



21-DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

21-Day Bible Reading Plan

**Fasting & Prayer – New Life Fellowship
January 4–24, 2026**

Journey through Romans and Galatians

Over these 21 days, we invite you to seek God, slow down, and let His Word speak deeply to your heart. Together we will walk through two powerful books that help us understand the gospel, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the freedom we have in Christ.

We have also provided a daily devotional guide in this booklet that will encourage you in your walk with the Lord.

Daily Reading Schedule

Week 1 – Romans 1–7

Day 1 – Jan 4: Romans 1
Day 2 – Jan 5: Romans 2
Day 3 – Jan 6: Romans 3
Day 4 – Jan 7: Romans 4
Day 5 – Jan 8: Romans 5
Day 6 – Jan 9: Romans 6
Day 7 – Jan 10: Romans 7

Week 2 – Romans 8–14

Day 8 – Jan 11: Romans 8
Day 9 – Jan 12: Romans 9
Day 10 – Jan 13: Romans 10
Day 11 – Jan 14: Romans 11
Day 12 – Jan 15: Romans 12
Day 13 – Jan 16: Romans 13
Day 14 – Jan 17: Romans 14

Week 3 – Romans 15–16 + Galatians 1–6

Day 15 – Jan 18: Romans 15
Day 16 – Jan 19: Romans 16
Day 17 – Jan 20: Galatians 1
Day 18 – Jan 21: Galatians 2
Day 19 – Jan 22: Galatians 3
Day 20 – Jan 23: Galatians 4
Day 21 – Jan 24: Galatians 5 & 6

21-DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

21-DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

DAY 1 -

The Old and the New.

In Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve had sinned, we read in verse 7 “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked....” I want us to notice here a few words: Eyes, Opened, Knew some versions say Recognized.

Now jump forward to Luke gospel, right after the resurrection of Jesus. There were a few disciples who were walking on the road to a town called Emmaus. They were in sorrow over the death of Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus appears to them and walks with them, yet they were unaware that it was Jesus. They then stop and have a meal together and Jesus blessed, and broke bread and it says this in Luke 24:31, “And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...”

Notice the similar words: Eyes, Opened, Recognized (knew).

In the Old Testament Adam and Eve sinned and their eyes were opened, and they knew or recognized their shame and went and hid – and eventually led out of Eden. In the New Testament after the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples’ eyes were opened, and they recognized their savior – and went back to Jerusalem (which is the new Eden) rejoicing.

Before Jesus our eyes are opened, and we are fully aware of our sin, we are in our shame, trying everything to cover it up. But when we come to Jesus our eyes are open and we know our savior. No shame, but the joy of our salvation. What is your situation today? Are you aware of your sin and in shame – trying to cover it up? Or are you aware of your salvation and living in joyous relationship with Jesus.

DAY 2

“But he lingered.”

During the holidays, we received tons of different treats from people. Bev is a schoolteacher, so many of her students gave her treats and candy for Christmas. We put all these treats in a bowl sitting on our kitchen table, and we ate some throughout the holidays. However, starting the New Year, Bev and I were determined to make some changes in our diet, and one of those changes was to eliminate sugary treats.

We decided to eat better and live healthier, but I noticed the candy bowl still sat on our kitchen table. It was like this little temptation every time I walked into the kitchen. We decided to be healthier – but I allowed the temptation of chocolate goodness to linger. So, this weekend, I threw that bowl of candy in the garbage.

In Genesis 19, we have a story of Lot and his family living in the sinful city of Sodom and Gomorrah. God was about to destroy the city, yet before he destroyed it, he sent angels to come and rescue Lot and his family. We read this in Genesis 19. “As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.” But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.”

Those words, “But he lingered.” Grabbed my attention. Why would he linger when he knew that God was going to destroy the city? Yet, how often do we allow sin to linger? How often do we allow the temptation of something to hang around us instead of getting rid of it? Many of us allow things to linger in our lives rather than getting rid of them.

