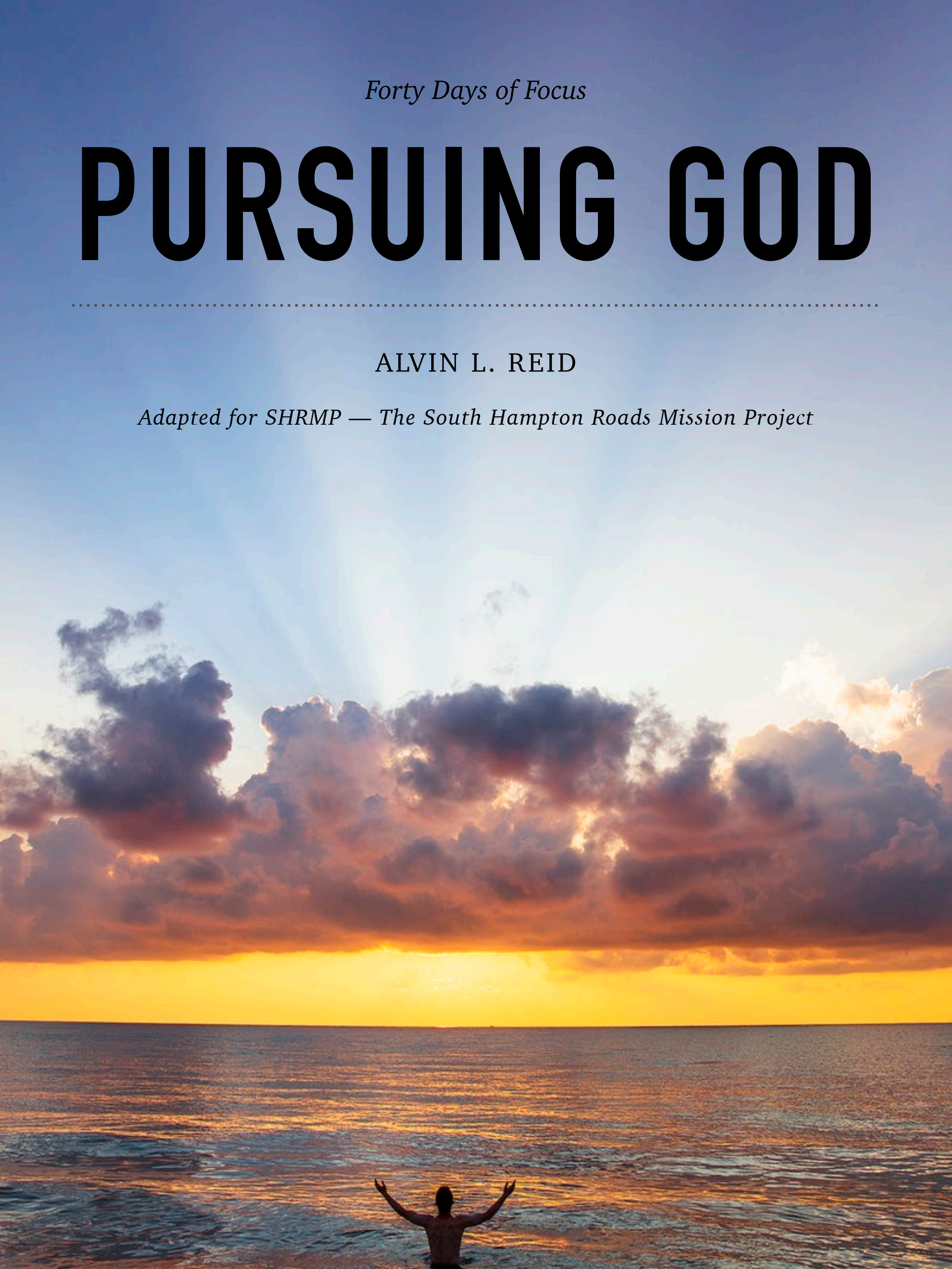


Forty Days of Focus

PURSUING GOD

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Adapted for SHRMP — The South Hampton Roads Mission Project



Pursuing God: Forty Days of Focus

INTRODUCTION

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Our praying is a rehearsal of the Gospel. Rejoicing in the good news. Enjoying sweet fellowship at the table with the Most High God. Then asking him to send us out to a broken world to invite them to enjoy that same fellowship of worship.

