

GOALS:

BUT FIRST,

**GOD!**

## Structure of Manual

This prayer and fasting manual is an aid to help direct our prayers during this time over the next 21 days. The manual is divided into 5 themes: Rebuilding your Altar, Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ, the Work of the Ministry, Let Faith Arise and Thanksgiving. Each theme will cover several days of the prayer and fasting period. There is a devotion at the beginning of each theme to direct our focus. Each day there are key scriptures, reflections and prayer points.

# PUTTING GOD FIRST.

## INTRODUCTION

### Why are we fasting and praying?

As a church, we will be undergoing a 21 day fast with prayer.

We are believing that 2021 will be a year in which God amazes us. To see this happen we have to put God first!

The Bible tells us that unless the Lord builds the church it is built in vain (Psalms 127:1) and again many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the Lord's will that will prevail (Proverbs 19:21). Through prayer and fasting we are positioning ourselves for God to (1) reveal his plans for 2020 both personally and corporately and (2) for the Lord to empower us for what he has called us to do. Jesus himself fasted before he began his ministry (Matt 4:1-11). If Jesus did it, so should we!!

### Resources

If you would like to know more about prayer and fasting have a listen to the following:

- [1. The Power of Fasting - Pastor Jentezen Franklin](#)
- [2. Understand the Power of Prayer and Fasting - Dr Myles Munroe](#)
- [3. The Importance of Fasting - Tony Evans](#)

### How will we be Praying and Fasting?

This fast is a choice fast. We advise that you ask God what you should do and be faithful to that. If you have a medical condition, please follow your medical requirements.

You can choose from the following fasts :

- Partial fast (please see appendix for further details)
- Daniel fast (please see appendix for further details)
- 6am - 6pm or 6pm - 6am fast (No food between the chosen fasting times)

### Corporate Prayer

- Wednesday, Revival Fires Night Prayer - 8pm - 9pm
- Friday, Victory Outreach London City Church Prayer - 5:30am - 6:30am
- Friday, Regional Prayer - 7am - 8am

We are in this together!

We encourage you to make it out to these prayer meetings as much as possible. We see throughout Acts that there is something powerful about when the church comes together in unity to pray ( Acts 2; Acts 4 :24:31; Acts 12:5-18)

The fast will culminate on Friday 29th January 7pm - 10pm Regional Prayer Zoom; with prayer led from locations around the region and worship led by the VO Manchester worship team

# REBUILDING YOUR ALTAR

## DAY 1 - 3

### Devotion

We want to start 2021 by putting God first. As the scripture says; seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added onto you (Matt 6:33). Our priority is to seek him and to know him!

As we embark on these next 21 days of prayer and fasting, let's make sure we are starting on the right footing. James tells us that it is the effective prayer of the RIGHTEOUS that availeth much (James 5:16). If we want to experience fruit from this time of prayer and fasting we need to firstly ensure that we are right before the Lord. That this time of sacrifice is pleasing to the Lord. It is he who has clean hands and a pure heart who can ascend unto his holy hill (Psalms 24:4) and those with a pure heart who will see God (Matt 5:8). Having a right heart before God is a prerequisite. Just as you wouldn't serve a special guest their meal on a dirty plate, so we should ensure the sacrifice we bring to God with our prayer and fasting is a pleasing one.

So a question to you is - How is your altar?

### What is an altar?

Altars are places of sacrifice. The Hebrew root for altar means "to slay" or "slaughter", whilst the Latin word means "high." So an altar is a "high place for sacrifice/slaughter." In the Bible, altars were places commemorating an encounter with God, places where sacrifices were made to God and where the spirit realm made contact with the physical.

There are many examples of altars in the Bible. Given that the word altar is based on the verb meaning 'to sacrifice' it is said that when Cain and Abel brought their sacrifice to God they built an altar. The first altar recorded in the Bible was made by Noah after he came out of the Ark. God smelled the aroma of the sacrificed animals on the altar and found it pleasing. He responded to Noah's actions by declaring that he would never again destroy all living things through a flood. (Genesis 8:20). Altars were also erected by Abraham (Genesis 12; 13; 22) Isaac (Genesis 26: 24-25) and Jacob (Genesis 35:3-7) either to commemorate an encounter with God or mark a place of prayer or sacrifice.

We later see the altar become a central part of Jewish worship in the Tabernacle with the altar of Incense in the holy place and the Brazen altar or altar of Holocausts in the courtyard of the temple.

