

OPEN THE GATES

40-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Dear **Church**,

Every so often, God invites us to slow down so that our souls can catch up with our lives. These 40 days are one such invitation. Not to earn God's favour or to "prove" our spirituality, but to make room: room to listen for His voice, to align our desires with His, and to receive the fresh grace He is already longing to give.

Whether you're new to fasting or have done it many times, come as you are. Start simply. Choose a fast that is wise for your season of life and health. Most of all, set your heart to seek Him. As you do, expect three things:

1. **Clarity**-As noise decreases, God's whispers become easier to discern.
2. **Courage**-Prayer forms boldness to obey, even in small daily decisions.
3. **Compassion**-Time with Jesus expands our love for people and our city.

This devotional is a companion, not a checklist. If you miss a day, don't carry guilt. Just carry on. Let each reading lead you into a small, concrete response: a prayer you actually pray, a Scripture you carry into your day, a conversation you initiate, a person you bless. Tiny, faithful steps create holy momentum.

A simple rhythm you can use:

- **Read** the day's passage slowly.
- **Reflect** on one phrase the Spirit highlights.
- **Respond** with a short, honest prayer.
- **Reach out** to express God's love to someone today.

I am praying that over these 40 days the Lord will kindle a deeper hunger for His presence, bring healing where there has been strain or weariness, and spark fresh vision for what He is calling us to be as a church.

Thank you for saying "yes" to this journey. May we finish these 40 days more tender to God, more attentive to His Spirit, and more like Jesus in the ordinary corners of our lives. And may we Open the Gates to welcome God's activity in our lives and world in fresh, expectant and renewed ways!

Much Love,

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Day 1

The Way, The Truth, And The Life

Author: Melanie Gorimo

John 14:1-7 (NIV) *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*

Key Truth

Jesus makes an exclusive claim: He is the only way to the Father. There is no salvation apart from Him. Without Christ, we remain lost in our sins.

Reflection

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples as they faced fear and uncertainty. He reminded them, and us, not to be discouraged but to trust in Him. Our trials, however heavy, are temporary compared to the eternal joy waiting for us. Through His death, Jesus redeemed us from sin, and through His resurrection, He opened the way into the presence of the Father.

This gives us hope and assurance: Jesus is preparing a place for His people. One day, when He returns, those who believe, repent, and receive Him as Lord and Saviour will be with Him in the Father's house, a place with no death, sorrow, tears, or pain. Eternal life is promised to all who belong to Him.

Application & Prayer

Recognising that Jesus is the only way to the Father should transform how we live. Ask yourself: Is He truly at the centre of my decisions, priorities, and desires? Take time each day to strengthen your relationship with Him by reading His Word, obeying His commands, and removing distractions that pull you away.

This truth also compels us to share Him with others. Many believe there are multiple paths to God, but only Jesus saves. Pray for one person this week who does not yet know Christ, and ask God to open a door to lovingly share with them why Jesus is your way, truth, and life.

Dear Father, thank You for revealing the truth through Jesus Christ. I acknowledge that He is the only way to You, and I place my complete trust in Him. Strengthen my faith so I will not be drawn to other paths or distracted from Your Word. Help me to live with Jesus at the centre of my life, walking in obedience each day. Give me boldness and wisdom to share this truth with others in love, and use me as a light to those who are still searching. Thank You for the gift of salvation and for preparing a place for me to be with You forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2

To See Jesus Is To See The Father

Author: Melanie Gorimo

John 14:8-11 (NIV) *Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

Key Truth

Jesus makes an astonishing claim: to see Him is to see the face of God.

Reflection

Philip longed for certainty, asking Jesus to reveal the Father. Jesus' response was breathtaking: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." In Christ, we encounter the full revelation of God. His words are God's words, His miracles are God's works, and His life is the true reflection of the Father.

This means we do not need to wait for heaven to know God. To acknowledge Jesus is to acknowledge the Father, for they are one. When we trust Him, we can pray with confidence, knowing the Father hears and responds. Our faith grows as we study His Word and see His character revealed in Jesus. In Him, our fears and uncertainties find rest, for He is in control of all things.

Application & Prayer

If seeing Jesus is seeing the Father, then we cannot treat Him lightly. To know Jesus is to know God, and to reject Him is to reject God Himself. Let this truth deepen your conviction. Do you truly live as though Jesus reveals the very heart of the Father?

Grow in faith by fixing your eyes on Jesus through the Gospels. As you study His words, works, and character, recognise that this is who God is. Let this reshape your view of God, your confidence in prayer, and your daily choices. And when you speak with others who are searching for God, point them to Jesus, for He alone reveals the Father.

Lord Jesus, I believe that in seeing You, I see the Father. Forgive me for the times I have taken this truth lightly. Deepen my faith so that I trust Your words and works as the true revelation of God. Give me wisdom to know You more through Scripture, courage to live in obedience, and boldness to point others to You as the only way to the Father. Let my life reflect Your love and truth so that others may see the Father through me. In Your name I pray, Amen.

Day 3

Greater Things In Jesus' Name

Author: Maricar Duclay

John 14:12-14 (NIV) *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

Key Truth

The Name of Jesus carries power and authority. Because Jesus has gone to the Father and sent us the Holy Spirit, those who believe in Him are empowered to continue His works—and even do greater things—so that God may be glorified.

Reflection

Life brings seasons of pressure, uncertainty, and fear. Yet from generation to generation, God's power has been proven. His promises have never failed. Jesus assured His disciples that in His Name they would not only continue His works but do greater ones, because He would send the Holy Spirit to empower them.

In Jesus' Name, impossible situations turn into testimonies. When we fully surrender to Him—believing, trusting, and praying in His Name—the Spirit works through us. Peace replaces anxiety, faith silences fear, and His authority flows through us to accomplish what we never could on our own. His Name is not a magic formula; it is the authority of the risen Christ who reigns, and the Spirit makes that reality alive in us. As we walk closely with Jesus, our prayers align with His will, and His Spirit empowers us to do greater things for His glory. Whatever weighs on you today, remember—Jesus is able, His Spirit is with you, and His Name is enough.

Application & Prayer

Are you feeling pressured, worried, or unsure what to do? Take a breath, close your eyes, and call on His Name—Jesus. Believe that the Spirit He has given you is working even now.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise that in Your Name and by Your Spirit we can do greater things for Your glory. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit, so that my prayers, my words, and my actions align with Your will. Let Your power be made perfect in my weakness, and may my life point others to You. In Your mighty Name I pray, Amen.

Day 4

Obedience And The Gift Of The Spirit

Author: Maricar Duclay

John 14:15-17 (NIV) *"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

Key Truth

Jesus connects love with obedience and obedience with the promise of the Spirit. His love is selfless and unconditional, and as we follow Him, the Spirit of God comes to dwell within us, guiding and empowering us in ways beyond words.

Reflection

Love and obedience are inseparable in the life of a disciple. Jesus doesn't call us to obey out of fear or duty but out of love. True obedience flows naturally from a heart transformed by His love. Just as Jesus obeyed the Father because of His love for Him, so we are called to obey Jesus because of our love for Him.

