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*40 ways
in 40
days to
work on
your life*



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Lent Devotional / March 5, 2025 - April 19, 2025

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The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word Len(c)ten, which means “spring.”

In early Christianity, the term was used to refer to the fortieth day before Easter.

Traditionally, this religious observance covered a period of 7 weeks before Easter Sunday, beginning on Ash Wednesday every year and continuing for 40 days until Easter Sunday.

If you commit to this journey, you are committing to scripture meditation, worship, and prayer every day of the week except Sunday. This will result in 40 days of concentrated devotional time with the Lord (Mon-Sat), and “six Sundays off”—you’ll be in worship anyway...so it works out pretty good!

Think about something you can give up during this time that will help you to remain focused on Christ. Some people give up television watching, social media surfing, food on certain days during certain times, guilty pleasures like shopping or junk food—whatever you deem appropriate, let it go for a season. It is our prayer that you will experience healing and wholeness in Jesus, and that this 40-day experience will set you on a trajectory toward purpose and produce this year.



March 5: Work on Your Inner Man

Whenever you decide to get closer to God, you have to accept that what you do matters, and when you do it, matters. In the Kingdom of God, order matters. Jesus says, *"Seek first the Kingdom and his righteousness,"* and then promises that all other things will be added. Things come *after* I seek Him and do right. God desires to be first. When order is restored, blessings can be released.

When we practice the God-first lifestyle, we give God the first day of the week, the first part of the day, and the first of our increase. What does the God-first lifestyle look like? Read and meditate on Matthew 6:33. Ask yourself, *"What will my life look like when I practice putting God first?"* Matthew 6:33... *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, help me put you first in everything I do. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 6: Work on Your Submission

It's one thing to ask God for an answer to your prayer; it's another thing to submit to the answer He gives. It's one thing to ask for direction; it's another to follow the Spirit's leading when the arrow is pointing in the opposite direction of what you want. An awareness of purpose is one thing, but submission to that purpose is another. Submitting doesn't mean we can't think for ourselves or that we don't have a brain to make rational decisions. Instead, it means we recognize and accept our cognitive limitations!

Submitting to God is no easy task, but to be like Christ, we have to do it. In Luke 9:23, Jesus says *"Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me."* When we fail to submit to God, we leave ourselves open to the lies, myths, and distortions of the enemy. Let's be intentional about submitting to God daily.

Prayer

Father, help me to submit to your leadership so that I can be more like Christ. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 7: Work on Your Words

Everyone reading this is guilty of carrying a concealed weapon. This weapon is our tongue. Even though words, like money, are amoral, it's harmful to speak quickly and hear slowly because, depending on the user, words can build or break you. The way Jesus uses His words will motivate you to turn your weapon of mass destruction into a powerful tool of motivation.

When we meditate on the fact that Jesus spoke good, not gossip; Jesus gave joy, not judgment, and Jesus told people who they could be, not who they used to be. As children of God, we should use our words to encourage. In doing so we will show Christ to the world. Let's make sure people feel the love of Christ when they leave our presence. Psalms 19:14...*May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to watch my words and shape them after Jesus, not to tear anyone down but to build them up. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 8: Work on Your Study of the Bible

The Bible is God's operation manual for human life. Many times, we seek out wisdom and guidance, but as believers, we fail to go to our main source (the Bible) that God divinely inspired to lead and direct us. God, the originator of all things creation, had the Bible written for our protection and guidance. It is the roadmap toward destiny. And we don't have clear direction when we do not read it.

As you spend time in the bible, commit to studying the scriptures to *feed, not just to read*. Set aside a regular time to study, find a location free of distractions, pace yourself according to your schedule, and choose a biblical translation that you understand. Timothy 2:15... *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."*

Prayer

Father, help me dedicate time each day to study your blueprint to handle life's challenges. Prepare my mind to receive what the holy Spirit reveals as I learn and meditate on your truths. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 10: Work on Your Use of the Anointing

The anointing is the appointing, authorizing, and empowering of the Holy Spirit. The use of the anointing is a cheat code for believers. It is the edge that causes us to win. We need the anointing to thrive in our relationships, to manage our health, to win in business or vocation, to manage our resources, and to improve our character. We need the anointing to solve problems unique to us. Recognize that as a believer you are equipped with the Holy Spirit, and with that comes an anointing to accomplish the purposes for which you were created.