If you know Christ, then you know the forgiveness and peace made possible by the God of Creation through a sheer act of His grace. You have not earned the right to fellowship with Him; He has made the way through Christ. You now have the opportunity - indeed the responsibility -- to grow in intimacy with the Creator of the universe and the Savior of your soul. I call this ebook "Pursuing God" not because you *have to* pursue Him to have a relationship, as He has made that possible through faith in Christ's work. But, as the Psalmist said, "As the deer pants for water, so my soul thirsts for you" (Psalm 42:1). Our love for Christ leads us to a relentless pursuit of Him. Paul, who knew well the power of gospel change (see Philippians 3), utters a summary of his passion: "I press forward to the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (v. 14).

The following seeks to help you in a similar pursuit, to grow in intimacy with God through a repentant life of prayer. As a child of God you need not worry about making yourself acceptable to God, for He has already accomplished that. But you now can enjoy the sweet intimacy of fellowship with God. All other relationships flow out of this one, and the greater intimacy you have with God the more clarity you will have in relationships with others.

Let me be clear: Although I have put this together, I am no expert. I am still learning to walk with God in brokenness. Even as I finish writing this I am personally going through it because I know I need a fresh, intimate walk with God.

Where you are in five years will be determined less by your accomplishments and more by your adoration of Christ. This comes through study of His Word, involvement in His church, faithful witness and service to others, and through personal, intimate times of prayer. This guide will take you deeper in your relationship with the Lord over the next forty days. Note: This is a simple, introductory guide, a primer of sorts.

As you follow this guide, remember:

1. **Have a time of personal worship** every day where you get alone with God. Don't set a legalistic time limit; just take time to sit at His table. For me, it helps to have a place and a generally repeatable time, but for you that may not be as vital. This should be a time when you focus your attention on reading the Bible, journaling, and praying. For the next forty days, use the following as a guide for your daily quiet time; if possible, be sure to be alone and do away with all distractions.
2. **Keep a spiritual journal.** Write your thoughts on the passages, your prayers, or your dreams. If you like, you may print this guide and use the journal space provided.
3. **Be faithful to be involved** in your local church, including small groups and the regularly scheduled weekly worship services. You discover God's will in the future by doing God's will right now.
4. **Do not see this as a goal** to achieve something so much as an opportunity to delight in God. See prayer less and less as asking and more and more as fellowship. You do not have to engage in spiritual activities to earn God's favor, but you can enjoy fellowship with One who loves you more than you can ever understand fully. This is not the warmup for activism as much as an opportunity to sit at His table.



Day One

FOCUS ON GOD

Read: Psalm 100; Hebrews 1:1-4

Consider:

1. Do I sometimes forget how mighty and awesome God is?
2. Do I tend to put myself at the center of the Bible instead of recognizing God's supremacy?
3. Do I daily reflect on God as sovereign, provider, redeemer, and the lover of my soul?
4. Do I seek to glorify Him in all areas of my life?

Pray:

Praise God for Who He is, and thank Him for His goodness. Reflect on the amazing grace He has shown us in Christ. Trust Him to be faithful to His promises.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON GOD: THE CREATOR

Read: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 24

Take time to reflect on the beauty of creation. Can you think of a place you have been where you were struck with the wonder of creation?

Consider:

1. Do I often reflect on the beauty of God's creation?
2. Do I care for the earth in appropriate ways, as a steward of God's creation?
3. Do I see how the Creation shows the wonder of God (see Romans 1:20)?
4. Revival recognizes there is one God -- and you are not Him.