But Jesus does not leave us to obey in our own strength. He promises "another Advocate"—the Holy Spirit. This word means Helper, Comforter, Counsellor, and Defender. The Spirit strengthens us when we are weak, comforts us when we grieve, guides us when we feel lost, and defends us when we face lies or opposition. He is the Spirit of truth, and unlike the world, we know Him, for He dwells in us.

This is the great difference between Old and New Covenant living: in the past, the Spirit came "upon" or was "with" God's people, but now He is in us forever. His presence is God's guarantee that we are never abandoned. We may not have all the answers, but we have within us the Spirit of the One who does.

Application & Prayer

Pause today to invite the Spirit of truth to search your heart. Is there one area of obedience He is calling you to walk in? Be still, listen, and let His presence lead you. Journal one way you sense His guidance, and choose to respond in love.

Dear God, thank You for choosing me and giving me the Spirit of truth to live within me. Help me to walk in joyful obedience as a response to Your love. Fill me with Your presence, guide me in truth, and let the joy of walking with You last forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5

Never Left Alone

Author: Jennifer Laruta

John 14:18–21 (NIV) *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.*

Key Truth

Jesus promises that we are never alone. Though He is no longer physically with us, His Spirit lives in us. For those who love and obey Him, His presence is real and constant.

Reflection

What a comfort to know that Jesus has not left us as orphans. In our struggles and moments of weakness, He reminds us: “Because I live, you also will live.” His resurrection assures us of eternal life, and His Spirit makes His presence known daily in our hearts.

This promise invites us to lean on Him more deeply. Our love for Jesus is not only spoken but shown as we obey His commands. As we do, His life becomes evident in us—bringing hope, strength, and comfort in every season.

Application & Prayer

Where in your life do you long to experience more of God’s presence? Invite Him to show Himself to you today.

Thank You, Lord, that You never leave me. Because You live, I also live. Holy Spirit, let Your presence, love, and comfort be real in my life today. Amen.

Day 6

Love Proven In Obedience

Author: Jennifer Laruta

John 14:22-24 (NIV) *Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"*

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

Key Truth

True love and obedience to Jesus demonstrate our deep relationship with God.

Reflection

Jesus reminds us that true love for Him is expressed through obedience to His teaching. Love is not only a feeling but a daily choice shown in action.

God's desire for us is relationship, and this relationship is deepened as we follow His commands. Jesus promises that when we love Him, the Father will also love us, and together they will make their home with us—a picture of intimate fellowship.

On the other hand, neglecting obedience reveals a lack of love. To truly love Jesus is to listen to His words and let them shape how we live.

Application & Prayer

Ask yourself: In what ways can I show love for Jesus Christ today through obedience?

Pray for strength and guidance to follow His Word daily.

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us that true love is seen in obedience. Help me to love You more and more, to obey Your teaching, and to live a life that honours You. Where I fall short, reveal my weaknesses and draw me closer to You. Holy Spirit, dwell in me and give me strength to walk in Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 7

The Spirit Testifies

Author: Marites Pacis

John 15:26 (NIV) *When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.*

Key Truth

Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who would guide, protect, and testify about Him.

Reflection

Before leaving His disciples, Jesus reassured them that they would not be left alone. The Spirit of truth would come from the Father to dwell with them and testify about Jesus. This means that the presence of the Spirit is not optional but essential to the Christian life. The Spirit reveals who Jesus is, confirms His words, and strengthens our faith.

As believers today, we take comfort knowing that we are not abandoned. The Holy Spirit continues to guide us into truth, convict us when we stray, and remind us of Jesus' love and promises.

Application & Prayer

Trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit each day. When you face uncertainty, pause and invite Him to lead you. Let His testimony about Jesus shape your convictions, decisions, and conversations.

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit as my Advocate. Help me to listen to His voice and be strengthened by His testimony about Jesus. May my heart always remain open to His leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 8

We Must Testify

Author: Marites Pacis

John 15:27 (NIV) *And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

Key Truth

Those who know Christ are called to testify about Him, empowered by the Spirit.

Reflection

Jesus reminded His disciples that just as the Spirit would testify about Him, they too must bear witness. Their time with Him had prepared them for this mission. For us, the same call remains: to testify about Christ through our words and our lives.

We are not called to witness in our own strength but in partnership with the Spirit. As we walk in faith, He gives us courage, clarity, and opportunities to share Jesus with those around us.

Testifying about Christ is not just a task; it is an overflow of knowing Him personally.

Application & Prayer

Be intentional in sharing your faith. Ask God to open your eyes to one person this week with whom you can share about Jesus. Remember, your testimony—how Christ has worked in your life—can point others to Him.

Lord Jesus, thank You for entrusting me with the privilege of testifying about You. Empower me with Your Spirit to speak boldly and live faithfully. Let my life point others to You, so they too may believe and follow. Amen.

Day 9

Your Sorrow Will Turn Into Joy

Author: Maria Bermoy

John 16:16-19 (NIV) *Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."*

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"

Key Truth

Jesus told His disciples He would be gone for "a little while," but then they would see Him again. This points to His death and resurrection. During His absence, they would grieve, but their sorrow would be turned to joy when they were reunited with Him—a joy no one could take away.

Reflection

The disciples struggled to understand Jesus' words because grief and confusion often cloud our faith. Yet Jesus was preparing them: His temporary absence through death would cause sorrow, but His resurrection would bring unshakable joy.

In the same way, we may go through seasons where we feel as if Jesus is "absent" from our circumstances. But His resurrection reminds us that sorrow is never the end. Temporary grief can be transformed into lasting joy when we hold onto His promises. The presence of Christ assures us that our hope is secure, even when we don't fully understand.

Application & Prayer

Even when Jesus seems "absent," continue to trust Him.

As followers of Christ, be patient in trials. Place your faith in Him, and walk in obedience to His Word and commandments.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that sorrow is never the final word. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for opening my understanding and guiding me in truth. Even when I face struggles, help me to keep faith, to be patient, and to obey Your Word. Thank You for the joy that comes from Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 10

Joy No One Can Take Away

Author: Maria Bermoy

John 16:20-22 (NIV) *Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

Key Truth

Jesus assured His disciples that their sorrow would be temporary. Like a woman's labour pains, their grief at His death would soon be replaced by lasting joy at His resurrection. This joy is not like the fleeting happiness of the world—it is complete, permanent, and cannot be taken away.

Reflection

This passage encourages and reminds us that trials and sorrow are temporary, but in Christ, they can be transformed into joy. Just as labour pains give way to the joy of new life, our struggles will one day give way to eternal rejoicing because of Jesus' resurrection.

Our relationship with Jesus is the true source of long-lasting joy, one that cannot be stolen by worldly pain. Even when we feel sorrow now, we can look forward with hope, because His resurrection is the ultimate guarantee of joy and eternal life.

Application & Prayer

When pain and trials come, remember God's promises.

Focus on Jesus—His teachings, His commandments, and His resurrection—because in Him we find eternal life.