The anointing will assist you in figuring out which problems you were born to solve. Remember, you cannot solve your unique problems with your ability, you need the anointing. Acts 1:8... *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Prayer

Father, I need your anointing. I need fresh oil to accomplish all you've called me to do. Fill my cup with your anointing so that it can flow and change the things around me. Cause your anointing to upgrade everything in my life. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 11: Work on Your Understanding of God

The Principle of the Exception states that what happens to them does not dictate and determine what happens to me. The scripture describes us as exceptional people. God made us different because we are destined to make a difference. The scripture is filled with accounts of men and women who overcame insurmountable odds as enabled by God. Peter walked on water. He walked on something others sank in. He became a water walker because of his faith and obedience to Jesus' invitation to walk on water. Peter was the exception, and you can be, too.

Now that you understand the Principle of the Exception, ask yourself, what makes me a water walker? Where in my professional, personal, and spiritual life am I sinking, when I should be walking on water? You can receive all that God has for you when you believe and have faith in him. Genesis 18:14..." *Is anything too hard for the Lord?*"

Prayer

Father, give me the grace to accomplish all You are calling me to do. I want to live a victorious life for Your glory and the praise of Your name. I am a water walker. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 12: Work on Your Understanding of You

God will not help you become someone else; the anointing only falls on the authentic version of you. Your warfare is the devil's expression of anxiety because if you get a revelation about who you are, you become a problem for him and his plans to destroy you. Most people don't know how big of a problem they are to the adversary, so their problems from the adversary don't make sense.

Do you know who you are? The enemy does, and he is using that information to fight you. Get to know who God created you to be. When you get clear on your purpose, you will see yourself the way God sees you, and like the Psalmist, pronounce Psalms 139:14... *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*

Prayer

Father, show me who you created me to be. I'm unsure, and I don't want to miss my purpose of trying to be someone else. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 13: Work on Your Tenacity

Frustration is becoming an emotional epidemic. One segment of the population is dealing with frustration *in* life—they're frustrated with someone, they're frustrated with themselves, or they're frustrated with some things. Another segment of the population is frustrated *with* life. We all deal with some frustration, but I don't believe God intends for us to remain in a constant state of frustration. When we look at the words that the Bible uses to describe the emotional state of people who follow the person, and the practices of Jesus, frustration would not be one of those words.

Today, decide to move on from the life you thought you wanted. Admit that you are emotionally attached to the life you thought you wanted, acknowledge that you feel entitled to the life you thought you wanted, and accept that you may not get the life you thought you wanted. It is possible that the life you thought you wanted is not the life God wanted for you—trust him with your satisfaction. *"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you," says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope'.* (Jeremiah 29:11)

Prayer

Father, my God. I want to move on. Help me, Lord, to trust you enough to believe that *you can make me happy*. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

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March 14: Work on Your Spiritual Disciplines

Physical growth happens automatically, but spiritual growth happens intentionally. And, when you get better spiritually, everything gets better. But, you can't live like Jesus in public if you don't live like him in private. Upgrade your spiritual life by practicing the spiritual disciplines.

We practice the spiritual disciplines when we Pray (mental, oral, and written communication with God the Father, in the name of Jesus the Son, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit), Worship (Worth-ship expressing worth to God by clapping, dancing, singing, and raising our hands), Fast (the deliberate abstinence from some form of physical gratification to obtain a greater spiritual goal), Study the Scriptures (the operations manual for the human species that reveals God's intention for his people and provides a path for life as God intended), Serve (volunteering in the church or community). Serving helps make us more like Jesus. Join a ministry today! 2 Peter 3:18 ... *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..."*

Prayer

Father, help me to become a more disciplined person. Expose the areas in my life where I don't look or sound like You and use the spiritual disciplines to change me. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 15: Work on Your Healing

I can't properly love my neighbor if I haven't learned to properly love myself. Luke 10:29-37 tells the story of the Good Samaritan, and what we learn from that story is that we can't do for others what that Good Samaritan did for the man on the side of the road if we don't have a heart with the capacity to love. Your heart is the emotional center of your existence. When the Bible references the soul, it is speaking of our mind, will, emotions, imagination, and affection. All our hearts have imperfections, injuries, and issues that we need God to heal and make whole; it's only then that we can love properly.

