



21 Days

of Prayer
+ Fasting

— Pursues the presence of God
— Builds a foundation of prayer
— Stands on the authority of the Word of God
— Invites others into an authentic family
— Cultivates spiritual growth
— Reaches the next generation
— Advances the Kingdom

May what
we believe
and value
**become what
we live.**

21
Days
of Prayer
+ Fasting

Introduction

There are some homes we never forget. Whether it's the greeting at the door, the aroma in the kitchen, or the fire in the hearth, certain places leave an imprint on our hearts. They make us want to linger a little longer and come back every chance we get.

And so it should be in the household of God.

Jesus called us to be the salt and light of the world, a distinction that was meant to be an invitation. Light warms the house and pushes back the darkness, while salt seasons and preserves the feast. He knew the cold and hungry would walk by and see something the rest of the world could not offer them. The values we build within these walls beckon the lost and lonely to come inside.

But it's difficult to instill values if only a select few believe in them. *Creating a culture is a family affair.* It requires everyone to stoke the fire, pass out the dishes, and pull up every chair in the house for our guests. When each of us pray and play our part well, we help create something the rest of the world is desperate for—a family and a feast. An open seat at the table with the King.

Join us in the next 21 days as we pray through our family values. As members of The Summit Church, we pursue the presence of God, build a foundation of prayer, stand on the authority of the Word of God, invite others into an authentic family, cultivate spiritual growth, reach the next generation, and advance God's Kingdom. We will learn what the Bible says about each of these values, how our world longs to see them, and how they have impacted our family of churches.

Come discover your role in the household of God and leave an imprint on the heart of your city. Hear the Founder of the feast bid a starving world, "Come and eat." Sit down at the table He has prepared for us.

But first, let us pray.

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We are a church that...

**Pursues the
Presence
of God.**

21
Days

Day 1

God loves me or He doesn't.

We are a church that pursues the presence of God, and that pursuit drives much of why and how we do things at The Summit. But be honest for a moment – do you find yourself desiring that pursuit? We all know that everything in life ebbs and flows, but shouldn't spending time with the Creator of the universe be something we always look forward to?

Why do we sometimes find ourselves praying, *"Lord, help me want to want you, because right now I don't"*? The answer lies at the heart of what we believe about one statement: **God loves me or He doesn't.** What you choose to believe will dictate your willingness to pursue His presence. Why? Because if God really does always love you, then He is a safe place to go – no matter what or how you are feeling. Whether you are in a good place or have completely blown it, His arms are open.

Over the next 21 days, there will be moments when you skip into the presence of God, excited to talk, dream, and enjoy His company. There will likely also be days when you resist entering God's presence and have to be coaxed in, much like a stray dog struggling to believe the person holding out their hand is truly safe and good. All we ask is that you keep showing up.

But before we can get to 21 days, we have to get to **one** day – *day one*. So – **God loves me or He doesn't. What will you choose to believe?**

Psalm 16:11 – "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Pray

Spend time meditating on Psalm 16:11. Are there any ways you are doubting God's unfailing love for you? Any ways you are pursuing pleasure or joy from a source that won't satisfy? Ask God to set the truths firmly in your heart at the start of these 21 days that He is good, He can be trusted and His love for you is unfailing. Ask Him to help you enter daily into His presence so that you can hear His voice clearly and have a heart ready to receive and obey what He speaks.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 2

A relational God.

Yesterday we talked about what drives our desire to pursue God's presence. Today we are going to wrestle with another question – **Does God really desire my presence?** Bill Elliff says in his book *The Presence-Centered Life*, "God's presence is what we most need, and our presence is what He most desires." The idea that God would desire our presence feels ludicrous, but the truth is this – our God is relational, and He desires a relationship with us.

All of Scripture reveals how the Lord passionately pursues His people – even when they do not passionately pursue Him.

Dr. Scott Duvall and Dr. Danny Hayes wrote in their book *God's Relational Presence*:

Our basic thesis is that the Triune God desires to have a personal, encountering relationship with His people and enters into His creation in order to facilitate that relationship. Thus, the Bible begins with God's presence relating to His people in the garden (Genesis) and ends with God's presence relating to His people in the garden (Revelation).

