



21 Days of Prayer





A WORD FROM PASTOR JUSTIN

The prayer guide you hold in your hands is an essential resource for our twenty-one-day journey of prayer and fasting together. Its content and schedule will not only unify our church but also bring personal benefits to you. Strive to engage with this guide daily, reading the scripture and immersing yourself in the content for each day. There's a prompt within the content that will shape your prayer time and daily spiritual focus.

Furthermore, this prayer guide revolves around three key themes: faith, holiness, and mission. As we pray, it becomes evident that these themes should guide our pursuits in 2024. Faith is essential, especially in a year that may bring hardships and confusion. We must live by faith, trusting that the Lord will be with us and for us, regardless of the circumstances.

Holiness is what distinguishes us from the world and its culture. Temptations to conform to the world's behavior, especially in challenging times, may arise. However, if we continually remind ourselves of the behavior and mindset outlined in scripture, we will stay on the right path.

Lastly, during difficult moments, it's easy to become self-centered. The Christian way, however, is to remain focused on the mission despite the challenges. While others may retreat, we stand on the frontlines and prioritize the mission.

Collectively, I pray that these twenty-one days set the tone for our church. While we cannot predict what lies ahead in 2024, one thing is certain: if we fervently pray together, we will remain united and resilient. TLC, I deeply care for you, and it fills me with great excitement to know that we are praying and fasting together.

In Christ,
Pastor Justin



Theme 1

FAITH

DAY 1

For we live our lives according to faith, not by what we see. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Our 21-day journey together begins with the foundation that our entire spiritual life is guided by faith. We are saved through faith in Christ, led by faith in Christ, and one day, we will witness the fulfillment of our faith in Christ. Following Jesus is simply trusting in His blameless, crucified, and resurrected life. Let's take a moment right now to reaffirm our faith in Jesus. Declare once more that He is the Lord and Savior of your life, and that there is no one or nothing that can save, guide, or sustain you like Him!

DAY 2

Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

When we place our faith in God alone, we acknowledge His significant role in our lives. However, this scripture reveals that we also have a role to play. God gave Joshua a clear command: be strong and courageous. This wasn't a mere suggestion or something optional for Joshua; it was an absolute requirement. Since God faithfully fulfills His part (promising to be with us wherever we go), it's our responsibility to step into a posture of courage.

Starting today, take a moment to reflect on any area of your life where you may not be fully obedient to this command. Is there something you consistently feel defeated by? Consider how you can be courageous in light of both God's role and yours in that situation.



DAY 3

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Do you find yourself feeling weary or exhausted? Does the prospect of the coming year fill you with discouragement? Are the burdens and wounds from last year tagging along with you into this New Year? If you answered yes to any of these questions, here's some reassuring news: the LORD is here to strengthen you. He will provide assistance and support, securely holding you with His righteous hand.

This promise was originally given to the people of Israel, but the same principle applies to us today. When facing adversity, especially in moments of weakness or despair, our focus shouldn't be solely on how tightly we're holding onto God, but rather, on how firmly He is holding onto us.

As you take some time for prayer, find a small object that fits comfortably in your open hand. Use this physical reminder to reflect on this verse and the assurance of God's unwavering grip on us.



DAY 4

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. (2 Timothy 1:7)

I've gained valuable insights since 2020, and one key lesson is the importance of relying on God, which results in power, love, and, notably, sound judgment. As we navigate through this year, we will encounter an influx of information and opinions. Moreover, we'll be thrust into the midst of a cultural and political battleground that vies for our attention.

My encouragement to you is to seek God for sound judgment. We require His guidance to discern what is true and authentic amidst the noise. We need His wisdom to direct us on when to speak and when to remain silent. We must rely on His Spirit to prevent us from succumbing to fear when others follow one path while we are called to follow God's path.

Today, make a commitment to cultivate a spirit of dependence on God. Lean on Him as your source of judgment to evaluate everything that comes your way this year.

DAY 5

But as for you, be strong; don't be discouraged, for your work has a reward. (2 Chronicles 15:7)

There are numerous days when the last thing I want to do is head to the gym. But what motivates me to mix my pre-workout, put on my gym attire, and drive there is the mental image of the positive outcome of exercising. I consistently experience a sense of accomplishment and well-being, feeling as if I'm inching closer to my fitness goals.

The same principle applies to our daily faith in God. There will be days when we just don't "feel like it" or it seems like we've run out of spiritual energy. Nevertheless, I want you to remember the ultimate reward: salvation, a profound relationship with the Creator of the universe, and the ultimate prize, eternity spent with Him.