As you open your heart to the healing work of God, where do you want Him to begin? Who do you want to love more? What can you do to engage in your healing? Surrender to the process and watch God make you whole. Psalms 147:3... He gives comfort by saying, *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."*

Prayer

Father, please heal my heart so that my capacity to love increases. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 17: Work on Your Freedom

"Becoming free is about the exposure of some things and subsequent addressing of those things so that we can advance beyond those things." Freedom from past hurts requires exposing what is keeping us bound, but after exposure, we must allow God to heal the places that hurt. We cannot address what we continue to suppress.

When we are seeking freedom from the areas in our lives where we feel bound by negative emotions and mental hurt, we should ask God to help us identify the root of our pain. If the hurt seems overwhelming, ask God to help you bear the pain until you are free; believe in your ability to do and face hard things with God's help. You can be free from emotional pain. Psalms 34:18... *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

Prayer

Father God, help me to become free from the hurt and the pain of my past, especially during the tough times when the pain feels too deep. I'm believing for the complete healing of my heart, mind, and Spirit. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 18: Work on Your Temperament

Personality is not permanent. The fact that our current personality is the only one we recall does not necessarily imply that it aligns with the way God initially intended us to be. Deficits in an essential emotional need, such as affirmation or affection, can produce character traits that oppose our purpose. Any personality trait that does not align with godly character is not God's desire for your life.

Examine your personality traits with the Fruit of the Spirit outlined in Galatians 5:22-23... *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* What aspects of your personality do you believe were negatively impacted by the lack of an essential emotional need? Ask God to fill that need, so that you and the world can experience the authentic you.

Prayer

Father God, my ultimate desire is to be more like You. In the areas of my life that have been stained by the lack of affection, attention, or affirmation, help me to restore these broken places, affording me more love, joy, and relational connection. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 19: Work on Your Response to Offense

Have you found yourself saying that you cannot connect with people? Sometimes, this is an indication of being hurt. While trying to protect yourself, you may also be blocking blessings. We can be affected by other people's imperfections, but we want to avoid the accumulation of offense. In John 16, Jesus assures *"In the world, you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world."*

Examine how unaddressed offense has hindered your emotional or social health. Think of someone who has offended you. Begin to let grace replace the offense in your heart. Decide to intentionally surrender (to the Lord) your right to be hurt and, instead, pray for them. Challenge yourself to act graciously and to seek wise counsel if needed. Ephesians 4:32... *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

Prayer

Father, I want to be free. Show me where the offense may have injured me. Help me to release and forgive others because You have already paid their debt to me with Your blood. If You are for me, who can be against me? Thank You for Your grace and for helping me through. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 20: Work on Your Response to Grief

Grief is experienced in various forms. It can occur after the loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, detours in the life we imagined, and other forms of emotional loss and anguish. God does not promise us that we will live a life void of grief, but He does promise us restoration.

Healing can be found in solitary moments with God, within a community, or with the guidance of a trained professional. Ask God to reveal areas of grief you may have suppressed and pursue the method of healing that is right for you. Isaiah 61:1... *"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captive and release from darkness for the prisoners."*

Prayer

Father God, show me the areas where the pain of grief has stolen my peace and joy. Help me address the pain. Send safe people to walk beside me on my journey to healing when it seems too hard to face alone. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 21: Work on Your Pursuit of Purpose

Our identity is a foundational element for all the wonderful things each of us is looking for in our lives: peace, fulfillment, joy, abundance, etc.; it is one of the keys in our pockets that help us unlock all of that and more. Identity has a huge impact on personal peace and self-esteem because those benefits are generated by a proper understanding of who we are. If we continue to chase acquisitions of possessions and not purpose, we are at risk of continuing to be swallowed up by frustration, confusion, anxiety, and restlessness. Happiness does not come from the acquisition of possessions; it comes from the accomplishment of your purpose. When you find out who you are, you will unlock the key to your purpose.