Right now, you may think that the temptation you let hang around is no big deal and that you can handle it. For how long? Don’t let it linger any longer. Don’t allow sin to linger in your heart – confess it and get rid of it.

The great news about this story is the mercy of God – that the angels seized him and his family and brought them out of the city. God is still merciful today.

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DAY 3

Religious experiences do not change us.

Many of us are looking for that religious experience movement. You know, the ones that make us emotional, and we “feel” God in a special, awesome way. Those moments are unforgettable and wonderful; however, they don’t always change us.

Think of Jacob; he had a religious experience like no one else. Genesis 32 says he wrestled with God, and God blessed him. Wow, now that is a religious experience! Did Jacob change? It doesn’t seem like he did. In the very next chapter, he lies and deceives his brother, Esau, once again. He meets Esau with fear, yet Esau shows him favor. Esau offers Jacob supply and blessing, yet Jacob refuses. Esau invites him on a journey to Seir, and Jacob tells him he will meet him there. But the next day, Jacob heads in a different direction to Succoth. He was deceiving his brother once again.

I am not sure why Jacob lied to Esau again, but he did lie. Although he had a religious experience with God, his life didn’t immediately change.

If you are doing the 21-day fasting and prayer with us, it can quickly become a “religious experience” where we feel good but not changed. I don’t want a “Feel good” moment with God – I desire to be changed by God. Don’t look for an experience that gives emotional goosebumps – look to the Person who can change your life forever.

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DAY 4

Jesus sees you.

Have you ever felt like no one sees you or acknowledges you? It can be as simple as not being recognized by a salesperson in store or feeling all alone in a crowded room. An emptiness can be felt in the pit of our stomach of being unnoticed.

In John 9, we have the story of a man who was born blind, and Jesus comes along side of him and heals him. After he is healed, the neighbors began to question if he was indeed the blind man who the beggar was.

They said this in John 9:8-9

“His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

Here was a man who his whole life lived in a community, blind, and begging. And he was largely unnoticed. He was another face in the crowd who no one cared for. It was only when he was walking around without assistance that the neighbors took notice, but still unsure if it was the same man.

What is a greater tragedy, being blind or going unnoticed by others?

There are two miracles that took place in John 9 – the first is obvious - Jesus heals a blind man. The second is one we often overlook – Jesus sees the blind man. Verse 1 says, “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth...”

I want to encourage you today that even though you may feel that no one sees you, that no one notices your pain, your hurt, your situation – Jesus does. He sees right where you are and wants to move in your story – in your life. He sees you and not only sees you he wants to heal you.

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DAY 5

If you were offered free tickets to the Super Bowl – would you take them?

I think most of us would jump at the opportunity to attend the biggest sporting event in America. Regardless of whether you're a football fan, the entire atmosphere is a big deal. The average cost for a ticket sitting in the upper levels is \$7,500 – if you want to get down close to the field, a ticket can cost over \$20,000. And here is the thing – the tickets are sold out in minutes.

Getting an opportunity to go somewhere or be a part of something very few people do is amazing. But what about being invited to participate in what God is doing? Do we respond with the same eagerness?

February is our Adopt-a-Missionary month at New Life. We support 25 missionaries who serve both in the United States and around the world. We financially support these individuals at \$100 a month and ask you to adopt one of them for a year by giving to them and praying for them regularly.

Jesus commands us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel (Mathew 28:19). The men and women who serve as our missionaries are doing just that – they have left the comforts of this life behind to advance the Gospel to the world. For those who cannot go, He asks us to provide for them—giving money and prayer for our missionaries. We all have a part in the great commission.

To advance the Gospel to people who have never heard it – now that is a great opportunity. I hope you will participate in some way in the most incredible privilege ever – sharing the Gospel with the world.

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DAY 6

He turns our weakness into a strength.

I love the apostle Peter – in part because I identify with him more than any other disciple. How, you ask? He is always opening his mouth and getting himself into trouble. I identify with that.