Pray:

Thank God for giving us a vast, beautiful, harmonious world to enjoy (and perhaps take time today or this week to go somewhere in nature to enjoy God's bountiful creation).

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE IMAGE OF GOD

Read: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8

Consider:

1. Do I think of the reality that I am unlike anything else in creation?
2. Do I thank God for creating me in His image? Does that thought ever fill me with wonder?
3. Do I recognize the image of God in all people, or do I put myself in a superior mindset toward those who do not believe? Have I forgotten the only difference between me and a lost person is the gift of salvation?
4. Do I seek to live out my life for Christ utilizing all the talents and gifts he has given me, the image bearer of God? Revival rejoices in the wonder that God has created us in His image to worship Him. Revival brings a fresh focus to and passion for worship.

Pray:

Thank God for the gift of His image—in you! Ask God to fill you with both joy and humility as you bear His image in the world.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE FALL

Read: Genesis 3, Romans 1

Consider:

1. Do I reflect on the evidence of the fall—natural disasters, disease, and my own sin?
2. Have I forgotten that although I am forgiven I still war with my flesh?
3. Is my heart broken by the fall and the evil of sin?
4. Do I thank God regularly for his grace in spite of my sin?
5. Do I serve God humbly in daily recognition of my wickedness and need for His grace?

Pray:

Confess your personal wrongdoing, and ask God to help you turn around from it. Revival often comes when believers have a fresh awareness of their sin and a desire to repent and forsake sin.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE RESCUE

Read: Romans 3:21-31; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Consider:

1. Do I reflect daily on the rescue God has provided in Christ?
2. Does my life reflect that impact of God's salvation in all areas?
3. Does the reality of the rescue by faith lead me to care for others who also need to know God's grace?
4. Can others see I am a new creation in Christ?
5. Has God's rescue led me to share the message of reconciliation to others?

Pray:

*A mark of a revived church is seen in numbers of souls born into the Kingdom of God.
Pray for a harvest through your church.*

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE RESTORATION

Read: Romans 8:1-4, 18-30; Revelation 21:1-5

Consider:

1. Do I reflect daily on the fact that this world is not my home?
2. Do I live daily in the hope of eternal life and the reality of being in the very presence of God forever?
3. Is there a specific area in my life I need to see from the perspective of the eternal love of God?
4. Do I place my hope more in the eternal God or in my finite things?

Pray:

Thank God for the beauty and wonder of heaven. Thank Him for the great story of the Gospel—it brings a hope far surpassing the happy ending of a movie! Pray for opportunities to share this hope with others.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL

Read: Luke 24:44-48; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Reflect on your understanding of the Gospel: the death and resurrection of Jesus for our sin. Have you seen it more as one biblical story out of many, or THE Story that is central to all the Scripture? In these passages Jesus and Paul relate the Gospel to all the Bible, and we should as well.

Consider:

1. Do you see Jesus as the hero of all Scripture?
2. Do you focus in your study and teaching of the Bible to show Jesus' work in the gospel throughout?
3. Does the gospel change everything in your life: your finances, your emotions, decisions, relationships . . . *everything*?
4. Do you speak to others in and out of the church about the Gospel?

Pray:

Praise God for His glorious gift! Reflect on the wonder of the Gospel in terms of its greatness in all Scripture: Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration, and in its central reality, that God in Christ has made a way to worship Him (2 Cor. 5:21).

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE MISSION

Read: Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

We call these instructions—Jesus' final teaching—the Great Commission.

Consider:

1. Do you live your life focused on the mission God has given His church?
2. Has the Great Commission become the Great Suggestion, something you can take or leave?
3. Do you think often about the lostness of people and the multitudes who have never heard of Christ?
4. Have you ever been out of the country to take the gospel to the nations?
5. Does your giving—time, money, energy—demonstrate a love for God's mission?

Pray:

Thank God for the honor of being His ambassador. Pray God will give you an opportunity today to share Jesus, for the wisdom to see the opportunity, and for the courage to take it.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON ASSURANCE

Read: 1 John 2:1-29

Consider:

1. Am I able to sin without feeling any conviction or concern over my actions (see Hebrews 12:6-8)?
2. Do I love the things of this world above the things of God (see 1 John 2:15)?
3. Do I fail to seek God's will in every area of my life (see 1 John 2:16-17 and Matthew 7:21)?
4. Do I habitually practice the same sin (see 1 John 3:9)?
5. Do I genuinely love my brothers and sisters in the family of God?

Pray:

Confess your sins to the Lord. Ask Him to forgive you and to fill you with His Spirit. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. (Revival is when a Christian turns back to obedience.)

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Read: Psalm chapter 119

Consider:

1. Do I love to read and meditate upon the Word of God?
2. Does the Bible change my life?
3. How much time do I average each day reading the Bible? If less than ten minutes, what might inspire me to change?
4. Are my personal devotions meaningful?
5. Am I growing to love and obey God's Word more each day?

Pray:

Do you need to confess as sin your lack of reading and studying the Bible? Spend time thanking God for the Bible and make a commitment in prayer to read the Bible more faithfully on a consistent basis. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON PRAYER

Read: Matthew 6:1-24

Consider:

1. Do I pray with any consistency?
2. Are my prayers usually . . . meaningful? empty words? vain repetitions?
3. How much time do I spend in genuine heart-felt prayer every day?
4. Am I satisfied with my daily prayer life?

Pray:

Do you need to confess as sin your lack of time in genuine prayer? Spend time thanking God for the privilege of prayer and for what He did for you on the cross to make prayer possible.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON PRIDE

Read: Proverbs 8:13, 16:18; and James 4:6

Consider:

1. Do I find it hard to ask forgiveness from people I offend?
2. Is it hard for me to admit when I am wrong?
3. Do I have a tendency to want credit for accomplishments?
4. Do I defend myself when a fault or sin is pointed out in my life?
5. Do you need to confess "pride" as a sin problem in your life?

Pray:

Ask God to help you see that your self-esteem is not found in yourself or your abilities, but in God's love for you already provided through Christ. As Robert Murray McCheyne said, "God does not bless great talent. He blesses great likeness to Jesus." Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON PRIORITIES

Read: Luke 12:15-34; Colossians 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Consider:

1. Do I value highly the things that God values (integrity, giving, studying the Bible, prayer, witnessing, etc.)?
2. Do I routinely focus on life from a heavenly perspective?
3. Number the following in the order of which gets the most of my time on a daily basis:
 - ____ Recreation
 - ____ Reading the Bible
 - ____ Watching TV/Netflix/Youtube
 - ____ Prayer
 - ____ Gaming/Hobbies
4. Do you need to confess any sins that were revealed to you from today's Scripture reading?

Pray:

Ask God to help you to stay focused on His purposes for your life. Pray especially today for there to be a spiritual awakening among the unsaved in your community. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON OBEDIENCE

Read: 1 Samuel 15:1-23 and Romans 13:1-7

Consider:

1. Am I quick to obey what God's Word teaches?
2. Do I obey authorities that God has placed in my life?
3. Do I have a rebellious attitude at times?
4. Do I believe that partial obedience pleases God?
5. Can God trust me to do whatever He says?

Pray:

Confess as sin any rebelliousness toward God or toward authorities in your life. Thank God that you are already accepted by Him and forgiven, and let that motivate you to obey. Tell the Lord that you honestly desire to obey Him in every area of your life.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON FASTING

Read: Jonah 3, Nehemiah 1, and Matthew 6:16-18

Consider:

1. Does the Bible teach that Christians should “fast”?
2. Do I routinely practice the spiritual discipline of fasting?
3. Should I brag to others about my fasting?
4. Should I routinely practice the discipline of fasting?

