



'STABILITY WEEK'

WEEK 3: DAY 14 - 21

FASTING FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (NKJV)

14 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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

FASTING DIRECTIVE WEEK #3 INSTANT OBEDIENCE

"Obedience brings success; exact obedience brings miracles."

- Russell M. Nelson

SUPPORTING STORY: *One day a large crowd pressed around Jesus while He preached. (Luke 5:1–11) Jesus wanted to use Peter's boat as a floating pulpit from which to address the multitude. So He asked the future apostle to push the vessel out a little way from shore which was not in itself a particularly remarkable request. But Peter's compliance to His request paved the way for a life-changing blessing. From his example, we also learn how essential it is to obey God in even the smallest matters.*

The noisy crowd received the first blessing of Peter's obedience; as the people could now clearly hear Jesus' words. At the conclusion of the lesson, the Lord said to Peter, "Push your boat out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch" - a second opportunity to say yes or no. But this time, Peter may have felt tempted to decline. After all, he was a seasoned fisherman. He had worked the entire night for a catch but had returned empty-handed. Now this young teacher - not a fisherman but a carpenter, by the way - was asking him to go fishing again?

Peter's reply demonstrates the beginning of a lifetime of faith in God. He said, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. *But because you say so, I will let*

down the nets.” (5:5, emphasis added) The soon-to-be disciple chose to obey the Lord and to leave the consequences of his decision to Him.

But notice what happened as a result of Peter’s obedience - Jesus demonstrated His power and sovereignty. Peter and his partners may have started the day thinking their efforts had yielded nothing. But they ended it in complete amazement because they pulled in not one but two overflowing boatloads of fish. (Luke 5:7) Saying yes to the Lord’s request resulted in a miracle that transformed not only one fisherman’s life, but the lives of the entire group.

(Source: www.thenivbible.com)

DAY 14 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: You have made it to the final week of the 21 Day Fast. For many of you this is a significant accomplishment. I am looking forward to hearing all of your testimonies and the stories about your spiritual growth over the past few weeks. Today's scriptures will focus on people in the Bible who obeyed God and received amazing miracles and blessings. Happy Reading!

- **1 Kings 17:2-6 (NKJV)**

2 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 **So he went and did according to the word of the Lord**, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

- **Genesis 7:1-5 (NKJV)**

1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." 5 **And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.**

- **Exodus 40:12-16 (NIV)**

12 "Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water. 13 Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. 14 Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. 15 Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue throughout their generations." 16 **Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him.**

DAY 14 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: If I were to ask you if you wanted to live a life of obedience to God you would probably answer with an immediate, "Yes!" I believe every Christian wants to live a life of obedience but there are times when obeying God is not as easy as it sounds. There are many things in our lives that hinder our ability to follow God completely and that's what today's Practical Application is all about. Today we will look at things in your life that possibly hinder your complete obedience to God.

There are four primary areas in a Christian's life that hinder their obedience to God. I have listed those four primary areas below.

ACTION ITEMS: *(This is what you must do.)*

Look at each item. Either on this sheet or on a separate sheet of paper, write down the times in your life when you allowed that particular item to hinder your obedience to God.

1. **Rebellion** (The natural response of undisciplined flesh)

2. **You set your agenda before acknowledging God**

3. **1st Law of Nature** (Self-Preservation, Fear)

4. Just Being Lazy

DAY 14 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now that you've considered the list above, it is time to ask for God's forgiveness in each of those areas.

PRAY THIS:

1. Lord, please forgive me for the times when I heard You clearly or knew Your Will and I simply rebelled. Forgive me for the times when I knew exactly what You were asking of me but, like Jonah, I went in an entirely different direction. Please forgive me for the sin of rebellion and help me to obey You instantly.
2. Lord, please forgive me for the times when I created my agenda without acknowledging You. Your Word teaches that if I acknowledge You in all of my ways, You will direct my path. Forgive me for the times when I took a path that was not led by You. Forgive me for operating out of order. Help me to always put You first and to always obey You instantly.
3. Lord, forgive me for the times when I felt like the cost of obedience would be too much for me to pay so I simply disobeyed. Forgive me for the times when the fear of being hurt, rejected, or misunderstood caused me to disobey. Help me to deny my flesh, face my fears, and to obey You instantly.
4. Lord, forgive me for the times when I was just lazy and chose not to obey. Forgive me for the times when my own desire for pleasure was greater than my responsibility to serve You. Forgive me for the times that I allowed sleep and the need for rest to cause me to forsake Your instructions. Help me to become more diligent and prudent in my life and to always obey You instantly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 15 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Welcome to Monday! This is the final week of the 21 Day Fast. Today's scriptures will focus on obedience. God is not some "guy in the sky" with an ego or superiority complex. He is our loving Father and has a strategic plan in place to win souls to Himself so that they, too, can have a place in heaven. God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to die for the sins of the world. He wants the world to be saved and you are a part of that plan. Your obedience to Him is paramount for your future blessings and possibly for the salvation of many who are around you.

Let's Read Together. Remember to read enough of the passage - at least five verses up and five verses down - to get context and a clear understanding.

- **Isaiah 1:19 (ESV)**

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

- **Romans 5:19 (ESV)**

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

- **Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)**

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

- **Exodus 24:7 (NKJV)**

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."

- **Acts 6:7 (NKJV)**

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

DAY 15 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Obedience is not optional. It is commanded by God. If you are a born again Child of God, then obedience is an every day part of your life. True obedience is instant obedience. That means the moment you know God is leading you in a particular direction or to do a particular thing, you begin to obey at that same moment. Delayed obedience is disobedience and all disobedience is sin.

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Today's practical application will deal with your history.

Looking Back:

1. Can you remember a time in your life when you disobeyed God and things didn't turn out right? If so, when and what happened?

2. Name a time in your life when you heard God clearly, obeyed His instructions, and everything turned out right.

3. If God gave you one opportunity to go back in time and obey an instruction that you before disobeyed, which instruction would you go back to and what would you do different?

DAY 15 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: By now you know that prayer is a vital part of your growth in Christ. Prayer is how you communicate with God and how He communicates with you. Prayer is also an act of obedience. The apostle Paul describes prayerlessness as sin. Today in prayer you will commit your will in life to the Lord. Remember to stay low, stay empty, and stay instant!

LET'S PRAY:

HEAVENLY FATHER,

I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ. I renew and give my total allegiance to You. Make me fresh and new today and for the rest of my life. My desire is to do Your work and to do Your will. Lord, I want to hear You speak to me. Help me to be sensitive to the still small voice in my heart. Help me to discern Your voice from my voice and from the voice of the enemy. I am Your sheep and I desire to know Your voice so that I will not follow the voice of strangers. Help me to discern right from wrong. Make me sensitive to the gentle unction of the Holy Spirit. Help me to be sensitive to Your leading and to obey You at all times. I give You my life and all that is in it as a living sacrifice unto You, which is my reasonable service.

- Bless my mind that I may always have the mind of Christ.
- Bless my eyes that I may see into the Spirit realm.
- Bless my nose that I may pick up the scent of evil around me.
- Bless my mouth that I may use it as a weapon against the enemy and as a tool to heal the hearts of those around me. Help me use it to build up and not to tear down.
- Bless my heart that it may always be filled with Your love and Your grace.
- Bless my shoulders that they will always be there for trustworthy friends to lean on.
- Bless my arms and hands that they will always be available to embrace and to help those in need.
- Bless my legs and my feet that they will always be found walking in Your will for Your purpose.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 16 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: You are growing closer and closer to God. You are beginning to hear and see Him working all around you. You are becoming more aware of His presence and you are actually inviting His presence wherever you go. Today's bible reading will help you further understand how God speaks. Below you will find two amazing stories of how God spoke audibly to people in the Old Testament. I pray that you enjoy both of them.

Grab your bible, pen, and notepad. Jot down anything you feel God is speaking to you. Be sure to read enough of the passage to get a clear context. Ask God for revelation and understanding.

- **1 Samuel 3:8-10 (NKJV)** This is a great story.

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

- **1 Kings 19:11-13 (NKJV)**

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

DAY 16 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: I pray that you enjoyed those two stories out of 1st Samuel and 1st Kings. Although God doesn't typically speak audibly these days, He still communicates to us in the most amazing ways. Today's lesson will reveal five different ways that God speaks to us. Let's dive in! Remember to stay low, stay empty, and stay instant.

Today, I want you to reflect back on your life and determine if God has ever spoken to you in one of these ways.

How God Speaks:

Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice." (John 10:27)

1. God speaks through The Bible. (Word, Logos, Rhema)

- This is God's primary method of communication to you.
- Every time you read The Bible you give God the opportunity to speak to you.

2. Still small voice in your heart. (1 Kings 19:11-12 - Jesus lives in your heart.)

- He doesn't speak loud because He never wants to intimidate us. His voice is loving.
- Jesus lives in your heart.

3. God speaks through peace. (Colossians 3:15 - Calm in the midst of chaos.)

- Sometimes God will just allow you to have peace in your spirit even when everything around you seems turbulent.
- The lack of peace is God speaking to you. When you don't have peace about something, you should probably hold-off and pray again.
- "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27 **(NKJV)**

4. God speaks through circumstances. (Numbers 21:4-8)

- God will sometimes create or allow challenging circumstances in our lives as a way of getting our attention. When He does, it is often because we've been too stubborn and headstrong to incline our ears to His written Word or the Voice of His Spirit spoken into our hearts.
- God can also use dreams and visions. God can bypass your conscious mind.
- Also, be sensitive to open and closed doors. They could be a sign that God is speaking.

5. God speaks through people. (Proverbs 11:14)

- Find a believer who is successful in their walk with Christ. God often speaks through them.
- God speaks through pastors and other spiritual leaders.
- God can use anyone who has given their heart to Him.

Question: Which of these five ways have you experienced God speaking in your life?

[illegible]

DAY 16 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now it's time to pray. Today's prayer will be about increased sensitivity to God's Spirit and His voice. The Bible reminds us that the people of God know and understand His voice. The problem is there are so many other voices competing with the Lord's voice. Voices from the television, internet, social media, videos, friends, coworkers, and also family members. Today we pray that we can silence the other voices and focus on the voice of God.

LET'S PRAY:

DEAR LORD,

There have been many times when I focused and listened to voices that were not Yours. Times when I took advice that was contrary to Your will. Times when I was led astray by the voice of strangers. Father, today I ask You for forgiveness. Lord, help me to become more sensitive to Your leading. Help me to hear those still small whispers that You place in my heart. Help me to read Your word more regularly that I may hear You speak more frequently.

I know The Bible is Your primary method of communication to me so help me develop a hunger and thirst for Your Word. Speak to me through Your written Word. Help me to silence all of the voices that often compete for Your place in my life and in my heart.

Thank You for the spiritual friends and loved ones who have helped to lead and guide me along the way and for my spiritual family who have kept me from making some terrible mistakes in my life. Lord, anoint my ears that I may hear You clearly. Help me to remove any distractions or hindrances that come to divert my attention from You. Help me to recognize when You have given me peace concerning an issue. Also help me to be mindful when I am not at peace and to wait and pray until I do.

Help me to be sensitive to the circumstances that I encounter in my life and how You may be using those circumstances to get a message to me. Help me to see You in everything that I go through. Please continue to speak to me and give me the grace to listen and obey. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 17 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: There are times in all of our lives when we simply operate from impulse instead of God's leading. If you are a giver, you would probably give to a situation or a need without much thought. If you enjoy helping, you would probably jump in to help someone out of a circumstance without much consideration. Although there is certainly nothing wrong with giving or helping, there is something wrong with doing so without God's leading.

I have certainly been guilty of this. God's desire is for you to acknowledge Him in ALL of your ways. Even the ways you feel like you already have figured out. In exchange, He promises to direct your path. Today, I only have one passage for you. The verse on which to meditate will be underlined.

- **Proverbs 3:1-10 (NKJV)**

1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

DAY 17 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Have you ever been guilty of setting your agenda or doing something before seeking God's direction? Today for your Practical Application you will look at Proverbs 3:5-6. It is imperative as you work to obey God instantly that you first work to acknowledge God in **ALL of your ways**. Acknowledging God before you do anything must become a regular part of your everyday life. God desires to lead and guide you. He knows what's best for you. God sees all, knows all, and is in all. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows the way that you take. You can trust His leading.

DEFINE THESE WORDS:

1. TRUST

2. LEAN

3. UNDERSTANDING

4. ACKNOWLEDGE

[illegible]

DAY 17 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now it's praying time. Hopefully you have successfully defined each word in the Practical Application. In today's prayer we will focus on praying according to Proverbs 3:5-6. Open your heart to the leadership of Holy Spirit. Allow Him to lead and guide you every day of your life. Make the declaration from your heart that you will acknowledge God in all of your ways. This is a heart thing. Acknowledging God in all things must be done through a spirit of humility (stay low) while hearing the things that God says must be done through a soul that has emptied itself of sin (stay empty). Now let's work to stay instant.

Say a personal prayer in the following areas.

- Ask God to teach you how to TRUST Him.
- Ask God to stop you in those moments when you unknowingly LEAN to your own understanding.
- Ask God to help you trade your UNDERSTANDING for His.
- Ask God for a heart that ACKNOWLEDGES Him in all that you do.
- Ask God to always DIRECT every decision you make.
- Ask God to let the PATH in which He leads you, always guide you to His perfect will.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 18 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Spending time reading the holy scriptures is spending time with God. Every time you sit down with your bible, you are sitting down with God right in front of you. He is in the palm of your hands. The Bible is God in Word form. Don't think of The Bible as just a book. Think of it as God Himself. In the beginning was the **WORD** and the **WORD** was with God and the **WORD WAS GOD.** (John 1:1) Studying the scriptures helps you to develop spiritual ears to hear God's voice. The more time you spend in the **WORD**, the clearer the voice of God becomes. Just remember that when you hear God speaking... be instant.

For today's reading I want you to read the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch who was sitting in his chariot reading the holy scriptures. He was trying to learn more about Jesus but found the scriptures difficult to comprehend. God saw his dilemma and sent him the revelation he needed. Whenever God sees you trying to get closer to Him, He will always send you the help you need. Have fun reading this amazing story!

Let's Read Together.

Christ Is Preached to an Ethiopian

• Acts 8:26-40 (NKJV)

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the

Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

DAY 18 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: What an amazing story. As the Ethiopian Eunuch read The Bible, The Angel of the Lord spoke to Phillip and told him to go where the Eunuch was and help him understand. In a previous lesson you learned the different ways that God speaks to us. In this story God is speaking through Phillip. The Eunuch not only received understanding, he also received salvation. Peter preached Jesus so well that the Eunuch was fully convinced of his need for salvation. He said, "What hinders me from being baptized?" In today's Practical Application you will answer questions about Jesus.

If an unsaved person were to ask you these questions, how would you answer?

1. Who is Jesus?

2. What does it mean that Jesus saves?

3. How can Jesus be both God and man at the same time?

4. What do people mean when they say there is power in the name Jesus?

5. How do you know that Jesus is real?

6. What does it mean when people say you can't go to heaven without knowing Jesus?

7. Why did Jesus have to die?

8. Why did Jesus rise from the dead?

9. How can Jesus love me if He doesn't know me?

10. I want to be saved. What must I do?

DAY 18 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: The Bible says that he who wins souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30) The purpose of you drawing closer to God is not just for you. God intends for you to use your relationship with Him to draw others into the Kingdom. God wants you to share your faith and to be His representative here on earth. In Luke 22:32 Jesus tells Peter that when he (Peter) returns, he is to strengthen his brothers. Jesus wanted Peter to use his experience to help his fellow brothers strengthen their relationship with Christ. Jesus wants to use the relationship He has with you to help save sinners from their eternal fate.

Today God wants you to pray for the souls of people close to you who have yet to receive Jesus as their Savior. Speak their names and ask Jesus to save them.

LET'S PRAY:

LORD,

Thank You for saving me and helping me develop a closer relationship with You. I love my new relationship with You and I realize that Your desire is for me to use our relationship to draw people into the Kingdom. Lord, continue to speak to my heart and give me direction as You did Phillip. Allow me to speak Your word to people who are lost and in need of a Savior. Help me to win their souls to You. Show me the individuals around me that You are drawing and use me as an instrument to help fulfill the plan of salvation for their lives. Use my voice, my mind, my will, and everything within me for Your glory. I want to see people saved and on their way to heaven.

Lord, I pray for the salvation of the following people:

- Lord please save _____
- Lord please save _____
- Lord please save _____
- Lord please save _____
- Lord please save _____
- Lord please save _____

(Continue the list if needed.)

In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 19 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Reading The Bible is fun, enlightening, and empowering. It engages your spirit and feeds your soul. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that precedes out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) "My food," said Jesus at another time, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34) He relied on every Word of God and refused to act independently. Jesus was obedient to the point of death on the cross. (Philippians 2:8) There may come a time when every Christian will have to face death for their belief in Christ. Are you willing to die for what you believe?

Today we will read about people in scripture who lost their lives for Christ's sake. They were believers who paid the ultimate price for their belief in Jesus.

The dictionary defines a martyr as "a person who is killed because of his religious or other beliefs." Interestingly enough, the English word martyr is really a word transliterated from the original Greek martur, which simply means "witness." The reason why this word became synonymous with dying for one's religious beliefs is that the early Christian witnesses were often persecuted and/or killed for their witness.

Here are a few:

- **Abel - Read GENESIS 4:1-8**

The first martyr we find in the Bible is one of the sons of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 4 Cain killed his brother Abel because Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God.

- **John the Baptist - Read MATTHEW 14:1-12**

The first New Testament martyr that we know of is John the Baptist. He was killed by Herod the Tetrarch.

- **Stephen - Read ACTS 7:54-60**

In Acts chapters 6 and 7, Stephen boldly preached the Gospel. He clearly called out those who put Jesus on the cross. This did not make the religious leaders happy. They bit and stoned Stephen.

- **James - Read ACTS 12:1,2**

James was killed by King Herod Agrippa. He was killed by the sword during the time when the king was starting to persecute the church.

There were many others.

DAY 19 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: We are very fortunate to live in a country where religious freedom is protected but there are many places where this is not the case. Thousands of Christians around the world are being threatened and others killed for their belief in Christ. It is my prayer that your conviction for God becomes so steadfast that even if you were threatened with martyrdom you would still choose Jesus.

Your Practical Application for today is to:

1. CALL THREE PEOPLE WHO YOU KNOW TO BE CHRISTIAN.

They could be family, friends or someone you attend church with. Pray about who to call.

2. ASK THEM THIS QUESTION.

If you had to choose between **"A: Renouncing (reject or abandon) Jesus and live"** and **"B: Confessing your belief in Jesus and be killed"**, which would you choose and why?

3. WRITE DOWN THEIR RESPONSE.

PERSON ONE:

PERSON TWO:

[illegible]

DAY 19 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Consider your personal relationship with God. What if your obedience to Him caused you to be persecuted? What if being obedient meant that you had to be imprisoned? Martin Luther King Jr said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." There will be times in your life when your faith will be challenged and the very essence of who you are will be offensive to people around you. There will be times when your spirituality will become controversial in the workplace and in certain public forums. Make the pledge today to stand up for righteousness and for God's will. Right is still right even if nobody is doing it. Wrong is still wrong even if everybody is doing it. Selah.

