

AWAKENING

21-Day Fast Devotional

Day 1 – John 3

John 3:3-5

From this passage, we learn that although living a moral life is important, it isn't our primary goal. God's desire is for us to be in unbroken fellowship with Him. We do this by being filled with His Spirit. As such, we are citizens of the kingdom of God.

Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, who is one of the chief teachers of the Jews. Jesus tells him that regardless of education, piety or theological training, it's impossible for anyone to see or enter the Kingdom of God by natural means. Each of us must experience a rebirth from the Spirit of God. There is no earthly substitute for what only comes from Heaven.

Many times our faith can feel manufactured. However, nothing on earth can manufacture what comes down from the "Father of Heavenly Lights." God's Spirit in us begins and sustains our unbroken fellowship as citizens in the Kingdom of God.

Father, thank you for filling me with your Spirit. I love the unbroken fellowship your Spirit brings to my life! I am truly made new. I am a born-again child of God, and a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven!

Ref: James 1:17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12

Day 2 – John 4

The disciples offered Jesus food. He refused it—he was too excited to eat! He had just finished doing exactly what he does best.

"Look!" he announced to his disciples, pointing at the Samaritan woman who was running to the village. "Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for the reaping" (John 4:35 tlb).

In other words, "Who could eat at a time like this?"

Any person who has been given a ring, but never a heart; criticism, but never a chance; a bed, but never rest understands the life of the Woman at the Well. Perhaps these words would have been the Samaritan Woman's epitaph had she not encountered Jesus on that day:

She sleeps, but could not rest. She loves, but was not loved.

She tried to please, but could not satisfy. She died as she lived—rejected and alone.

Those who have received love after long seasons of rejection understand why Jesus couldn't eat. Jesus really is hungry for changed lives.

Jesus, today I ask you to do what only you do best. Please take my life and make it spectacular.

Although I feel unimportant at times, I know that I am valued in your sight. Help me to become a world-changing missionary of significance. I love you, Lord. In your name, amen.

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Day 3 – John 5

By searching the Scriptures we may sometimes think they will give us eternal life, but what the Scriptures do is point us to the one who can give us eternal life. In order to understand the package of salvation and eternal life we must cultivate a relationship with Jesus. We do this so we will know the one in whom we've placed our hope in for eternal life. He said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24 NIV).

Jesus is not trying to take anything from us; He is willing to give freedom, peace and joy to us while we live in a broken world. Eternal life starts the moment we accept Jesus as Lord and it continues until we transition to be with Him forever. The only way he can give eternal life to us is through salvation. If you have not made Jesus the Lord of your life, or if you would like to recommit your life to Christ, take a moment today, surrender you heart to Christ and humbly say this prayer before Him:

Father, I repent of my sins. You said if I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died, was raised from the dead, and is the son of God that I would be saved. I confess that before you and invite you into my heart.

In Jesus name, Amen!

Day 4 – John 6

In the beginning of John 6 is the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people from just five loaves of bread and two small fish. "Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish" (v11).

You see, before Jesus performed a miracle He stopped, He paused, and He gave thanks. He had the power to feed the five thousand, yet He didn't let that stop Him from looking towards heaven and telling His father "thank you."

Jesus' heart of thankfulness positioned Him to perform and be a part of a divine miracle; a miracle that would be recorded in history, be written on the pages of millions of bibles, and impact the lives of people for generations and generations.

Today take a moment, get quiet before God, look to heaven and simply say "thanks." If you feel like you don't have much to be thankful for, the chances are that you really do. Thank God for your family, your job, your friends, your church, your life, your breath, your health, your home, your things, and most importantly thank Him for giving you His son as such a precious sacrifice. When we have thankful hearts, no matter what we are going through, it helps us to have hearts that reflect Jesus Christ, and in turn we position ourselves to be a part of the divine and miraculous.

Father, thank you for everything you have given me. Please forgive me for any unthankfulness that I have displayed. Please create in me a heart that is thankful; a heart that reflects the pureness of your Son. I choose to be thankful today. In your name, amen.

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Day 5 – Psalms 7 & 8

Psalm 7 is David's song to God and talks about David finding refuge in God and that God will protect him from those who try to come against him. David just needed to keep a pure heart let God be the judge of his enemies.