In one moment, he declares Jesus is the Christ; the next moment, he is rebuking Jesus for saying he must go to the cross and die. On the top of the mountain where Jesus is transformed into his glory – Peter says, “It is good that we are here...” Really, Peter? Then, of course, on the night Jesus was betrayed, Peter denied Jesus three times, even when he passionately said he wouldn’t. Yeah, I can identify with Peter more than I care to admit.

But God can use what is weak in our lives to bring about strength for His glory. Such was the case for Peter. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples while they prayed, and they began to speak in other languages. People were wondering what was taking its place. It was Peter who got up and spoke. This time, he didn’t say anything foolish or cringeworthy. This time, he preached with the power of the Holy Spirit, and over 3,000 people were saved and baptized.

You may look at all your shortcomings and the negatives you often bring to the table. But God can use our weakness and turn it into a strength.

Paul recognized this in 2 Corinthians 12 he says “...for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

DAY 7

What do you want to be known for?

Easter is a few months away; it is a time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus – there is a story of a man and his children that often goes unnoticed. In Mark 15, we are introduced to Simon, who was with his two children in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. They were in Jerusalem to worship, to make sacrifices to God – not to be a part of a crucifixion event.

Crucifixion was a brutal and horrible way to die. Often, those who were being crucified had to carry their cross to the area of their death. Jesus was so beaten and bruised that the Romans grabbed Simon from the crowd and forced him to carry Jesus' cross to Golgotha. I wonder what was going through his mind. I wondered what was going through his kid's minds as they watched their dad carry this man's cross.

We want to be known for many things – especially to our kids. We want to be known as honorable, trustworthy, patient, and kind. All worthwhile goals. But perhaps the greatest thing our kids can say about us is, "My dad (or mom) proudly carried the cross of Jesus."

Now, that is the kind of legacy I hope to leave my children.

DAY 8

One Body. One Church. Different Members.

Have you heard this statement – “We are the one true church.”? Whether it be from the LDS Church, Catholic Church, or some other religious organization – they have claimed that they are the only true ones. But is that what we see in scripture?

Paul talks about the church being one body with different members in 1 Corinthians 12. He writes:

“14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:14-20.

We have often read this to look at individuals of one particular church, and that is true, but it is also true for the larger body of Christ. New Life Fellowship, as well as Alpine Church, and Gospel Peace – we are all part of the body of Christ. We need one another. Yes, we may have different styles and things we focus on – and that is the beauty of the body. Different but one.

An organization may claim that they are the only one; however, when it comes to the body of Christ, we have different members (churches), and we are all one together in Christ.

You may ask, “Dane, are you saying that the LDS, Catholic, and other organizations are all the same?” Great question. The answer is no. Paul makes it very clear that the body is the body of Christ. If an organization is not teaching or following Jesus (as laid out in the Bible), they are not part of His body, no matter what its name is. The members, or churches, of the body are the ones who are in Christ.

Day 9

Don't rush the wait.

A promise was given to Abraham in Genesis 12 that God would bless him, make him great, and he would be a father of the Nations. The problem was that Abraham was 75 years old and had no children. Years go by, and still, the promise of an heir has not happened. So, Sara and Abraham took the promise into their own hands by having Abraham sleep with their servant, Hagar, and Ishmael was born. But Ishmael was not the promised child that God said would come. Finally, after 25 years, Abraham and Sara have a child – Isaac.

Ok, great, what's the big deal? The big deal is that because of Abraham's impatience, Ishmael was born, and as a result, we have seen thousands of years of war and division over these two half-brothers. All of it would have been avoided if Abraham and Sarah didn't rush into making things happen.

Often, it's difficult to wait on God's timing. You may be waiting for healing, provision, reconciliation, or many different areas of God's promise. When we don't see it happen the way and time, we want it to happen – we rush in and make decisions that birth an Ishmael in our lives. It births things that are not God's best for us.

God does not want us to rush to get an Ishmael; he wants us to wait for the promise of Isaac. There could be several reasons why we wait, but God's timing is always best for us. If you are waiting today, take hope in the following verse.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” Isaiah 40:31.

DAY 10

Say what you know.