The Brazen altar, situated in the courtyard past the gates, was where the sacrifices were made. It was the place where people brought their offerings to God and where reconciliation was made for sin. For a sin offering, a person had to bring an animal — a male one without blemish or defect from the flock or herd — to the priest at the tabernacle gate. It showed the Israelites that the first step for sinful man to approach a holy God was to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature.

The altar of incense, used to burn incense, was situated further into the tabernacle in the holy place, before the veil, and the throne of God and stood higher than any other article of furniture in the holy place. The sweet incense was to be kept burning at all times. Interestingly, the coals, which lit the incense, was carried from the altar of sacrifice to the altar of incense.

Both altars were built to specific requirements and with strict instructions (Exodus 27:1-5; 30:1-10)

## What is the significance of the altar to us today?

The Old Testament was a foreshadow of what was to come in the New Testament. In the New Testament we see that the altar foreshadowed the person and sacrificial work of Christ with the cross being the ultimate altar. Through the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we now have the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with our Father and can now come boldly to the throne room of grace. We no longer need to come to the Brazen altar to sacrifice an unblemished animal for forgiveness of sins and to come to our Father.

Jesus dying on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice, and like him we are called to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow him (Matt 16:24) - in other words we too are called to live a life of sacrifice. Given that we are now the living temples of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:5) and a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1), we each carry our own altar - a place of sacrifice, dedication and encounter with the Lord. The altar is the state of our relationship with the Lord - it is our hearts.

## What is the state of your personal altar?

Jesus reprimanded the religious leaders for placing more significance on the sacrifices they brought to the Lord rather than the actual altar.

*You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?" (Matt 23:19)*

Do you place more focus on the sacrifice of doing than the place of intimacy and encounter with your God? This was the downfall of the religious leaders, they were religious and did much for God, but they did not recognise Jesus the son of God when he was before their very eyes because they did not know God. That's why Jesus said "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Matt 15:8). They had neglected their altar - therefore the gifts and sacrifices they brought were blemished and did not please God.

Don't let the next 21 days of prayer and fasting be unpleasing to the Lord. Ensure your altar is right before him! Do not just bring a sacrifice without first cleansing your altar.

## DAY 1: 11TH JANUARY

# WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF MY ALTAR?

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting - (Psalm 139: 23-24 NIV)*

### Reflection:

After the Israelites returned from 70 years of Babylonian exile, they set apart to rebuild the temple. The first thing to be rebuilt was the altar. Then the temple was reconstructed. The temple was secondary to the altar. This shows us that there is something about getting your altar right first! Ask the Lord to show you what is the condition of your altar - that place of daily encounter with him, that place where you bring your sacrifice?

Is your altar cluttered with stuff? Is your altar broken? Or has it been neglected for years covered with dust that you just place your sacrifice on top? If your altar is not right, whatever you place on it will be contaminated.

Both the Brazen altar and altar of Incense were built to specific requirements and with strict instructions (Exodus 27:1-5; 30:1-10) - what is your altar made of? Does it fit the requirements of God?

### Prayer Points:

- Lord show me the state of my altar
- Lord show me the state of my relationship with you - that place of intimacy and encounter
- Lord show me if there is anything unpleasing in me
- Lord reveal to me where my sacrifice (doing) has taken place over my altar (intimacy and encounter with you)
- Father forgive me for where I have neglected my altar

## DAY 2: 12TH JANUARY

# CLEANING OUT MY ALTAR

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting - (Psalm 139: 23-24 NIV)*

### Reflection:

Remember we serve a God of love and not condemnation. Whilst he brings conviction, it's his kindness that leads us to repentance. No matter the state we find ourselves in, our God is more than able to get us back on track.

It is the Lord who purifies us, he is the one who does the cleaning out - if we just position ourselves!

As Jesus came and drove out of the temple those who had made it a 'den of robbers', let Him come and clean out the temple of your heart, that it once again will become a 'house of prayer', intimacy and dedication to the Lord.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord I invite you to drive out everything within my heart that should not be there
- Lord where my altar has become unclean - purify it
- Lord, where my altar had become cluttered with stuff - unclutter it
- Lord where my altar is broken - repair it
- Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51)
- Lord I ask that the mediation of my heart and the words of my lips would be pleasing to you.

## DAY 3: 13TH JANUARY

# LET THE FIRE ON MY ALTAR NEVER BURN OUT

*The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out - (Leviticus 6:13 NIV).*

### Reflection:

Have you heard that song 'House Of Prayer' from Eddie James - have you ever wondered what it really meant?