Just as I visualize Jesus seated on His heavenly throne, picture yourself entering into His presence. Use this mental image to encourage and renew yourself, especially when it feels like everything is falling apart. Remind yourself that you can persevere because you have a clear and vivid picture of the heavenly reward that awaits you!

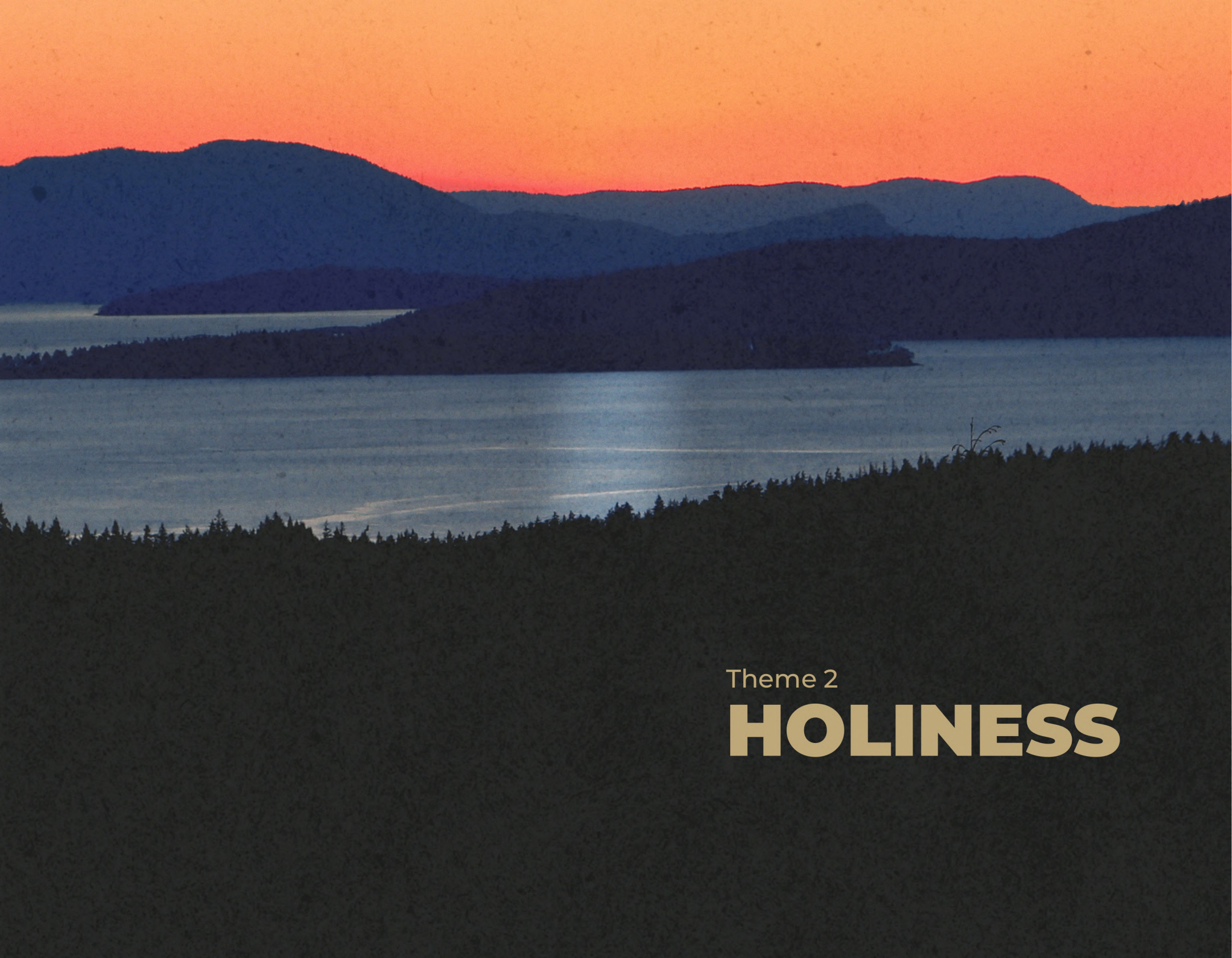
DAY 6

When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4)

Do you recall the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" We used to say that to dismiss the verbal bullies in our lives. This verse reminds us of a similar concept, but in a supernatural context. It teaches us to be people of courage when life's walls come crashing down or when our very lives are endangered by the actions of others. Why? Because what can they truly do?

