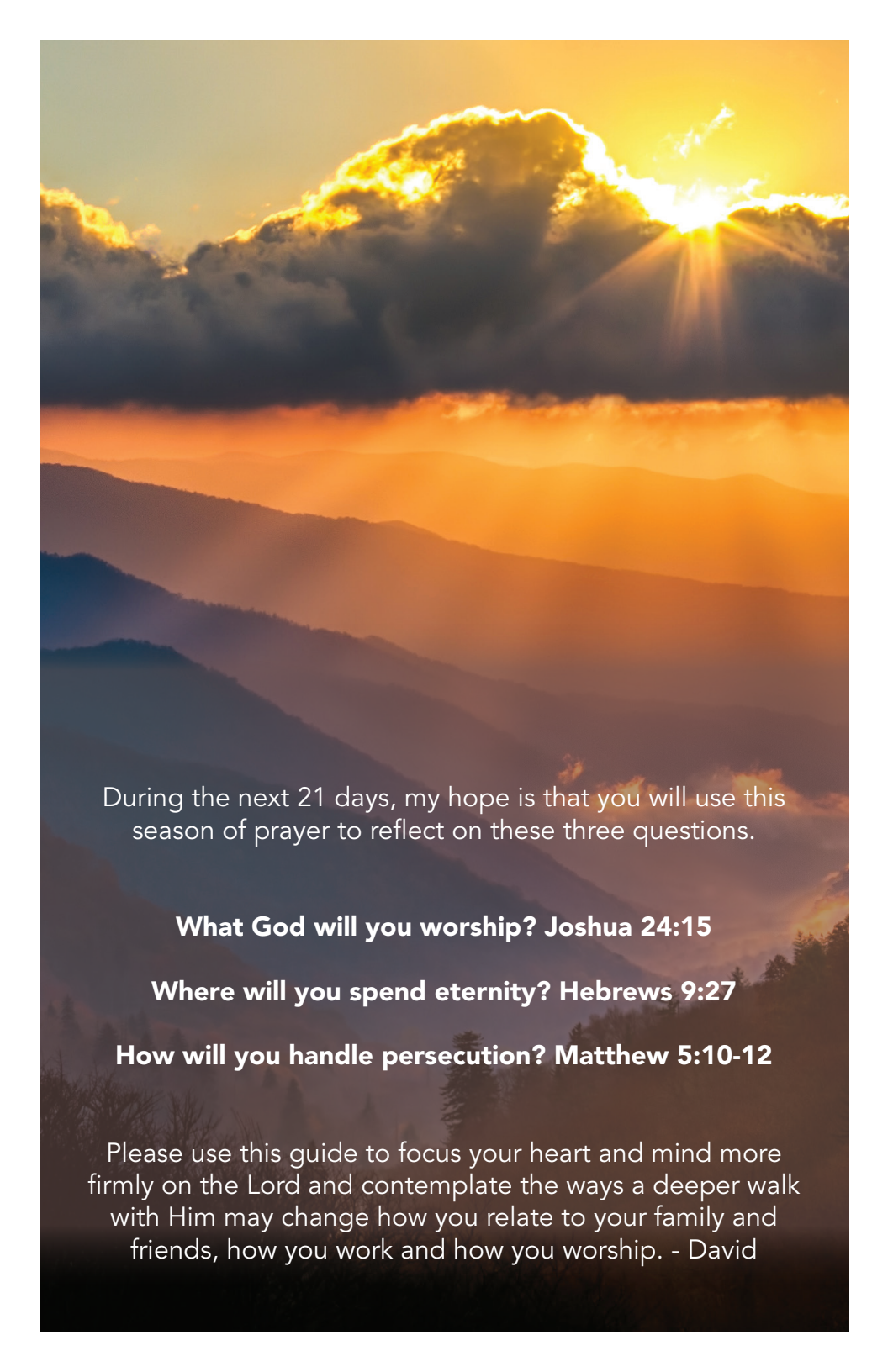




21
DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING
41

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE

Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Revelation 2:5



During the next 21 days, my hope is that you will use this season of prayer to reflect on these three questions.

What God will you worship? Joshua 24:15

Where will you spend eternity? Hebrews 9:27

How will you handle persecution? Matthew 5:10-12

Please use this guide to focus your heart and mind more firmly on the Lord and contemplate the ways a deeper walk with Him may change how you relate to your family and friends, how you work and how you worship. - David

A GUIDE TO PRAYER & FASTING

PRAYER

Throughout the 21 days, you will be praying for specific areas in your life, our church, and our mission. Let's put our faith into action, trusting in the promises of God for us and our church. Below are helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide.

- Commit to a specific time each day to devote to prayer. Find a place where you can be free of distractions and alone with God.
- Use the information in this guide to focus and fuel your praying. Tear off the perforated section at right to keep in your Bible or write the Scripture and reflection questions on cards to take with you, post on social media, make it the screensaver on your phone—whatever you can think of to keep these prompts in front of you. Use them daily and invite others to join you in praying.
- Journal your prayers each day. It's a great opportunity to hide God's Word in your heart, working to memorize the verses as you meditate and pray. In addition, you may consider ways to pray with others during this season. Pray with friends or members of your small group or Sunday school group. Pray together as a family.

