

# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

## EMBRACING THE CALL TO SELF-DENIAL

DAY 1

REFLECT

Begin this journey by reflecting on what it means to deny yourself for the sake of Christ. In a world that promotes self-fulfillment, Jesus calls us to surrender our desires to His will. This self-denial fuels evangelism and church multiplication, as we prioritize God's kingdom over personal comfort, opening doors to share the gospel and establish new faith communities. Key

Verses:

**Matthew 16:24 (NIV):** "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

**Luke 9:23 (NIV):** "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'"

*"The will of God is not something you add to your life. It's a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God...or you capitulate to the principle which governs the rest of the world." – Elisabeth Elliot*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as I start this fast, help me to deny my own desires and align my heart with Yours. Teach me to take up my cross daily, following Jesus wholeheartedly. Ignite a passion for evangelism and church multiplication in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

DAY 2

REFLECT

Following Jesus requires counting the cost, including potential rejection or hardship. Yet, this commitment empowers us to evangelize boldly and multiply churches. As we deny self, we become vessels for God's multiplication, planting seeds that grow into thriving communities of faith.

Verses:

**Luke 14:27 (NIV):** "And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

**Philippians 3:8 (NIV):** "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

*"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." – C.T. Studd*

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, reveal to me the true cost of discipleship. Strengthen me to carry my cross without hesitation, denying self for Your glory. Use me in evangelism and to multiply Your church. Fill me with Your Spirit during this fast. Amen.

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## SURRENDERING AMBITIONS FOR KINGDOM GROWTH

DAY 3

REFLECT

Our personal ambitions often hinder God's plans. Through self-denial, we surrender them, making room for evangelism and church multiplication. Imagine how denying self today could lead to new believers tomorrow and new churches in the future.

Verses:

**Galatians 2:20 (NIV):** "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV):** "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot*

PRAYER

Father, I surrender my ambitions to You. Crucify my self-centered ways so Christ may live through me. Guide me in evangelizing the lost and multiplying churches. Sustain me in this time of fasting and prayer. In Your name, Amen.

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## EVANGELISM THROUGH HUMILITY

DAY 4

REFLECT

True evangelism springs from humility, a form of self-denial where we put others' eternal needs above our pride. As we humble ourselves, God uses us to multiply His church, drawing people into communities that reflect His love.

Verses:

**James 4:10 (NIV):** "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

**Mark 16:15 (NIV):** "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

*"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." – C.S. Lewis*

PRAYER

Gracious God, humble my heart and remove pride that hinders evangelism. Help me deny self to proclaim Your gospel boldly. Multiply Your church through my obedience. Bless this day of fasting with Your presence. Amen.

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## TAKING UP THE CROSS IN DAILY LIFE

DAY 5

REFLECT

Taking up our cross isn't a one-time event but a daily choice. This discipline during fasting sharpens our focus on following Jesus, equipping us for effective evangelism and the multiplication of disciple-making churches.

Verses:

**Luke 9:23 (NIV):** (Repeated for emphasis) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

**Romans 12:1 (NIV):** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice."

*"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

PRAYER

Lord, empower me to take up my cross daily. As I fast, offer my body as a living sacrifice for Your kingdom. Use me in evangelism and to plant new churches. Thank You for Your mercy. Amen.

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## SELF-DENIAL AND BOLD WITNESS

DAY 6

REFLECT

Self-denial frees us from fear, enabling bold witness in evangelism. As we follow Jesus closely, we become catalysts for church multiplication, inspiring others to deny self and join the mission.

Verses:

**Acts 1:8 (NIV):** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV):** "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

*"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." – William Carey*

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, fill me with power to witness boldly. Help me deny self and embrace self-discipline in fasting. Advance evangelism and church multiplication through Your church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## RESTING IN GOD'S STRENGTH

DAY 7

REFLECT

On this day of reflection, remember that self-denial isn't about our strength but God's. As we fast, we lean on Him for evangelism stamina and vision for multiplying churches that endure.