Psalm 8 is a song to God from David, and he is talking about how majestic God is as the Creator. In this chapter David is also talking about the unique place of man in God's creation.

Let's challenge ourselves to really bring our burdens to God and lay them at His feet in total surrender to Him. He is such an amazing God that He already knows what we are thinking and doing before we ever think or do it, so if we keep our hearts and motives pure and let God be the judge, God will honor us in His perfect timing.

Lord we ask that you continue to soften our hearts and continue showing us the things we haven't yet laid at your feet in total surrender, so that we may be pure in your eyes. Please help us to be more like you and see things through the Father's eyes. Amen.

Day 6 – John 7

In John chapter 7, Jesus leaves Galilee for Judea to attend the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles where He shared a teaching of the difference between religious works and faith works. However, before He set off for Judea He faced disbelief and adversity as it shows in verse 3-7.

You would think that if anyone would have faith in Jesus being the Messiah it would be His brothers. They had a chance every day to witness the works of Jesus and had more access to Him than anyone. But, maybe that is why they did not believe in Him; perhaps Jesus was too familiar to them.

For some of us we can connect with this on our own level. The name Jesus Christ can become so familiar that we can miss out on realizing how extraordinary He truly is. It is important that we don't let Christ become common in our lives. Take this time of fasting and prayer to remember what made you fall in love with Jesus; remind yourself of what caused you to call on His name. Invite and allow the Holy Spirit to actively move in your life, even interrupt your day, to show you how truly awe-inspiring our Lord is. And once the fast is done, continue pursuing the Father's heart so that He stays your primary focus throughout the year.

Father, help my faith in You to be renewed. Help me to have a fresh understanding of Your glory and majesty. Please be the center of everything I do and help me to always honor Your name. You are magnificent and I love you God. Amen.

Day 7 – John 8

Have you ever tried to look for something in a dark room?

Once light hits a certain area it brings you to a place where you can see better and clearer. In John 8:12 Jesus was very clear in what he was saying, "I AM the light of the world." If you follow Him you will not have to walk in darkness; you will be guided by the Light of the World. Light brings order to your world and cancels out any area in your life that is cloudy or uncertain.

To Follow Christ means to learn from Him, to have faith and believe in your heart that God has a great plan for your life. Following Christ also means you learn to recognize and respond to His Voice

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and trust that He will lead your every step. If we want to walk in His light it means we have to put Him first in every situation. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33

Dear God, thank you for being my source of light. Please guide me today and help me to follow your direction. Help me to learn from you Lord, and to recognize and respond to your voice. Help me to see you more clearly and to walk in the guidance of your light. I love you Lord and I put my trust fully in You today. Amen.

Day 8 – John 9

Throughout His three year ministry, Jesus healed in a multitude of ways. In one instance, Jesus simply touched the eyes of two blind men and they were instantly healed (see Matthew 9:27-31). In John chapter 9:6-7 (NIV), we see Jesus heal a blind man in a different way.

In this case, Jesus walks the blind man through a process of making mud, applying it to his eyes, and then giving instruction to wash it off. Why carry out this process when Christ could have just touched his eyes to restore his sight? The point is this: Jesus' message always outweighs the method. The process of healing looks different for people, situations, cultures, and backgrounds. The end result, however, never changes. Jesus is a healer and loves us enough to start and to be with us through the healing process.

Remember that no matter your ailment, state, or circumstance, Christ always has the ability to heal. Even though the healing may look different than you have ever seen or heard, His message is always constant. He loves you and has great plans for you.

Lord, today I ask that you help me to believe you over my fears. I lift up all of the areas of my life to you that I need healing in. I declare that you are my healer and I put my faith and trust solely in you. I may not understand your ways all of the time, but I trust you and love you. In your name Father, amen.

Day 9 – John 10

Are you in charge of others? Don't just take this question at face value- it's not as simple as saying you have others "working" underneath you in a corporate ladder.

In some capacity there is someone in your life you look after, an employee, friend, sibling, or neighbor. Even as believers we are called to look out for each other. Emotionally, physically, spiritually, financially do you "check in" with people to see how they are doing? Often in passing we ask "how's it going" but do we ever really press for the real answers? Are we merely looking for the fast & typical "great; how are you"?