Today's prayer will focus on being firmly planted in what we believe and in Whom we believe.

PRAY IN THESE AREAS:

- Pray and thank God for saving you and giving you the courage to stand for Him.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in other countries who suffer persecution for the name of Jesus.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters who live in the United States but still suffer persecution.
- Pray for our Christian children who get teased at school for being a "church boy" or "church girl". Pray that they will stand firm for Christ in the face of ridicule.
- Pray for Christians all over the world who will soon have to stand up to "anti-Christlike" behavior in the workplace.
- Pray for Christians who will soon have to take a stand for righteousness in their own homes.
- Pray for pastors and spiritual leaders, that they will continue to lift up holy standards in the midst of a world that is on the verge of spiritual collapse.
- Now take some time to pray for yourself. Ask God to give you the Holy boldness to stand for righteousness even if it means that you will have to suffer.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 20 - BIBLE READING

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Hello Everybody! You've made it through 20 days of consecration and only have one day left. I am so proud of you. You've been steadfast and God is honoring your act of worship. This is obedience week and today we continue our focus on obeying God instantly. Delayed obedience is still disobedience. For the next two days we focus on **FAITH**. It not only takes humility and confession but it also takes **FAITH** to walk in total obedience to God. **FAITH** is the power behind your obedience. Hebrews 11:1 (AMP) says, "Now **FAITH** is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality - **FAITH** comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]." Everything you've done up to this point and everything you will do after will require the **Power of FAITH**.

Read the following passages.

- **Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **Matthew 21:18-22 (NKJV)**

18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. 20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" 21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

- **Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- **James 2:14-20 (NKJV)**

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

The dictionary defines **FAITH** as "*belief in, devotion to, or trust in somebody or something, especially without logical proof*". It also defines **FAITH** as "*belief in and devotion to God*". Perhaps no other component of the Christian life is more important than **FAITH**. We cannot purchase it, sell it or give it to our friends. As a matter of fact, **FAITH** is so important that without it we have no place with God, neither can we please Him without it. (Hebrews 11:6)

DAY 20 - PRACTICAL APPLICATION

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: **FAITH** is not belief without proof, or belief despite the evidence, rather **FAITH** is a complete trust or confidence in someone or something. That trust or confidence we have in someone is built up over time as they prove themselves faithful time and time again. Christianity is a **FAITH**-based religion. It is based on **FAITH** in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ. God has provided us with The Bible as a testimony of His faithfulness to His people. Christianity is **FAITH** in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was perfect and righteous. He was the Son of God. His death was the payment for the sins of His people. By placing our **FAITH** and trust in Christ alone for our salvation, God takes our sin and places it on the cross of Christ and awards us, by grace, with the perfect righteousness of Christ.

That, in a nutshell, is the Christian message. As Christians, we are called to believe this message and live in light of it. Now that you have successfully defined **FAITH**, today's Practical Application will take a deeper look into where **FAITH** comes from and why we have it.

WHERE DOES FAITH COME FROM?

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9

FAITH is not something we produce on our own. We are not born with it, nor is it a result of diligent study or pursuit of some spiritual calling. The Bible makes it clear that **FAITH** is a gift from God. In other words you were not saved on your own and you did not receive **FAITH** on your own. Therefore, all the glory goes to God. God called you to TAKE PART in what He is doing in the Earth. (The Redemption of Man)

WHY DO WE HAVE FAITH?

- Read John 20:29 (AMP)

- Read 1 Peter 1:8-9

God designed a way to distinguish between those who belong to Him and those who don't. It's called **FAITH**. Very simply, we need faith to please God. God tells us that it pleases Him that we believe in Him even though we cannot see Him.

DAY 20 - PRAYER DIRECTIVE

'STABILITY WEEK'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: Now that you have learned more about **FAITH**, it is time to pray in **FAITH**. There is a working called prayer that connects the invisible realm with the visible realm. Prayer is giving earthly permission for heavenly intervention. Prayer releases God to do what God has intended to do on the earth. God has given you legal right to exercise His authority in the earth. God created man **LIKE HIM** so that we could communicate **WITH HIM** and execute His commands **FOR HIM**.

Now exercise your authority in prayer.

- I declare that I am forgiven of all of my sins and I stand as an ambassador of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- I am established and anointed by God. I activate my faith and say to mountains of sickness and disease be removed from me and from anyone for whom I pray.
- I am the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus and I operate in His power.
- I am seated in heavenly places and wage war from the realm of the supernatural.
- I am above only and not beneath, the head and not the tail, the lender and not the borrower.
- I am more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus who loves me.
- I am healed physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- I stand in authority against every principality and every spiritual wickedness in high places.
- I command every demon and devil trying to sabotage God's plan for my life to be bound and cast into outer darkness.
- I bind, rebuke, and cast out every stubborn demon attempting to ambush my future in the name of Jesus.
- I cast down the spirit of pride and stubbornness from my own life.
- I break every generational curse and I break the power of iniquity in my family.
- I come against and pull up every root of bitterness in my life and in the life of my family.
- Today, I stand in faith and operate in my God-given authority. I have the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means harm me in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 21

'THE FINAL DAY OF THE 21 DAY FAST'

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR: I am so proud of you. We've made it through 21 days of fasting and praying as a church body. This is a great accomplishment and you should be proud of yourself. I believe that we are about to walk in a level of power that we've never experienced before. I am convinced that you've been made new. After Jesus ended His 40 day fast The Bible says that afterwards, He was hungry and was tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4) If Jesus was tempted after His fast, you can rest assured that you will be also. I believe that in the past 21 days God has delivered you from some strongholds. Now it's Satan's goal to cause you to forfeit everything that you have gained thus far. In today's teaching I want to help you overcome the temptation and stay delivered.

I found this great article on the website "www.gotquestions.org" and I want to share this insight with you. I pray that it blesses you as much as it did me.

HOW TO STAY DELIVERED

Question: "I overcame _____ sin. How can I avoid a relapse?"

Answer: Temptations batter us from every side. No human being gets through this life unscarred by sin. Even with our best efforts, we often relapse into the very sins from which we were rescued. We learn quickly that we can't save ourselves, make ourselves right with God, or even overcome besetting sins on our own. That's why we need Jesus. (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37)

Before we answer the question, "How can I avoid a relapse?", we must reconsider the statement that precedes it: "I overcame _____ sin." If **you** overcame a sin **by your own strength**, then that same strength will keep you from a relapse. However, if the power of Jesus delivered you from that sin, then it will be His strength that holds you in victory.

Jude 1:24 (ESV) says, "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy..."

Notice it is the power of God that keeps us from stumbling. It is the blood of Jesus that presents us blameless before God. So this would be a more accurate statement: "**Jesus gave me victory over _____.** How can I avoid a relapse?"

The root of the word **relapse** is **lapse**. A lapse is a temporary failure of concentration, memory, or judgment. Using this definition, we "lapse" into sin when we stop being vigilant and we become lazy, distracted, or forgetful of just how bad the consequences of that sin were.

When we relapse into an old sin, it is because we have stopped feeding our spirit with the things that will keep us close to Jesus. We have begun to take for granted the gifts of freedom and forgiveness, which is the first move away from them.

