy and love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

DAY 13: A NEW ASSIGNMENT

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus, said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-20

Imagine that you're in the car and you're heading to a particular mall. Now imagine you've been going there for years. In fact, you have been going to this place since your parents had you in diapers. Suddenly, you see a sign on the road advertising a new mall. It's similar to the place you were heading to, at the same time, it's different. It goes beyond just being new; it's a total upgrade from what you're used to. You become curious and want to check it out. But the problem is, it will require you to drive in the opposite direction. You drive a little further, that new mall still fresh on your mind, when you see a U-Turn approaching. As much as you would like to stick with what you know, you decide to take the U-Turn and back towards the new mall.

This analogy paints a large portrait about purpose in relation to this Scripture. I believe we can safely assume that Peter and Andrew had come from a family of fishermen. Their daddy was a fisherman, and his daddy, and so on and so forth. Being fishermen, there's nothing in particular that sticks out about them. It was a common profession in that time. There were probably more fishermen on the lake that day. But along comes Jesus, only focusing on those two, and invites them to go beyond what they know.

However, just because it was something that your family always did, it doesn't mean that it's God's plan for you. Sometimes, when we are locked in on what others do, we can become so focused repeating their experience that we lose sight of when God wants to use us elsewhere. So He has to step into where we are in order to get us to shift our gears and head to His best for us. The beautiful thing about it is that God doesn't allow the experience we had to be wasted. Some translations quote Jesus as saying, "I will make you fishers of men." Jesus didn't let what they were doing expire, He let it evolve. When God recalibrates us, it's easy to become scared of the unknown. But much like these two brothers learned, that when we let go of what we know and trust in what He knows, then we will see our lives being fulfilled in unimaginable, magnificent ways.

Loving and gracious Abba, thank You for redirection and refocus. Thank You for seeing us where we are and pulling us from living lives that don't bring You glory. Lord, help us to be fearlessly obedient to the things You call us to. Affirm us when we feel that we are disqualified for the task. Your wisdom is greater than ours. Take the bread of what we know Lord and break it that we may be able to bless others with it. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DAY 14: A NEW HOPE

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

Psalm 62:5

Not too long ago, a woman by the name of Martha had been laid off from work. She wasn't unfamiliar with unemployment. She had gone through a long and grueling season of it before. There were many clamoring voices around her telling what she should and shouldn't do. But many of those same voices, were not there in her wilderness season. But God was there as He always had been. So as difficult as it was to worship, as difficult as it was to trust that she was not going to have a repeat of her past, Martha grasped for God and held on as long as she could. She held on because she knew that if God could get her out of that before, He would have no problem doing that again. Martha knew if she was honest and transparent with God about what she wanted that He would go exceedingly and abundantly beyond that. To God be the glory, unemployment only lasted a month before she started her new job. The enemy tried to sabotage it, but as the saints often remind us, "What

God has for us is for us!” Martha kept holding on to the assurance that God had everything under control even when she didn’t see or feel it. In the end, things worked out.

In times of despair, it’s easy for us to become frustrated. We’re in a state of mind and spirit that is extremely vulnerable. Thanks be to God that we aren’t alone in that. At the time this Psalm is being written, David is going through it. Situations are coming at him left and right. People are throwing all sorts of shade at him. David is in a mess and is a mess. Yet in the midst of it all, David in a moment of humility reminds himself that the naysayers and situations didn’t elevate him to where he was at that point. The power of God had gotten him there. So long as he didn’t waver in faith, God would keep him there.

Anxiety and worry can leech so much from us. They don’t change the situation, and if we’re not careful, they can change us. Your destiny is too important for you not to have peace. It is imperative that we rest in God. He’s the only One who can turn a situation on its head. He’s the only One who can change the heart of someone against you and use them to bless you. He is the only One who knows your story from start to finish. It’s because He wrote it. Therefore, if He wrote it, that means He’s there from the “Once upon a time” to “The End” and everything in between. Hold on to that and rest, and He’ll refresh your weary bones.

Lord of my life and lover of my soul, You are a constant God who anchors me and keeps me from being lost at sea. But for those times that I become adrift oh God, show me how to use my faith and trust in You to walk on water. Release me from the stronghold of worry, anxiety, and other things that stress me and keep me from living life as You intended. You take my tests and turn them into testimonies. I will never love you as much as you love me. I'm thankful that in spite of that You still come through for me. Weary as I am God, I come to You in anticipation that You will give me a replenishing rest that I may go and serve You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 15: A NEW GOAL

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

As believers, sometimes there is pressure to have it all together. If we did have it all together, there would be practically no need for God to go to the lengths that He does to love us. It is because He loves us, He refuses to allow us to live a life that is less than His best for us. But we have our moments where we look at past seasons and are blinded to the glory revealed in it because we become so focused on every single mistake. Even in this, God has enough love and compassion for us to take our shortcomings and use them as a means of redirecting our vision.

Many people before they came to Christ had their own ideas as to what the ideal end would be for them. They may have devoted all sorts of blood,

sweat, and tears into making that possible. Then here comes God, highlighting what we desire and showing us that while we may be satisfied for a season, it won't satisfy our souls like His plans for us will. When God gives us a goal, it's putting us into a position that we are living for something much bigger than ourselves. One of the purposes we have in life is to give God glory through our story. No matter how many flaws we have or how often we fall short, God uses us as a means to bless others. Look at many of the people in the Bible; David, Moses, Samson, Solomon, Paul, Rahab, Bathsheba, Miriam. Each of them had their own issues and even though they are long gone from this Earth, God is still getting the glory out of their lives and we're still getting blessed by their experiences.

It's hard to let go of past hurts. It's even harder trusting in the fact that at the end of the day, God is God. And He has it all under control. We put more faith in the idea of a car starting, or a light switch working, or an automatic door opening. If you can put your faith in those things, then let it sink in that God has you. Trust Him and push forward. It will all come together.

Wonderful and magnificent God, You know the race that we run daily. You know that it is so hard for us to do in our own strength. Help us to remember that You have already run this race ahead of us. Help us to remember that when we pass off the baton of our fears and worries that You take them to a place where they have already been trampled under Your feet God. Give us the power to endure to the very end that You may be glorified. Victory is secured in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 16: NEW JOY

Nehemiah 8:10, Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those we have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

It's revival time(x5)

Everybody oughta know(x2)

It's revival time.

Every revival service I have ever attended, opened with this enthusiastic song. The Revivalist would then preach a word that would invigorate one's faith and convict the heart. Revival brings an awakening that produces a stronger, closer, and better walk with God. Revival fosters a season of EVOLUTION.

Change is not easy, but necessary, in order to do what you have never done before. Change begins with the simplest introduction of a word, designed to present a different thought. When "that" word is accepted and applied, it produces transformation. Transformation is the inward process of advanced development from a previous state or condition. This creates a new You!

As we allow the word of God to search our hearts, we will find that we may be challenged to make many adjustments. This may feel overwhelming, but trust and embrace the process. Nehemiah encouraged the people, “Do not grieve”. This process is necessary for you to be your best and to have His best. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11). Embrace the New Joy.

Father help me to endure the process that is required for me to experience all the joy you have prepared for me. Give me a joy that is new and never-ending. Thank you for the confidence in You that brings joy and strength. Amen.

DAY 17: A NEW LOVE

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

Sometime in 1984, guitarist Mike Jones, of the band Foreigner, recalled how a night of insomnia had its benefits at three in the morning. Finally finding some quiet time amidst the whirlwind of success, Mike put pen to paper. Considering it a gift that was expressed through him, “I Want To Know What Love Is”, was written. In spite of the success, applause and great fan followings, Mike experienced failed expectations of love in various streams of relationships.

What is Love? Is Love the allegiance we see expressed in the social and financial classes we qualify for? Can love be gauged by the guidelines of equal exchange of expressions? Vetting what love is, based on conditional factors, most often than not, results in failed expectations. Once conditions like these

change, love no longer exist. Sadly enough, every failed expectation can lead to a potential set back.

The evolution of the new you requires a new level of love. A new love that leads, guides, and directs appropriate expectations, and practices when engaging with others. One that is demonstrated by Jesus and developed through intentional devotion and practicing of His teachings. His love for us will teach us to guard our hearts and our minds, diminishing the unrealistic and immature expectations that make room for failure. This love defeats setbacks and brings fulfillment of destiny. Trust the new love. Embrace the new and improved YOU!

Father, give us a heart to love like You love, and the ability to demonstrate that love that Jesus exhibited to others. We love you and we thank you for being God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 18: A NEW SONG

He put a new song in my mouth. A hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.

Psalms 40:3

There is nothing like the sound of Victory! A collage of emotions that convey a specific impression as a result of a successful outcome. Victory is often expressed through words of praise, affirmation and exaltation. The sound of Victory reveals a conclusive proclamation of conquest. However, the sound of Victory does not always reveal or do homage to the real MVP.

Victories overshadow the times; you wanted to give up, got discouraged, endured insult, rejected and mistreatment. In the spotlight of Victory, no one could see the times you had to do it over and over again, feeling like a failure. People will see the “WHAT”. That is “what” you have accomplished. They will not see the “WHY”. Why you were able to gain the victory over matters the other experience defeat in.

The One who changed the trajectory of your life, is your Most Valuable Player(MVP). The One who implemented the new play of this game of life: turned your giving up into getting up, changed your defeat into Victory, your failures into success and your discouragement into courage. You persevered through the one play in the book that leads to your road of victory. “After you have suffered a little while, the God of all Grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you” (1Peter 5:10) and your heart will sing, I HAVE THE VICTORY! And this victory will produce a song that only victorious people can sing. This song is new, fresh, and convicting! Sing your song today and remind yourself that if God did it before, He can and will do it again.

Father help me to persevere through the process knowing that it leads me to the victory you have already prepared for me. Give me a new song for a new season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 19: A NEW STANDARD

For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

Galatians 6:14-16 (MSG)

I don't know about you, but I do not like Standardized Tests. I get nervous whenever I have to take them, and I never feel satisfied with what I produce. The purpose of a standardized test is to evaluate and assess the strengths and weaknesses of a student, in preparation for elevation. The test was designed as an objective means of examination. But the problem is, only students with brains wired toward "standardized" thinking, excel in standardized texts!

I am so glad that God's standards are not like ours. I'm so glad that he sent Jesus so that we could

all pass the exam of life, because he knew, in our own flesh, we wouldn't be able to do it on our own. I'm so glad he provided the Bible as the manual for human existence, so that whenever we found ourselves stuck on a question, we could turn to the back of the book and get the answer. This is the beauty of an evolved life. When Christ makes you new, he gives you a new standard. He changes your living. He changes your appetites. He changes your joy, and he changes your outlook. Galatians reminds us that God is creating something totally new, and the consequence of this newness, is a free life. That's a standard worth worshiping about! This is how we are differentiated from others. When people see us, they should see a man or woman who lives, loves, and leads like Jesus. That is the standard. That is our pattern. And that is our cross. Never let anyone convince you to lower your standards in order to gain their approval. Walk high! Walk strong! Know that God has made you exactly as you are, and you are not meant to be a carbon copy of anyone else!

Prayer: Father, thank you for not testing me like others. Thank you for knowing my value and my distinctiveness. Thank you for sending Jesus to curve the test scores in my favor. Because of you, I am saved. Because of you, I have a new standard of living. I accept my cross. I accept my thorn. I am ready to be all that you have called me to be.

In Jesus' name. AMEN.

DAY 20: A NEW LEVEL

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:2-4

For the past few months, a girl named Jasmin had been feeling this looming sense that she couldn't quite put her finger on. She kept seeing things pertaining to the phrase, "Level Up" or "Levels" As the New Year drew closer, the more she felt things were moving in this area. But she couldn't understand why. Then one day, during her devotional time, Jasmin got the unction to look up the meaning of her name. Of course she knew that she was named after a flower but she couldn't really see anything else beyond that. Still, that unction vied for her attention. The meaning doesn't just lie in the name, the meaning lies in its behavior. Jasmin finally conceded and pulled up a

quick search of the flower on her phone. She learned something that is applicable for us all as we evolve. Jasmine, the flower, has three distinctive traits.

1. They can be evergreen. For a plant to be evergreen, it means that it still maintains its vibrancy and color in seasons that cause other plants to die.
2. They can be vine-like and spread out or climb up.
3. They can be deciduous. For a plant to be deciduous, it has to shed off whatever leaves, petals, or fruit it has when its mature enough or no longer needed. Leaves that fall in the autumn fall off of deciduous trees.

We are reaching a point as believers where God wants us to reach a new level. However, some of us cannot proceed unless some stuff falls off of us. And in some cases, we have to be mature enough to let God do some much-needed pruning in our character and our habits. As we level up, we have to expect some growing pains. There will be things that God will expose to us so we can show how our mess will alert (and get the attention of) the Messiah. We have to understand that there are labels and things that many have put on us to grow into, but when we reach

our full size, they won't fit us. Levelling up can be awkward and uncomfortable because we are learning things that God knows about us that we didn't know about ourselves.

Many of us are on the cusp of change. Some of us are searching for the catalyst that sets everything off and changes everything. But we need to ask ourselves, Is the only reason that we're not seeing the change we're expecting is because we don't understand that we're the catalyst? For everything that God hasn't changed yet, there is a chance that He has already given us what we need to change it. This will be a time where God will really challenge us on if we want His best or not. This will be the time where He challenges and asks us, "Are you going to keep settling or do you want more? What are you willing to let go of and give back to Me in trust to get to the next stage? I'm not sure about you, but as for me and my house, I want what God has planned for me, even if that means I have to go through the mountains and valleys of pursuing Him in worship. He's given us the tools to go for it. Reach.

Abba, You know what is on the other side of this Level Up season. You know who we are completely and comprehensively. I speak against any device of the enemy that seeks to talk us out of our next level. The enemy may prowl like a lion but God with Your living, breathing word, he has no teeth. Let Your voice mute him where he stands. Lord, in Jesus' name I ask that everything that no longer serves a purpose for us according to Your will for our lives must fall off. Prune what is toxic and keeping us from growing into the person You called us to be. And for the things that You choose not to prune because it's like Paul's thorn, give us the wisdom and the strength to manage it. We stand on Your word that dispels the spirit of fear. Have Your way in us God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 21: A NEW METHOD

The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah'" "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31, 33

If you are committed to evolution, you must be willing to marry the message but date the method. What does this mean? Practically speaking, you should never allow HOW you do something to cause you to forget WHY you do something. Many people are stuck in ritualistic traditions that aren't profitable for life, health, or spirituality because they are more in love with the method than they are the message. But Jesus was the prototype for new methods. He entered into the world to fulfil the law. The law was a method that helped the children of Israel to conduct themselves in a safe manner in the wilderness. But when Jesus came to earth, many people were so

legalistically bound to the method, that they couldn't recognize the Messiah. Jesus was in their midst, but they were so concerned about the letter of the law that they were missing the spirit of the law.

In your life, have you found yourself stuck to old systems? Are you still perseverating about how things used to be? When you do that, you put a “do not disturb” sign on your future and you disallow God from being able to intervene in your present. But the prophet Jeremiah has a word for us all! God is going to make a new covenant with his people. And this covenant will shift from a law that they hear from others' lips, to a law that God will put on their minds. God will brand his law on our hearts so that we cannot say “we didn't know” and we weren't aware. This will cause us to forever chase after him, and even when we go astray, we will never become so far that we can't hear him when he calls. In our life today, ask God to open your eyes and help you to see him in new methods.

Prayer: Father, you are the God of new things. Help me not to be so in love with what you said, that I ignore what you are saying. Help me not to be so in love with old methods, that I miss new messages. I want to be where you are. I want to be open to all new things, including what you do and how you do it. I pray for flexibility and ingenuity. I trust that you will shift me according to your will, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 22: A NEW EARTH

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”

2 Peter 3:10-13

Our viewpoint is informed by the certainty that resurrection awaits the people of God. This means the best is yet to come! Mankind was designed to live on the Earth to God’s glory. That’s exactly what Christ’s incarnation, death and resurrection secured—a renewed humanity upon a renewed Earth. Knowing we’ll live forever as resurrected people on a New Earth helps us realize that the choices we make today, including choices of

personal holiness—and how we act toward others—will make an indelible mark on eternity. God is watching. He’s keeping track.

God has never given up on His original creation. God always sees us in light of what He intended us to be, and He always seeks to restore us to that design. The Bible is full of words that makes this fact clear. Regenerate. Redeem. Restore. Recover. Return. Renew. Resurrect. These words start with the re-prefix, which suggests a return to a new or an original condition. The destruction by fire was a means of purifying and refining the universe, transforming it into a new heaven and a new earth, making all things new.

God uses difficulties to produce growth in us. God will allow pressures to come. The word tribulation literally means “pressure.” It is a word that was used to describe crushing grapes in the vat for wine or crushing olives for oil. God wants the oil of gladness and the wine of joy in your character. He wants that which will sustain and give strength, but the only way that God will get it out of you is to press it out. The adventures awaiting us in the New Heavens and on the New Earth will far exceed the greatest thrills of this life. Right when we think “it can’t get any better than this”...it will. “God always sees us in light of what He intended us to be, and He always seeks to restore us to that design.

Dear God, when I am faced with trouble, heartache, pressure, pain, misunderstanding, or bewilderment help me to realize that I am being renewed and transformed into the original design that you always intended for me. Lord, help me to mature and grow in You. Renew my thoughts, desires, and affections. In Jesus' name, Amen

DAY 23: A NEW VICTORY

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God” hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel.

Psalm 98:1-3

Our race is not over. We must run until Jesus comes. Every time we go through pressures, tribulations, and afflictions and come out on the other side, we have experienced victory. We also learn that God is faithful. God sees us through new victories and new mercies every day. The victorious life is a life of peace and joy in the Lord. It is a life of constant fellowship with the Lord. It is a life of victory over sins—even the so called “little sins,” such as temper, fault-finding, irritability, complaining, lack of love, envy, jealousy, unkind words, wrong thoughts,

worry, anxiety. God has made provision for every Christian to live this kind of life.

The victorious life is a life that glorifies the Lord Jesus—the only kind of life that glorifies Him. The new life we have by the blood of Christ is ultimately how we must measure victory. True success, as God measures things, is the only path to true joy. Our joy, our victory, and our success are not measured by the things that seem powerful according to our culture’s standards. They are measured by the cross. Any success we have is only because of the work of Christ done on the cross on our behalf. Christ’s victory is seen in us as we are conformed to the image of Christ. Our future victory is secure. Our success is a present reality awaiting for us. Let us have this mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, so we might run this race with joy. This is the victorious

Dear God, thank You for giving me victory through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help me Lord to seek rest in You. I commit myself completely to You, for you Lord are able to keep what I have committed to You. I turn over my past with all my sins and failures. I commit the future to You with all its unknowns. I commit my loved ones to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 24: A NEW CONNECTION

Of course I will go with you,” Deborah answered, “but you will not get credit for the victory. The Lord will let a woman defeat Sisera.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

Judges 4:9

Have you ever had connections that got you special treatment? Barak had a special connection to Deborah, the Judge of Israel. When he asked her to go into battle, she made no hesitation about it, but agreed at once to go with him for his encouragement. God orchestrates and honors relationships and brings increase to us through them. These are called divine connections that God has pre-ordained that are tied to our destinies and God-given assignments. Many times you’ll experience a deeper sense of friendship and trust within a mere few months than you have with people you’ve known for decades through new connections. These are priceless relationships that God connects to your to accelerate your growth and activate the plans and purposes of God in your life. Things that may have ordinarily taken

you ten years to accomplish take five years because of the exponential power of divine relationship. What a precious gift!

Just as God has divine connections in mind for you, you are also the divine connection that someone else is waiting for. It's important to recognize and embrace these relationship gifts He places in our lives. God wants to position you today and give you divine opportunities to influence the culture for His glory. Now is the time to embrace the fullness of your purpose!

Considering that above all else our heavenly Father desires a relationship with us, it makes sense that He places so much value on our relationships with each other. The Bible tells us that our heart and soul are transformed when we put our trust in Jesus. This decision to trust Christ launches you into a new relationship with God that's available through Jesus' work on the cross!

“Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with you and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering new connections and an eternal relationship with You. Thank You for this free gift! In Jesus' name, Amen.”

DAY 25: A NEW OPENING

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.”

Isaiah 41:17-19

There is a thirst that comes with evolution that falls on God’s ears and unlocks rivers, fountains, and valleys. There is also a creative element to bring water to areas where there is usually no water. In the wilderness and dry land, God promises to replenish us by opening new ways of understanding, satisfaction, and abundance. In this season, God is saying to you, “look for a new opening.”

Have you ever been thirsty and drank something else besides water to quench your thirst and found that you were still thirsty? Your body is telling you I need something else. You will never need a drink if you don't, first, have a thirst. That's just like adding substance to what you already have. Why would God offer to provide to you that which you already have?

You see, often we have quenched our thirst with things of this world. A new item of clothing. A new relationship. A new city. Only to find ourselves still thirsty. But this time, our thirst creates a voice, that creates a key which unlocks more than we could imagine. Not only does God take care of the thirst, he plants us in places that were desolate and gives us the ability to thrive. Now when people look at us they scratch their head and wonder. There is no denying to ourselves or others that God's hand is on us and this evolution has transplanted us. We didn't imagine that our thirst, when it's the will of God, would create more than just a glass of water. But God has the ability to create rivers in high places, fountains in the midst of valleys, a pool in the wilderness and springs of water in dry lands. He makes sure we are never thirsty again no matter where we go. These are the benefits of a new life in Christ.

*Prayer: Lord, thank you for creating a thirst in me that only you can quench. Thank you for your provision both seen and unseen. As I drink from your fountain of love, let it remind me of your ability to create just what I need. In Jesus' name.
Amen.*

DAY 26: A NEW PROCESS

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.”

Luke 5:37-39

As a child I remember shopping for new furniture with my mom. We would first “window shop”. She didn’t make the purchase at that time but she would consider the color and how many pieces could fit in our home, because we had a small apartment. After much consideration a decision was made but there was one issue, the old furniture had to be removed before the new furniture arrived. Why? If the furniture was delivered while the old furniture was there, the apartment wouldn’t be able to hold everything!

Just like this scripture, when we get something new from our relationship with God, we have to get rid of our “old furniture” thoughts, ways, and yes

sometimes individuals! There must be room for the new. If not, we may damage a wall or decrease the space in the room so much that we can't see the floor which is a metaphor for those places where we need to walk in our created purpose. A surrendered will creates a new wineskin so that God can fill it. What if God is giving you a new process for an old problem? What if this process requires you to let go of old mindsets and unnecessary baggage. No matter what, obey God's voice. This new process will lead you down a path of new promises—and the best is always yet to come!

Prayer: God help me to discard those old things that inhibit me from receiving all of the new things that you desire to give me. In this created space, I will intentionally fill it with worship and your word so that I may experience an evolution. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 27: A NEW WORK

“I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].”

Philippians 1:6-7

The Apostle Paul reminds the Christian citizens of Philippi of the power of prayer and partnership just a few verses earlier. Then he brings us to these words “being confident”. How does prayer, partnership and confidence begin our evolution to the life God intended for us? Here’s the short answer: it gives you new confidence for a new work!