We need to continually & intentionally be thankful for Jesus who declares Himself as the "Good Shepherd", appointed by God in contrast to the false shepherds of this time (Pharisees) who were self-appointed and self-righteous. Jesus cares for his sheep and knows them. Every detail about us is important and holds significance to our shepherd. The hairs on our heads are numbered. Jesus laid down his life for us- when He sees the wolf coming he doesn't abandon us. Jesus still saves people- when He sees "sheep" that are not in his pasture, He desires to bring them in & once we are God's child, we stay God's child. Jesus is the perfect example of putting self-motivation aside &

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caring for others above ourselves. Reach out to someone in your life today and check up on them. Or take the time to call someone you haven't heard from in a while. This small act can have such a big impact.

Lord, thank you for calling me as your own and never letting me go. Help me to love people like you do and to look after them like you do. Help me to be an example of you in my relationships and help me to see people as you do. Thank you guiding me and loving me. Amen.

Day 10 – John 11

John 11:21-26 is an account of how Martha's faith is correctly founded on the divine nature and ability of Jesus. However, she seems to have a limited understanding of the power of God to overcome the present reality of her situation. Has your faith ever been dependent on your limited perspective and expectation of how things might be resolved? It is natural to want to help and figure out how things may work out, but what would it look like if our faith was founded completely in a child-like trust of our Heavenly Father?

Jesus is here, in the present, to accomplish miracles in your life! His power and ability are far beyond any earthly perspective. Today, be encouraged to believe God for something you feel is close to impossible. Maybe you have been praying for a new job, a new home, a miracle in your marriage or a breakthrough for your children. Go big with God! There is nobody or nothing that is more capable of answering your prayers. Scripture says that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Let your faith rest in the One who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Lord, thank you that you are exceedingly, abundantly, and above anything I could ask or imagine. Help me today to have more of a child-like faith and to rely less on what I am able to see and understand and more on your Divine Power. Amen.

Day 11 – John 12

What do you consider one of your most valuable possessions? It could be a gift from a loved one, a souvenir from a memorable trip, or a family heirloom from a wealthy relative. Perhaps it's something more intangible – a relationship, your sense of purpose, or simply the gift of time. Mary of Bethany also possessed something of great value. In John 12 we see Mary bring out expensive perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus. This supply of perfume was equal to a year's wages in that time. Mary's act of anointing Jesus represented a beautiful expression of worship. Judas questioned the merit of Mary's actions, but Jesus responded by asking her to be left alone, so she may "keep" the perfume for the day of his burial.

A Greek translation of the word "keep" is the word *tereo*, meaning to guard, attend to carefully, take care of, to reserve.

It's clear to see the generosity and sincerity of Mary's gift to Jesus. But before Mary could lavish Jesus with this gift, she was entrusted to steward it well. She had to protect it, attend to it, save up the supply. There could have been other occasions to spend it or offer it to someone else, but Mary chose to save it and keep it close. She kept it "for the day" of Jesus' burial – there was a specific

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time for this gift to be offered and displayed. This was one of the ways Mary expressed honor to Jesus.

We all have things of precious value on the inside of us from God. It may not be a physical possession - perhaps God has given you a vision, dream or fresh revelation during this season of prayer and fasting. This is something to be protected, guarded, and cultivated. It's already in you – it's just a matter the right timing to be shared with others. Pray and ask God what He's placed in your heart of prized value. Whatever it is, it is worth keeping for Him.

Father, I ask that today you help me to glorify you; that you would search my heart and help me to have fresh vision for what you have for my life. Help me to know what you have placed in my heart that is of prized value to you, and help me to keep it for you. May everything I do, think, and believe bring honor and glory to your name. Amen.

Day 12 – John 13

John 13:7-9, 15-17

The Son of God, in an incredible display of serving, washes the feet of his disciples who were all about to abandon, deny, and even betray Him. Peter is confused and even tries to reject Christ's service all together. But Jesus knew who he was, what his Father had asked, and that the fullness of God's blessing is found in surrender and service.

We don't always understand what Jesus is up to. Sometimes the hardest thing is to let go and trust Him. Because of his knowledge of His identity and purpose, Jesus was able to exemplify surrender and selfless service as the key to a life of divine blessings. Our identity and purpose are secure in Christ. Let go, serve others, and trust God!