Thank You, God. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for revealing this message to me. Guide me in every aspect as I read Your Word. Help me understand it, live by it, and apply it in my daily life. Thank You for the eternal joy that comes from Christ alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 11

Ask In Jesus' Name, Receive With Joy

Author: Sally Aquino

John 16:23-24 (NIV) *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

Key Truth

Because Jesus was about to depart (through the cross and resurrection) and send the Spirit, he opened a new and direct access to the Father. We are invited to ask the Father in Jesus' name—standing in his authority and character—and he delights to answer in ways that bring us into fullness of joy.

Reflection

Jesus assures us that prayer in his name is not a formula but a reality of relationship. To ask “in my name” means aligning with who Jesus is, his will, his purposes, and his glory. Such prayer is heard and draws us into the Father's heart. Where have we held back from asking? Today, Jesus invites us to come boldly, knowing that joy comes when we experience God's faithful answers.

Application & Prayer

Bring specific requests to the Father in Jesus' name. Let the question shape your prayers, “Does this reflect Jesus' heart?” If so, ask with confidence. Keep a simple prayer log to record what you ask and how God answers, so that joy is trained into your heart through remembrance.

Father, thank you for opening the way to come to you through Jesus. Teach me to ask in his name, aligned with his heart, and fill me with the joy that comes from answered prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 12

The Father Himself Loves You

Author: Sally Aquino

John 16:25-27 (NIV) *Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

Key Truth

Jesus assures us that the Father himself loves us. We don't come as beggars, but as children welcomed directly by the Father.

Reflection

Our access to the Father is immediate and intimate. Through Jesus, we are not spiritual orphans but beloved children. This assurance should shape our prayers—not fearful or distant, but secure in his love.

Application & Prayer

Begin prayer by receiving the Father's love: "Abba, you love me in Christ." Pray simply and plainly, entrusting all things into his care.

Loving Father, thank you for welcoming me in Jesus. Help me live and pray as your child, confident and at peace in your love. Amen.

Day 13

Holding Fast to the Truth

Author: Cindy Gan

John 16:28-30 (NIV) *I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."*

Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

Key Truth

Jesus plainly revealed His divine origin and mission. The disciples responded with belief, but their faith would soon be tested. True faith is more than knowing the truth—it is holding fast to it when trials come.

Reflection

Up until this moment, Jesus often taught through parables, symbolic language, and questions. But here in verse 28, He speaks plainly: He came from the Father, entered the world, and would soon return. For the disciples, this brought a sudden sense of clarity, and they expressed belief with confidence.

Yet Jesus knew their belief was fragile. In just a short while, they would scatter in fear (v.32). This tension between clarity and fragility is something we know well. We say we believe Jesus holds the future, yet when trials strike, we find ourselves shaken.

Faith is not just about hearing or knowing—it is about holding on when everything else trembles. Like the disciples, we may falter, but Jesus remains the same: the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is patient with us, and in His grace, He leads us back when our faith is tested.

Application & Prayer

- How does Jesus' direct revelation in verse 28 strengthen your conviction and give you purpose?
- What area of your life feels most shaken right now, and how can you actively cling to Jesus as your anchor?

Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing Yourself so clearly as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Forgive me when I falter in trials and forget what I know to be true. Strengthen my faith to hold onto You when everything else feels uncertain, so that I may carry Your mission with courage. Amen.

Day 14

Peace in the Midst of Tribulation

Author: Ofelia Fajardo

John 16:31-33 (NIV) *"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.*

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Key Truth

Jesus prepared His disciples for trials ahead, but also assured them of His peace. Our faith may be tested, but we can take heart because Christ has already overcome the world.

Reflection

The disciples thought they had reached understanding, but Jesus pressed deeper: their faith would soon be tested, and they would scatter. He did not sugarcoat the reality of hardship—trouble was coming. Yet into this sobering truth, He spoke an eternal promise: *"Take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Here is the hope of the gospel. Jesus is not overcome by our weakness, nor by the world's trouble. His victory is complete. We are not promised a trouble-free life, but we are promised His peace in the midst of tribulation. That peace flows not from circumstances, but from the unchanging reality that Christ reigns victorious.

For every believer walking through trial, these words are an anchor. You are not abandoned; the Father is with you. And you can face tomorrow because Jesus has overcome.

Application & Prayer

- What tribulation or pressure are you facing today? Instead of asking for an escape, ask for His peace in the midst of it.
- Write down one way you can "take heart" in Jesus this week as a declaration of trust in His victory.

Thank You, Lord, for the assurance of Your peace. When my faith is tested and I feel like giving up, help me to cling to Your Word. Remind me day and night of Your faithfulness. May I take heart, knowing that You have overcome the world, and in You I will find peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 15

The Helper Will Teach You

Author: Serene Lo

John 14:25-26 (NIV) *“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit teaches, reminds, and guides believers in the truth of Christ.

Reflection

Jesus knew that His disciples would face moments of confusion and uncertainty after His departure. So He made them a promise: that the Father would send a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

This Helper would not only be with them but also dwell within them, teaching them all things and reminding them of what Jesus had said. What a comfort that must have been to those who had walked so closely with Him, knowing they wouldn't have to rely on memory or understanding alone.

And what assurance it brings us today: we are not left alone. The Holy Spirit continues to work in us-illuminating Scripture, deepening our understanding, and guiding us into truth. He helps us recall what Jesus has spoken, especially when we need it most.

In every season, the Spirit is present and faithful. He is not just a helper in name, but our active, personal teacher in the journey of faith.

Application & Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher today. As you read Scripture, ask Him to bring to remembrance Jesus' words.

Holy Spirit, I welcome You. Teach me today. Open my heart to understand Jesus' words and remind me of what I need to know and live out. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 16

Peace That The World Cannot Give

Author: Serene Lo

John 14:27 (NIV) *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Key Truth

The peace of Jesus surpasses worldly understanding and calms troubled hearts.

Reflection

Jesus offers a peace that is not dependent on our surroundings or situations.

The world gives peace through control, stability, or the absence of conflict—but it is often fragile and temporary. Jesus provides something more profound: the peace of knowing that we belong to Him, and that He holds ALL things, even when life feels uncertain or out of control. His peace isn't the removal of storms, but the stillness that comes in the midst of them.

It is a peace that guards our hearts, steadies our minds, and reminds us that we are not alone. When we receive His peace, we're not just comforted—we're anchored.

Application & Prayer

When you feel anxious, pause and declare Jesus' peace over your heart and mind.

Lord Jesus, I receive Your peace—quiet every fear and storm in me. Let my heart rest in the confidence that You are with me and for me. Amen.

Day 17

Obedience That Flows From Love

Author: Serene Lo

John 14:28–31 (NIV) *“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.*

Key Truth

True love for the Father is shown through willing obedience, even in hardship.

Reflection

As Jesus prepared to face the cross, He reassured His disciples that His departure was not defeat but fulfilment of the Father’s plan. Though Satan—the prince of this world—was at work, Jesus declared that the enemy had no power over Him. The cross was not Satan’s triumph but Jesus’ act of love and obedience to the Father.

In a world that resists God, Jesus’ obedience shows us what true love looks like: surrender to the Father’s will, even at great cost. His example challenges us—do we obey out of duty, or from genuine love for God?

Application & Prayer

Take a moment to examine your heart: Is there an area where God is asking for obedience? Choose to respond in love, not fear or reluctance.