FASTING

Why do we fast? Simply put, the goal of fasting is to turn ourselves from worldly things and set our minds and hearts fully on God. It is not a way to manipulate God or coerce him to hear and answer our prayers, but rather it acknowledges our complete dependence on him. Fasting awakens us to the reality that we are so often driven by our fleshly desires and appetites. It humbles us and awakens us to our great need for and reliance on God. As you consider fasting, we want to encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lead you in this time of seeking his face. Whether you choose to fast for one day, several days, or the entire 21 days, the point is to humble yourself in a new way and draw near to God. Below are some fasting options:

- A selective fast, eliminating certain things from your diet. Eating only fruits and vegetables, what some might call a “Daniel fast,” is an example of this type of fasting.
- A partial fast, which is refraining from eating for a set period of time each day. You could choose to fast from a single meal or from sunup to sundown.
- A complete fast, refraining from eating and only drinking liquids for particular days or even an extended period of time.
- If fasting from food is not possible, consider fasting from something else, such as social media, television, or certain times or activities on your cell phone.

Church family, let's earnestly seek the face of God with great expectation as we wait for his revelation and instruction through these 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting.

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DAY 1

READ

Psalm 19

FOCUS

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. // Psalm 19:1

REFLECT

What part of your spiritual journey does this passage cause you to remember?

What sin does this passage bring to mind that you need to repent of?

What action step does this passage lead you to take?

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READ

Psalm 139

FOCUS

For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. // Psalm 139:13-14

REFLECT

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DAY 3

READ

Revelation 7:9-17

FOCUS

All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. // Revelation 7:11-12

REFLECT

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READ

John 1:1-18

FOCUS

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. // John 1:14

REFLECT

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DAY 5

READ

Isaiah 9:1-9

FOCUS

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

// Isaiah 9:6

REFLECT

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READ

Isaiah 6:1-8

FOCUS

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphim were standing above him; And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.
// Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3

REFLECT

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DAY 7

READ

Philippians 2:5-11

FOCUS

For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. // Philippians 2:9-11

REFLECT

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READ

Colossians 1:14-20

FOCUS

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

// Colossians 1:15-17

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DAY 9

READ

Hebrews 1:1-4

FOCUS

Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. // Hebrews 1:1-3

REFLECT

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READ

Luke 2:1-20

FOCUS

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors. // Luke 2:13-14

REFLECT

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DAY 11

READ

Psalm 66

FOCUS

Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God! Sing about the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are your works! Your enemies will cringe before you because of your great strength. The whole earth will worship you and sing praise to you. They will sing praise to your name."

// Psalm 66:1-4

REFLECT

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READ

Psalm 67

FOCUS

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may he make his face shine upon us so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. // Psalm 67:1-3

REFLECT

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DAY 13

READ

Nehemiah 12:27-43

FOCUS

On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy. The women and children also celebrated, and Jerusalem's rejoicing was heard far away.

// Nehemiah 12:43

REFLECT

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READ

Job 38:1-20

FOCUS

Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind. He said: Who is this who obscures my counsel with ignorant words? Get ready to answer me like a man; when I question you, you will inform me. Where were you when I established the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. // Job 38:1-4

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DAY 15

READ

Job 38:21-40

FOCUS

Do you know the laws of heaven? Can you impose its authority on earth? Can you command the clouds so that a flood of water covers you? Can you send out lightning bolts, and they go? Do they report to you: "Here we are?" Who put wisdom in the heart or gave the mind understanding? // Job 38:33-36

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READ

Genesis 1-2:3

FOCUS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
// Genesis 1:1

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DAY 17

READ

Psalm 24

FOCUS

Lift up your heads, you gates! Rise up, ancient doors! Then the King of glory will come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. // Psalm 24:7-8

REFLECT

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READ

Ezekiel 1

FOCUS

The appearance of the brilliant light all around was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the Lord's glory. When I saw it, I fell facedown and heard a voice speaking. // Ezekiel 1:28

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DAY 19

READ

Revelation 5:8-14

FOCUS

I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. // Revelation 5:13-14

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READ

Revelation 21

FOCUS

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. // Revelation 21:23-26

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DAY 21

READ

Isaiah 40:1-5

FOCUS

A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain. And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. // Isaiah 40:3-5

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OUR RESPONSE

WHAT MIGHT GOD DO IF WE JUST PRAYED?

This isn't the end; it's just the beginning. Samuel Chadwick said, "The greatest answer to prayer is more prayer." We have seen God answer our prayers. But that has only increased our awareness of our need for His intervention in our lives. He has delighted us and satisfied us with His great love. Praying has called us to pray even more.

Jesus made an astounding promise to 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—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" John 15:16. God chose us to bear fruit and bring Him glory. He promised to hear and answer when we pray. What would it look like for you to continue to call out to God for His people and His purposes in the world?

We want to encourage you to continue some of the disciplines you've developed over the last few weeks. Maintain a set time to pray each day. Commit to fasting as you continue to seek God. Keep a prayer journal, writing out your prayers.

Participate in prayer gatherings like the Women's Prayer Meeting and Men's Prayer Breakfast. Print out the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting guide and work through it again. There's too much at stake for us to stop now.

LET'S PRAY.

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