Imagine wanting to get a house built. You discuss the plans with an architect who draws up the blueprint. However, the blueprint only gives you a glimpse of what’s to come. Every so often you stop by the site to see how the construction is going. As the walls go up, you get excited! You don’t think that the builders are going to stop there. You are confident that they are going to complete the work so that you may occupy it. This is the same thing that Paul is telling the

church in Philippi, and I am telling you. God began this “good work” in you. He has the blueprint and He will make sure that the work is completed. Don’t be discouraged when the work seems incomplete. If God promised that all things will work together for the good, then trust in his promise. And if it’s not good yet, just know, God is still working! But this new work is going to lift you to a new place of worship. This new work will remove worry. This new work will prepare you for the new things that God has already designed for you. Embrace it! Enjoy it! NEW is here!

Prayer: Father on today, let us be confident that you have the blueprint of our lives in your hand. We trust you that you will see this evolution of your intended purpose for our lives through to the end. Grant us peace through this journey. In Jesus’ name. Amen

DAY 28: A NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

Every one of us can think back to that friend that would give up everything for us. I recall my best friend who would stand in front of me and fight my battles. How many of us had that big brother or that friend that would fight for us so that we would not be hurt? The friend that stood by us even when we were wrong? The friend that stood and said even though you deserve to be punished, I’m going to cover you and help you through this situation?

Like that friend who stood in front of us to fight our battles, God sent His son Jesus to take a stand for us! In Romans 5:6 the word declares for when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Jesus gave His life for us for our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:21 declares: for he hath made him to be sin for us. Now think about every sin. Every sin He took upon His shoulders and answered yes to carrying and dying for it. He stood and died for us, so that we may have the opportunity to

become righteous. Jesus stood and died for the sin of pride, the sin of envy, the sin of adultery and greed and as we reflect on our life, we can honestly say that there were some situations in which we made a conscious decision to become a part of. However, because He is a loving God and a righteous God, He forgave us and made the decision to carry it for us.

We have a God that loves us so much. He loves us even in our undeserving nature and He has and still today stands for us. 1 John 1: 19 says if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us for our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness, and in 2 Corinthians He affirms that He desires us to live a life of righteousness. God's desire is that we acknowledge Him, and that we understand the sacrifice and the desire that He has for us. In Him all things are new and you are a new creature, and you have a new righteousness through His sacrifice for you.

Prayer: God, we acknowledge you and thank you for your sacrifice. You gave your son for us. Jesus we thank you for standing in front of us and for dying on the cross for us. Your love has given us a second chance and a new righteousness. Your love has given us a chance at life more abundantly. Today and every day we make a declaration to honor you for your sacrifice and to live the life that you've sacrificed for us, a life brand new. A life that is righteous. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 29: A NEW TRUST

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

How many of us can recall a time when there was no “On star,” no “GPS” and no cell phones? We were left to the trusted hands of a map prepared by man. I can recall a time as a child, my mom driving us to a family reunion in another state. The excitement was so overwhelming that my siblings could hardly sleep as we ventured through the hills of Pennsylvania. Imagine a lot of children in a car, packed to capacity with backpacks and home cooked meals perfect for traveling. We were set and ready for fun in the sun, with our travel map which was going to direct us to our destination.

However, our instructions lead us in circles. Unfortunately, because of road construction our map did not prepare us for the unknown so we made a decision on our own. How many of us at some time in our lives, have made a decision on our own? Whether to relocate, begin a business or even leave a church home. Did

you consult God? Did you make the decision based on reaction or emotion? The bible talks about the heart and the level of deceit in Matthew 15:18. However, God reacts when we trust Him fully. He says in Proverbs 3:6; In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. When we have a full heart, we have a full house and, when we have a full heart—it is because we have given God our full trust. How many of us want the fullness of Jesus' promise. How many of us truly desire for God to take the wheel and direct our paths?

Although, we arrived at our destination, we arrived hours behind schedule. We eventually had to seek wisdom by asking for directions from a state police officer. My mother had to humble herself and move away from her frustrations of being lost to seek wise counsel. In this season, God is calling us to His wisdom, our total trust in Him and total dependence of our heart. Like my mom who at first simply trusted in a man-made map, learn to seek wise counsel and the rest of the trip will be in peace. When we trust in God, with the fullness of our heart, our path in life will become a path of peace.

Prayer: Father God it is my prayer that we will humble ourselves from our own ways and our own desires. Reroute us back to your loving hands, a place of rest and peace. We acknowledge that we need you for direction, so move on our hearts and guide us to a place of full trust in your love for us. Amen.

DAY 30: A NEW FREEDOM

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 but whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

When we come into relationship with our heavenly Father we come into a freedom, a place where our past no longer has the power to control us. We come into a place of liberty and the chains that we were linked to, no longer reside in our hearts. This is a new freedom; where God lifts the veil and we see the possibility! We see the hope and the revelation of this, and as we move closer to God through his word, he gives us a light for our footsteps.

Wow! A veil, a place of darkness or obscured vision. Imagine walking into a dark house, filled with everything you need. However, you are unable to see it because you cannot see. This is the same thing that happens to us when we make a decision in our own strength and we walk blindly. In 2 Corinthians 3:17 the word says The Lord

is the Spirit and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So the question I ask is, “Do you want to be free?” Because to be honest there are some chains in life that we have become so comfortable with, the cold metal of the chain now feels like a warm blanket.