John 10:10... *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

Prayer

Father, help me pursue You and not things. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 22: Work on Your Thinking

One of the biggest battlefields is in your mind, and you can change your life by changing your mind. Destructive thinking patterns have a major impact on how you see your future. You can do more than survive or be a victim. You don't have to suffer mentally or live in paranoia. John 10:10 informs us that a thief intends to steal (our optimism, our joy, our focus, our dreams, our self-esteem), but God will sometimes use these outer circumstances to demolish your thinking. He may let you almost lose your mind, only to turn around and use your transformation to demonstrate what only God can do—renovate and upgrade.

When destructive and sabotaging thoughts come to your mind, redirect them using the word of God in Philippians 4:8, *"whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

Prayer

Father, thank You for destroying my harmful thinking patterns. I will fight the good fight of faith with patience even when it feels like I am losing. The renewing of my mind will transform me. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 24: Work on Your Friendships

The quality of our lives is greatly determined by who's in it and how we manage the people God entrusted to us. Friendship was and is God's idea because friends help us carry out our calling. Good friends are a grace gift from God, who orchestrates their presence in our lives.

Our relationships, even the ones that are not romantic, have the potential to be fruitful, flourishing, and fulfilling. Our friendships are an example of a relationship that can be fulfilling because "they are vessels for an enormous manifestation of God's unconditional love for us"! Wow! This makes you look differently at your friends, doesn't it? Today, in recognition of God's gift to you, show appreciation to your friends and let them know what they mean to you. Proverbs 17:17... *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*

Prayer

God, thank You for the true gift of friendship. Thank You to those You have brought into my life to enrich it and bring meaning; thank You to those who bring fun, laughter, insight, and correction. Thank You for the friends that have become instant family. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 25: Work on Your Relationship with Yourself

When we hear the word relationship, we immediately look outward but there is a relationship more important than the one we have with other people, and that's the one we have with ourselves, and so many times we ignore that relationship. Stop right now and check in with yourself.

How are you? No, really, how are you? How do you feel? Our emotions are a way of alerting us to something we need to pay attention to something that is happening in our hearts, lives, and relationships; therefore, instead of ignoring your emotions, ask yourself, *"What is my heart trying to tell me—about me?"* What emotions do I need to attend to? How am I caring for me? How am I loving myself? Self-care is not just a fad, it's a thing to practice. It's a space to occupy.

Reflect on God's words to Jesus- Matthew 3:17...

And a voice from heaven said, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

Prayer

Jehovah, open our eyes to see how you have wired us. Reframe our thinking so we don't see triggers as solely negative. Show us how to use them to become more like You, because you will not fix what we do not address. Help us to see where we need more of You. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 26: Work on Your Circle

When someone is miscategorized or misaligned, we will share “inner circle” information with “outer circle” people. This is the outcome when we haven’t put people in their proper place in our lives. Shifting someone from one category to the next may cause discomfort but should never come at the expense of what either party needs. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance, evaluate the people in your life so that you can determine whether they are a friend, an associate, an assignment, or an advisor. Trust God and make the necessary shifts to realign each person in the proper category. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10... *“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up”.*

Prayer

Lord, we know that some people come into our lives for a season, and some come into our lives for a reason. Help us to see the difference between the two and properly align with you so that we can properly align the people in our lives. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen.

March 27: Work on How You Love People

The foundation of our relationships is love, so to upgrade your relationships, begin to love first yourself and then others. Love others the way Jesus loves. Godly love remembers how long it took us to get saved and commits to helping others grow. In the same way, God's love for us was not based on conduct; our love for others must not be based on conduct. Commit to loving the people in your life based on who God created and called them to be, not based on what they are doing. Romans 5:8... *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us".*

Prayer

Father, today, help me show others love with actions, not just words. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 28: Work on How You Show Grace

The Gospels present Jesus as a man of grace; therefore, a graceless Christianity is a misrepresentation of Jesus. If we are going to re-present Christ in the world, we must learn to live out grace in its full dualistic nature. We must give just as we receive. Grace is the unmerited favor that God freely gives us. If we are honest, we love being on the receiving end, while not always being open to showing grace. However, we don't get to decide who deserves God's grace, but we get to show it. Today, show grace to others... as well as to yourself. Ephesians 2:8-9... *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast"*.