"God desires to have a personal, encountering relationship with His people..." Do you believe this? Are you struggling to believe that the God of the universe would even entertain the idea of having you in His presence – let alone long for it?

Pray

Take time today and visit these gardens. Read Genesis 1:27-29 and Revelation 21:3-4. Ask the Lord to reveal the ways His pursuing presence has come after you. Take note of them and allow them to draw you into worship and gratitude.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 3

The defining mark.

On day one we reflected on why we should personally desire to pursue God's presence. On day two we considered the beautiful truth that God desires *our* presence. Today, we are going to wrestle with this – **Why should we, as a church family, pursue the presence of God together?**

In Exodus 33, we're given a powerful moment between God and Moses. God tells Moses that the people may go on to the promised land, but *He* will not go with them (33:1-6). Moses responds with a plea that still speaks to the Church today. He says, *"If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here... Is it not in your going with us that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"* (Exodus 33:15-16).

For Israel, God's presence was the defining mark – the thing that set them apart from every other nation. It wasn't their strength, obedience, strategies, or traditions. It was simply that **God was with them.**

The same is true for us. What distinguishes the Church is not the day we gather, the songs we sing, or the cultural patterns we reject or embrace. What makes us different – what truly sets us apart – is the presence of the living God dwelling among His people.

And the good news? Because of Jesus, we have full access to that presence. Hebrews 4 reminds us that we can "approach the throne of grace with confidence" because of Christ's finished work (4:14-16).

Pray

Read Exodus 33 and Hebrews 4:14-16. Ask the Lord to show you – **Is His presence shaping my life in a way that sets me apart, or am I blending in with the world around me?**

What is God saying to you today?

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We are a church that...

**Builds a
Foundation
of Prayer.**

21
Days

Day 4

Building the foundation.

If you were given money to build a house, you would select your plans with an architect and price it out. But you might discover that the cost was too high. And so, you would begin the process of scaling down the plans. You might resize a room or eliminate one altogether. You would thoughtfully select what you thought was essential for your home.

But there is one thing on the plans that you couldn't eliminate. You must have the right foundation. It's not seen and it's costly, but without the proper foundation, a beautiful home could become a disastrous loss.

Our American churches have lots of ministries. We have our worship ministry, preaching, Next Generation, missions, recreation, outreach ... and on and on. Many churches have a small ministry they call the "prayer ministry." A few faithful intercessors usually man it, and it doesn't get a lot of publicity. When a prayer meeting is called, it is often the lowest priority in the minds of most members.

But Jesus had a different view as He entered Jerusalem.

*They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. He was teaching them: "Is it not written, **My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?** But you have made it **a den of thieves!**" (Mark 11:15-17)*

Jesus did not see prayer as a side room, but as the foundation. He wanted prayer to be so prominent that it would be the first description when people spoke of the people of God. "What is that place and who are those people?" someone might ask about the church. "Oh, we all know that. It's a house of prayer for all the nations."

Pray

God has made this clear at The Summit Church. We have recognized this priority since our inception, because we know that prayer brings God into the equation. Would you join others in prayer today, praying that the *foundation of prayer* would be deeply, solidly, fully built in the life of our church? Take this Scripture above and pray it in, specifically for The Summit.

But remember: this foundation is built one life at a time. Would you pray that the foundation of *your* life would be unceasing prayer?

Day 5

Where are you strong?

*These all with one mind were continually **devoting** themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. (Acts 1:14)*

Everyone is devoted to something. To be “devoted” literally means “to be strong toward.” Some are strong towards their work, others to video games or recreation. Some to their family and some to ministry to others. Here are some questions to help you evaluate your own life.

- What do I want to do more than anything else?
- Where do I spend my time, thoughts, and energy?
- What is the most important priority in my day?
- What do I feel I must do each day, even if I don’t achieve other things?

The believers in the early church “were continually devoting themselves to prayer.” This devotion was not sporadic or occasional; it was unceasing. Over and over, every day, they chose to turn to God in loving communion with Him. This was the “prayer without ceasing” that God tells us is the foundation of a true believer’s life.