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me what it means to love the Father through obedience. Teach me to follow You with a willing heart. Help me to obey even when it costs, trusting that love always leads the way. Amen.

Day 18

Abide And Bear Fruit

Author: Serene Lo

John 15:1–4 (NIV) *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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.”*

Key Truth

Fruitfulness flows from abiding in Christ and surrendering to the Father’s pruning.

Reflection

Jesus reveals a vital spiritual principle: true life and lasting fruitfulness come only from abiding in Him. He is the true vine—our source of nourishment, strength, and growth. The Father, as the gardener, lovingly tends to us, pruning away what hinders so that we may bear even more fruit. Pruning is never punishment but preparation; it may be painful, yet it is purposeful.

Too often, we long for fruit without the process, results without pruning. But real transformation takes place only when we remain close to Christ through His Word, in prayer, and by daily surrender. Abiding is not a one-time decision but a continual posture of dependence. As we stay connected to Him, His life flows through us, and the fruit we bear brings glory to the Father.

Application & Prayer

Today, set aside focused time to abide in Jesus. Quiet your heart in His presence, let His Word dwell richly in you, and invite Him to prune what hinders growth. Pray for grace to remain in Him daily, that His life may bear lasting fruit through you.

Lord Jesus, I choose to remain in You. Teach me to stay connected to Your heart each day. Father, even when pruning is painful, I trust You’re making me more fruitful. Help me to abide and grow. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 19

Disciples Marked By Fruit

Author: Kelvin Leong

John 15:5-8 (NIV) *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

Key Truth

Jesus' disciples are identified by fruitful abiding.

Reflection

When Jesus declared, "I am the true vine," He was making clear that He is the only true source of spiritual life, strength, and growth. The Father is the gardener who lovingly tends the vine and cares for its branches. Just as a vinedresser ensures branches remain healthy and fruitful, the Father tenderly cares for us, pruning away what hinders Christlikeness.

This pruning is not punishment but preparation. Through His Word and through life's circumstances, the Father cuts away resentment, pride, selfishness, and anything opposed to the character of Christ. His goal is that we bear the fruit of Christlikeness, seen in the Spirit's work of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23). These qualities reflect the life of Jesus formed in us by the Spirit.

Our responsibility is to abide, to remain in living communion with Christ through His Word, prayer, and obedience. When we abide in Him, our lives align with His will, and we become fruitful disciples who bring glory to the Father.

Application & Prayer

Are you in the middle of a pruning process? Are there old habits, attitudes, or behaviours that God is cutting away? Yield to His loving work, trusting that pruning leads to deeper fruitfulness.

Father, do a deeper work in my life through the Holy Spirit. Prune away what hinders me, and give me a willing spirit to abide in You daily, that my life may bear fruit that glorifies You. Amen.

Day 20

Abiding In Love And Joy

Author: Kelvin Leong

John 15:9-11 (NIV) *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

Key Truth

Those who abide in Christ are enriched with His love and joy.

Reflection

Jesus’ command to “remain in my love” points first to His love for us, not our love for Him. To remain in His love is to live in the constant light of His sacrificial love. That love carried Him to Calvary, where He bore suffering beyond what we could ever imagine. He endured the cross not only out of love for us but also out of love for the Father. His obedience was rooted in love flowing both toward the Father and toward us.

As children of God’s love, we too are called to obedience. Our obedience is not born of fear but is the overflow of love, made possible because His love has transformed our hearts.

Jesus also promised joy, His joy, divine in nature, unaffected by circumstances or material things. It is not the same as happiness; it abides even in suffering. Joy flows from assurance of our place in Christ and produces strength and faithfulness. This is the joy that carried Jesus through the cross (Heb 12:2), and it is the joy that sustains us in trials.

Application & Prayer

Look to Christ’s example: just as He endured the cross for the joy set before Him, let His joy be your strength and courage in the face of trials.

Father, help me to walk in obedience to Your commands and remain in Your love. Fill me with the joy of Christ, that my heart may be steadfast and my life strengthened to honour You. Amen.

Day 21

Love As I Have Loved You

Author: Elijah Tan

John 15:12-13 (NIV) *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Key Truth

We can love others even when it's difficult because Christ first loved us, and the Spirit empowers us to do the same.

Reflection

The heart of this passage is “laying down one’s life.” Christ showed us that love is not merely an emotion but an action. He demonstrated love in countless ways—washing His disciples’ feet, speaking truth even when it was hard to hear, and ultimately giving His life on the cross.

Throughout Scripture, we see God’s faithful love for His people, even when they didn’t deserve it. Love is not offered as a suggestion but given as a command: “Love each other as I have loved you.”

In our own lives, we often face moments when loving others feels almost impossible—an irritating colleague, a friend who betrayed us, or even a leader who has caused us pain. Yet as followers of Christ, we are still called to love. When we abide in Christ, the true Vine, we bear fruit that brings glory to God. The Holy Spirit fills us with His love daily and empowers us to extend it to others, so that they, too, may encounter the saving love of Jesus.

Application & Prayer

Is there someone you’re struggling to love? What is holding you back from loving them as Christ has loved you?

Pause in God’s presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart, reveal any barriers, and help you surrender them. Hand your pain and struggles to Him, and receive His strength to love as Jesus loves.

Father in heaven, I bring my pain, grief, and struggles before You. I long to abide in You and obey Your commands. Holy Spirit, empower me to love others with the same love Christ has shown me, so that my life may bear fruit that glorifies Him. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Day 22

Chosen To Bear Fruit

Author: Elijah Tan

John 15:14-17 (NIV) *You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.*

Key Truth

We are set apart, yet still in the world, so that we can continue to bear fruit that lasts—not out of duty, but out of love and reverence for God.

Reflection

Yesterday, we were reminded that we are called to love each other, even when it is difficult, just as Christ has loved us. Today, Jesus takes us deeper into our relationship with Him.

In verse 15, He says we are no longer servants, because servants do not know their master's business. Instead, He calls us friends, for everything He has learned from the Father He has made known to us. This means that we no longer serve God merely out of duty, but out of intimacy and love. We are invited to participate in His grand plan—to restore creation and bring it to its intended perfection (Romans 8:19–21).

Verse 16 reminds us: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” As His friends, we are chosen and set apart to bear lasting fruit, and we now have access to the Father in prayer, asking according to His will. Though we live in the world, we are called to be set apart for Him, reflecting His heart and sharing His love with those around us.

Application & Prayer

Reflect: How does knowing that you are chosen and appointed by Jesus affect the way you see your purpose and worth?

Examine: Are there areas in your life where you are serving out of duty like a servant, instead of walking in intimacy as a friend of Jesus?

Act: Identify one tangible way you can bear fruit this week—whether through Christlike love, intentional service, or sharing the gospel.

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me Your friend and sharing Your heart with me. Help me to live in intimacy with You, not out of duty but out of love. Empower me to bear fruit that lasts, to reflect Your love to those around me, and to participate in Your grand plan of restoration. Holy Spirit, guide me each day to obey, serve, and love in alignment with Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 23

The Gift Of The Advocate

Author: Zacarius Toh

John 16:5-7 (NIV) ... but now I am going to Him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Key Truth

Jesus' departure was necessary so that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, could come. This was not a loss but a gift, because the Spirit's presence strengthens, guides, and empowers us to live as God intends.