Prayer

Father, help me to show the same grace to myself and others that Jesus continues to show me. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 29: Work on Your Truth-Telling

An important component of any relationship is truth-telling. Truth protects us from pretension, frees us from falsehood, and introduces us to our authentic selves. Speaking the truth helps others grow and is also an indication of our growth. There can be no transformation without open and honest communication. Since the devil is the father of lies, make truth-telling a priority in your relationships so you do not provide space for the enemy. Practice telling the truth to yourself, others, and God. John 8:32... *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Prayer

Father, today, help me tell the truth to everyone I encounter, no matter how uncomfortable it makes me feel. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

March 31: Work on Your Concern for Others

We should be sensitive and never try to hurt people's feelings. However, there are times when it is not only OK to hurt someone's feelings, but it is necessary. You should love people enough to hurt their feelings if it will save their future. We cannot allow our desire and intention not to hurt people's feelings cause us to avoid speaking the truth in love. Just because you think a conversation is going to be difficult doesn't mean it is. Go ahead and have that uncomfortable conversation so that you can stop someone from sabotaging their future. Trust God's word in Luke 12:12... *"for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

Prayer

Father, give me the courage to have the conversation that is needed. Jesus, I don't want to, but I also don't want those I care about to continue making decisions that will negatively impact their future. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 1: Work on Your Self-Advocacy

When we believe that what is in our best interest does not have to come at the expense of what someone else needs, we finally understand the difference between advocacy and selfishness. Self-stewardship begins with understanding that I am responsible for myself, and advocating for me is not selfishness; it's stewardship.

The book *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No To Take Control of Your Life* is a great resource to help you determine where you need to establish boundaries as you begin to advocate for yourself. Proverbs 4:23... *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

Prayer

Lord, help us not to become so bogged down with the thoughts and opinions of others that we stop taking care of ourselves. Help us practice what is said on a plane: *"Put your oxygen mask on first before you try to help someone around you."* In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 2: Work on Your Reliance on the Holy Spirit

Resources aren't just money. Resources are assets a person or organization can draw on to function effectively. The Holy Spirit is the Christians' number one resource because we need the Spirit's help to be like Jesus and live like Jesus. If Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit to be Jesus, we must also rely on the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus. Jesus knew that the disciples could not carry out the mission he would give them without having the power he relied on to do his work. So, he advises them not to leave the city Luke 24:49...*"Until you have received power from on high."*

Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit means understanding, embracing, and employing His power. When we employ his power we can go to Him for guidance, protection, instruction, and comfort. Put Him to work! The Holy Spirit's main job is to work on us, not just for us.

Prayer

Father, I need you. I need Your Holy Spirit working on and in me to make me more like Jesus. Lord, I can't live this life alone, so I surrender to Your Holy Spirit. Fill me, Lord, and make me like You. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 3: Work on Your Perspective on Money

Money matters, but it shouldn't matter more than our relationship with God. When our hearts yearn for money more than they yearn for God, we must reevaluate our riches and seek God's Word for direction because money is a resource, not our source. Practicing the God-First Lifestyle ensures that we put God before everything, including money. Matthew 6:33... *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well".*

Prayer

Father, help me seek You first thing in the morning so I can start my day right. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 4: Work on Your Response to Discomfort

You and I can only evolve to the degree to which we are willing to tolerate being uncomfortable. Discomfort is not always demonic; very often, discomfort is divine.

Sometimes when we feel discomfort, it is God initiating spiritual stretching. Spiritual stretching occurs when God allows or orchestrates circumstances that cause us to revisit some beliefs, reevaluate our spiritual practices, and re-engage with more spiritual fervor and tenacity; it's God's way of pulling us out of an old season and into a new one. What season are you in? Are you ready for an exit?

Total surrender to God is one of the best ways to signal that you are ready to move with him. Matthew 26:39...

"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Today, give God your yes.

Prayer

Father, help me to serve you consistently. Help me practice a God-First Lifestyle daily so that, like Paul, I have contentment every season. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 5: Work on Your Response to Green Lights

Myles Monroe once said that the cemetery is the richest place in the world. It is filled with ideas that were never executed, books that were never written, and gadgets that were never created. This may have been because people did not discern when they had the “green light” from God. In a “green light” season, you must press on the gas because Heaven is backing you up.