Verses:

**Isaiah 40:31 (NIV):** "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."

**Philippians 4:13 (NIV):** "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

*"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

PRAYER

Father, renew my strength as I hope in You. In this fast, deny my weaknesses and rely on Your power for evangelism and church growth. Guide our church in multiplication. Amen.

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## DENYING COMFORT FOR THE LOST

DAY 8

REFLECT

Comfort zones often prevent us from reaching the lost. Self-denial pushes us out, fueling evangelism and leading to church multiplication in unreached areas.

Verses:

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV):** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

**1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV):** "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

*"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." – Henry Martyn*

PRAYER

Jesus, help me step out of comfort to reach the lost. Deny my preferences for the sake of the gospel. Multiply churches through evangelistic efforts. Sustain me in fasting. Amen.

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## CROSS-BEARING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

DAY 9

REFLECT

Bearing our cross builds resilient communities. Through self-denial, we model discipleship, encouraging evangelism and the birth of new churches within our own. At Avenue, we want to be a model for other churches in multiplying our efforts.

Verses:

**Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV):** "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

**Acts 2:47 (NIV):** "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

*"The church is the only society that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members." – William Temple*

PRAYER

Lord, spur me to build community through cross-bearing. Use self-denial to foster evangelism and add to Your church daily. Bless this fast with fruitfulness. Amen.

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## EVANGELISM AS A LIFESTYLE

DAY 10

REFLECT

Evangelism isn't an event but a lifestyle born from following Jesus in self-denial. This daily commitment multiplies churches as lives are transformed.

Verses:

**Romans 1:16 (NIV):** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation."

**Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV):** "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

*"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." – Charles Spurgeon*

PRAYER

God, make evangelism my lifestyle. Help me deny shame and seize opportunities to share Your gospel. Multiply Your kingdom through new churches. Strengthen me in prayer and fasting. Amen.

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## SELF-DENIAL IN SACRIFICE

DAY 11

REFLECT

Sacrifice is the heart of self-denial. As we fast, we emulate Jesus' sacrifice, empowering us to evangelize sacrificially and multiply churches globally.

Verses:

**John 15:13 (NIV):** "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

**Romans 12:1 (NIV):** (Repeated) "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice."

*"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." – C.T. Studd*

PRAYER

Loving Father, teach me sacrificial self-denial. Lay down my life for others in evangelism. Use our church to multiply and spread Your love. Amen.

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## FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE UNKNOWN

DAY 12

REFLECT

Following Jesus often leads to unknown territories. Self-denial prepares us for this, enabling bold evangelism and the planting of new churches in diverse places.

Verses:

**Genesis 12:1 (NIV):** "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country... to the land I will show you.'"

**Matthew 4:19 (NIV):** "Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'"

*"God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him." – Hudson Taylor*

PRAYER

Lord, lead me into the unknown as I follow You. Deny my fears through self-denial. Equip me for evangelism and church multiplication. Sustain this fast. Amen.

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## THE POWER OF UNITED PRAYER

DAY 13

REFLECT

United prayer during fasting amplifies self-denial's impact. Together, we pray for evangelism breakthroughs and church multiplication worldwide. We can do nothing without prayer. Avenue, this must become a major part of who we are as a congregation to see God's hand at work in the Mansfield area, Ashland, and into other possible communities (Shelby, Mt. Vernon, etc.)

Verses:

**Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV):** "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

**Acts 4:31 (NIV):** "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken."

*"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work." – A.B. Simpson*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, unite our church in prayer. Through self-denial, shake us for evangelism and growth. Multiply churches through our collective faith. Amen.

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## DENYING DISTRACTIONS FOR FOCUS

DAY 14

REFLECT

Distractions dilute our discipleship. If we are not careful, social media, work, and too many events, among other things, will take away the point of our following Jesus. Self-denial clears them, sharpening our focus on following Jesus, evangelizing effectively, and multiplying churches.

Verses:

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV):** "Let us throw off everything that hinders... fixing our eyes on Jesus."