Thank you, Jesus, for Your goodness and love for me. Please help me to grow in knowledge and confidence of my identity and purpose in You. Help me to accept your grace, trust You, and live my life in service to others. Thank You that today You are releasing incredible blessings in my life. Amen.

Day 13 – John 14

John 14 is a beautiful chapter with Christ teaching His disciples 3 key things in regards to His character that we all need to make sure and catch.

In verses 1-4 He is **THE COMFORTER** to His disciples who are troubled at the thought of Jesus' time with them coming to an end as He gets ready to go back to the Father. In verses 5-14 Christ reveals to them that He is **THE WAY** (as well as the truth and life) in which they can also be joined with the Father. And finally in verses 15-31 Jesus encourages them that He is **THE ADVOCATE** (in the person of the Holy Spirit) who will continue to teach them and remind them of all that they have learned as they continue to minister the Gospel of Christ to the world. And then Jesus leaves them with this beautiful encouragement in verse 27:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

God, I thank you that You are my comforter in times of trouble. You are my way and truth in times of hopelessness, and my advocate in times of waiting. Today Lord, help me to take heart, be

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hopeful, fearless, and help me to allow Your peace to fill my mind and heart. Father, you have permission to be in control of every area of my life. Amen.

Day 14 – Psalms 9-10

Psalm 9 is a heartfelt cry of David praising the Lord. He professes to praise God with all of his heart, and this is the same way we should aim to give praise to our Father. David then goes on to say that “my enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you” (v 3). You see, David committed to praise the Lord with everything in him, and in turn God protected him from his enemies. This Psalm is a reminder that God is our protector and that we are called to praise Him with everything we have.

Psalm 10 begins with David asking God why he is far off. This might sound like a familiar question to you. Perhaps at times God seems far away or even silent. The truth is that God promises never to leave us or forsake us, and He is always near us even if He seems far away. Psalm 10 ends with David proclaiming that “the Lord is King forever and ever” (v 16). You may have started this fast, or even this year, with the feeling that God is far from you. However, take heart today and stand firm on the promise that God is King forever and ever, and He is always there to help us in times of need. Father, thank you that you are never far away from me. Please be glorified in my life today and always. Help me to trust you more than ever before. Thank you for being my great protector and ever present help in my times of need. I love you God. Amen.

Day 15 – John 15

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7

In times past, kings had men called "the hand." The Hand was close to the king and was responsible for ensuring the kingdom was advancing by operating with the king's authority on all vital matters. The hand represented the word of the king. As long as the hand "*abided*" in the king's rule, he received whatever he desired because his desires supported the kingdom.

In the Gospel of John chapter 15 the word "abide" appears 11 times. Though translations may differ, the meaning is the same. To abide means to dwell, continue, or remain. Understanding kingdom rule, Jesus teaches the principle that as long as we abide in Him and allow His word to govern our desires, He will meet our needs.

We often conclude our prayers with, "in Jesus' name." In essence, this communicates that we are in Christ so Christ is in us. Like "the hand", we have been commissioned to advance the kingdom and as long as we abide in our King, He will reign in every area of our lives.

God, in this season of fasting and prayer I ask that You strengthen my roots in You so that my faith is unmovable, even in storms. Allow Your word to speak to my heart so that my will is Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 16 – John 16

In verses 31-33 the disciples are realizing Jesus' identity. This revelation leads Jesus to make His followers aware of the troubles they will experience in this world. However, Jesus reminds them that God knows what they need before they even ask and that both peace and victory are promised to them.

Have you ever felt alone, confused, and hopeless? Jesus faced those same feelings too. His power to overcome is available to you! Your identity in Christ is secure and He is going to glorify God through you! Jesus is with you and His presence brings peace, faith, and victory!

Jesus, when life's troubles try to overwhelm and cause me to lose my way, you never leave me or forsake me. Thank you that everything I need is found in You. Help me to experience peace beyond understanding and victory over every challenge I am facing. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 17 – John 17

Before Jesus was arrested and crucified, He gathered His disciples together for one last meal. During that meeting, Jesus taught some of the most important lessons they would need to know and He prayed for them and all future believers – you! Because Jesus knew leaving them behind after His death would be difficult, He asked the Father to protect them from the evil one, to empower them by His name, and to be with them through His Spirit.