These early believers didn’t just put prayer as a topic on the “Event Calendar.” Notice that they were “devoting *themselves*” to unceasing prayer. Every believer took this as their solemn task and greatest opportunity. It was personal, daily, and hourly, for they realized that God’s presence was their greatest need and that their presence with the Father in prayer was also HIS great desire! Prayer, and prayer alone, ushers us into the presence of God.

Without prayer, we are not communing with the Head of the church. Without prayer, we have no power. Without prayer, we have no direction. Prayer brings God into the equation, and as we saw yesterday, prayer is the essential foundation for a life, a family, a church, and a nation.

Pray

Spend some moments in prayer evaluating your priorities before God. What are you devoting yourself to? Where are you spending your time? If prayer is not on the list, you are missing the beginning point for vibrant Christianity. Would you pray today that you, and that our church together, would be “continually devoting themselves to prayer?”

Day 6

Everything Prayer.

I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes all things for me. (Psalm 57:2)

Every true believer understands that prayer is important. But does your life illustrate its value? Is it personal to you?

We do what is valuable to us. The excuse of “I’m so busy ... I just don’t have time to pray” is like most excuses—the shell of a reason stuffed with a lie! We misunderstand prayer if we rely on that subtle wordplay for our prayerlessness. Our gracious Father has so much more for us.

There are many kinds of prayer: morning and evening prayer, intensive times of prayer and fasting, corporate prayer, personal prayer. But one of the great secrets to a prayer-filled life is *everything* prayer, as Paul reminds us.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

“Everything” is a very clear, self-explanatory word. God wants us to commune with Him, just like you want your children and grandchildren to talk with you. He is intimately acquainted with all your ways, and His will is “good, acceptable, and complete” for you. But you must talk with Him, through the Word of God and prayer, if you are to know Him and His plans for your life.

The prayer that God desires for you to enjoy is more than just a morning exercise. It is to be an unceasing conversation that brings God into every moment and experience. And what could be better for you and all those around you? There’s no one single thing that you could begin to do that would change your life more than *Everything Prayer*.

Pray

Enter His presence today (He’s waiting for you). You have clear access into the throne room of God through what Christ has done. Worship Him, talk to Him, and be silent and ask Him to speak to you (It’s a two-way conversation.) Read His Word in the process. Ask Him to make the two scriptures above a reality in your life today and each day this week. Pray about what you know is coming throughout today. And, as every new conversation, meeting, and event happens today, pray for God’s blessing and leadership right in the moment. Soon you will be praying *Everything Prayers!*

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We are a church that...

**Stands on the
Authority of
the Word
of God.**

21
Days

Day 7

The truest story.

God wrote a book. May this reality never be lost on us.

Through the hands of forty human authors, on three different continents, in three different languages and multiple genres, over the course of 1500 years, God breathed words onto a page to tell us a story. And not just *any* story. The Bible is the truest story of the world. It's the story that brings understanding for why everything is and how it ought to be. It's the story of what went wrong, and how it will all be made right.

And we don't have to look any further than the first four words of it (Gen. 1:1) to understand something significant: God was first. Before anything was made, He alone existed. He is the Creator of all things. And we, of course, are the created ones. Which means we need His insight and instruction to flourish.

Fortunately, God isn't the dictator type. He isn't distant or removed from His creation. And He hasn't hidden from us His good design. Instead, He has graciously revealed it in His book, giving us a glimpse into His heart and a firm foundation on which to build our lives.

But this story can't just sit on a shelf. This story isn't just for Sundays. No, if we want to be His fully devoted followers, His story has to settle into every nook and cranny of our real lives. His story calls us to submit to its authority (2 Tim. 3:16) and surrender to its sanctifying work (John 17:17). It's not just for hearing, it's for doing!

And once we experience its transforming power, once we get to really know the Author, we won't be able to put this story down. We won't want it any other way.

Pray

At the Summit, we'll never get over the fact that God speaks. And we are committed to listen and respond. Read Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-27 and pray that God would help you prioritize and practice His word like your life depends on it. Because actually, it does! Ask God to bring to your mind areas where you have heard His instructions but failed to follow through. And spend some moments recalling how His story has already shaped you.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 8

Don't buy the lies.