Also let me ask this: do you want joy? Do you want to be healed? Do you want the peace that you cannot comprehend? In John 5, Jesus asked the man with an infirmity do you want to be made whole? In our lives today, Jesus is simply asking do you want the new freedom that I have already paid for? Do you want what I have for you in the house? If you answered yes, then He will step in and like in Corinthians 3:18, he will remove the veil and begin to walk, talk and teach you His ways. He will give you everything in the house because you have turned and allowed Him to come into relationship with your heart. God desires for us to be more like Him, and to ultimately become the beneficiaries of this beautiful thing called freedom.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, on today, we turn to you and make a declaration to you. We ask that you remove the veil, that you search our heart's dark places and fill us with your light. The light of faith and wisdom, the light of joy and peace. We declare on today, that we want to be more like you and we are open to you. We desire to be more like you. God, remove the veil so that we may walk in freedom and become a witness to all that you have for us. Amen

DAY 31: A NEW OIL

Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 16: 11-13

The anointing of oil has significant meaning in our faith. The oil can showcase God’s authority on one’s life, it can symbolize the coming of the Holy Spirit and it can be used for the objective of healing. It holds powerful and symbolic value. In this particular passage we are confronted with a time in David’s life where he was destined to be anointed as the future king of Israel, but before this new chapter in his life could take place, Samuel had to confront Jesse on

the matter of David's absence. David was neither absent due to a lack of interest in the proceedings, or due to an unwillingness to accept the calling placed on his life by God. He was absent seemingly because of someone's belief of his unworthiness. Have you ever felt that God desired to bless you with the oil of favor, only to have the disbelief of others, result in delaying your anointing?

Thankfully, God cares not about the opinions of others when it comes to his will and calling on our lives. It matters not if others feel that you are unworthy or unqualified for the calling placed on your life, because God qualifies the unqualified. God appreciates those that remain strong in faith no matter their perceived weaknesses in experience or understanding. God's will does not bend to the negative desires of others. God's favor moves to those that are faithful and steadfast.

David was a man after God's own heart, whom God could trust to always remain faithful to him no matter his inadequacies. This is reason he was anointed with oil, to authenticate the purpose and destiny that God desired for his life. David's father could not prevent this authentication from taking place and the same can be said for you. Whatever the task, whatever the objective, whatever the calling, God's will shall be done. As you enter this next season, understand that God is ready to do a new thing in your life, which will result in a new authority. So, prepare yourself for God to anoint your head and your life, with new purpose, new focus and new oil.

Prayer: Oh, good and gracious God, I thank you for believing in me, even when I did not believe in myself. I thank you for your favor in my life. May you forever guide me toward the purpose that you have designed and destined for my existence. When I am weak, you are strong, when I am strong, you are stronger. I can do all things through you. May you only bring those in my inner circle that accept and appreciate the calling and purpose you have given me. May you forever assist me in being a supporter of the gifts you have given others. Prohibit the spirit of jealousy to enter my heart or the hearts of those around me. Anoint me and those close to me with a new oil, for a new season. Give me the focus and the spirit to take this new oil and exceed the expectations of my own mind. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

DAY 32: A NEW IDEA

Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

Genesis 6:14-16

There are seasons in our lives, where God will place an idea in our minds with instructions to bring that idea into reality. Sometimes the idea is so radical that those around us may think we are no longer in our sane (right) mind. To others, our idea is beyond the realm of rationality and it is, simply, a waste of time and energy. Yet, you can't seem to shake the idea. You gain a healthy level of fascination and dedication to the idea in which God has given you. Your belief in God's plan drives you to new levels of dedication, regardless of the number of naysayers speaking death to your idea. This is one of the many lessons we can draw from the story of Noah and the Ark.

Noah listened to God's instruction and warned many around him that he was building his ark because God alerted him that it would rain. Not only would it rain but it would do so for 40 days and nights. God therefore gave Noah an idea and instructions that would allow him and those closest to him to survive this coming judgement. This new idea was for he and those that would listen to the warning's wellbeing. Although many around Noah scoffed at his new idea, it would be to their detriment. When you know that you have been given a new idea from God, it is imperative that you follow through with the instructions you have been given. Often, the idea given to you, will be for the wellbeing of yourself and those closest to you.

Had Noah listened to those who had no belief in his idea, he and his family would have perished alongside everyone else. We must have the patience and dedication that Noah exhibits in his story. Not only must we follow through with ideas that we are given, we must also follow the instructions that illustrate how to execute the idea. In this next season, God will give you new insight that others are not privy to know. An idea that will blow your mind, protect you from harm while also blessing those you care for the most. If the new idea comes from God that will always be for the betterment of your life. Do not disregard the blessing that is a new viewpoint. That new insight and new idea that you are given, will reap unimaginable fruit.

Prayer: My God in Heaven, may you shower me with fresh ideas that will not only bless me, but will bless my family and friends. May you guide my thoughts and increase my discipline, to not only hear the ideas that you give me but to follow-through with the instructions I am given. I am not perfect Lord, but I desire to be more like you daily. I ask that no matter how difficult or how long it may take for the idea you have placed in my mind and heart to become reality, keep me focused on the fact that any idea from you, will always be better than an idea I come up with on my own. Your vantage point is Holy, and I magnify you for it and much more. If I stumble in any area, that may harm me, pick me up, dust me off, and walk with me during each step forward. I pray this prayer in the name of our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

DAY 33: A NEW NAME

What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

Genesis 17:5-6

Many of us, during our adolescence were presented with the idea that we have two things of vast importance in this life. That being our word and our names. This way of thinking stressed the importance of what we say and who we are. Another important life lesson that many have learned is that “it is not what people call you, but what you answer to.” So, you may question as Shakespeare once did, “what is in a name?” Well the answer is, everything! Your name is your legacy, your name symbolizes your birthright, your name can designate a purpose or objective, your name can even speak to your character and personality (ex. Isaac = Laughter).

The name you are given by man can be a blessing to your existence (ex. David = Beloved)

or can be a shameful expression (ex. Ichabod = The Glory Has Departed). But these are names given by man. When God gives you a name, it is because he wants to showcase his approval of you. In this passage we see God giving Abram an entirely new name. One that expresses the desire and purpose God has anointed on his life. In the story of Abraham, we are presented with a man that was called to leave behind his old life and follow God's purpose and his destiny. God created a covenant with Abraham and informed him that his name would be great and his descendants as numerous as the stars. By giving Abram a new name, he realigned his name to his purpose and ensured that whomever spoke his name would also speak to his destiny. God desires to do the same for you. Your name may have been given to you by your parents, but God has a purpose for you and the name you were given.

To fully accept your new name, it requires you to forgo things that are contrary to it. No longer will you answer to anything that is outside of God's desire for your life. No longer will others address you by anything less than God's best and the destiny of your existence. Life and death are in the power of the tongue and in this new season you will only answer to those that speak life upon you. No longer will you give attention to anything that calls you outside of the name and objectives that God has for you. This is a new season and God has given you a new name. A name of life, purpose, destiny, greatness, admiration,

blessing, respect, honor, and holiness. This new name will be between you and the Father, but it will resonate without you ever needing to express it. It will not only be what you are called, but an internal and external expression of who you are.

Prayer: Father, I exalt your name. I bless you for the blessing of a new purpose, life and destiny in which you have called me. Your name is above all names and I simply adore you for the desire you have for the betterment of my life. I thank you for the name you have given me, and I vow that I will only answer to the name which you have given me, the destiny you have given me and the purpose you have given me. I understand that this new name is a new mission and calling. I will put all effort into the purpose you have given me and will walk humbly in your glory. May you never allow me to forget or to disregard who you call me to be. In the amazing and Holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY 34: A NEW ROUTINE

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”

2 Corinthians 4:16

Have you ever found yourself feeling faint? Ready to give up? Ready to throw in the towel? Let’s be honest: at some point in our lives, we all have felt like hope was lost. And if you haven’t yet, I will tell you like my grandma told me... “Keep living”.

Life happens to all of us and we are faced with challenges in our relationships, health, finances, and even our career. As a child of God our hope is restored, refueled, refreshed by the mere fact that He, the living and loving God, sees exactly where you are. God’s mercies are new every day, and with a new day, we have the choice to live our best lives. In his presence is where we discover and for some are reminded that God has a great plan for you. God is calling us to evolve, to level up, to not just be hearers of the word, but doers of the word. Our willingness to partner with

God and apply His truth leads to renewal; and causes us to walk in confidence that He can, He will, and in the end, we have victory. God's word is a mirror and allows us to replace every lie with the truth, the truth of His holy word.

In this particular scripture, the Apostle Paul is talking to the church in Corinth. The people of Corinth knew that Christ was raised from the dead and this provided hope in the midst of trouble, in the midst of broken relationships, and disappointments that life brings. The Corinthians believed the evolution that was taking place in their lives outweighed the temporary expression of feeling depleted; these people knew that what is eternal is not just good, but it is better. We can learn a great deal from the Corinthian people; they activated their faith, they evolved as a people which enabled them to discern the difference between unseen and seen power; seen power is eternal and unseen power is temporary. As we choose a new routine, a life lived on purpose and with passion; let us seek the power of a risen Savior.

Prayer: Father, I believe that you are alive and that you have an eternal plan that is far greater than what I am experiencing at the moment. I put my trust, and hope in your truth. I believe that you conquered the grave and I can live a full life. I am redeemed and renewed day by day because you live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 35: A NEW WELL

She [Hagar] gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” That is why the well was called Beer Labai Roi [the “well of the Living One who sees me”].

Genesis 16:13–14

Have you ever had a promise in your old age? So much so that it is laughable at the thought that the promise would come to pass? Just thinking about the promise that seems impossible, so impossible that you employ your own vices to make this promise come to pass. This is exactly what happens with Abraham, Sara, and Hagar. Sara was promised children, but her age did not match the promise, so she decided that her maidservant Hagar would be the answer. You may be thinking, a great solution...NOT. Hagar finds herself feeling mistreated and runs off into the wilderness.

The wilderness is a place of wandering, a place of feeling forsaken, and a place where you may question if God knows your condition. The wilderness is a place of feeling abandoned, neglected—this is also

a place where you no longer feel the favor, nor the grace of God. On top of feeling abandoned, forgotten, and neglected we can imagine Hagar being reminded of how she was born a slave. It is possible that Hagar may have thought the wilderness was her destiny, but the God that sees, hears, knows, and cares...had other plans. Hagar CRIES OUT and God hears her.

Just when Hagar thought she was down for the last count, God stepped in. Hagar says God is Beer Lahai Roi (the “well of the Living One who sees me”). God did not view Hagar as she saw herself. God did not see her as a slave. God had not forgotten her, in fact, God restored her hope and faith. Have you been feeling neglected, forgotten, abandoned? Do you feel like God doesn’t hear or see you? Cry out! El Roi, the God who sees you is ready to respond. Ask God to open your eyes to see that He is at work in your life. He is the one that increases your faith.

Prayer: Father, during this season I am reminded that you are the God that sees. You are the God that hears. So on this day, I cry out believing that you will not only hear me, but you will respond to me. Lord God, forgive me for wandering off into the wilderness. Father lead me to the well that never runs dry. I thank you in advance for restoring my joy and my peace. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

DAY 36: A NEW GRACE

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 8:9-11

The world condemns you. You condemn yourself. There may have been times when you have done something that caused people to shame you, or you shame yourself. Brene Brown, a research professor defines shame as, “the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging – something we’ve experienced, done, or failed to do makes us unworthy of connection.”

There is the voice of the outsider, the critic, there is your own voice, and then there is the voice of Jesus. What happens when you are placed at Jesus’ feet? You find NEW GRACE!

The voice of the critic comes to mock, demoralize, and oftentimes to humiliate you. But Jesus comes to bring hope, joy, peace, and a life worth living; He brings NEW GRACE. Grace is the place every believer finds themselves; it is the place you go to experience forgiveness and regeneration. The question is “Whose voice will you listen to?” The answer is Jesus. In this life, we will find ourselves with competing voices. Jesus wants us to realize that the approval we may be seeking from culture leads to destruction, but He came that we may have life; the John 10:10 life “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” We have all been called to live the King’s Way!

Prayer: Father your love is unfailing and I am in awe of your grace. Each morning grace meets me and invites me to live my best life. Lord thank you for forgiving my sins. I am grateful that I have access to your son Jesus Christ who freely forgives and shows me how to live YOUR way. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY 37: A NEW BELIEF

“And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

John 6:35

At one time or another, some of us may have been concerned about our food, clothes, shelter or money. In this verse, we are gently reminded that we never have to worry about these things because our heavenly father knows what we need. Jesus commanded us to seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness and ALL these things (food, clothes, shelter) will be given to us. The challenge for us is how do we trust and believe God for our sustenance during difficult times? First, we must realize that God always honors his words. He will watch over his Word to make sure it accomplishes its intended purposes.

If he is telling us that we do not have to worry about these things, then we do not have to worry! At the same time, we have to live a life that is godly and within our means. For example, if we need to purchase a car. Should a Bentley be our first choice? Only if it’s within our budget and it’s a bill we can afford to pay

each month. Here's another example. Let's say you need a home. Must it be a four-bedroom house or will a smaller home or apartment work? Are we making choices that lead to peace and stability or are we living to impress others and going into unnecessary debt? Are we putting money away for rainy days; saving for our future or are making frivolous purchases?

When we choose to do God's will, we also commit to serving him honestly and with all our hearts. And when we do that, God will bless us with everything that we need to fulfill his purposes for our lives. This is the new mindset and the new belief system that God gives us. He gives us contentment in a world filled with insatiability. He gives us joy in a world filled with anxiety. Our mindset becomes the belief system that governs our entire world and perspective. Ask God today to give you the kind of belief (and faith) that is consistent with faith like Jesus.

Dear Abba Father, I know that I cannot live on bread alone. I need you God. Help me to make time in my schedule to honor you with my heart, body, and mind. Lord, I believe that I am who you say I am and I can do all that you say I can do. Help me today to actualize this faith and belief in you, as I trust you to take care of my family, my finances, my education, my employment and even my church. Give me deeper understanding of what it means to live a Godly and righteous life. This is the bread of heaven from which I will live. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

DAY 38: A NEW PARADIGM

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2.

Every now and then, non-Christians will make comments that they do not understand how we can sacrifice so much of our free time in church and studying the Word of God. It is a challenge for them to comprehend the value in making such sacrifices. Sadly, there are some Christians who hold the same set of beliefs and don’t understand the value of scheduling intentional time with God; whether it’s through weekly church service attendance, enrolling in discipleship classes or by making lifestyle choices that benefit their walk with Christ. These types of sacrifices are not in vain.

True and proper worship of God is often done by sacrificing the things you may want to do, but may

not need to do if honoring God with your life is your goal. Life in God is a paradigm shift. When we say yes to God, we honor God by giving him the first day of the week, the first of our income, and the first of our day. In so doing, we are choosing to conform our minds to God's ways and not to the pattern of this world. By making these choices, we are renewing our minds and allowing God to work through us in a way that blesses not only our lives, but also the lives of our families and communities.

If you have ever struggled with the idea of giving up the excesses of life that lead to wicked or ungodly behavior, then remember that when you open the door to God, he will come in and fill you with his righteousness, his peace and his joy.

Dear Abba Father, I am asking you to teach me how to sacrifice all that I am (my body and mind) to do your will here on earth. Help me to make you first every week in my finances and with the first part of my day. Lord, reveal to me all that is good and prudent, as I read your scriptures, attend biblically based classes and spend time with godly friends, Thank you in advance for honoring me physically, mentally and emotionally. I commit to doing life the King's Way. Amen.

DAY 39: A NEW YES

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

Has God ever told you to do something that made you feel uncomfortable? If you are like me, your first thought was often all the reasons why you cannot or should not do what has been asked of you. Ladies and Gentleman, those are what we call “excuses.” Has God told you to go back to school/college, but you make the excuse that you do not have the money, time, or energy? Has he told you to randomly walk up to a stranger and give them some encouragement, a compliment, or even money? If God asks you to do something, then he wants you to do it. He wants you to do it, because he needs it done! And all he really wants from you...is a new YES!

Has it occurred to you that someone is having a bad day and they're attempting to hide it from everyone? A word of encouragement may do more for them than you will ever know. What about the

financial need God is asking you to meet? You may later learn they had prayed to God for the exact amount you have given. We do not always know what people need, but when he asks us to do something, we must trust him and let go of our fears, concerns, and worries and just do it! When God puts it on our hearts to meet the needs of his children, our response should simply be...“Here I am Lord, send me.”

Dear Abba Father, I thank you for providing for all of my needs according to your riches in glory. As I call out to you, I also ask that you use me to be a blessing to someone else that might be in need. Lord open my spiritual ears, eyes, lips and hands to be a blessing to this world for you. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

DAY 40: A NEW EVERYTHING

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:4-5

I love new things. New clothes, new shoes, new ideas and new projects. I love to learn new strategies, a new way to get to a familiar place, and the smell of a new car. There’s just something about “newness” that makes me happy. But when that new thing comes from God, it far exceeds anything that I could have asked for (Eph. 3:20). So imagine my reaction when I read Revelations 21:4-5. He is going to wipe my tears, take away sadness, and make everything new. Everything (Revelations 21:4-5)! Nothing I can buy can compare to the new thing God will give me!

So, are you open to something new? Clarification, are you open to something new from

God? A new life? A new spirit? A new heart? A new love? A new attitude? Or something tangible, a new house? No matter what new thing you are expecting from God, know that he can do it. Our all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful God, wants to give you more than new things, he wants to give you a new life. He wants to give you the abundant life that is referenced in John 10:10. Our God wants to give you a new mission, a new assignment, a new hope, and a new joy. The pain of past hurt will not diminish this new joy. Even the pain of past disappointments will disappear when God brings a new order into your life. So, stand up, shake the dust of past seasons, past relationships and past failures, from your feet. Instead, look towards the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) for a new everything because he has promised to do it, and, “faithful is he that has promised” (Hebrews 10:23).

Prayer: Father, thank you for making everything new. Everything. Not just my physical body, but my spirit. Not just my job, but my assignment. Not just my thoughts, but my attitude. Your Word is trustworthy and true, so I trust you to do all that you have promised because you are God. In Jesus' name, Amen.