In times when we are facing difficulties, and we don't understand the "why." We need to go back to the word of God. When we look at the truth of God's word and his promises, we can find hope, peace, and comfort in our time of need. One thing we see in scripture and a practice we should take is to say what we know. Here is an example in scripture.

Paul writes in Romans 8:28, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

Paul states what we know – God causes everything to work together for good for those who love God. That is what we know. Now, look at what we need to say.

Romans 8:31-32, "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Paul continues what we need to say in verses 38-39, "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When we face trials of many kinds – know what the word of God says: "God is working for you." Then, say the truth of God's word: "God is for me, and nothing will take his love from me."

Why do this? Because it's one thing to believe it in your mind and quite another to believe it in your heart. I think saying it out loud is your mind telling your heart – "God's got this."

DAY 11

A New and Better Way.

We recently bought a new bed for our dog Stella. Currently, Stella sleeps under our bed, which I get because it makes it feel like a den to dogs. However, Stella is so big that she must wiggle and maneuver, and she barely fits under the bed. We put the new bed out for her to sleep on; she smelled it, walked around it, and then returned to trying to fit under the bed. She had something better, but she goes back to her old familiar spot.

When Jesus declared on the cross, “It is finished!” at that moment, we are offered something better. We no longer need to go through the law and rituals and through a priest. Jesus' death and resurrection is a new and better way.

The writer of Hebrews says it this way – “But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.” Hebrews 10:8.

Although we have a new and better way because of what Jesus has done, many of us continue to go back to the old way. Paul writes in Ephesians that we have every spiritual blessing in Christ – yet many of us settle for small, cramped, hard-to-fit religion instead of enjoying the spiritual blessings that are ours. We are like my dog, Stella, trying to fit into something familiar and not taking advantage of something greater.

Let me encourage you to put away the old and step into the finished work and blessings of Jesus Christ. By doing so, you will sleep better at night.

DAY 12

But God Remembered.

The story of Noah in the flood has always fascinated me. God, in his righteous judgment, sends a flood on the earth, sparing only Noah and his family and two of every living creature. As the floods and rain came for 40 days, Noah and his family were safe in the ark. However, Noah was in the ark for much longer than 40 days – most scholars believe it was around 370 days.

I imagine that he went through a wide range of emotions during that time. From fear - to doubt - to waiting - to wondering if they will ever see dry land again. But we read in Genesis 8:1 the following:

“But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.”

You may be in a season of wondering if God has forgotten you. The circumstances are overwhelming, the situation is not improving, and God seems quiet and distant. I think we all have been there in our lives. However, those three words at the beginning of Genesis 8 comfort us: “But God remembered.”

God knows exactly what your situation is, and he knows where you are and what you are going through. You are not forgotten. Keep praying, keep seeking, and keep knocking. Soon, the Lord will cause the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow, and the water will subside.

DAY 13

There is greatness in small things.

Have you ever felt small and unnoticed? Sometimes, I can find myself in the middle of a crowded room and feel completely unnoticed. I often feel like I am not making a difference or the hard work is not seeing any fruit. Have you ever felt like this?

I am always amazed by how a small seed can produce something great. Don't underestimate small things. Don't regard yourself as worthless just because you are small. The size of the small seed does not dismay the farmer; he doesn't view the seed as invaluable or insignificant. The harvest is hidden in the seed. The forest is in the seed. There is greatness in small things.

The things you are involved in right now may seem like they are not having an impact – but perhaps it's because the seed has just been planted. A seed must be covered by dirt, sit in darkness, and even be trampled upon before it burst into a great harvest. We are always desiring quick results, but a harvest takes time.

You have the life of Jesus living inside you. No matter what dirt, darkness, or rejection by people surrounds you right now. You may feel like you are buried, unnoticed, and forgotten. You are not buried – you are planted. God did not forsake you; he planted you. You will become a forest.

“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bring forth its fruit in its season whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3.

DAY 14

“Give me one more!”