Note: You are asked to choose one day this week and abstain from all foods for at least a meal, and if possible for a 24-hour period of time. You will be asked to do this once every week until this prayer guide ends. During the time that you would normally be eating, you are requested to spend time praying for revival in your life, in your family, and in the church.

My “Fast” Day: _____
My “Fast” Time/Meal: _____

Pray:

If God is convicting you of the lack of regular times of fasting in your past, confess it as sin. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON GRATITUDE

Read: Psalm 100; Luke 17:11-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Consider:

1. Would those who know me best consider me to be a thankful person?
2. Do I spend time most everyday thanking God for specific blessings in my life?
3. Do I thank God daily for my salvation?
4. Do I find myself routinely complaining about things?
5. Do I regularly express "thanks" to others including those who are in my family?

Pray:

Confess as sin a lack of being as thankful to God and to others as you should be. Spend time thanking God for specific blessings. Ask God to help you to become more thankful and less critical.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT

Read: Ephesians 5:18, Acts 4:8-13 (Note: To be “filled” is to be “controlled” by the Spirit.)

Consider:

1. Do I daily ask God to fill me (control me) with His Spirit?
2. Do my attitudes and actions consistently demonstrate to others that I am a Spirit-filled Christian?
3. Do I display the fruit of the Spirit? (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

Pray:

Confess as sin whatever the Holy Spirit convicts you of from today’s study. Sincerely ask God to fill you (control you) with His Spirit. Ask Him to remind you to do this every day! Pray that the Holy Spirit would move in great power upon the church where you worship.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON FORSAKING SIN

Read: Psalm 51; 1 John 1:8-10

Consider:

1. Do I regularly thank God for His forgiveness of my sin in the work of Christ on the cross?
2. Do I regularly reflect on my own sin and depravity?
3. Is it difficult to confess my sin to God?
4. Do I: ___ Enjoy Sin ___ Hate Sin ___ Not Care ?
5. Is there a particular sin that I keep habitually committing?
6. Do I sometimes blame others for my sin?

Pray:

Honestly ask God to bring to your attention any sin in your life that is displeasing to Him. The Holy Spirit will be faithful to convict of all sin. Confess (agree with God) all sins that come to mind and purpose to turn away from them today! Ask God to remove the desire to commit specific sins from your life.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON FORGIVENESS

Read: Matthew 5:23-24, 6:7-15; Luke 23:24-34

Consider:

1. What is Matthew 6:14-15 saying about how our willingness to forgive others affects our praying?
2. Do I have an unforgiving attitude toward anyone?
3. Is there anyone who has something against me whom I have not approached to seek reconciliation?
4. Do I forgive an offender before he or she asks to be forgiven?
5. Do I have a grudge against anyone?

Pray:

Forgiving others is often hard, and cannot be done without God's help. Ask God to help you forgive others as Jesus forgave you. If God brings someone to your mind you have not yet forgiven, ask the Lord for forgiveness and for the strength to purpose to seek reconciliation. Ask God to convict you promptly whenever you might be tempted to be unforgiving in the future. Pray today especially for a spirit of unity within the church body.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON CONTROLLING SEXUAL PASSIONS

Read: Proverbs 5:1-14; 6:20-29; 7:1-27; Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Consider:

1. Am I honest about my struggles with lust or other sexual sin?
2. Am I careful not to look at anything that could cause me to lust? (T.V. programs, magazines, the Internet, social media, etc.)
3. Do I honestly need an Internet filter and accountability to guard my life from secret sin?
4. Have I dedicated my eyes, ears, and thought-life totally to Christ? Is my affection for Christ greater than my affection for sexual passion?

Pray:

If you struggle in this area, confess your sin to God. Sometimes it is helpful to share your struggle with a more mature Christian who can pray with you about your struggle. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom about how best to deal with this issue in your life. Recommit your body to Christ and to His purposes. Ask God to help you to remove areas of temptation from your life.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON YOUR WORDS

Read: Proverbs 10:19; 15:28; 17:27; 18:21; Matthew 12:33-37; James 3:1-12

Consider:

1. Do I often hurt people with my words?
2. Do I ever gossip?
3. Do I ever speak unkindly about people when they are not present?
4. Do my words always please Christ?
5. Do my words consistently reflect gospel change in my life?

Pray:

Confess as sin whatever words God brings to your mind that you should never have said. Ask God to tame your tongue and to help you speak words that would always please Him. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON FEARING GOD

Read: Proverbs 1:7; Acts 5:1-11

Consider:

1. Do I have a healthy fear of God in my life?
2. Do I fear the consequences of my sin?
3. Am I continually aware of God's presence in my life?
4. Do I often realize that God sees my every action?
5. Do I often realize that God hears my every word?
6. Do I routinely think about standing before Christ one day to give an account of my life?

Pray:

Ask God to help you to walk in the fear of the Lord every day. Ask Him to remind you often that you are being held accountable for all of your actions, attitudes, and words. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. Pray that the church would also experience a healthy dosage of the fear of God!

Note: You are once again asked to choose one day this week to fast from all foods for at least a meal, or for a 24-hour period of time. During the time that you would normally be eating, you are requested to spend extra time praying for revival in your life, in your family, and in the church. Please write the period during which you will plan to fast: _____

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON TRUST

Read: Matthew 6:25-34; and Philippians 4:6-7

Consider:

1. Do I often worry about things in my life?
2. According to the Bible, is it a sin to worry?
3. Can "worrying" ever make matters better?
4. Can I trust God and worry at the same time?
5. Does God want me to worry?

Pray:

Confess as sin your proneness to oftentimes "worry" if that is a problem area in your life. Ask God to help you to trust Him for every need (see Phil. 4:19). Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. Begin to thank God for His desire to bring revival to your life!

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON REJECTING MATERIALISM

Read: Proverbs 23:4-5; Luke 12:15-21; and I Timothy 6:6-10

Consider:

1. Do I spend a lot of time each day wishing I had more possessions (cars, clothes, jewelry, electronics, etc.)?
2. Do I believe fulfillment comes from having more possessions?
3. Am I content with what I have?
4. Do I thank God often for what I have?
5. Am I “storing up treasures in heaven”?

Pray:

Do you need to confess “materialism” as a sin to God today? Thank God for what you have; be specific! Ask God to help you to become more content by focusing on what God has blessed you with rather than what you wish you had.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON AVOIDING HYPOCRISY

Read: Matthew 23:1-28 (Note: A 'hypocrite' is a play-actor, a fake.)

Consider:

1. Does what I say about Jesus match how I live each day?
2. Do I give the appearance sometimes of being "godly" but inwardly I know my heart is far from God?
3. Does my mind "wander" while I pray or worship?
4. Do I talk and act differently when I am away from church than I do when I am at church?

Pray:

If the Holy Spirit is convicting you of any hypocrisy, confess it as sin before God. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and to help you to be real in your Christian walk. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. Pray especially that there would be openness in the church for people to be honest with God and with one another.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON SERVANTHOOD

Read: Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:1-17

Consider:

1. Do I prefer serving others rather than having others serve me?
2. Do I have to be asked or told to serve someone before I usually do?
3. Is helping other people a way of life for me?
4. Do I ever look for ways that God can use me to be a servant at church?

Pray:

The way to know if you have a servant's heart is to see how you act when others treat you like one. If the Holy Spirit is convicting you about your lack of service to others, confess your sin to God. Ask Him to remind you daily that you are His servant. Thank Jesus for what He did for you on the cross.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON LOVE

Read: Matthew 22:37-39; John 15:9-11; Revelation 2:1-7

Consider:

1. Do I love Jesus first in my life?
2. Do I show my love for Jesus by my obedience?
3. Do I tell Jesus that I love Him?
4. Would those who know me best be able to testify that they know I love Jesus sincerely?
5. Do I love my neighbor as myself?

Pray:

Tell Jesus that you love Him today. Ask Him to remind you to tell Him that you love Him every day! Continue to pray with thanksgiving for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON WITNESSING

Read: Matthew 4:18-19, 28:18-20; and Acts 8:26-40

Consider:

1. Does the Lord expect me to be a witness for Him?
2. Can I truthfully say that I am following Jesus as I ought if I never witness to others?
3. Have I attempted to witness to at least one lost person within the last week?
4. Do I remind myself that the Gospel is GOOD NEWS, and something so wonderful I cannot keep it to myself?

Pray:

If you have failed to witness to others as you should, confess it as sin to God. Ask Him to make you more sensitive to the opportunities He gives to you to be His witness. Ask Him to make you more compassionate towards those who are lost. Ask Him to remind you often about the reality of hell. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. Ask God to burden the church for lost souls and to convict the church to become more active in witnessing.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON AVOIDING TEMPTATION

Read: Proverbs 4:14-15, 23-27, 22:3, 27:12; Romans 13:14; 1 Cor. 10:1- 13; Galatians 5:16

Consider:

1. Do I make a conscious effort to avoid being in situations where I know I will face temptation?
2. Does God want me to get as close to areas of temptation as possible?
3. Do I consistently experience victory in my life over temptations?
4. Do I need to have someone in my life to hold me accountable in certain areas?

Pray:

Confess as sin any area of temptation in your life where you keep falling. Ask God to give you wisdom to be able to see the "warning signs" that flash before you when you approach areas of temptation. Ask God to help you to stay as far away from tempting situations as possible! Thank the Lord for always providing a door of escape in every temptation.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON HELL

Read: Luke 16:19-31 and Revelation 20:11-15

Consider:

1. Is hell a real place of awful pain and suffering?
2. Do all people who go to hell remain there forever with no way possible of ever getting out?
3. Will all of the unsaved spend eternity in hell?
4. Does my life reflect concern for others, knowing that unless people I know and love repent of their sins and receive Christ, they will spend eternity in hell?

Pray:

Jesus spent much of His time warning people about hell. Thank God (if you are saved) that you don't have to fear going to hell! Ask God to give you a greater vision of how real hell is. Ask God really to burden your heart for those whom you know that are bound for hell unless they repent and receive Christ! Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church. Pray that God would impress the reality of hell upon the hearts of all of the people who need Jesus.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON JUDGMENT

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 and Romans 14:12

Consider:

1. Does the Bible teach that all Christians will stand individually before “The Judgment Seat of Christ”?
2. Will I stand before Christ and be held accountable as to how well I did or did not live faithfully for Christ?
3. Do I think often about giving an account of my faithfulness to Christ?

Pray:

Thank God that if you are saved, you will never be condemned for your sins -- Jesus has already paid the full price! However, ask God to help you remember every day that you are being held accountable for how faithfully you serve Christ -- and that you will give an account before Him one day soon. Ask God to forgive you for wasting time being unfaithful at times to Him.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON REPENTANCE

Read: 2 Chronicles 7:13-22 and Revelation 3:14-19

Consider:

1. Can I have personal revival without repentance?
2. Can I embrace sin and walk closely with Jesus at the same time?
3. Are there some areas of sin in my life of which I am now willing to repent?

Pray:

Repentance is turning away from sinful behavior and attitudes, and turning back to God in complete obedience. For revival to occur in your life, repentance is essential! Confess whatever sin(s) to God that He is now bringing to your mind and repent! Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE PRIZE

Read: Philippians 3:10-14; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews 12:1-3

Consider:

1. Do I try to do “just enough to get by” as a Christian, or am I daily seeking to abandon all for Jesus?
2. Do I discipline my life spiritually just like an athlete prepares for a contest?
3. Does my physical life (eating, exercise, etc) and my intellectual life (time given to study, etc) reflect a relentless pursuit of Christ?
4. Do I need to remove some things in my life that hinder me from serving Christ with my whole heart?
5. Do I need to forget some things in my past that Satan uses to keep me from living for Jesus?