It's the oldest trick in the book, and still one of the primary tactics of the enemy:

"Did God really say...?" (Gen. 3)

Ever since the Garden, Satan has been stirring up this kind of suspicion. After all, if he can get us to doubt God's Word, we'll be more likely to disobey it ... and eventually to defy God altogether. Today, American culture echoes that same old calculated question.

Except for now, the messaging is much more decided and insistent:

- *"There is no such thing as truth."*
- *"Whatever feels good, do it."*
- *"Look within to find the guidance you need."*

The enemy wants to make us feel silly for submitting to God's Word. He wants us to believe God is holding out on us, and that we'd be better off if we took control. Why? Because his goal has always been our death and destruction. Don't buy the lies! Following your heart is a reckless path to ruin. Serving yourself will actually enslave you. Chasing pleasure and independence won't lead to the good life. Only fools build their lives on that kind of sinking sand.

But wisdom rejects that narrative, that lie. Wisdom opens God's Word and submits to His ways. It knows that the moral compass inside each of us is flawed, and that we need a Source outside of ourselves to direct our lives. Wisdom understands that living under God's authority is the secret to freedom and flourishing. (John 8:31–32)

Our God can be trusted. His authority isn't power-hungry but perfect in love. He's not out to control us but to keep us from harm.

"Did God really say...?"

Oh yes. Every word of God proves true. And good thing — because His way is the good life!

Pray

Read Matthew 7:24–27 again and ask God to show you where you are walking in wisdom, and where you are foolishly believing that you know better. Ask for His help in your own life. And pray that we would be a church that rejects cultural pressures and clings to the truth.

Day 9

Will your house stand?

On the afternoon of March 31, 2023, an EF3 tornado struck and devastated parts of Central Arkansas. If you drove through the aftermath of that storm back then, you probably haven't forgotten the scene. Unbelievable wreckage. Personal belongings strewn about in places they shouldn't be. Beloved family homes turned inside-out.

Storms have a way of revealing what's on the inside. They test the infrastructure and uncover the issues. They strip away the façade and expose the foundation.

That's what we have seen in Matthew 7:24–27. Likely, those two houses were comparable on the surface. They probably looked similar while the sun was out. But when the storm came, their differences became apparent. The floodwaters divulged the truth about their foundations. Those strong winds proved which builder was wise and which was foolish. And only one was left with regrets.

It is certainly easier, cheaper, and faster to build on the sand — on success, human approval, intellect, money, beauty, and other desirable things. But when the trials of life come ... when the rains of temptation, stress, illness or tragedy beat down on your life ... will your house stand?

Building on the rock is much more costly and time-consuming. It requires a commitment to patience and an unpopular denial of lesser things. But ask anyone who has survived a storm if it was worth it.

Every single day of reading and obeying the Bible won't *feel* especially profound. But the cumulative effect of many days and then years of it *will* produce significant results. It will prove to be a trustworthy foundation.

In this world, we will have trouble — cancer, emotional pain, financial strain, difficulties in marriage or parenting or singleness, among many other things. The storms will come. And when they do, what has always mattered will become the only thing that matters.

Which builder are you? Will your house stand?

Pray

Read Matthew 7:24–27 once more. Then take time to be honest before your Heavenly Father. Recall specific storms you've endured. What did they reveal about your foundation? Ask Him to strengthen you through His Word for whatever lies ahead.

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We are a church that...

**Invites
Others into
an Authentic
Family.**

21
Days

Day 10

Reflecting God's character.

We, as believers, are called to be more than acquaintances. We are to invite others into an authentic family. Authenticity means being “true to one’s own personality, spirit, or character,” but true authenticity isn’t just about expressing ourselves. It begins with reflecting God’s character to those around us.

“When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God’s word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.” (Mark 2:1-5)

In this passage, we see friends whose faith moved them to action. They carried the paralytic, tore open a roof, and lowered him to Jesus. Their authenticity wasn’t about being impressive. It was about believing that Jesus alone could heal and restore and doing whatever it took to bring someone they loved to Him.

Inviting others into an authentic spiritual family goes far deeper than a meal or a quick Sunday greeting. It calls for vulnerability and sacrifice. It means admitting our need for Jesus rather than pretending we have everything together. Authenticity grows when we let others see our dependence on Christ and invite them to experience His grace alongside us.

Do you long to live in that kind of authentic community?

Pray

Is God prompting you to invite someone into deeper connection? Ask the Lord how He may want to use you to help others experience His family. Pray a bold prayer that God would interrupt your day and bring people into your life that you can love and walk with in authentic family.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 11

Invite others in.

How often do we recognize our deep need for authenticity? It's easy to confuse our identity in Christ with what people, social media, or the world says we should be. But inviting others into an authentic family gives us the chance to show who God created us to be and to reflect Him in all we do.

When we welcome others in, we're reminded of our greater need for Jesus. We weren't created to live life alone. Scripture calls us to encourage, love, forgive, and carry one another's burdens... things no one can do in isolation. As we live this out, our relationship with God deepens, and so does our dependence on Him.

Even Jesus modeled this. He lived closely with His disciples, inviting them into the joyful, difficult, and painful moments of His ministry. They saw His miracles, His boldness, His suffering, His resurrection, and His ascension. If Jesus, our perfect example, let others walk with Him through both celebration and sorrow, why do we feel pressure to appear as if we have everything together?

In our world, it's rare to see people honestly share what they're facing. Yet we desperately need more believers who are willing to show their deep need for a Savior, a Savior who invites us into His salvation and His grace. Without that honesty, how can we truly encourage, love, forgive, and carry burdens for one another? We miss out on a sweet part of our relationship with Jesus when we refuse to invite others in.

Pray

Ask God today how you can live differently from a world that strives to look "put together," and step into the freedom He offers through His Word and His people. Spend time praying that God would help you to reflect His vulnerability and sacrifice rather than the world's desire to look perfect.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 12

Choose vulnerability.

Have you ever heard a testimony that could only be explained by God's grace? Behind almost every story like that is a moment when someone stepped into authenticity and was met with love, grace, and a safe place to be vulnerable.

We grow when we share life with others. We reflect Jesus when we're willing to walk through both joy and sorrow together. Authenticity doesn't start with telling a crowd. It often begins with one trusted friend or a small group where God nudges us to share a piece of our story.

Maybe your own story includes the church walking with you through infertility, grief, addiction in your family, or a season of heartbreak. Whatever the burden, Scripture is clear: we're not meant to carry it alone. Jesus invited His disciples into His hardest moments. If He opened His life to others, why shouldn't we?

Vulnerability can feel terrifying, but bringing hidden struggles into the light gives Jesus room to work. Freedom grows in spaces where authentic family is practiced. Authentic family celebrates answered prayers and shows up in the everyday moments. When we allow God to use His people to do what only He can do, we are met with His presence through community.

Maybe you're afraid of being judged if you open up. Maybe you're unsure how to respond when someone else invites you deeper. Step forward anyway. Obedience isn't about having the perfect words. It's about trusting that God goes before you and prepares the moment.

Authentic family is one of the ways God reveals Himself. And when we choose vulnerability and truth, we give Him room to create a testimony only He could write.

Pray

Are there any areas in your life that you are afraid to bring into the light? Freedom will never be experienced in darkness. Spend time today confessing any hidden sin. Ask God to help you trust Him as you walk in obedience to be vulnerable so that you can find freedom.

What is God saying to you today?

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We are a church that...

**Cultivates
Spiritual
Growth.**

21
Days

Day 13

The daily choice.

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

We've stopped saying that time heals all wounds, but we cling to another myth – that time will make us grow up. Yet life points to the contrary. There are too many graying adults still walking around with the same habits and complacency they've carried since high school. It seems calendars cannot create maturity, only the opportunity for it. Without taking steps towards growth, we drift – vulnerable and unanchored – like someone clinging to a pool raft in the middle of the Atlantic.

The key to spiritual growth isn't simply time but cooperation. The daily choice of allowing God to renew our minds, strengthen our faith, and comfort our hearts. Whether in seasons of accelerated or slow, almost imperceptible growth, God's grace will meet us. So, the question is never whether He's at work, but whether we're willing to open our hearts to it.

Pray

Ask the Lord to reveal anything that may be hindering His work in your life – unconfessed sin, resentment, or destructive habits or thoughts – and turn back to Him in repentance and trust.

Pray that God would bring you into a season that matures you in every way, shaping you into the fullness of Christ.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 14

Take off. Renew. Put on.

Colossians 3:5-6, 9-10, 12-14

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator...

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Your mind is focused right now. On these words to be specific. However, at some point today, perhaps even within the next few moments, your mind will drift. The flow of your fears, hopes, or desires will sweep your thoughts downstream towards the shore of either chaos or peace. Death or life. Wrath or love. Growing up in the Lord means knowing how to recognize the flow of that river.

Is this stream of thought taking me towards impurity and idolatry? Is this my old self?

Desires leftover from our former manner of life can be deceiving. Like static electricity, they cling to us. Nag at us – pulling us away from compassion, humility, and harmony. Francois Fenelon, a French pastor from the 17th century, once told his friend, “[Don’t] dishonor true love by supposing it is concerned about the insignificant things that continually occupy your attention.”

Take off. Renew. Put on. This is the Christian life. A daily crucifixion and a daily resurrection. A steady cooperation with God who is forming us in love into the likeness of Jesus.

What do you need to put to death today? What do you need to put on? And where is the Spirit nudging you back toward the shore of holiness?

Pray

Ask the Lord to help you discern the flow of your thoughts today – revealing where old desires, fears, or idols are pulling you off course. Ask for strength to put those things to death. Pray that the Holy Spirit would renew your mind and cloth you in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

Day 15

We need to be reset.

Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A dislocated shoulder makes even the simplest things feel impossible. Getting into your car, putting on a jacket, reaching for a cup—each move sends a reminder that something meant to support you is suddenly out of place. The rest of your arm may be fine. Your hand may be strong. But without a shoulder working as it should, everything else struggles.

We often assume that our personal growth is a private matter. God says otherwise. Scripture claims that we can be a member of Christ's body but still function like that out-of-joint shoulder—present, attached, but unable to move as God designed. And when one part can't work properly, the whole body feels it. Hebrews 12 reminds us of what knocks us out of alignment: the weight of life and the sin that clings around us. Both keep us from growing. Both keep the body from flourishing.

Paul uses the word *equip* to describe how the Holy Spirit repairs us. It's a medical term that means to set something back into place—like resetting a bone or slipping a shoulder back into its socket. He gives us one another. Men and women who speak the truth in love, help identify what's weighing us down, and bear each another's burdens (Gal 6:21). This is the body of Christ building itself up in love.

Take a moment to remember the people God used to “reset” you—those who spoke truth in love, lifted weight off your shoulders, or helped untangle what held you back. Thank God for them. And ask Him to help you see those that need the same kind of care today.

Pray

Spend time listing out men or women who have helped you grow spiritually over the years. Thank God for putting them in your life. Consider writing an encouraging text or letter to them today. Ask the Lord to bring people in your life that you can help build up towards maturity. Ask for wisdom and insight to see what's hindering their ability to walk in freedom and growth in Christ.

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We are a church that...

**Reaches
the Next
Generation.**

21
Days

Day 16

Pass it down.

We recently moved through the Christmas season when many families pulled down boxes filled with ornaments from their attics to decorate their trees. Inside those boxes are often entire lifetimes. As the tree is trimmed, parents tell stories sparked by decades old ornaments, and one generation passes down memories, experiences, and in many ways their very lives to the next.

Scripture is filled with the call for God's people to invest in those who come after them. Psalm 145:1-13 is one of many passages that makes this unmistakably clear. It declares, "*One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.*" At the center of the gospel is the pattern of receiving what God has freely given and then sharing it with others. Jesus, the Perfect One, takes His righteousness and gives it to us. In the same spirit, reaching the next generation means taking everything we have learned and experienced about God and entrusting it to those who will follow.

Take a moment and read through Psalm 145. In this passage we see a vivid picture of what we are called to pass on. We speak of God's greatness, His splendor, His glory, His goodness, His mercy, His patience, His love, and His grace. These are the truths we impress on the next generation. We declare that the God who has been faithful to us will be faithful to them. They can trust Him. They can obey Him. They can follow Him. We help them see not only what He has done, but who He is, so that their faith may be rooted in the unchanging character of God.

Pray

Ask God to open your eyes to the next generation He has placed around you. Pray through Psalm 145 and thank Him for each attribute described in the passage. As you reflect on His character, ask Him to make you someone who faithfully passes these truths on to others.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 17

I need help.

Growing up as the youngest of four siblings, I never had to learn how to change a diaper. It was a skill I could easily avoid until I stood in a hospital room holding my newborn who clearly needed one. I had no idea what to do. Panic began to rise, and in desperation I pressed the call button and quietly admitted, “I need help. I’m not sure what I’m doing.” A gracious nurse walked in, showed me what to do, and saved the moment.

Reaching the next generation often feels the same way. None of us feel fully prepared, capable, or confident. God is not looking for people who have mastered every skill or solved every challenge. He is looking for people who will take a humble step toward a younger generation that is often quietly saying, “I’m not sure what to do here.” He invites us to step in and speak over them *“the glory of God’s kingdom and tell of His power, and make known to them God’s mighty deeds and glorious splendor”* (Psalm 145:11-12). Our calling is not to point them to our competence but to point them to God’s steady and unfailing faithfulness.

One of the greatest needs the next generation carries is the question of where to turn when life becomes overwhelming. God has chosen to answer this need through His people. Philippians 2:3 calls us to *“do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but with humility consider others more important than ourselves.”* When we embrace this value, we become a tangible expression of Christ’s heart. Jesus Himself did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). In a world that constantly says to focus on yourself, Jesus calls us to look out for those who will come after us.

When Christians live this way, something powerful happens. A self-protective world begins to see what humility looks like, what service looks like, and what love looks like. Needs are met, fears are quieted, and hope is passed from one generation to the next. The next generation does not simply see better people, they see God better.

Pray

Pray for the places in your life, your neighborhood, your workplace, or your city where the next generation feels unseen or unsure of where to turn. Ask God to give you eyes to notice them and a heart willing to step toward them. Pray that your words and actions would make known the goodness and faithfulness of God to those who come after you.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 18

We reproduce who we are.

We naturally speak about what we care about. When someone eats at a great restaurant, sees an inspiring movie, or reads a meaningful book, it feels almost effortless to recommend it to others. They have experienced something good and they want others to share in it.

Psalm 145:1-13 describes this same movement in the life of a believer. It paints a picture of someone who has experienced God in such a deep and personal way that the natural response is to commend His greatness to the next generation. This value is not simply about passing along correct information. It is about passing along a life shaped by the reality of who God is.

A believer once reflected on how this value took root in her life. She had grown up hearing that God was faithful, but it was not until she stepped into a season that required courageous obedience that she discovered His faithfulness firsthand. In that season she learned to trust God with decisions that felt costly. As she saw God sustain her, guide her, and provide for her, her certainty about His character grew. Over time the next generation around her began to notice. They saw not only her words but the way her life consistently demonstrated trust. She extended grace when it was difficult, offered forgiveness when it was not deserved, and served others quietly and joyfully. Her life showed that God's character was not a theory but a reality that shaped her choices.

John Maxwell once wrote, "You teach what you know, but you reproduce who you are." The next generation will learn far more from the example of a life anchored in God than from information alone. If we long to see them become confident in who God is and what He can do through them, then we must become a generation that is confident in who God is and what He can do through us. Reaching the next generation is worth every effort, and God is worthy of the praise that will rise from their lives.

Pray

Ask God to show you where He is inviting you to trust Him more deeply. Pray for courage to live out what you believe about His character. Invite Him to shape your life into one that reflects His faithfulness, grace, and love so that the next generation can see Him clearly through you.

What is God saying to you today?

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We are a church that...

**Advances
the Kingdom.**

21
Days

Day 19

The Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age".

This passage is most often called The Great Commission and for good reason, it's the final, powerful mandate or commission from Jesus to His followers. It is the purpose of the church and each individual believer. In this moment, Jesus could have said anything, but He gave us the words "*Go and make disciples of all nations*".

To advance the Kingdom is not complicated, we just need to *go and make disciples of all nations*. What is the first thing we must do to fulfill this value? First, is to recognize that the mandate is not for a few "super Christians" but for all Christians. It's a core part of who we are as believers and more importantly, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can follow the Great Commission.

The Great Commission begins with an affirmation of Christ's power: "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*" This statement is the foundation for everything we do as believers as we seek to Advance the Kingdom. Because the Holy Spirit resides in us, we have access to the authority and power that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 28:18. In other words, because He has absolute authority; we can confidently move forward with the Great Commission as our mandate. And as a sending church, we believe God will send people from The Summit to plant churches and engage people all over the world.

Pray

Pray that God would give you the understanding to see what it really means to *Go and Make Disciples*. Then pray for the faith to move beyond your comfort zone to follow the mandate to go.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 20

Send me.

Yesterday, we prayed about stepping into obedience to the Great Commission with the confidence that we are sent and sustained by the power and command of God. Many times, this is a bold conversation with God that produces discomfort or fear. But consider Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6. The Seraphim were calling out, "*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is filled with His glory.*" (Isaiah 6:3).

Wait a minute – when we watch the news or think about all the pagan cultures of the world, it sure doesn't look like God's glory is filling the earth! Isaiah may have been thinking the same thing because he responded, woe is me...I'm unclean and I'm living with the unclean! God then redeemed Isaiah and asked him, "*Now, who shall I send? Who will go for us?*" Isaiah's response, "*Send me.*"

God's glory does fill the whole earth, but the darkness is hiding the truth. Carriers of the truth must be sent out. So many are waiting to hear about the Light. There will be a day when the knowledge of the Lord fills the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14) The mission of every believer and every church is to advance the Kingdom to this end.

Pray

Ask the Lord about your part in the mission to advance the Kingdom and see the whole earth have the knowledge of the Lord. Pray for an obedient heart and a willing spirit to say, "Send me out on the task that you have for me, no matter the discomfort or fear." Know that the Lord is with you, always.

What is God saying to you today?

Day 21

Move in faith.

In Matthew 28 and Isaiah 6 we see that the Great Commission is an act of faith. Advancing the Kingdom is more than taking the Gospel to the billions of people with little to no access. It's also about our own personal faith journey with Jesus. The simple act of saying yes to His plan means we take a huge step in our understanding of the essence of Jesus. We gain a greater level of faith because we set aside our desires and move in faith.

Stepping out in faith seems daunting and maybe even scary at times. We live in a world that tells us we need a plan for everything. This is the opposite of walking in faith. The beauty of a faith journey is what happens *in* the journey. A wonderful understanding of Jesus is gained, and we no longer live in desperation for a better life but discover the fullness of life that comes from being spiritually fulfilled.

For those who have stepped out into a faith journey of advancing the Kingdom, it means their desire for God's plan, even if not fully revealed, outweighs their longing for their present life. And the beauty is that they always end up going places that only God could take them – sometimes geographically but always spiritually. Their life may be full of challenges, but also growth and amazing testimony. Advancing the Kingdom for them means they have moved from just hearing stories of God's mission to in fact living them out with the people around them. This step in faith is *the* integral part of the journey. These spiritual milestones come to define their lives.

Step into the beautiful and complete journey of advancing the Kingdom. It's the heartbeat of God.

Pray

Begin today's prayer by talking to God honestly about faith. Pray about the steps of faith He is asking you to take so you can receive from Him more than the ordinary. Ask Him to fill you with all you need to step into the extraordinary life of advancing the Kingdom. "*God show me how to be an active part of advancing the Kingdom*".

What is God saying to you today?

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The Summit Church is one family of multiple churches that exists to cooperate with God in developing multiplying communities of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



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CHURCH**

thesummitchurch.org/21days