**1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV):** "Run in such a way as to get the prize."

*"The greatest hindrance to effective prayer is not sin, but distractions." – Oswald Chambers*

PRAYER

Jesus, help me throw off distractions. Fix my eyes on You in self-denial. Run the race of evangelism and church multiplication with endurance. Amen.

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## EVANGELISM AND ETERNAL IMPACT

DAY 15

REFLECT

Our evangelistic efforts have an eternal impact. Through taking up our cross, we invest in souls, leading to multiplied churches that echo into eternity.

Verses:

**Daniel 12:3 (NIV):** "Those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars."

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV):** "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen."

*"We are not here to be overcome, but to overcome." – Amy Carmichael*

PRAYER

Eternal God, fix my eyes on the unseen. Lead many to righteousness through my self-denial and evangelism. Shine through multiplied churches. Amen.

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## SELF-DENIAL IN SERVICE

DAY 16

REFLECT

Service is self-denial in action. As we serve during this fast, we model Jesus, drawing others to Him and fostering church multiplication.

Verses:

**Mark 10:45 (NIV):** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

**Galatians 5:13 (NIV):** "Serve one another humbly in love."

*"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" – Martin Luther King Jr.*

PRAYER

Servant King, teach me to serve humbly. Deny self in love for others. Use my service for evangelism and to multiply Your church. Amen.

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## FOLLOWING JESUS IN OBEDIENCE

DAY 17

REFLECT

Obedience is the fruit of following Jesus. Self-denial cultivates it, leading to obedient evangelism and the rapid multiplication of obedient churches.

Verses:

**John 14:15 (NIV):** "If you love me, keep my commands."

**1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV):** "To obey is better than sacrifice."

*"Obedience is the fruit of faith." – Christina Rossetti*

PRAYER

Lord, increase my love through obedience. Help me keep Your commands in self-denial. Obediently evangelize and plant churches. Strengthen me in fasting. Amen.

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## THE JOY OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

DAY 18

REFLECT

Church multiplication brings joy as God's kingdom expands. Through self-denial, we partake in this joy, evangelizing with passion and seeing new communities flourish.

Verses:

**Acts 13:49 (NIV):** "The word of the Lord spread through the whole region."

**Psalm 126:3 (NIV):** "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

*"The church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." – Martin Luther King Jr.*

PRAYER

Joyful Father, fill me with joy in Your work. Spread Your word through self-denial and evangelism. Celebrate multiplied churches with us. Amen.

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## ENDURING HARDSHIP FOR THE GOSPEL

DAY 19

REFLECT

Hardship tests our self-denial. Enduring it for Jesus strengthens evangelism and ensures churches multiply even in adversity.

Verses:

**2 Timothy 2:3 (NIV):** "Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

**James 1:12 (NIV):** "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial."

*"Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of." – Charles Spurgeon*

PRAYER

Enduring God, help me persevere in hardship. Deny self as a soldier for Christ. Advance evangelism and church growth through trials. Amen.

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## VISION FOR GLOBAL EVANGELISM

DAY 20

REFLECT

A global vision requires self-denial. As we fast, pray for worldwide evangelism, envisioning multiplied churches in every nation.

Verses:

**Revelation 7:9 (NIV):** "A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language."

**Psalms 96:3 (NIV):** "Declare his glory among the nations."

*"If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king." – Jordan Grooms*

PRAYER

Global Lord, give me vision for the nations. Deny my limited view for Your grand plan. Multiply churches through global evangelism. Amen.

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## CULMINATING IN FAITHFUL FOLLOWING

DAY 21

REFLECT

As this journey ends, commit to ongoing self-denial, evangelism, and church multiplication. Following Jesus faithfully ensures lasting kingdom impact.

Verses:

**Matthew 25:21 (NIV):** "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

**2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV):** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

*"The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it." – William James*

PRAYER

Faithful God, thank You for this 21-day journey. Help me continue in self-denial, fighting the good fight. Multiply Your church through faithful evangelism. In Jesus' name, Amen.