While on earth, the physical presence of Jesus brought strength, support, and stability to His followers. They could see Him standing in front of them and hear His voice as they walked side-by-side. Today, the presence of God is with us by the Holy Spirit. We hear His voice speak to us through the words of Scripture. As a result, God's Spirit in us gives us strength when facing temptation and leads us daily as we live in this world.

Thank you, Father, for Your presence in my life today. Empower me by Your Spirit to live strong and boldly, protecting me as I reject all temptation. I commit myself to obeying all You speak to me through Scripture and will follow You faithfully today. Amen.

Day 18 – John 18

“Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

In verse 10, it is clear that Simon Peter did not fully comprehend what Jesus was called to do. His compulsive defense of his mentor and friend appeared noble, but actually was not what God had intended. But, in the midst of such a chaotic scene, Jesus remained solemnly steadfast and committed to carrying out what was most important to Him: the will of the Father.

We can always follow Jesus' perfect example. When situations seem unjust, unfair, or do not make earthly sense, we can remain steadfast in the promises and plans that God has. We may not always understand His ways, but that is okay. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8 NIV)

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Dear Heavenly Father, I want to live to glorify your name. Please help me to focus on the Shepherd's voice, the One who guides me with wisdom and love, even when I do not understand. I trust in Your plans, because You are the Almighty. I love you, Lord. Amen.

Day 19 – John 19

John 19 describes in detail the account of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This chapter explains how Jesus was flogged, beaten, and given a crown of thorns as a mockery to His claim of being the King sent by His father. Amongst the brutality and painful details of this chapter, take a close look at verses 25-27.

²⁵”but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

Even in a time of great pain and despair, you can see Jesus' heart of love and concern. In the moments before his death, Jesus looked to His disciples to make sure His mother was taken care of. While on the cross sacrificing Himself for all of humanity, Jesus still cared about the one – and that has not changed. He cares about you in the very same way. So much so that he was willing to die a painful, humiliating death so that you could experience salvation, wholeness, freedom, and eternal life.

Father, thank you for sending your son Jesus as a ransom for my life. Jesus, I humbly place my life before You today and I thank You for calling me, choosing me, and saving me. I pray right now that everything I do reflects Your heart. Help me to love others as purely and deeply as You do, today and always. You are my Savior and my King. I love You. Amen.

Day 20 – John 20

In this chapter the disciples just witnessed the murder of their Teacher, Friend and Lord. Filled with fear, isolated and alone, the disciples locked themselves in a room. Were they next to be crucified? Where were they to go now that Jesus was gone? How would you respond? In what appeared to be their darkest hour, Jesus appeared to the disciples to meet their deepest needs.

We all face fear, uncertainty, and disappointment. How we respond to these things is our choice. Jesus wants to give you His peace and His power in every area of your life. Are you living with fear? Are you living any part of your life apart from God? He wants to breathe His Spirit into all of you during this season of prayer (alignment w/God), fasting (disconnect from the world) & personal devotion (experiencing His breath through the reading of His word).

Thank you, Father for Your word. I invite You to search my heart, know my anxieties and lead me to Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Jesus, I ask for the Holy Spirit to breathe life into me now. In Jesus name I pray, amen.

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Day 21 – John 21

John 21:18 Most assuredly I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wish, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.

Jesus is talking to Simon Peter about old nature vs. new nature. In his youth, Simon Peter did what he wanted to do, but he would eventually follow Christ's pattern for his life as he became old. In verses 15-17, Jesus calls Peter by his old name, Simon, son of Jonah. This is significant because it speaks to his old nature and youthful life patterns. Jesus wants Peter to "Follow him" and not do life his own way.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us today in the same way Jesus spoke to Peter. Jesus commanded Simon Peter to "Follow Me" and He wants you to do the same thing, but the choice is OURS. Jesus wants all of us to live according to HIS pattern and model HIS nature because HE knows what is best for you. As this season of prayer and fasting comes to an end, the Holy Spirit is asking you to leave your old nature and step into HIS nature and pattern for your life.

Holy Spirit, I pray you would show me Your pattern for my life. I want more of You and less of me. Give me faith to trust You, follow You, and be obedient as You transform me from the inside out. Amen.