



Refresh, RENEW, RECONNECT

"Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering."

Exodus 25:2

As you read the devotional each day and listen to what God wants to say to you, remember there are hundreds of others doing the same thing with you. As you pray each day, pray this prayer: "God, what do You want to do through me to accomplish your will in my church." I believe this is going to be a powerful time in the life of our church as we seek God and ask Him to lead us in Building Generations for His glory.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6–7 ESV

Question:

Am I willing to personally follow the steps given in this verse, which God says are the keys for His response of hearing, forgiving and healing?

Application:

We look around at our world and see pride, self-sufficiency, immorality and brokenness. Many times we judge others when God wants us to look at our own lives. We are His children, Christians, and we need to follow His instructions.

Prayer:

Lord, as Your child, I cry out to You for mercy and forgiveness. Show me the pride and other sins in my life that I need to confess to You. Examine me and help me to walk in repentance and in the power of Your Holy Spirit every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

Who will I and our church trust so we can prepare for the future as a church?

Application:

Keep your eyes on Jesus, be committed to His work and be generous with your time praying and serving. Focus on the Eternal promises of Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear God, we need Your help to shut out worldly distractions while we prepare to spend time with You. Help us to not let our worries and problems keep us from You. Help us to turn them over to you, so that we can have the peace You promise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 1

DAY 2

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, ^[a] yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12:14–20 ESV

Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Psalm 37:3 ESV

Question:

Do we really want every member of our church to do the same thing or do we want diversity of gifts?

Application:

We need all kinds of people exercising their spiritual gifts for our church to function as the body of Christ; just as the human body has different parts in order to function effectively.

Prayer:

Lord, may our church be accepting of all kinds of people with all kinds of gifts to do the job of being Your body in our community. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

Do we pray daily for God to help us focus on Him?

Application:

As a church body we must ask ourselves what is the mission of the church and for whom is that mission? How do we prepare for the future of Christ Covenant Church and the people that we serve? How do we let our light shine and best serve the Lord in the future? The answers will come as we trust in the Lord and cultivate faithfulness in our lives.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we can lean on You and not on ourselves. Help us find Your will and serve You, not ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 3

DAY 4

Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.

I Chronicles 28:20 ESV

And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30 ESV

Question:

What is the greatest legacy a parent can pass along to their children? What do we as a church have to pass down to those who will follow us?

Application:

The ancient temple was sacred and a foreshadowing of Christ. We can be sure God, who led and guided those before us, will in like manner never leave or forsake us as we endeavor to do His will and complete the work He has purposed to be completed through us or by us. When our focus is on God and we are one with Christ, the good work will be completed.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us not to be only hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word. Help us to follow You no matter the circumstances, no matter the cost; knowing You are always faithful. Help us to share more than just words to those who will follow. I pray we will share confidence and obedience in the living God based on the Living Word lived out in our daily lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

Am I willing to stand in the gap and pray for our land, our families, our church, our world and for individual needs?

Application:

The scripture is replete with things to pray about. If we ask God, read His word, and depend on the Holy Spirit, He will show us the things that are on His heart and the things that we should pray earnestly about which are priorities in His Kingdom and in our personal lives.

Prayer:

God, I am overwhelmed at times by what is happening in our world. Come alongside me and our church and reveal what is important to You and Your Kingdom, King Jesus. I desire to be one who stands in the gap! In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 5

DAY 6

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,^[a] and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 ESV

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9 ESV

Question:

How is accountability, a key Biblical principle, established in each heart of our Christ Covenant Church family?

Application:

Regardless of the version of the Bible used, God's Word, His accounting, is holy.