Pray:

Ask God to give you a growing passion to live for Him. Daily seek to remove anything that hinders you from living a life totally abandoned to God.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON ENCOURAGEMENT

Read: Acts 11:19-26

Consider:

1. Did God use Barnabas as an encourager to the new church in Antioch and to the man Saul (later known as the Apostle Paul)?
2. Do I appreciate and thank those who have encouraged me in my walk with Christ?
3. Am I known as an encourager?

Pray:

If the Holy Spirit so convicts, ask God to help you to encourage more and criticize less. We may not all be a Paul, but we can all be a Barnabas. Continue to pray for revival in your life, for revival in your family, and for revival in the church.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON REVIVAL

Read: 1 Kings 18:20-40

Consider:

1. Am I hungry for personal revival?
2. Am I hungry to see revival in my family?
3. Am I hungry to see revival in the church?
4. Do I know of anything in my life (any sin or area of disobedience)

Pray:

Revival means a return to our first love, Jesus. It means loving Jesus with all of your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Revival is returning back to complete devotedness and obedience to Christ. Revival happens when God's Spirit breaks your heart over your sin, and you thoroughly repent and humble yourself willingly before Christ. Pray for personal revival today.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON MENTORING

Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Consider:

1. Do you have a mentor? If not, have there been times someone mentored you?
2. Do you currently mentor someone else? Is there someone you could help grow in Christ by mentoring him or her?
3. Do you see the value you investing in someone who has much to learn spiritually as Moses did with Joshua, or Jesus with the 12, or Paul with Timothy?

Pray:

Ask God to help you to invest in another person, and to learn from the example of Jesus that our greatest impact most likely will come from the individuals we influence for Christ, not the crowds all around us.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON SUFFERING

Read: Acts 5:27-42

Consider:

1. Do I understand that suffering for Christ is a mark of His followers consistently in the Bible?
2. What have I suffered for His name?
3. What am I willing to give up for Jesus?
4. Am I aware of the persecuted church, that about every 2.5 minutes someone dies as a martyr for Christ? Do I pray for them?

Go to **www.persecution.com** to learn more about our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Pray:

Thank God for those who suffer for righteousness. Ask God to give you a willingness to suffer for His name while at the same time thanking God for the freedom to worship Him that many do not enjoy.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

Read: Hebrews 10:19-25 and Matthew 16:13-20

Consider:

1. Do I value the local church?
2. Am I actively engaged in the life of a local body of believers?
3. Do I see the church of which I am a part to be as essential to my life as my family?
4. Am I a spectator only or intimately involved in my local church?
5. Am I involved in a small group for accountability, growth, and encouragement?

Pray:

Thank God for giving us the local church. No church is perfect, but the church is God's plan for reaching the world and training disciples.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON DISCIPLINE

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Consider:

1. Do I regard discipline as a vital part of my spirituality?
2. Do I prioritize spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, fasting, solitude, etc)?
3. Am I disciplined in some areas but very undisciplined in others?
4. Does my diet and physical fitness demonstrate a life surrendered to Christ? Do I glorify God in my body (1 Corinthians 6:20)?

Pray:

Ask God to help you be consistent in discipline, and to see discipline as a blessing more than a burden.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

FOCUS ON CONTENTMENT

Read: Philippians 4

Consider:

1. Is my life marked more by contentment or anxiety?
2. Do I believe Christ is sufficient for me?
3. Do I tend to be satisfied with where I am spiritually but fail to be content with what I have materially?
4. Does focusing on the gospel help me to be content?

Pray:

Pray that God will give you a love for contentment over consumption. Ask Him to help you be satisfied only in Jesus.

Reflect: Your Prayer Journal

PURSUING GOD: A 40-Day Guide to Personal Revival

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