Those words came from a friend of mine when I was lifting weights. We would lift a certain amount of weight, push ourselves to failure, and encourage one another to give one more push. The idea is that there is still strength to go further.

The Apostle Paul said the following when it comes to walking with the Lord. “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14.

In life, we will face struggles and hardships – we feel like we want to give up. Let me encourage you to keep going, keep pressing in, and keep your focus on our Lord. He is with you, and he won’t let you go! The storm or trial you are currently facing won’t last long.

As the writer of Psalm 37:3-6 says:

Trust in the Lord and do good;

 dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord,

 and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;

 trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
 your vindication like the noonday sun.

God is giving you strength for today – trust in it. Soon, you will enjoy the land of a safe pasture.

DAY 15

What is truth?

That question has been asked for thousands of years. Jesus, as he was on trial before Pilate, said, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this, I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” (John 18:33-38).

Truth has been broken down to “my truth or your truth,” or truth is just a relative term that constantly changes. But such thinking leads to chaos and disaster. We see it revealed today when we simply try to define “What is a woman?” When we take away truth – we take away the foundation, and it falls apart.

I had a conversation with a young LDS missionary the other day about the topic of sin. He said, “Sin was good and necessary so that people can understand right from wrong and progress to godhood status. Without sin – there is no progression.”

This statement is the same rhetoric that Satan used to tempt Eve in the Garden.

“He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen 3:1-5).

Same language as this young missionary – “You need this so your eyes can be open.” When you take away what God says – you are left with a lie, and when you are building something on a lie, it will lead to destruction.

Pilate asks the question, “What is truth?” He was staring truth in the face. We need to be careful of the lies around us, no matter how good they sound; if they don’t align with the truth of God’s word, they will lead to destruction.

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DAY 16

If and then.

We all make conditional promises. For example: "If you work overtime – then you get paid time and half." In scripture, we see these statements all over:

If: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you,"

Then: "Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

If: "If we confess our sins,"

Then: "He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

However, the most used verse is:

2 Chronicles 7:14 - If: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,"

Then: "Then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

I have heard this verse quoted many times – and it often is misused. People often pray this in such a way like – "If the right person is in the White House – then revival will take place in America." However, the verse doesn't speak to non-believers to do something; it talks to believers.

If MY PEOPLE – WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES – TURN FROM THEIR WAYS.

If we desire a revival in America, it is not about having the "right" person in the White House – or specific laws passed or overturned. Revival will happen only when the people of God humble themselves, repent, and pray – then God will move.

Most Christians quote this verse but do not obey the verse. Have you humbled yourself today? Have you repented of your sins today? Are you earnestly seeking after the heart of God today? If not – then don't expect change. However, if you are – God will hear, forgive, and heal.

DAY 17

Does right activity lead to a right standing before God?

Many people believe that those activities will lead to a right standing before God if they are just good, do the right things, be honest in life, treat people fairly, and act with justice. All those things are nice – but it is called morality. Morality will keep you out of prison but won't keep you out of hell.

I think many people only believe half the gospel. That Jesus died for their sins. Yes, that is true, but only half of what he did. For those who put their faith in Jesus, not only did he die for their sins, but he clothed them with his righteousness. Jesus gave me his righteousness, making me right before God. It is not my right activity.

The other day, I asked a young man, "Are you a Godly man?" His response was, "I try to be."

I think that is how many people believe they are in good standing with God – they try to be. It is not about trying harder or doing more. It is about surrendering your life to the Lordship of Jesus and then clothing yourself in his righteousness. It is all about Jesus!

It's awesome to do good things – but don't be fooled. It is only the righteousness of Christ that saves us.

"For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:2.

DAY 18

You are my joy!

Several years ago, David Crowder Band came out with a song called -" You Are My Joy!" Not many people are familiar with the song, but it resonated with me for some reason. I have it set as my ringtone.

I believe we all desire joy in our lives. We certainly don't want sorrow. So, we look for joy in many things, such as entertainment, possessions, friends, family, or hobbies. The problem is all of these will let us down. We may experience excitement and happiness for a short period, but they can never fulfill the longing of our hearts. The only one who can bring us true joy, no matter our circumstances, is Jesus.