Psalm 119:9–11 (NIV) addresses the issue of relapsing into sin. It says, “How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

There are several golden keys in this passage that, if heeded, will keep sin strongholds far from us. In order to avoid a relapse into sin previously overcome, **we must:**

1. **FIRST, we must have a desire for purity.** If we still consider certain sins exciting or classy, our heads may be telling us not to go there, but the pull of our hearts will win. We must be honest with ourselves about our own desires and bring them in line with God’s desires for us. (Psalm 37:4) When we begin with a desire for purity, we’ve made the decision to recognize and turn away from fleshly invitations.
2. **SECOND, we must dive into the Word of God and stay there.** Psalm 119:10 says, “I seek you with all my heart.” God is not interested in riding to the rescue of a compromised, half-committed Christian who needs to repent. (Revelation 2:15–16) Our spiritual connection to the Lord is as vital to our lives as insulin is to a diabetic. Someone with a lung disorder does not fear forgetting his oxygen tank. It has become crucial to his existence. Likewise, when we consider fellowship with God as crucial to our existence, we don’t make excuses for neglecting it. When we seek Him with all our hearts, He is eager to be found. (Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:13; 1 Chronicles 22:19) We seek Him by studying His Word. Learning what pleases and displeases God helps us to know God Himself.
3. **THIRD, we must continually ask God to keep us from stumbling.** (Luke 18:1) His power is available to everyone who calls upon His name through His Son. (Psalm 145:18; Romans 10:12) By continuing in a state of surrender and supplication, we keep ourselves in a posture of obedience. Very few sincere saints leave their knees to march toward sin. When we have been in the presence of a Holy God, we are able to see sin for what it is: a vile trap that caused Jesus’ suffering. (Isaiah 6:5)
4. **FOURTH, it is not enough to merely read God’s Word. We must memorize and meditate on it day and night.** (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1–2) It is when God’s thoughts and words become part of the fabric of our souls that they give us power. Then, when temptation knocks, truth answers the door. The amount of truth that has been read, memorized, meditated on, and personalized will often determine the amount of wisdom that responds when the flesh calls. God’s Word is living and active. (Hebrews 4:12) It will illuminate life’s questions and give us confidence about God’s answers. (Psalm 119:105). For example, if someone has wronged you and lied about you, your flesh wants to tell him

off and cut him out of your life. But as you pray and seek God, His words that are hidden in your heart come floating into your spirit: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27–28)

5. **FIFTH, we must never give our flesh more credit than it deserves.** This is often the biggest mistake we make in staying on the right path. We assume that we are stronger in our flesh than we really are. So we allow ourselves to be caught in compromising situations and then act surprised when our flesh could not resist. Romans 13:14 (ESV) says, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” We “make provision” when we set ourselves up for failure with only our weak, sinful flesh between us and the sin. A young couple romantically involved, lying alone in the dark, “watching a movie”, is making provision for the flesh. A recovering alcoholic going out to the casino with old party friends is making provision for his flesh. A struggling porn addict who keeps that one device away from his accountability partners, assuring himself that he can handle it, is also making provision for his flesh. God has called us out of this world to be citizens of another realm. (Philippians 1:27) When we say “no” to what everyone else is saying “yes” to, we are living as trustworthy ambassadors of our Father’s kingdom. (2 Corinthians 5:20)
6. **LASTLY, it helps to make a list of all that sin has cost you.** Such a list may include names of loved ones, educational goals never reached, money wasted, and lasting scars caused by chasing sin. Remember why you desired to overcome that sin. Where had it led that you did not intend to go? Keep the list handy and add to it as God reveals more of what sin has cost you and His Son. When feeling weak, re-read the list. Let yourself remember the pain, the despair, and the trap into which you had fallen. Then thank God for each item on the list and the ways He has healed you from the wounds.

God has made us “more than conquerors” through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37) But relapses will occur when we grow cold to God’s Word or choose to walk in the flesh instead of the Spirit. God expects His children to “be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8) When we cling tightly to our Good Shepherd, no lion - and no sin - can ever defeat us. (John 10:10–11)

WE MADE IT

C^{ON}P

Well Purpose Family, it's been a pleasure helping you through the past 21 days. I pray that this time of prayer and fasting has been life-changing for you.

WALK in your

DELIVERANCE.

and remember everything you've learned and exercise your God-given power over the enemy.

I love you all and I look forward to seeing you in worship real soon.

-Pastor Eric Love



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