The reality is that mere mortals can only impact the physical aspects of our existence. However, as we understand, the most vital part of our lives is our spirit, which cannot be broken by human hands. While we may face threats, isolation from others, or even physical harm, no matter what challenges come our way, they cannot truly harm us if our spirit is what truly matters.





Theme 2

HOLINESS

DAY 7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

I've worn glasses since my freshman year of high school, and I'll never forget sitting in the optician's chair, peering through different lenses and reciting blurry and clear images. This process is done to fine-tune my lens prescription. I mention it because trust in the Lord is the prescription we need for clarity in life and guidance.

Do you find yourself feeling adrift or lacking purpose? It's time to renew your trust in the Lord. Are you grappling with uncertainty in a current situation or relationship? Take a moment to fully surrender it to the Lord and observe how He guides you. Perhaps you've entrusted God with a portion of your heart, but now it's time to heed the full counsel of the Scripture and trust in the LORD with all your heart. Regardless of the circumstance, always remember that the remedy is found in trusting the LORD, not in relying solely on yourself.

DAY 8

But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

The calling for followers of Jesus is crystal clear: we are to live in holiness, both in our thoughts and actions. There's no way to sidestep this directive. Now, I understand that some may view this call to holiness as God constraining us and depriving us of freedom. However, nothing could be further from the truth! Holiness is, in fact, God's way of granting us freedom.

It's a freedom from guilt, knowing that you're doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. It's the freedom of knowing you won't suffer the consequences of unholy behavior. It's the freedom of having an unimpeded relationship with the Lord.

As you reflect on the year ahead, consider the areas of holiness you need to develop. Is it refraining from gossip, maintaining control over your body and mind, or distancing yourself from an unhealthy friend group? Whatever it may be, take holiness seriously in 2024 and embrace it as a path to true freedom.

DAY 9

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. (Romans 12:1)

The fact that God has saved us should compel us to respond with unwavering allegiance and dedicated service. This passage serves as our response, essentially proclaiming, "Jesus, because you have offered yourself as a sacrifice for us, we, in turn, offer our lives as living sacrifices, striving to live in a manner that is holy and pleasing to you." This mirrors how the people of Israel would present a blameless animal for a worthy sacrifice.

Though we can never achieve true blamelessness apart from Christ, we aim to live blamelessly in response to His grace. We offer ourselves not out of obligation, but from a deep recognition that He has saved us for a purpose beyond ourselves. So, as you go about your day, carry with you the mindset that your body is a living, breathing sacrifice. How might this perspective change the way you approach today and the entire year ahead?

DAY 10

So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21)

Mathematics was my least favorite subject in school primarily because of the homework load. However, we understand that homework is essential preparation for the actual test. The more one practices solving problems, the better their chances of performing well on the test. The same principle applies to our pursuit of holiness.

When you and I commit to a life of holiness in our private moments, it's akin to doing homework for the opportunities God presents for good works in our lives. If you find yourself wondering why God isn't using you more, it could be because you still need to complete the "homework" of holiness.

If you desire to be used by God in powerful ways in 2024, make a commitment to personal holiness, and you will witness God using you in remarkable ways. It's important to acknowledge that we will never achieve perfection in this earthly life. Nevertheless, our continual striving to resemble our holy God serves as a valuable exercise that enhances our effectiveness for His purposes.



DAY 11

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

The life of holiness to which God calls us is comprehensive. It involves not only our thoughts and self-control but also how we interact with one another. This passage sets the standard for cultivating holy relationships, emphasizing the active practice of qualities like compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. The word "put" is significant here; it highlights the deliberate daily choice we must make. Just as we clothe ourselves each morning, we should clothe ourselves with these virtues daily.

Similar to the clothes we regularly select, I hope that these virtues become your daily choice as well. May this character wardrobe be one that adorns you beautifully, fits you perfectly, and feels entirely natural in your life throughout 2024.

DAY 12

It trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age. (Titus 2:12)

In our current cultural climate, it's common for people to indulge their every desire and whim. However, as followers of Jesus, we are called to a different standard. Take a moment to reflect and ask God to reveal any desires you've allowed to go unchecked. Seek His strength and discipline to rein them in. Are there sins or habits that have held sway over you? Is 2024 the year you seek a breakthrough from struggles like pornography, overdrinking, or excessive binge-watching? Ask God for supernatural self-control to help you overcome these challenges.

DAY 13

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

This is one of my all-time favorite verses. It beautifully illustrates our identity in Christ, categorizing us as a people set apart and chosen as God's own. Think back to your favorite childhood toy. You probably didn't want to share it; you treasured it and valued it highly. When friends came over, it was the item you proudly displayed and protected.

I mention this because it's akin to how God views His people, but with one crucial difference. God, unlike us, shares His most prized possession with the world. You and I have been sent into the darkness of the world as bearers of marvelous light. As God's cherished people, we are shared with the world so that others may also become a part of His collection.

May each day in the upcoming year be an opportunity for us to shine as the shared light of God.

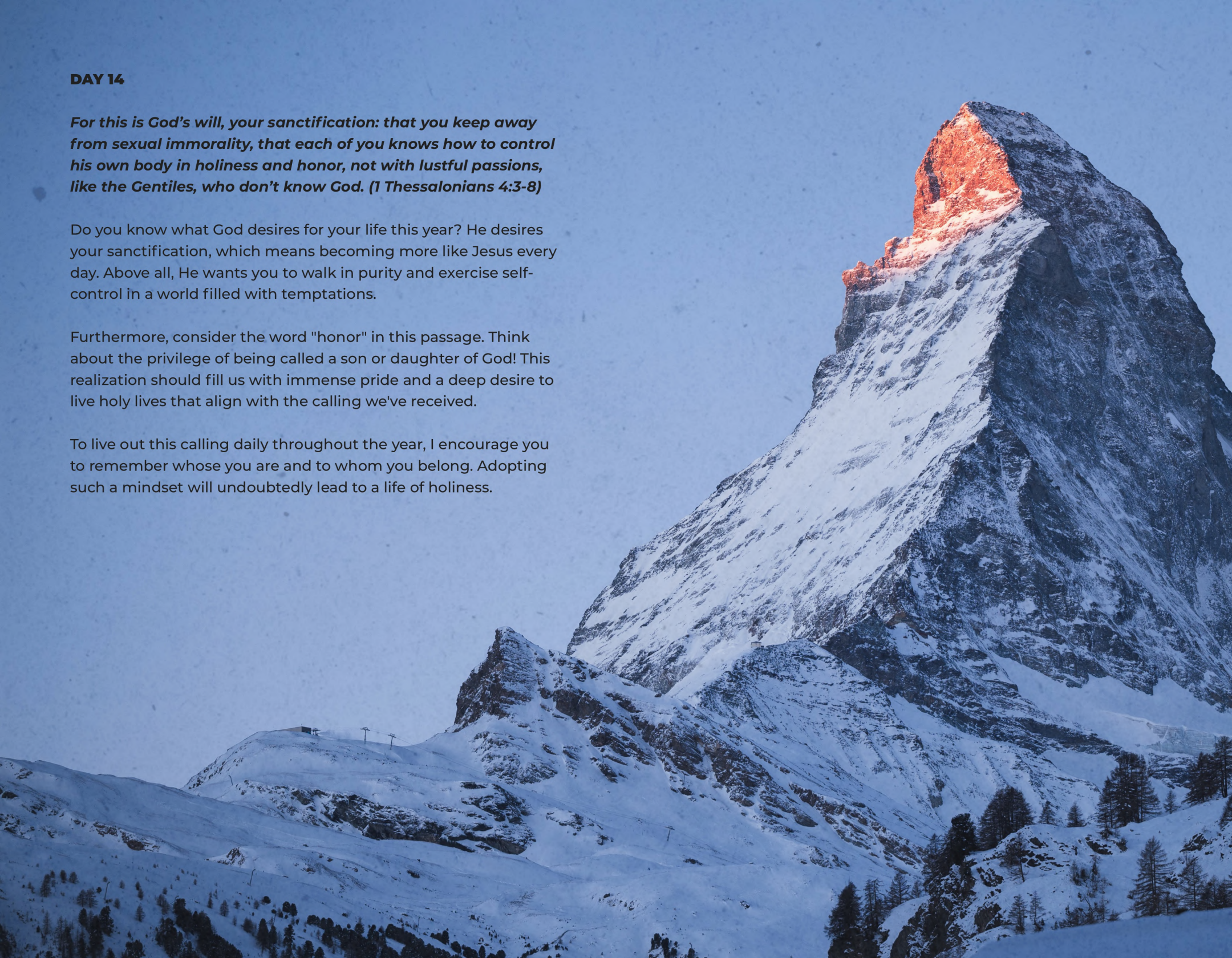
DAY 14

For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don't know God. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

Do you know what God desires for your life this year? He desires your sanctification, which means becoming more like Jesus every day. Above all, He wants you to walk in purity and exercise self-control in a world filled with temptations.

Furthermore, consider the word "honor" in this passage. Think about the privilege of being called a son or daughter of God! This realization should fill us with immense pride and a deep desire to live holy lives that align with the calling we've received.


To live out this calling daily throughout the year, I encourage you to remember whose you are and to whom you belong. Adopting such a mindset will undoubtedly lead to a life of holiness.





Theme 3

MISSION



DAY 15

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The word "go" typically stirs our instinct to get up and move in almost any situation. However, when we encounter this passage, it can feel overwhelming. Where do I begin? Who should I disciple? What should I say to those I encounter? To be completely transparent, I still feel nervous and hesitant about fully living this out.

But let's simplify it for the year ahead. Take some time to ask God: "Who might you want me to share the message of Jesus with this year?" Write down the name that comes to mind. Pray for opportunities to engage in normal and approachable conversations about your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Perhaps you can invite someone to read the Bible with you once a week, then discuss what you've read together. Ask questions like, "What did you find interesting in this passage? What does it reveal about God? Is there anything you feel prompted to do after reading?"

It's astonishing to realize that over ninety percent of our city isn't following Jesus. Can you believe that? It's time for us to take action and go!

DAY 16

How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. (Romans 10:14-15)

God's plan for saving the world hinges on people hearing the message of His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Guess who He's chosen as the voice to deliver this message? It's YOU! While it might seem stressful and intimidating, let me simplify it for you.

Work on a concise 30-second "elevator pitch" of your salvation story. In just three sentences or less, share your life before encountering Christ, describe how and when you met Him, and highlight the changes in your life since then. You can follow up with a kind question like, "Have you had a similar experience in your life?" and then pause. As the conversation unfolds, rely on God's guidance and help. This is how you share the good news.

DAY 17

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: "Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

You and I are the living embodiment of Christ for a world that is lost. It's an incredible privilege and honor to fulfill this role for God. As we discussed earlier, God has chosen to save people through us, and that's a profound responsibility to contemplate.

Consider the weight of this responsibility for a moment. When taken seriously, it adds immense value and significance to our lives. Every day, as we step out the door, we carry an unwavering purpose, knowing that we have a divine calling to represent God. Let's not squander this calling in 2024.

DAY 18

Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples. (Psalm 96:3)

We are actively engaged in prayer, seeking for TLC to embrace a foreign country as our international focus. As a church, our mission is to reach Arvada, the West, and the World, and this is the final piece of the puzzle that requires your partnership of prayer. We earnestly desire God to unite our hearts with a nation that we can wholeheartedly invest in, pray for, and serve in during the upcoming year. Take a moment to pray today and in the days ahead, asking God to reveal which specific place in the world He intends for us to adopt as our global focus. Also, pray for insight into what role you might play once that country is identified and adopted.

DAY 19

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the end of the earth. (Acts 13:47)

There are countless missionaries across the globe who are courageously risking their lives to bring God's light to the farthest corners of the earth. Can you take a moment to ask the Lord to place a specific country or two on your heart and mind right now, and make them your focus for today?

Additionally, let's lift up in prayer our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in countries such as North Korea, Gaza, Somalia, China, India, and Iran. Pray fervently that their light shines brightly despite the challenges they face. Pray for many more individuals to answer the call to go out to the ends of the earth as missionaries. Furthermore, let's pray for those within our congregation, that God may raise up individuals for short or long-term missionary service as well.

DAY 20

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

As you contemplate this section on missions in our guide, you might feel overwhelmed by the task of being God's witness. It's important to note that the disciples experienced similar feelings. They realized they couldn't accomplish it on their own, especially after witnessing what happened to Jesus. The truth is, we can't do this on our own either, not without God's help. His assistance comes in the form of the Holy Spirit, which dwells within us since our transformation by Jesus. We no longer live for ourselves; it's Christ's Spirit within us that provides supernatural strength.

So, how do you actually live a Spirit-filled life as His witness? It's quite simple—ask for it each and every day! Pray, "Today, I desire to be filled with your Spirit. Fill me in such a way that I can be an effective witness for you each and every day."

DAY 21

So that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world. (Philippians 2:15)

I'm currently in Estes Park for a short trip, and the stars out here are absolutely breathtaking.

It's evident why Paul used this image to describe us - the stars, when seen in complete darkness, away from the pollution of city lights, shine in an indescribable and awe-inspiring way. TLC, you and I are like those radiant stars in the night sky of our dark world. Let us strive to be just that in 2024. May our calm and unwavering presence in an anxious and crooked world serve as a beacon that draws people closer to Jesus.





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