That is why David wrote that he is comforted in the green pastures and in the valley of death (psalm 23). Paul wrote that he could rejoice amid chains (Philippians). No matter what our circumstances are, whether they be great or challenging, our joy is not found in them; our joy is found in Jesus alone.

Why? Because He is the only one who has redeemed us, saved us, walked with us, sustained us, sheltered us, loved us, graced us, extended us mercy, died for us, and given us an eternal inheritance.

Jesus, my Lord, Savior, King, God - is my joy!

DAY 19

A Pleasant Surprise!

A few years ago, Bev and I were given two free tickets to the Aggies football game. We were grateful for the tickets and looked forward to seeing the game. However, when Saturday morning arrived, we noticed it was snowing, and the temperatures were freezing most of the day. Suddenly, we were no longer excited to go to the game.

We called a few friends to see if they would like the tickets, and everyone said no - for the same reason we didn't want to go. We did not want to sit several hours in the cold to watch our team lose (sorry, Aggies, but that was our expectation). However, when game time started, the weather had cleared, and the seats we were given were close to the field on the 50-yard line. Plus, our son works in the concessions, and he gave us free food and drinks. We sat down and enjoyed watching the Aggies win the game by a significant margin. It was a wonderful day!

Sometimes, we can expect something and get presently surprised by something greater. Such was the case for a man who was cripple sitting by the temple gates. Day after day, he would beg people for money. One day, Peter and John walk by the man, and he asks them for money. They stopped, and the man looked up expecting to receive a coin - instead, he received something greater.

Peter told the man, "I do not have silver or gold, but what I do have, I give - in the name of Jesus, rise and walk!" He took the man by the hand, got up, and began walking.

Today may be a typical day for you. You are going through your routines, work, activities, watching TV, and so forth. But it doesn't have to be. Expect that God is going to do something incredible in your life today. Look at him and see him do the impossible. Then go forth with excitement of "I wasn't expecting that!"

DAY 20

Asking for Wisdom.

We all need more wisdom, especially when making important decisions in our life. But is there a difference between wisdom and knowledge?

James writes in James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” I have often considered this verse as wanting the Lord to give me more clarity or direction for a decision I must make. But that is requesting knowledge, not wisdom.

Knowledge asks the Lord what I do, and wisdom asks who I become.

If you look at the verses before verse 5 in James, they deal with what you are becoming, not with what you should be doing. God doesn’t always tell us what we are to do, but through his word, he tells us who we will become. What is great about knowing the difference between wisdom and knowledge is when we face circumstances, we are unsure of in this world, wisdom helps us see it through the lens of what God is doing in us.

For example, going through a difficult circumstance, we must ask for wisdom. By asking for wisdom, God will begin to reveal how this difficulty forms us into who he wants us to be. So, we can, as James 1:4 puts it, “...that we may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

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DAY 21

It's not how you start; it's how you finish.

I find the comparison between King Saul and King David to be fascinating. Saul started his kingship amazingly. He was humbled. He was a strong leader. He prophesied. He led with confidence. Yet, when things got tough and seemed beyond his control, he lost faith and took matters into his own hands. As a result, God took his kingship away.

On the other hand, David started as a young shepherd, literally ignored by his father. Even though he conquered Goliath, Saul was threatened by him and threw swords at him. He spent most of his young adult life hiding in the desert, fearing for his life. Yet, he remained faithful, and God established his kingdom forever.

Paul wrote in the book of Acts, "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me" (Acts 20:24).

At the beginning of the year, we can set goals or resolutions to do certain things. To eat healthier, to work out more, read the bible more, pray, fast, or serve more. However, many people quit their goals by mid-January, they give up.

The LIVE SENT CAMPAIGN challenges us to discover, go deeper, and live sent to reach others – not just occasionally but always. May we continue to run the race and complete the task? Don't start strong and not finish. Serve Christ always, even when it becomes difficult. God rewards those who are faithful.