Reflection

In life and ministry, we often grow dependent on a leader, mentor, or even a boss. The thought of their departure can evoke fear, grief, and uncertainty. Yet, their departure sometimes creates space for us to grow, take ownership, and step into new responsibilities.

Jesus told His disciples that His departure was not abandonment but essential for their good. Only through His death, resurrection, and ascension could the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, come. This was a promise, not a loss. The Spirit is our ever-present Helper who comforts (John 14:16), assures us we are not orphans (John 14:18), convicts the world of sin and righteousness (John 16:8), and guides us into all truth (John 16:13). What once seemed impossible is now possible because of His presence.

So when we face change or loss, let us not stay in grief. The Advocate is with us. Through Him, we are never alone, but fully equipped to grow, serve, and bear fruit until Christ returns.

Application & Prayer

Is there an area of your life where you've been overly reliant on someone else or held back by fear of change? Ask God to open your heart to the Holy Spirit's presence. Invite Him to empower your weakness, guide your steps, and remind you that you are never alone.

Lord, thank You for sending the Advocate to be with me. Forgive me for the times I rely more on people than on Your Spirit. Teach me to trust in Your presence and step forward with courage, knowing the Spirit empowers, guides, and strengthens me. Help me grow in faith and obedience, and serve faithfully until the day You return. Amen.

Day 24

Conviction Of The Spirit

Author: Audrey Yap

John 16:8-11 (NIV) *When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit shows the world what it cannot see on its own. He reveals the seriousness of sin. For those who do not believe in Jesus, the greatest sin is unbelief that keeps them from the only One who can save. He reveals the beauty of Christ's righteousness, proven as Jesus stands at the Father's right hand. He also makes clear the certainty of judgment, which has already been declared over Satan and will come for all who reject Christ. This conviction is not meant to crush but to lead people to Jesus, where they can find freedom, forgiveness, and victory.

Reflection

It is the Holy Spirit who convicts people of their need for God and draws them to Christ. Conviction is His work alone, yet God chooses to work through our witness as part of His plan. We share what Christ has done in our lives and speak His gospel with readiness, gentleness, and respect (Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Romans 10:14-15). This frees us from the pressure of trying to "make" someone believe, yet it calls us to live and speak in ways that point to Jesus (Matthew 5:16). As we witness, we rely on the Spirit to open blind eyes, soften hard hearts (Ezekiel 36:26), and bring people to true repentance and faith. Our role is to shine the light of Christ and to trust the Spirit to do what only He can do.

Application & Prayer

Does your life and speech point others to Jesus? When faced with gossip, dishonesty, or compromise, do you ask the Spirit for strength to stand firm in truth, even when it is costly? Living for Christ may bring challenges, but the Spirit is with you to give courage and grace.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people in your life who do not yet know Christ. Write down their names and commit to praying for them regularly—for example, once a week. Pray that the Spirit would reveal to them the seriousness of sin, the beauty of Christ's righteousness, and the certainty of God's judgment.

Pray also for yourself—for boldness, the right words, and a life that reflects the gospel clearly whenever the opportunity arises.

Day 25

Guided By The Spirit Of Truth

Author: Vincent Toh

John 16:12-13 (NIV) *I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

Key Truth

Even when we cannot fully grasp God's plan—especially in times of uncertainty and suffering—we can rest in the promise of the Holy Spirit. He is not just a doctrine but our daily Guide, leading us into truth, assuring us of our eternal future, and empowering us to persevere faithfully each day.

Reflection

These verses remind us of our human limitations. There are moments in life when we cannot understand God's purposes, when His plan feels too heavy for us to bear. Yet Jesus promises that the Spirit of truth will come to guide us. This is not a distant promise—it is a present reality.

In hardship, we can lean on the Spirit as our Comforter and Helper. He gently leads us deeper into God's truth, reframing our pain with eternal perspective. Instead of being trapped by temporary struggles, He lifts our eyes toward the hope of everlasting life. The Spirit does not leave us to figure things out alone; He speaks what He hears from the Father and Son, ensuring that we are walking in step with God's will.

The greatest comfort is knowing that we are never abandoned. The Spirit lives in us—not as a silent presence, but as an active Advocate who strengthens, guides, and assures us on the journey.

Application & Prayer

When I feel lonely or lost, am I treating the Holy Spirit as just an idea, or am I leaning on Him as my daily reality? He is the living Comforter who can shift my perspective and guide me through every season.

Lord, I confess my tendency to keep You at a distance. Draw me closer and teach me to rely on Your Spirit each day. Be my Comforter, shift my focus, and guide me even when I don't understand. I choose to trust You. Amen.

Day 26

Surrender, Not Striving

Author: Jennifer Pang

John 16:14-15 (NIV) *He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."*

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit's primary work is to glorify Jesus by taking what belongs to Him, all that comes from the Father, and making it known to us. This means we do not need to strive in our own strength. The Spirit reveals Jesus' truth, love, and power in our hearts and lives so that Christ is glorified through us.

Reflection

I often feel the pressure to "do better" or "try harder" to glorify God. But Jesus reminds me that glory is not something I create; it is the Spirit's work within me. My role is to stay open, attentive, and obedient to His voice, trusting Him to guide my thoughts, words, and actions.

When I read the Bible, simply reading the words is not enough. I need the Spirit's help to grasp their meaning and apply them to my life. Without His guidance, I can easily miss the deeper truths God wants me to see. The Spirit reveals Jesus' love, power, and truth in ways I could never produce on my own.

God longs to be known by me. He desires that I understand His character, His plan, and His love. Glorifying Jesus is less about striving and more about surrender, allowing the Spirit to transform me so that Christ shines through every part of my life.

Application & Prayer

In what areas do you feel pressure to "do better" to honour God? How could inviting the Spirit's guidance change your approach?

How can you ask the Spirit to help you understand God's Word today? Is there a verse you would like His insight on?

What might surrendering to the Spirit look like for you this week? How could others see Christ through you?

Holy Spirit, thank You for revealing Jesus to me and leading me into truth. Help me remain open, attentive, and obedient to Your voice. Teach me to understand God's Word and let it shape my life. Transform my thoughts, words, and actions so that Christ shines through me. May my life glorify Jesus, not through my striving but through surrendering fully to You. Amen.

Day 27

When We Cannot Pray, the Spirit Intercedes

Author: Maureen Khoo

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit intercedes in our weakness, reminding us that our words are limited and inadequate. In our struggles He prays with groans too deep for words, aligning our hearts with the perfect will of God.

Reflection

There are times when life's burdens weigh so heavily that we do not even know what to pray for. Our words fall short, our minds feel blank, and our emotions overwhelm us. But God has not left us alone in such weakness. Paul reminds us that the Spirit Himself steps in, interceding for us with groans beyond language.

This is more than comfort; it is power. The Spirit does not merely echo our confused prayers but translates them into petitions aligned with God's perfect will. What we cannot articulate, He makes clear. Where our will falters, He bends it toward God's heart. This means that even in silence, tears, or sighs, we are not praying alone. The Spirit prays within us and for us.

Application & Prayer

When you feel unable to pray, don't despair. Sit quietly before God and let the Spirit's presence fill the silence. Trust that your weakness is not a barrier but an invitation for the Spirit to work deeply. Ask God to align your desires with His will through the Spirit's intercession.

Holy Spirit, thank You for helping me in my weakness. When words fail, You intercede for me with groans too deep for words. Align my will with the Father's, so that even in silence my heart is praying according to His purpose. Teach me to trust Your presence when I feel inadequate, and remind me that I am never alone in prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 28

Come And Drink

Author: Douglas Choo

John 7:37 (NIV) *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."*

Key Truth

On the climactic final day of Sukkot, the Festival of Tabernacles, which celebrated God's provision and the harvest, Jesus drew on the festival's imagery of water and spiritual longing. In Jewish tradition, water symbolised both the rains that sustained physical life and the Spirit who brings God's blessing. When Jesus declared, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink," He revealed Himself as the true source of living water. He invites all who are spiritually thirsty to come to Him for the satisfaction that nothing else can give.

Reflection

I know what it feels like to be spiritually thirsty. It's that deep ache for meaning, peace, and connection with God, a hunger that nothing in this world can satisfy. Sometimes it happens when life feels empty despite outward success. At other times, it comes in moments of struggle, when the soul yearns for something more.

Jesus' invitation is personal. He calls me not just to believe in Him from a distance but to draw near, to receive from Him, and to be filled. When I come to Him, my dryness gives way to renewal, my emptiness is replaced by joy, and His life flows within me. What He offers isn't temporary relief. It's a lasting fullness that satisfies my deepest longings and overflows so I can bless others.

Application & Prayer

Are you longing for peace? Does life's weight feel too heavy to bear? Find a quiet place and draw near to Jesus. Bring your Bible, a journal, and an open heart. Wait for the Holy Spirit's gentle whisper and write what He speaks to you. Follow His leading, and may His peace wrap around your soul and guard your heart.

Lord Jesus, I come to You thirsty. Fill me with Your living water. Satisfy the deepest places of my heart and let Your peace overflow through my life. In Your Name, Amen.

Day 29

Be Empowered For Witness And Ministry

Author: Patricia Choo

John 7:38 (NIV) *Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

Key Truth

The Feast of Booths (Sukkot) was a joyful celebration remembering God's protection and provision during Israel's 40 years in the wilderness. On the final day, during the water-pouring ceremony, Jesus revealed Himself as the true source of spiritual life and refreshment. The "living water" He promised is the Holy Spirit, given to all who believe in Him.

Reflection

Jesus' promise of "rivers of living water" is for whoever believes in Him—those who not only agree with Him intellectually, but surrender to Him as Lord and Saviour. The moment we believe, the Holy Spirit is given to us, and the river begins to flow. By saying, "as Scripture has said," Jesus points to the Old Testament promises of life-giving water (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 47), now fulfilled in Himself. This "living water" is an abundant, unending flow of spiritual vitality, renewal, and eternal life, poured into believers through the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, and reveal the fullness of God.

The flow is not meant to remain within us like a stagnant pond; the Spirit moves from our innermost being—our heart and spirit—overflowing to refresh, heal, and bring life to others. This is the life Jesus offers: not self-contained religion, but a Spirit-empowered witness and ministry that blesses our families, communities, and the world for God's glory.

Application & Prayer

Are you weary or feeling spiritually dry? Pray and ask Jesus to fill you with His living water until you overflow. Let the Holy Spirit within you refresh and renew you. Refuse to remain stagnant, allow His life to flow through you in words, actions, and love, bringing encouragement and hope to your family, neighbours, and community. Let His Spirit use you to bring life, healing, and truth wherever you go.

Lord Jesus, fill us with Your living water until it overflows from our lives to others. Refresh us, renew us, and keep us from growing stagnant. Let Your Spirit flow through us to bring blessing and life to every place I step. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 30

Be Empowered For Witness And Ministry

Author: Patricia Choo

John 7:39 (NIV) *By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

Reflection

When Jesus spoke of “rivers of living water” flowing from within, He was pointing to the gift of the Holy Spirit. At that time, however, the Spirit had not yet been given in His fullness, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. Though the Spirit was already at work in creation and in the lives of God’s people, His dwelling within every believer was still a future promise.

This promise was fulfilled after Christ’s redemptive work was complete. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out as God had foretold through the prophets. Now, the Spirit is not reserved for a select few but is given to every believer in Christ. His presence transforms us from within, gives us strength to obey God, and empowers us to share His life with others. Today, we live in the fullness of what was once anticipated: the Spirit of God dwelling within us.

Key Truth

When John says, “the Spirit had not been given,” it does not mean the Spirit was absent before Christ. The Holy Spirit has always existed, present from creation itself, “hovering over the waters” in Genesis. Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit empowered God’s people at specific times and for particular tasks. Yet something greater was still to come. The permanent indwelling of the Spirit in every believer awaited the finished work of Jesus—His death, resurrection, and ascension. Only then would God pour out His Spirit in fullness upon all who believe.

Application & Prayer

Jesus lived His earthly ministry in the fullness of the Spirit, and He promised the same Helper would one day live in His followers. That promise is now ours. The Spirit within us gives us everything we need for life and godliness, as 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now empowers us to overcome weakness, walk in holiness, and be bold witnesses for Christ.

Pause for a moment. Breathe deeply and invite the Holy Spirit to fill your heart again. Ask Him to show you where you need His power today—whether in your struggles, your relationships, or your ministry. Wait quietly in His presence, and allow His Spirit to refresh and strengthen you for the journey ahead.

Day 31

Not Of This World

Author: Woon Hin Swee

John 15:18-21 (NIV) *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me."*

Key Truth

The word "hate" used by Jesus is very strong. It shows that the world we live in is ruled by a fallen nature that stands in opposition to the divine nature of God. As followers of Christ, we do not belong to this world but are partakers of God's divine nature. If our lives receive love and affirmation from the world, it should serve as a warning sign that we may have departed from our walk with Him.

Reflection

This passage reminds us of 1 John 2:15-16: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."

Walking deeper with the Holy Spirit gives us a newness of life that is radically different from the one we lived before Christ. Our source of joy and assurance no longer comes from worldly acceptance but from God's presence and His daily interventions in our lives. The world's hostility toward us is not a sign of God's absence but evidence that we belong to Him.

As disciples, we are called to embrace the reality that following Jesus will bring opposition, yet we are never left alone. His Spirit within us gives strength, comfort, and courage to endure, and His love assures us that we are truly His.

Application & Prayer

We often think that a blessed life is free from trials and tribulations. We may wish God would take us quickly to the end of our struggles. Yet the true blessing is His presence, walking with us through every trial, shaping us into overcomers.

Do you recognise God's presence carrying you through your current trial? Ask Him to open your eyes to see His hand at work, and pray for a heart that rejoices not in the absence of hardship but in the assurance that He is with you.

Lord Jesus, thank You that true blessing is not the absence of trials but Your presence with me in them. Help me not to fear the world's hatred or be discouraged by difficulties, but to remember that I belong to You. Teach me to rely on Your Spirit, to walk faithfully even when the road is hard, and

to see Your hand carrying me through. Make me an overcomer who reflects Your love and truth in this world. Amen.

Day 32

Open My Eyes To See Jesus

Author: Chan Batching

John 15:22-25 (NIV) *If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'*

Key Truth

In our fallen nature, we cannot comprehend the things of God. Even when Jesus stood among them, many could not recognise Him as the One sent from heaven. Instead, they rejected, despised, and sought to remove Him. We need divine revelation for our spiritual eyes to be opened so we may truly know Him as Lord and Saviour.

Reflection

Since Adam and Eve's rebellion, the whole world has been under the sway of Satan's kingdom. Each generation has drifted further from the knowledge of God, leaving humanity with eyes blinded and hearts hardened.

Some argue that they cannot believe in God because they cannot see Him, yet Scripture tells us that God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly revealed through creation and His Word. The problem is not a lack of evidence, but the suppression of truth through human sin and pride. No one can come to an accurate knowledge of God through arguments or reasoning alone.

What we need is the Spirit's illumination. Only the Holy Spirit can pierce through the blindness of our hearts, reveal Jesus as the Son of God, and draw us to respond to His love. Let us humbly ask the Spirit to open our eyes to see Christ for who He truly is.

Application & Prayer

Do you struggle to understand God's Word or feel distant from Him? Take a quiet moment to sit before Him and sincerely pray:

O Holy Spirit, please open my eyes and reveal Jesus to me. Lead me deeper into the knowledge of His love.

Day 33

Empowered To Proclaim

Author: Josefa Firmacion

Acts 1:1-3 (NIV) *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*

Key Truth

What is written in the Bible about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the foundation of our faith and message. Jesus showed Himself to many witnesses after His resurrection, proving that He is alive, victorious over death, and Lord of the kingdom of God. This kingdom must be proclaimed in the power of the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus and now indwells every believer.

Reflection

So often we shrink back from fulfilling our calling to share the good news of salvation. Fear, insecurity, or feelings of inadequacy may silence us. Yet Jesus, even in His glorified body after the resurrection, relied not on His own strength but on the power of the Holy Spirit. He instructed His disciples through the Spirit and commissioned them to proclaim the kingdom.

If Jesus Himself depended on the Spirit, how much more should we? The same Spirit lives in us, guiding, empowering, and reminding us of all that Jesus taught. Our task is not to rely on ourselves but to surrender to Him, dig deep into the truth of His Word, and obey His instructions. As we do, we become bold witnesses of the risen Christ, carrying His message to a world in need.

Application & Prayer

What fears hold you back from sharing the gospel? Spend time in God's Word and in His presence, letting His truth reshape your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and to empower you in your weakness. Pray: "Holy Spirit, help me, guide me, and flow through me as I share the kingdom of God. I rely on Your power and believe I can obey because You are with me."

Holy Spirit, You know my heart and my desire to follow and obey You. Strengthen my faith to believe I can do what the Word calls me to do, not in my strength but in Yours. Remind me that Your power and authority are at work in me. Help me to trust that You are always with me, enabling me to fulfil the mission You've given me. Amen.

Day 34

The Gift Worth Waiting For

Author: Josefa Firmacion

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV) *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

Key Truth

God the Father has a gift for His children. To receive this gift, we must wait in patient trust. The promise is reliable, for the One who gave it is faithful and true.

Reflection

We all know the pain of promises broken. People may assure us of many things but fail to deliver, no matter how much we hope or wait. Yet Jesus tells His disciples to wait for the Father's gift — the Holy Spirit. This waiting is never in vain, because God is faithful. What He promises, He always fulfills.

The Holy Spirit is not just any gift; He is the presence and power of God in us. He teaches us, comforts us, empowers us, and guides us into all truth. Without Him, our service becomes empty effort. With Him, our lives overflow with God's strength and His kingdom advances on earth.

Application & Prayer

Are you weary of waiting for God's promise in your life, especially in times of difficulty? Do not give up. Trust the Lord who commands us to wait. The Holy Spirit we wait for is not distant — He is our Helper, our Comforter, and our Teacher. As we wait, He prepares our hearts to receive Him fully.

Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgive me for the times I grow impatient in waiting for Your promises. Teach me to trust in Your timing, knowing You are faithful and true. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit, that I may walk in Your power, serve with joy, and live for the glory of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgive me for the times I grow impatient in waiting for Your promises. Teach me to trust in Your timing, knowing You are faithful and true. Fill me afresh with Your Spirit, that I may walk in Your power, serve with joy, and live for the glory of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 35

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Author: Celine Peng

Acts 1:6-8 (NIV) *Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Key Truth

Jesus redirected His disciples from narrow expectations of a political kingdom to God's greater vision: a Spirit-empowered global mission.

Reflection

The disciples, still holding on to old hopes, asked if now was the time for Israel's restoration. Their concern was national, immediate, and limited. But Jesus lifted their eyes higher. Instead of giving them a timetable, He gave them a mission. Instead of political restoration, He promised spiritual transformation.

The mission of Jesus is not confined by borders or timelines. It stretches beyond Israel to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The same Spirit who empowered Jesus now empowers His people. Their waiting (Acts 1:4–5) was not passive but purposeful — preparing them to receive power for witness.

This passage reminds us that our vision of God's kingdom is often too small. We long for quick fixes, but Jesus calls us to be part of His greater plan: bearing witness to Him everywhere we go. And this is not in our own strength — only the Spirit makes us bold, faithful, and effective witnesses of the risen Christ.

Application & Prayer

- Where might you be limiting God's kingdom to your own expectations?
- Who is your "Jerusalem" right now — the immediate people and places God is calling you to witness?
- How can you open yourself daily to the Spirit's power so that your life points to Jesus beyond your comfort zone?

Lord Jesus, forgive me for making Your kingdom smaller than it is. Thank You for calling me to be part of Your mission. Fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit so that I may witness boldly in my home, my community, and beyond. Lift my eyes from my small expectations to Your great purposes. May my life testify that You are alive, until the whole world hears. In Your name, Amen.

Day 36

The God Who Strengthens Weak Faith

Author: Celine Peng

Acts 1:9-11 (NIV) *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Key Truth

This passage records the historic event of Jesus' ascension into heaven, witnessed by His disciples. Filled with awe and wonder, they gazed intently into the sky. But God did not leave them in uncertainty—He sent His messengers to remind them of the promise of Christ's return.

Reflection

God never leaves His children as spiritual orphans. Just as Jesus had promised, the Father sent His angels to comfort the disciples with this assurance: *"This same Jesus... will come back in the same way."*

What hope these words must have brought! The Jesus who walked the dusty roads of Galilee, who healed the sick, raised the dead, and forgave sinners—that same Jesus will one day return, not in weakness but in full glory. He is the unchanging God, "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Have you ever doubted whether Jesus can still move in your life today as He once did? Have you wondered if the Savior who rescued you before can do it again? Be encouraged: He is the same Jesus. The same Lord who delivered you, healed you, and carried you in the past will remain faithful. His love and power never change.

Application & Prayer

When faced with trials or doubts, remember the "same Jesus." Write down one way He has shown His faithfulness in your past, and thank Him for it. Then ask Him to strengthen your faith to trust that He will act again in your present situation.

Lord Jesus, thank You for reminding me that You are the same Jesus—yesterday, today, and forever. Bring to my mind the many ways You have shown Your love and faithfulness in my life. When I am unfaithful, remind me that You remain faithful. Help me to stay close to You, to walk in daily communion with You, and to rest in the assurance that You will return in glory. Amen.

Day 37

The Living Temple Of God

Author: Joseph Eu

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV) *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

Key Truth

Collectively, we are the temple of God, meant to reflect His glory.

Reflection

In the Hebrew Scriptures, wind and fire often symbolise God's presence and the formation of His temple. God revealed Himself to Moses in the fire of a burning bush. A blazing fire appeared on Mount Sinai when God met His people after delivering them from Egypt. When the tabernacle was built, God's presence was shown as a pillar of fire. Later, when Israel built a permanent temple, the same fire came down to fill it with His glory.

These "divine fire" moments foreshadow what takes place in Acts 2. Verse 1 can also be translated, "When the day of Pentecost was fulfilled." But here, instead of fire resting on a physical temple, it rests on an unexpected group of people. God was forming a new kind of temple—not built with stone or confined to one place, but made of people filled with His Spirit and sent into the world. This living temple bears witness to the risen Jesus by reflecting His love. Today, we too collectively carry God's presence so that others may encounter and know His glory through us.

Application & Prayer

How are you reflecting God's glory where you have been placed—at work, in school, in national service, or at home? Take time today to wait upon the Spirit, desiring to be filled once again just as at Pentecost.

Holy Spirit, thank You that You have made us Your dwelling place. Fill me afresh today, as You did on the day of Pentecost. Help me reflect God's glory wherever I am placed—in my home, in my workplace, and among my community. Teach me to live in the way of Jesus, so that others may see Your love through me and be drawn to know You. Make me part of Your living temple, carrying Your presence into the world. Amen.

Day 38

Bridging Barriers By The Spirit

Author: Joseph Eu

Acts 2:5-8 *Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"*

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit empowers us to bridge barriers.

Reflection

At Pentecost, the Spirit wasted no time in breaking barriers to welcome others into God's family. He empowered the disciples to cross the language barrier, enabling Jews from across the diaspora to hear the gospel in their own tongue. Speaking to someone in a language they understand is an act of deep hospitality. It reminds us that the Bible is available in our own languages today because Spirit-filled followers of Jesus believed everyone should encounter God in words they can understand.

This was only the beginning. The Spirit would later lead the disciples to cross cultural, economic, and social boundaries, sending them as witnesses to the ends of the earth. Notice too that the disciples did not initiate this miracle—it was born from God's own desire for all people to hear and experience His presence. Today, God still chooses to use us to bridge the many barriers of our world. As we yield to the Spirit, He may lead us in ways that surpass our expectations or even our understanding.

Application & Prayer

Who are the people across barriers in your life that the Spirit may be inviting you to reach out to and include in God's family? Pray for a heart that is sensitive and yielded to the Spirit's desires. Ask Him to empower you to reflect God's hospitality in ways that bridge divides and reveal His love.

Holy Spirit, thank You for breaking barriers at Pentecost so that all could hear the good news. I confess that at times I shrink back from reaching across divides of language, culture, or comfort. Fill me with Your love and courage to reflect the heart of Jesus. Use me as an instrument of hospitality, that through my words and actions, others may see Your glory and know they are welcome in Your family. Lead me to those You are drawing, and empower me to obey. Amen.

Day 39

What Does This Mean?

Author: Maureen Khoo

Acts 2:9-13 (NIV) *Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!* Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Key Truth

The Spirit speaks in ways that reach every heart, yet God’s work always calls for interpretation. Signs alone stir amazement, but it is the Word that gives meaning.

Reflection

When the crowd heard the disciples declaring God’s wonders in many languages, they were amazed and asked, “*What does this mean?*” God’s work was clear, but its meaning was not. Some responded with curiosity, others with mockery. This shows us that whenever God acts, responses will be mixed. Signs point to something greater, but they need the Word of God to be explained.

This is still true today. Visitors or friends who come to church may witness God’s presence yet leave with the same question in their hearts. While the Spirit plants the seed, He calls us not to be careless but to come alongside them with sensitivity, hospitality, and words that point them to Jesus. At the same time, when we are amazed by God’s work in our own community—whether through growth in church, ministries, or LifeGroups—we too must pause and ask, “*Lord, what does this mean?*” so we do not miss His deeper purpose behind the blessing.

Application & Prayer

- Who in your life may be quietly asking, “*What does this mean?*” Pray for sensitivity to the Spirit, and be ready to help them take the next step toward Christ.
- When you see God at work in your church or ministry, don’t stop at amazement. Ask God to reveal His deeper purpose, and seek how He is inviting you to join in.

Holy Spirit, thank You for planting seeds through Your work. Forgive me when I have been careless with people who are searching for meaning, and forgive me also for the times I have missed the deeper connection of what You are doing. Make me sensitive and bold to point others to Jesus. And when I see growth or blessing, teach me not just to marvel, but to ask what You are saying and how I should respond. Amen.

Day 40

What Shall We Do?

Author: Maureen Khoo

Acts 2:37-39 (NIV) *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Key Truth

The gospel is never powerless. It carries the power of God to convict, to save, and to give the Spirit. Repentance opens the way for forgiveness and for the Spirit's fullness. This call is for those who have not yet believed in Christ to turn to Him, and for Christians to keep turning back to Him.

Reflection

On Pentecost, Peter preached a simple message, but the Holy Spirit made it powerful. The crowd was "cut to the heart" and cried out, "What shall we do?" The gospel is God's power for salvation (Romans 1:16), then and now.

Peter's response was clear: *repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*. Repentance is turning from sin and unbelief to Christ. Baptism is the sign of new life in Him. And the Spirit is God's gift of presence and power to every believer.

This call is not just for the first hearers but also for us. Repentance is not a one-time doorway but a daily rhythm of discipleship. It keeps us tender to the Spirit, cleansed from sin, and aligned with God's will. Without repentance we grow dull. With repentance we walk in renewed intimacy, fresh expectation, and Spirit-empowered living.

Application & Prayer

- Do you still believe the gospel carries God's power to convict, save, and fill with the Spirit? Share Christ with confidence, trusting the Spirit to work.
- Is there an area where you need to repent and realign with God? Repentance is not shame but grace—it makes room for the Spirit's fullness.
- If you have not been baptized, consider Peter's invitation. Baptism marks belonging to Christ, forgiveness of sins, and life in the Spirit.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gospel, Your power to save. Forgive me for proclaiming without expectation, and for neglecting repentance in my own life. Holy Spirit, fill me afresh. Keep me tender to Your leading, bold in witness, and alive in Your power. May my life and words point others to Jesus, that many will be cut to the heart and turn to Him. Amen.