Accountability is soul-deep honesty with God, complete agreement with every word of God:

Precept upon precept, line upon line. (Isaiah 28:13)

Accountability with the Father brings restoration in broken relationships:

Holy God brings unity, and His strength and power will be in the lives of His people. (Psalm 68:35)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please send the gift of conviction so that I will agree with Your every word in the Bible. Only You, Lord, can help me to do justly, to love mercy and to humbly walk with You. May each one in our First Denton family receive this gift and may we reflect it in restoration, unity and in every offering of obedience to further Your kingdom. For Your glory and in Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

When we face life's obstacles, are we anticipating what the Lord can do through us or are we shrinking back in fear?

Application:

The words "strong and courageous" in this verse mean "to hold on to and anticipate." When we face different obstacles in life that seem to overwhelm us, our natural reaction is to shrink back in fear. This scripture tells us that we need to hold on to the Lord and anticipate what He is going to do. He will not leave or abandon us, but instead he will lead us to victory in Him. Stand firm in your faith today and anticipate the wonderful things the Lord will do in and through you.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to not shrink back in fear when we come to obstacles in the road of life. Instead, help us to hold tightly to You, knowing You will not leave us, and to anticipate all You will do through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 7

DAY 8

*Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
“I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the
way you should go.”*

Isaiah 48:17 ESV

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own
understanding.*

Proverbs 3:5 ESV

Question:

Do I take time to listen to the Lord so He can teach me?
How will I know He is directing me?

Application:

Let's honor the Lord in spending time with the one that has the answers. God promises He will teach, guide and direct us as we get into the Word. This scripture gives us the promise that He will teach us. Listen and you can hear the Holy Spirit teaching and directing you.

Prayer:

God, I desire to set aside my will and my plans. I allow Your hand to direct me. May I and our fellowship of believers do nothing without Your direction. Lead us in the way we should go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

How can we as a church find God's will?

Application:

We must depend on the Lord with all our hearts to find His will. As we look to the future as a church, let us pray and wait for His answers. It is only through prayer and meditation that we can know what is from the Lord, and what is from our own desires.

Prayer:

Lord, give us the patience to pray and then listen for Your answers, not depending on our own understanding, but waiting for Your answers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 9

DAY 10

Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 ESV

Question:

Do we really cry out to the Lord to strengthen us in faith, love and hope so that we will understand and do His will?

Application:

Faith, love and hope do not come from us, but from God. He tells us that the scriptures, His Holy Spirit and prayer will grow our faith in His leading, our love for Him and others, and our hope in His promises.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You that as we pray and meditate on Your word, You will give us the faith needed to understand, accept and take action on Your assignments. May we labor in response to Your great love through Jesus' sacrifice for us, and may we endure and persevere, inspired by our sure hope in Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 11

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

Question:

Do we want God's will for our church, or do we have our own agenda and desires concerning future plans?

Application:

The Message says, "Take your everyday, ordinary life...and place it before God as an offering." As we offer ourselves to Him in prayer, the way will open. God cares for us more than we can imagine and His plans will unfold.

Prayer:

God, remind us of all the ways You work in our world: through Your Spirit within us and Your handiwork all around us. Thank you for blessing us so abundantly. Teach us how to follow You, to make choices that glorify You and to live the life You would have us live. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

Question:

What strongholds does God see in my life?

Application:

Microbots are programmed to use different things for energy and an amazing array of medical bots are being developed to attack and address medical problems unseen to the human eye. But, only God can reveal the unseen, often undetected strongholds, those killing or crippling strongholds within an individual. Only God can destroy the enemy's hold within our souls, those which begin in small ways and end destroying us or those around us. Only Holy God can send His resurrection power to restore our souls. Praise The Lord! He lives and trains us to use His mighty "weapons for the pulling down of strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Prayer:

Thank you, Heavenly Father! I praise You for Your Son and for His precious sacrifice which defeated the enemy of my soul. Thank you for revealing every stronghold. Be pleased to destroy each one so that I will not grieve the Holy Spirit and harden my heart. Lord, please bring victory to our family at First Denton and help us accomplish the work You have for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 13

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14 ESV

Question:

What does it mean to get right with God? What or who becomes the standard we measure ourselves against?

Application:

We first must realize we don't measure up to any standard, let alone the standard of Jesus Christ. This is why He died for us, for all humanity, because we don't measure up. Second, getting right with God doesn't entail a list of dos and don'ts; it is an attitude of the heart. As we delight ourselves in the Lord, He changes the desires of our hearts and helps us as we allow Him to change bad habits. All we must do is walk with Jesus, and He promises to do the rest.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for changing the desires of our hearts. As we continue to delight ourselves in You and Your Word, open our hearts to Your purpose and will for our lives and for the future influence of the church in our community and world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

Question:

Do we really desire to honor God by living a righteous life and loving others as Christ loved us?

Application:

We should seek to honor God by living a righteous life. We need to put away worldly sins that are so much around us and look to Christ as our example. We should love others as He did us.

Prayer:

Dear Father, I pray that our church, Your people, will choose to walk in the way Your Son showed us. That we would be a loving church and stand against sins that are so prevalent in our world today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 15

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Psalms 133:1 ESV

Question:

Do you think that God's blessings are given to us when God's people live together in harmony?

Application:

We are One Body – God adopts all who accept His Son.

One Spirit – The Holy Spirit was sent for all believers.

One Hope – Eternity with God.

One Lord – He is the eternal King; He alone is God.

One Faith – Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

If we have unity in the church, the body of Christ, people will be ready to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to have the right attitude for others. Help us to faithfully pray for others, to forgive one another, to be kind, tenderhearted and compassionate. Thank you for loving us and we ask forgiveness when we don't live as a Christian should. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 16

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
Ephesians 1:18-21 ESV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8 ESV

Question:

Do we, as Christians, realize the full potential we have within us to affect change upon the community around us?

Application:

Our salvation is evidence of God's surpassingly great power at work in us. The power at work within us is the same power by which Christ was raised from the dead. As Christians we have the indwelling Holy Spirit which means we have within our being resurrection power...Wow! God wants us to know and use His mighty power to live victorious, holy lives, endure difficult circumstances, help us overcome temptation and serve Him faithfully.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as Christians allow us to realize the power we have at work within us. Give us opportunities to live out this truth in our community so others will come to know you as Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

How can we be the most effective witnesses to the people around us in our city and to the world?

Application:

We know from His Word that He wants us to be guided by His Holy Spirit in our own personal lives, as well as in our church's outreach to our community. As we seek wisdom, power and strength from Him in all that we do, we will be able to be His witnesses, both personally and corporately.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that You desire a relationship with us. Help us remember to seek You out and not get caught up in the busyness of the day. Help us to be open and responsive to the opportunities You give us to witness of Your love to everyone around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 17

DAY 18

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Isaiah 6:8 ESV

Question:

Are you making time to listen to the Lord and be available for Him to use?

Application:

We easily get caught in the distractions of this world, not making time to stop and listen to our Lord. When we do hear His voice we sometimes neglect to be obedient to His calling due to fear, not enough time, work or family. Isaiah not only was listening for the Lord, but heard His voice and immediately made himself available for God to use. Imagine the impact our church could have if we all were immediately obedient to the things God was calling us to. Make time today to listen intently for His voice. Step out in faith when He calls.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to make time to stop and listen for You today. Let me hear Your voice and be available for You to use me to further Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers,^[a] as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 ESV

Question:

Am I growing in faith and in love for my brothers and sisters in the Lord?

Application:

Paul explains in 2 Thessalonians that these Christians were going through many trials. He writes to them that he is so encouraged because he sees them depending on God in these trials and times of stress. He sees God, in turn, producing in them strong faith, character and great love for Him and for each other.

Prayer:

God, our prayer for our church is the same as Paul’s in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12:

¹¹ With this in mind (life’s trials), I constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and that by His power, He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 19

DAY 20

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

I will put my trust in him.

Hebrews 2:13 ESV

Question:

Do we really work to have unity in the body of Christ-the church?

Application:

We need to bear with other Christians in love. We need to weep when they weep and laugh when they laugh. We need to give up self-centeredness and care for others.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray that we will look at others the way You do. I want my heart to break for what Your heart breaks. Help us to be brothers and sisters to fellow Christians. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Question:

In whom do we trust?

Application:

As a church we must not trust in ourselves, not in the building on Covenant Road, not in the Christ Covenant Church, but in the Lord. We must put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. He is the only one worthy of our trust. He knows what the future holds and knows when the time is right.

Prayer:

Help us every day to seek Your will in all things. Help us to seek Your will in our lives, with our friends, within our families, and within our church family.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 21

DAY 22

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;^[a] ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 ESV

Question:

How do we apply this love for others, for brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the lost?

Application:

Our society confuses love and lust. God's kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. It is impossible to have this love unless God helps us set aside our own natural desires so that we can love and not expect anything in return. The more we become like Christ, the more we will love others.

Prayer:

Dear God, we thank You for loving us, for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and suffer in our place. Help us to love all others because You first loved us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 23

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV

Question:

Are you daily seeking God and His purpose for your life?

Application:

The Lord has always cared about His people, no matter what their circumstances. Jeremiah was conveying God's message to His people while they were in exile and away from their homeland. The prophet is writing to let them know that despite their situation, God had not forgotten nor forsaken them. God still had hope, a plan and a future for His children and He wants us to realize we must submit to His plan for His blessings to fall on us. The key is still, as it was all those years ago, that I must seek Him and believe I will find Him when I seek Him with all my heart.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Your Word that tells us You have hope and a future plan for our lives. Remind us that we must seek You and Your purpose for our lives in order for Your hope to be realized in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 24

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6 ESV

Question:

As we seek His direction for our future, are we consciously thanking God for all He has done through our church in the past?

Application:

God has led us to reach out to our city in our current facility, and we can be confident that He wants us to continue reaching all the individuals and families that we can. When God is leading, we can go forward unafraid. As we pray and ask for His guidance, He will supply our needs.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to live each day in the spirit of prayer, thanking You and seeking Your will for our lives and our church. Thank You that You have a purpose for us and You want to reveal it to us as we seek You with all our hearts. May we know that time spent with You and Your Word is the best time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 25

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

Question:

What are God's plans for Christ Covenant Church, now and in the future?

Application:

A wise person commits his or her plans to the Lord. He has a plan and a direction for our church. God's people, the Church, need to be open and available to hear God's leading to achieve God's purpose.

Prayer:

Lord, we know you have a plan for the future of our church; one that glorifies Christ. We ask that You make known to us Your will, so that we will do that which pleases You and promotes the ongoing cause of Your church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 26

The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple..

Ezekiel 43:5 ESV

Question:

Do we really want the Spirit of the Lord to lift us and the glory of the Lord to fill our church or are we satisfied with the status quo?

Application:

We need to let the Spirit lift our hearts to be ready for the glory of the Lord to fill our church and be prepared for what He has planned for us.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray that Your Spirit will be lift up all of the members of our church and that Your glory will fill our church. May we return to the truth of your Word and open our hearts for your filling. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 27

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 ESV

Question:

Are we living a life worthy of the calling we have received from Christ Jesus? As believers, are we living in unity with one another?

Application:

As followers of Jesus, we are called Christians, imitators of Christ. In order to live a life worthy of that name, we must walk the talk if we are going to make a difference in the world. Without love and bearing with others, there can be no unity. Unity comes from allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives. The body of believers cannot be effective witnesses to non-believers unless we humbly devote ourselves to Jesus Christ and His teachings, live in meekness and forgive ourselves and one another. We should live with patience, gentleness, kindness and unity within the body of believers.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the patience and love You give us each day. As we read and pray Your word daily, give us a humble heart and allow Your love to flow through us to a lost world. Let them know we are Christians through the patience, gentleness, love and unity we display toward one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 28