God has given us opportunity, intellect, ability, education, health, etc., to create the resources we do not possess. By discerning and seizing our “green light” season, good and faithful stewardship over these resources will lead to multiplication in our lives. This will prevent cemeteries from being one of the richest places in the world. Deuteronomy 1:8... *“See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the Lord swore he would give to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and to their descendants after them.”*

Prayer

Father God, I thank you for the ability to create the resources that I do not possess. Holy Spirit, help me be a good and faithful steward with all God has entrusted me. Help me to discern my “green light” season. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen.

April 7: Work on Your Giving

When we understand that everything we have comes from the Lord and that God gives us the blueprint to prosper, we can embrace the God-first Lifestyle, even when we have to make hard decisions about our resources. What does this mean? The God-first Lifestyle is not just about going to church and praying, it also means giving and giving to God's work first. Being intentional about this practice ensures that we will live under an open Heaven, which means He will provide all of our needs. 2 Corinthians 9:10... *"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."*

Prayer

Dear Father God, I desire to live under an open Heaven. May my faith continue to grow so I can live a God-first Lifestyle. I want to honor You in every area of my life, including my finances. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 8: Work on Your Access to Favor

One of our greatest assets is the favor of God in our life. It is the key to the Kingdom and does what money cannot. When I am a sower, my harvest is favor and it brings whatever I need in the season that I need it. We can till the ground, plant the seed, weed the garden, but only God can make it rain—that's favor. A key practice to unleashing God's favor in our lives is giving. Whether we are giving a tithe or an offering, it operates the way a seed operates when put in the soil, because it becomes an investment and never leaves our life. Psalms 5:12 reminds us... *"Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield."*

Prayer

Father God, I know all I have belongs to You. I want Your favor in my life. I choose to sow seed so that You will make it rain in my life in the seasons I need. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 9: Work on Your Understanding of Resources

Our success does not come from hard work alone but from a generous and gracious God who provides us with skill sets and opportunities to leverage into provisions. Just as Jesus was generous with his greatest asset and resource—His life—we should also be generous. So, an increase in provision improves our quality of living and increases our standard of giving because what we do with our lives and our resources matters. Understand that money is a tool to honor God, provide for our families, and serve others. When we do, we are using our resources in God's preferred way and are positioning ourselves for an even greater investment in Heaven. Deuteronomy 8:18... *"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."*

Prayer

Father God, help me to always hold fast to your view of money. It is simply a resource that you provided and allowed me to steward. You are my Source. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 10: Work on The Use of Your Gifts

"Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed". (1 Cor. 12:1)

Christianity is not intended to be lived in isolation. We need each other. We are the body of Christ, a spiritual family, a church, a congregation of people with different gifts and when we all come together, those gifts make us more impactful and effective. People who do Christianity in isolation rob themselves of the blessing that comes from being a part of a spiritual family and the reciprocal relationship produced when we all use the gifts that were given to us individually for the common good of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6... *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."*

Prayer

Father, help me to use my gifts as you intended. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 11: Work on Your Calling

Purpose is the reason for the creation or the existence of a thing. You have been crafted for a calling, designed, and wired for work. Your presence on this planet is not accidental or coincidental, and your parents may have been surprised by your arrival, but God was not. God ordained and arranged for you to be born when you were born in the time in human history when you were born with the gifts, talents, abilities, and skills that you were born with because there are reasons for your existence. Recognize that you were born with gifts, talents, abilities, and acquired skills that you are to use to make a difference in the work. You were not created to do "busy work." You were created to solve a problem; ask God to show you the problem you were created to solve. Colossians 3:23... *"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."*

Prayer

Father, please show me the problem I was created to solve and how to solve it. Help me, Lord, not lose sight that you have blessed me with gifts, talents, abilities, and acquired skills that you expect me to use to further your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 12: Work on Your Sixth Sense

The sixth sense is promptings that God uses to lead His children. It gives us prophetic insights into potential problems so we can prepare when others are panicking. It also helps us hear current instructions on how to fix problems caused by ignoring previous instructions. The sixth sense is needed in every aspect of your life, particularly in your business or work, as you lead, make plans, and make decisions that can impact your lives and others. We cannot afford to do business without using the sixth sense.