Upon the Brazen altar there was a perpetual fire. The first fire upon the Brazen altar came from heaven, from God himself, and it was the responsibility of the priests to kindle the fire and ensure it never went out by keeping a constant supply of fuel. The sacrifices laid upon the altar were consumed by the fire of God and produced a pleasing aroma. Coming from heaven itself, the fire represented the presence of God and his purification/consecrating work within us.

- Is the perpetual fire of God burning in your heart?
- What are you doing to tend this fire, to ensure it never goes out?
- Have you laid the sacrifice of your life on the altar for the Lord to consume with his holy fire?

### Prayer Points:

- Lord let your fire continually burn in my heart
- Lord help me to have a passionate and dynamic devotion life
- Lord help me to maintain an intimate and personal relationship with you
- Lord help me lay myself daily on the altar as a living sacrifice for you
- Lord consecrate me and make me a house of prayer

# BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

## DAY 4-9

### Devotion

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-15 ESV)*

Now that we have set the altar of our hearts right before the Lord, let us move on to look at what kind of people the Lord wants us to be: disciples of Jesus Christ. A disciple is a student of Jesus. In regard to teaching, he said he will send the Holy Spirit who will lead you into all truth and teach you all you need to know (1 John 2:27). As we are growing in our relationship with God he appoints earthly teachers (Ephesians 4:11) to aid us as we grow but eventually the tuition of the Holy Spirit should bring more to your life than the human teacher. Romans 7&8 Paul explains the process of the Holy Spirit renewing your mind as you are led by him and not the flesh, culminating in Romans 12:1-2 a call to lay down one's desires in exchange for Christ's plan for your life.

Prayer is where the Holy Spirit will perform the putting on the mind of Christ (1Corinthians 2:16); he will renew the spirit of your mind; he will reveal the fruit of Christ's character (Galatians 5:22); the plan of Christ for your life (Ephesians 2:10) and impart the spiritual gifts of Christ for the plan to be performed. This is where intimacy grows with the Lord and you learn to hear his voice. The prompting of the Spirit becomes clearer and his written word (logos) comes alive through the Holy Spirit giving revelation. "He will lead you into all truth"

*"You can believe in Christ without prayer but you cannot follow him without prayer (James 2:19) . He told his disciples to "follow him " and again to ..."deny themselves take up their cross and FOLLOW him"*

## DAY 4: 14TH JANUARY

### INTIMACY WITH CHRIST

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." (Psalms 91 ESV).

### Reflection:

Think of how fear gets the attention of every part of your body, soul and mind - this is what fearing the Lord is all about, the thought of him getting every part of your being.

When we come before God it's key to put off all distractions. Really focus your entire being towards him, ask him to fill the room and lift up his name, even start to lift praises towards him and be still and wait on him (worship music can help). Eventually you will feel the shift in the atmosphere when he enters and then a time of prayer can go beyond sending some words in blind faith into the atmosphere to an intimate time of fellowship with the God of the Bible.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord teach me your presence
- Lord teach me to run to you first with all my needs
- Lord teach me to give you my undivided attention
- Lord may I grow a bond with you through our prayer times
- Lord teach me to trust you
- Lord teach me to wait until you answer

## DAY 5: 15TH JANUARY

# THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-25 ESV)*

### Reflection:

When you spend consistent time in God's presence the Holy Spirit will start to increase within you the characteristics of Christ. You will begin to realise that certain ways you once found okay to walk in you cannot anymore or, if you do, there will be an inner conviction that it is no longer acceptable.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord teach me to hear your inward promptings
- Lord teach me to distinguish what is my old self and what is you
- Lord teach me to respond as you would in every situation
- Lord may people see your character when they see me
- Lord teach me to be holy as you are
- Lord baptise me in your spirit (if applicable) or refill me with your power today

## DAY 6: 16TH JANUARY

# THE CROSS

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." (Matthew 16:24-28 ESV).*

### Reflection:

The world is the place where the devil runs his deception and it is designed to attract our flesh and keep us focused on the desires of the flesh. Slap bang between the flesh and the world is entertainment. The brains behind the majority of the entertainment industry have found ways to place the flesh in an excited state leaving the unsaved and even believers in a state of what can be called "Flesh addiction". This is why most people find it hard to pray but find it easy to flick on snapchat, instagram or facebook etc.

The key is to deny the desire of the self, spend time in the Spirit until your thoughts become inline with the things of God and not the things of the world.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord teach me to not sin but to choose righteousness
- Lord teach me to not live by the desires of the world but by the desires of your Spirit
- Lord teach me to not live by the desires of myself (flesh) but the desires of your Spirit
- Lord teach me to sacrifice the life I would have chosen for the one you have for me

## DAY 7: 17TH JANUARY

# BLESS THE LORD

*Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" (1 Samuel 3:1-4 ESV)*

### Reflection:

As a disciple of Jesus Christ you will become more and more aware of the beauty of being in his presence. You will also become aware of his hand at work on your behalf, and the grace and mercy of God's hand wielded towards you. It is good for disciples of Christ to not only grow in time spent in his presence and to not only deny yourself whilst becoming like him but to also spend time as Samuel did ministering to God.

It is key to not fall into consumerism by approaching the throne room of God just to take something for yourself. For any relationship to flourish we must bring something of ourselves - a gift. In your prayer time today simply minister to the Lord with thanksgiving and praise and watch the power of God released as you take your eyes off yourself and become consumed with who he is.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord teach me to remember worship is about you and not me
- Lord teach me discipline, to sometimes save my petitions until last and focus on praising you
- Lord teach me to remember your mercy, goodness and kindness
- Lord teach me to listen to what you are saying

## DAY 8: 18TH JANUARY

# OBEY HIS VOICE

*So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." (1 Samuel 13:9-14 ESV)*

### **Reflection:**

Following Jesus requires obedience. In his word it says "obedience is better than sacrifice". As a matter of fact, it's because of disobedience that Christ had to be the greatest sacrifice of all. Now we are saved and in the spirit, let us take obedience seriously. Every time we hear his inner witness guiding us, or when he gives us a dream or vision, may we be ready to step into what he is showing us.

As we see with Samuel, knowing God's voice can take some getting used to (1 Samuel 3:1-4). At first Samuel had mistaken the voice of God for the Prophet Eli, but through spending time in the presence of God, listening and obeying you will learn to test the spirits and rightfully discern wrong and right.

### **Prayer Points:**

- Lord teach me to hear you clearly
- Lord teach me to reverence your voice
- Lord teach me to act swiftly on your command
- Lord teach me to trust your words

# THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

## DAY 9-15

### Devotion

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Ephesians 4:11-16 NLT)*

In putting God first in our lives and becoming a disciple of Jesus, we must also prioritise the work of the ministry. The scripture above tells us that our leaders (the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers) are a gift from Christ. As a gift we should be grateful to God for them! However the work of the ministry is not just for the leaders to do, but for every one of us. In actual fact, it is not the sole responsibility of the leader to do the work of the ministry but rather to "equip God's people to do his work and build his church". And who are God's people? It is you and I! We are the ones who are called to do the work of the ministry and build the church, not only the leaders!

What is this work of the ministry?

The word ministry here is Greek for Diakonia which speaks of serving and ministering.

In essence, it is everything we do in service to God. Whether it be ushering, hospitality, Kids GANG, visiting the sick, discipling or interceding for others, reaching out to your work colleagues or neighbours - it is for you to do!

Do you have a healthy perception of church?

As members of one body if one part hurts or fails to play its part, the whole body is affected (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We are not called to be consumers who come to get everything they can from the church to feel better, but we are called to be partners, personally invested, to build the body of Christ.

As we continue in prayer and fasting, Ask the Lord to show you if you have had an unhealthy perception of church and ask him to change your heart, to give you a sense of ownership in building a healthy growing body in love.

## DAY 9: 19TH JANUARY

# LOVING OTHERS

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35, NKJV).*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16, NKJV).*

### Reflection:

Effective disciples are those who embrace the Great Commandment, to love God above all and our neighbours as ourselves both in word and in deed. We can only be Jesus' disciples if we have love for one another. God showed us the greatest act of love by sending his only son to die for our sins, so that our love relationship with Him could be restored.

- Do you respond to God's love with love? (1 John 4:19)
- Who does Jesus want you to love, serve and demonstrate His character to this month?
- How much do you love and appreciate your leaders? (Hebrews 13:7)
- How often do you pray for your pastors?

### Prayer Points:

- Thank you Lord that your love is perfect, it never fails and nothing can separate us from your love
- Pray that the love of God flows through you towards others
- Pray for Pastor Paul and Sister Vicky and the Pastoral team
- Pray that we may be committed to build sincere relationships in our church

## DAY 10: 20TH JANUARY

# COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

*The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. (Nehemiah 1:1-4 ESV)*

### Reflection:

Throughout the New Testament we see the church growing through one saved individual having the burden to tell another. Before every revival or mass outpouring of God's presence there has always been great prayer. In regards to the need for evangelism, Jesus said to "pray to the Lord of the harvest". Salvation is a work of God and not man therefore we need the anointing of God to be effective in the work of evangelism.

As you seek the face of God concerning your city and nation, God will place a burden upon your heart that allows you to release an intercession that moves the heaven. God will place a great anointing upon you and he is the one who will open the eyes of the spiritually blind. After great prayer, reaching the lost is made easy.

### Prayer Points:

- Lord place your power on me that breaks the yoke
- Lord teach me a burden for the lost
- Lord teach me to use my testimony to reach the lost
- Lord teach me to hear your voice when I witness
- Lord show me your will and burden me for the lost in my nation

## DAY 11: 21ST JANUARY

# SERVANT HEART

*I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* (Acts 20:35, NKJV)

### Reflection:

Those with leadership gifts are to equip the church for the work of service, so that the body will grow in unity, maturity and Christ likeness. Jesus is the perfect example of servanthood. He loved and served those around him through healing and teaching. Discipleship is the means of equipping believers to understand God's calling and their potential in Christ. However, if the church is not disciplined, people will become lukewarm in faith and worldly in behaviour. Therefore people will not be effective disciples.

God has given us all different gifts, are you using your gifts to serve the body of Christ? Remember we are one body - if one part does not play its part, it will be at a detriment to the others!

- Do you demonstrate a servant's heart? How so?
- What is your service to the Lord and others?
- Are you serving in any ministry in the church?
- Are you passionate about your service?
- How do you model Christ likeness to others?
- Is God your driving force?

### Prayer Points:

#### In-reach:

- Pray for the Pastoral Team
- Pray for Kidz Gang / New Gen / Impacters / Young Adults
- Pray for the Victory Homes Directors
- Pray for all church volunteers
- Pray for the generous giving of time and giftings to the church
- Pray for innovation within the church ministry you are involved in.
- Pray for family members.

#### Outreach:

- Pray for our new community grocery
- Pray for healthy relationships in our local community
- Pray for inspiration into how to meet the needs of the people in our community
- Pray for conviction to meet the needs of the people in our community
- Pray that we would be people of action, seeing the need and meeting the need
- Pray for decline of homelessness and addiction in the city
- Pray for families struggling below the poverty line
- Pray for single parents
- Pray for children whose education has been affected by lockdowns
- Pray for the elderly

## DAY 12: 22ND JANUARY

# HUMILITY

*So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. (John 13:12-15 NKJV)*

### Reflection:

The life of Jesus was the ultimate example of humility, He set examples for His disciples. He washed their feet and told them to model what He did. We are compelled to humble ourselves enough to walk as Jesus walked and love as He loved.

- How do you define humility? ( Numbers 12:3)
- Is the character of humility working in you? (Philippians 2:7-8)
- How do you display humility in your daily life?
- How do you deal with pride and arrogance? (Proverbs 11:2)

### Prayer Points:

- Ask God to help you to humble yourself before Him and others (James 4:6)
- Pray that God will highlight to you what it truly means to live a life of humility
- Ask God for the strength to resist the spirit of pride and arrogance (1 Samuel 2:3, NKJV)
- Lord please help me to remain open and teachable, to constantly evaluate myself and the methods I use to serve you

## DAY 13: 23RD JANUARY

# UNITY

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore. (Psalms 133:1-3 NKJV).*

### Reflection:

According to the scriptures above, "Unity pleases God". God is pleased when His children are united, He desires that we would be one. God is not pleased when the church is not united because a divided church is not effective and produces no fruit. When we are together in unity, the love of God is expressed in amazing ways. For example, we are a very diverse church. We all come from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds that influence our way of thinking and the way of doing things. Our church is a disciple making church, that understands everyone has something that they can contribute to the body, no matter who they are.

- Are you part of the Victory Outreach church family?
- Are you involved in church activities apart from Sunday services?
- Do you feel left out? Why?
- What do you need to do to improve your relationship with God and others?

### Prayer Points:

- Lord help us to live and work together in love and unity (Matthew 18:20)
- Use us individually and collectively to reflect the love of God- so that we may bear much fruit
- Pray that as a church we may be "one" according to John 17:20-23

## DAY 14: 24TH JANUARY

# GIVING

*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 NKJV).*

### Reflection:

Giving is both a spiritual gift and a discipline of discipleship to our Lord Jesus Christ. Disciplines do not come naturally without effort, they are acquired and need constant practice. We are called to be good stewards of our finances, time, talent and to always give generously.

Giving is key element to building the church and doing the work of the ministry - as pastor Paul always says " how much ministry can you do with £100 - £100 worth". It is our responsibility to build the house of the Lord with our own giving. (Haggai 1:3-9 NLT)

- Do you understand "giving" as an act of discipleship, as an act of worship and as an act of faith?
- How do you steward your resources for God's purposes?
- Are you committed to growing in generosity?
- Are you giving to the Lord's work with your time, talents and treasure?

### Prayer Points:

- Pray into the points above
- Pray that you would be a cheerful and faithful giver for His purposes (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Lord help us to trust that you will supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19)
- Pray that you will be a faithful and consistent giver of UWC, tithes, offering and pledges in our local church for the work of the ministry (Haggai 1:3-9)
- If you are already a covenant giver, pray and consider stepping up your level of giving

## 15. SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

# VICTORY OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV)*

### Reflection:

Making disciples is about passing on the faith that was passed to us by others. We are all called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by sharing the gospel with our friends, families and unbelievers around the world. Evangelism is a key part of our ministry and there are resources available such as; teachings and training sessions so that we can be effective witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

And this great commission is at the core of Victory Outreach's mission statement :

*Victory Outreach is an international, church-oriented Christian ministry called to the task of evangelizing and discipling the hurting people of the world, with the message of hope and plan of Jesus Christ.*

*This call involves a commitment to plant and develop churches and training centers, in strategic cities of the world.*

*Victory Outreach inspires and instills within people the desire to fulfill their potential in life with a sense of dignity, belonging, and destiny.*

*Victory Outreach works cooperatively with others of mutual purpose in accomplishing the task before us*

- Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- Do you passionately embrace the Great Commission?
- Do you love the lost? What are you doing about it?
- Are you discipling others? Who is discipling you?
- What price do you pay to disciple others?
- Do you know the mission statement? Are you invested in this?

**Prayer Points:**

- Lord make me your true disciple so that I can disciple others
- Lord empower me to play my role in advancing the kingdom of heaven (Romans 10:14-15)
- Pray for growth and more church plants in the UK and Germany region
- Pray that according to our mission statement this year we will commit to evangelising and discipling the hurting people in our city and around the world
  
- Pray for the pastors of the churches in our region and their churches
  - Manchester (Pastor Paul and Vicky Lloyd)
  - Liverpool (Pastor Roy and Danielle Farrell)
  - London (Pastor Dave and Janet Elwin)
  - Birmingham (Pastor Colin and Tash Ruddock)
  - Germany (Pastor Gertjan and Cindy Punt)
  - Glasgow (Pastor Mark and Zoe Penman)
  
- Victory Outreach is an international ministry, based in California, US and led by key leaders who oversee the entire movement. Help us pray for them:
  - Our Founders, Pastor Sonny and Sister Julie Arguinzoni
  - Elder/Pastor Sonny Arguinzoni Jr
  - Elder/Pastor Al Valdez
  - Elder/Pastor Mitchell Peterson
  - Elder/Pastor Rick Alanis
  - Elder/Elder/Pastor Jesus Figueroa
  - Elder/Pastor Saul Garcia
  - Elder/Pastor Tom Vasquez
  - Elder/Pastor Joe Cotinola
  
- Pray for our multi-regional leaders and regional leaders.

# LET FAITH ARISE!

## DAY 16-19

### Devotion

*Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.*

*"Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!" **(Matthew 14:22-33 NASB).***

In order for us to have a year filled with blessings, opportunities and growth, we need to have faith based on a real faith filled relationship with Him. Faith doesn't make sense to the average man. Faith makes you think differently, respond to situations differently and causes us to operate in an uncommon level of wisdom which results in us being used in dimensions we never knew existed.

You need to step out of the boat and stop sailing safely in the boat. We can learn a great lesson from Peter on this.

Read Matt 14:22 - 33 (above)

You have just read about faith in action. The ultimate key to flowing in faith is to obey the voice of the Lord which will unlock the supernatural faith that's stored in every believer.

The Bible says Peter asked the Lord to "Command" him to walk on water to get to him. When was the last time you asked the Lord to "Command" you to operate on a level you have never operated in before, and then responded to the answer of your question/s?

A lot of the time we run away from the answer to the question/s we've asked and wonder why we are still stuck on a low level of faith.

Peter heard one word from the Lord "Come". This was enough to defy the laws of gravity and operate in a different dimension of faith that didn't make sense. The word of the Lord was enough for Peter to not look at the elements around him, but to solely fix his eyes on the Lord to see him through this moment.

When operating in faith you have to always keep your eyes on the Lord as Peter did. It was when fear of the wind started to sink in that Peter began to sink in the water.

Fear tries to kill us flowing in faith but we do not have the spirit of fear 2Tim 1:7.

God requires us in this new season to be doers of the word and not just hearers James 1:22.

When God releases a word we must respond to see the manifestation of it otherwise we will operate within safety, but not faith.

## DAY 16: 26TH JANUARY

# COMMAND ME

*Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:28-31 NASB)*

### Reflection:

When last have you just believed the word of the Lord for instant healing or breakthrough? We can ask Jesus to come into our houses, our workplaces, our places of business but the reality is he just wants us to believe a Word.

- What areas in your life can you identify that are going to require you to operate in faith?
- Don't ignore the instruction, write them down!
- The Bible tells us faith comes by hearing the word of God, Romans 10:17. So take each area of your life you have identified and find a scripture to apply to it.
- Now imagine like Jesus speaking to Peter, Jesus is speaking his word to you in each of those situations.

### Prayer Points:

- Ask God to give you instructions/wisdom how to operate in faith
- Ask God to show you any areas or things in your life that have stopped you from operating in faith. Surrender them to God
- Ask God to command you to step out. Enjoy the experience

## DAY 17: 27TH JANUARY

# WALK BY FAITH

*For we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV)*

### Reflection:

The Bible is very clear about us as believers needing to walk by faith and not depend on the natural eyes to lead us to do God's will.

Looking with our natural eyes to understand God's perspective will result in us walking in our own ways which will result in us coming out of the will of God. Gal 5:25

If we walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will always guide us in the right direction to operate in faith that can only be inspired by a close and personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

- How close are you with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you know the sound of his voice?
- Do you know how he wants to use you to demonstrate God's power here on the earth?

The Holy Spirit is key to all believers operating in God's divine power. If you don't have a relationship with the Holy Spirit you will always struggle to operate in the fullness of the supernatural faith God wants us to flow in. The Holy Spirit wants to use people right now to perform miracles.

The Holy Spirit is ready to use believers who are willing to say yes to be used and yes to being available vessels for God to work through. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and lead you daily. John 16:13

### Prayer Points:

- Lord teach me how to walk by faith and not by sight
- Let me have a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Teach me to hear the Holy Spirit's voice clearly
- Holy Spirit use me daily to operate in faith so God will get the glory through my life.
- Now listen to the Holy Spirit and step out

## DAY 18: 28TH JANUARY

# FAITH TO FAITHFULNESS

*His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'- Matthew 25:21*

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand. - Zechariah 4:10*

### Reflection

"I never asked you to be a success; I asked you to be faithful" - Paul Lloyd

God's promises are linked to our faithfulness. He guides, strengthens, blesses and protects His faithful ones.

Before God can bless us greatly we have to be found faithful, right from the "small beginning". Faithfulness is a process. Faithfulness is making consistent choices to do the right thing at the right time, producing patterns of faithfulness whilst both working towards God's purpose for your life and also helping others.

Faith is when you place your trust in God.

Faithfulness is when God is able to trust us.

Can God trust you today?

Are you a safe pair of hands?

What can you put in place to stay consistent and faithful to the plan of God for your life?

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that you would depend on faith, not feelings
- Pray that you would not become lazy and that you would operate in faith and patience to inherit what has been promised to you.
- Pray that when we have faith-testing trials we would come through them knowing that our character is being formed and that eventually the season will change.
- Pray that you would stay faithful to what God has given you to do and not lose heart.
- Pray to be consistent in servanthood as an expression of your faithfulness to God

## DAY 19: 29TH JANUARY

# MAKE IT PLAIN

*Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it."*

**Habakkuk 2:2**

*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do."* **James 2:18**

### Reflection

Sometimes, even after praying and seeking God, our future hopes and dreams can sometimes remain abstract, unfulfilled ideas. You may well have faith but are you taking action?

When God places a vision within your heart, whether it's the salvation of a family member, a new business venture, a community project, to write a book, start to drive or even to plant a church, whatever that vision is you will need to add some action to it!

The Bible tells us to "write down the revelation and make it plain". Setting goals is a practical way to take action.

Why not try this today?

- Write your goals down. This gives life to them. Where/what/who do you want to be by Easter? Give yourself a target.
- Commit to working out the steps it'll take to get you there. This will require perseverance and determination. The steps won't take themselves.
- Measure and report your progress to others. This will require accountability.

### Prayer Points

Boldly make these five declarations over your life

- Peace - I declare the full Shalom of God – Nothing missing, nothing broken and nothing lacking - over my life and my family and my church and my city during this next season. I let go of all unforgiveness - and everything and everyone who is toxic - and I will partner with peace filled people - I submit to God and I resist the devil in Jesus name!
- Health - I declare full healing and refreshing to my tired mind and body - I want full health physically, mentally and spiritually in 2021 so that I can fulfil the will of God for my life...I let go of all doubt and fear and shame and every negative word and attitude and opinion that has been cast over me in Jesus name!
- Money - I declare financial breakthrough and a spirit of generosity to flow through me - I ask for God's wisdom to make good, faith filled financial decisions so that I can help to resource God's will in my life - I let go of all selfishness, stinginess and every sinful controlling attitude in Jesus name!
- Purpose - I declare a willingness to engage with God's purpose for my life – so that I will move forward knowing where I am going and how to get there. I let go of apathy and negative excuses - I resist the temptations of this world so that I can enjoy the benefits of eternity in Jesus name!
- Revival - I declare that I will experience spiritual revival and I will steward signs, wonders and miracles in my neighbourhood, my city, my nation and my generation for the glory of my King Jesus - I let go of unbelief, laziness, a religious spirit that denies the power of the Holy Spirit and sinful pride in Jesus name! I step into 2021 in faith that Jesus Christ is Lord and what He has begun in my life He is faithful to complete! (Phil 1:6)

# THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

## DAY 20-21

### Devotion

*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV)*

As we approach the end of our 21 Days of prayer and fasting, we want to enter into a time of Thanksgiving. We thank God for His enabling grace for the past few weeks. Now we expect God to move in miraculous ways and that He will open new doors of opportunities like never before. Get ready to have the best year yet, and encounter God in every area of your life and in our church. We declare that we will step into a place this year that gives us greater authority to see answers to our prayers (John 15:7).

## DAY 20: 30TH JANUARY THANKSGIVING

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. (Psalm 100:4 NKJV)*

### Reflection:

We give God thanks for who he is, not just for what he has done. Without gratitude we become arrogant and self centred and begin to believe we have achieved everything on our own. Thankfulness keeps our hearts in right relationship with God, the giver of all good things (James 1:17). In James 5:18, the Bible commands us to give thanks in everything...”, we are to be thankful not only in good times but also in the hard times. When we thank Him for everything, He gives us the strength to endure every obstacle.

- Why is gratitude important in our Christian life?
- What does it look like to live a life of thankfulness in your heart to God? (Philippians 4:4).
- In what ways do you struggle to be thankful?
- Make it a habit to count your blessings one by one every day.

### Prayer Points:

- Thank God for fresh inspiration, supernatural wisdom and strategy to "Put God First" in everything we do in this New Year. (Matthew 6:33)
- Thank God that the result of prayer and fasting will bring greater spiritual authority and allow us to operate in greater anointing than ever before (Phil 4:19).
- We will be filled with the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God (Eph 1:17).

## DAY 21: 31ST JANUARY

# PRaising GOD

*But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26 NKJV)*

### Reflection:

There is power when we praise and worship God. Paul and Silas praised their way to victory, as they praised the prison doors were opened. What do you do when you encounter a difficult situation in your life, such as sickness or losing your job? By praising God we are reminded of His greatness, His power and His presence in our lives; and we receive strength in our faith which causes God to move on our behalf. (Psalm 34:1, Ps 135:3, Ps 150:6).

- How would you describe the impact of praise and worship in your life?
- What are some of the things in your life that may get in the way of worshipping God?
- Take a moment to worship Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)

### Prayer Points:

- Praise the Lord for accelerated growth and breakthroughs in our church in Jesus Name
- Praise Him for the new season, new beginnings and abundant harvest in our church and in every area of your life.
- Remember that what you gain by prayer, you maintain by prayer.
- Thank God for the best year you've ever had! (Psalm 118:29).

# THE DANIEL FAST

The Daniel Fast is a Bible-based partial fast. The purpose of the Daniel Fast is not to eat healthier or lose weight; rather, the fast's purpose is to consecrate time for the Lord and to ask God for direction in your life.

There are two anchoring scriptures for the Daniel Fast. In Daniel 1 the prophet ate only vegetables (that would have included fruits) and drank only water. In Daniel 10 we read that the Prophet ate no meat nor any breads or foods and he drank no wine for 21 days. So from this scripture, we get a third guideline.

So from these scriptures we get three guidelines for the fast:

- Only fruits and vegetables
- Only water for a beverage
- No sweeteners and no breads

# THE PARTIAL FAST

This could mean fasting certain meals of the day or abstaining from certain kinds of foods (i.e.: No meat or sweets, soup only, fruit and vegetables only, etc. In Daniel 10:3, Daniel ate no pleasant bread).

THE YEAR OF:  
PUTTING  
GOD  
FIRST

2021