To develop your sixth sense, read God's word to familiarize with His voice, surround yourself with people who can hear his voice (they can help you discern if you are hearing God), and receive healing for past trauma so that your promptings can be influenced by the Lord instead of pain. John 10:27... *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

Prayer

Father, I want to be led by you. Give me the grace to develop and use my sixth sense. I ask for strength to fix my filter, audit my associates, and tackle my trauma because there needs to be an upgrade in my sixth sense. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 14: Work on Your Street

Have you been told that your gifts or talents are limited to the church? What if I told you that the church helps you develop your purpose, but your assignment is to the streets? Your street is the marketplace where you work, your local community, or your sphere of influence. That means your street may be Business, Education, Government, Family, Wellness, Arts, Media, and yes, even religion, but we are not all called to work in the church. Jesus spent more time in the marketplace than he did in the synagogue because he understood that the people who needed him the most were in the marketplace. The next time you go to work, recognize that you are “for the streets.” You are called to be there to use your gifts and talents to make the world better. You are an extension of Christ in the world. Psalms 90:17... *“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.”*

Prayer

Father, help me to align with the street you have called me to. Give clarity on how it aligns with the gifts you have given me. Continue to preserve, protect, and promote me as I stay committed to the call. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen.

April 15: Work on Your Conversations

God can use people who aren't perfect, but it's hard to use those He can't trust. Gossip is a trust thief. It robs you of the right to be trusted. Gossip causes you to bury people in the valley of past mistakes. However, God wants us to build up people by encouraging them to focus on who they will become. Character is who we are when no one is watching, whether we are at work or home, so it is important that we not relegate "good" Godly behavior just to the church because we represent Christ wherever we go. Part of evangelizing your street is using your words to build up the people on the street with you- including non-Christians. What would your street look like if you stopped talking? John 15:5... *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Prayer

Father, help me to speak words that build up the people around me. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 16: Work on The Leader in You

God is in you, and therefore, there's a leader in you. Failure to acknowledge the leader within you, even if underutilized, does not remove the reality that you're a leader. When you begin to see the leader, God created you to be, you will be able to lead like Jesus with character, clarity, and courage. Becoming an effective leader will result in a work environment that is efficient and productive. Get ready for God to call you out of your comfort zone. Leaders are needed in the marketplace. Matthew 9:37-38...*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Prayer

Father, thank you for exposing the leader in me. I will have the courage to lead in every area where I show up: home, work, and the community. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 17: Work on Your Exit Strategy

Lent is the perfect time to seek God, examine what you're doing, and determine if it is still relevant to what God has for you. Your current work may have been satisfying in the past, but it can feel like a prison if you outstay your season. God could be telling you that it is time for your upgrade. What you will be able to walk into next is determined by what you are willing to walk out of now. Assess your current situation. Are you where you are supposed to be? If not, pray for an exit strategy. Proverbs 3:5-6...*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Prayer

Lord, I trust you and I know that your plans for me are good. Help me to hear Your voice so I know whether or not I need to go or stay. If I am to go, give me an exit strategy. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 18: Work on Your Compassion

Purpose not only requires you to do your best work, but purpose also requires you to be your best self. Your purpose is an answer to a problem, so when you're walking in purpose, you're solving a problem on earth. However, your contribution to others flows out of your compassion for them because you won't care about solving problems for others if you don't care about others. In John 3:16, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so his Son was a gift that He gave us. The Father gave the gift of the Son because the Father loves us. God so loved the world that He gave His gift, and our love for others will empower and enable us to give our gifts. Love people enough to use your gifts to help them- like God did for us. John 13:35... *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Prayer

Father, today, help me to remember that I am an answer to a problem in someone else's life. Remind me, Lord, that loving other people is essential to accomplishing my assignment. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

April 19: Work on Your Leadership

“Leadership is influence” (John Maxwell), so when you influence an individual or an organization toward their purpose, that’s leadership. If you’re a parent, you’re leading; if you’re a big brother/sister, you’re leading; if you’re a mentor, you’re leading; and you can be a mentor whether you have a formal title or not. You’re leading when someone’s asking you for advice, and you’re giving them advice. Everyone may not have a leadership role, but everyone has leadership responsibility. Carrying out our purpose means that we should be using our gifts, talents, abilities, and acquired skills to influence others. Jesus was the greatest leader to ever live, and we must model Him at all times. Luke 12:48... *“But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

Prayer

Father, help me to lead by example. Help me, Lord, to remember that as a leader, I model the behaviors and thoughts of the greatest leader who ever lived—Jesus. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen.