



All In



THE WAY OF YES

Crosstown Community Church
Lent 2026 Consecration

All In: The Way of Yes

Lent 2026

Consecration Guidebook



Crosstown Community Church

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How do I use this consecration guidebook?

This guidebook is designed to help you **understand the journey we're walking together** during Lent and how to engage it faithfully and consistently.

Inside this guidebook, you'll find:

- A **pastoral invitation** framing the heart of this consecration
- Helpful **FAQs** about Lent, consecration, and fasting
- **Week-at-a-glance overviews** that introduce each week's theme, fasting focus, and spiritual emphasis

The **daily devotional content** for each weekday – including the *Scripture of the Day*, a short devotional reflection, and a brief prayer – will be available online throughout Lent.

You can access the daily devotions at:

www.crosstownchicago.org/lent

We encourage you to use this guidebook as your **weekly framework** and our Lent Consecration website as your **daily companion**. Together, they're designed to help you walk *All In: The Way of Yes* with clarity, consistency, and confidence.

A pastoral invitation to *All In: The Way of Yes*

Dear Crosstown Family,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter this period of consecration together as a church family, I'm reminded of a time of consecration in my own life – when the Lord first gave me the vision for Crosstown Community Church. When we first discerned that God was calling us to plant Crosstown, two instructions were unmistakably clear:

First, Crosstown was to keep **Christ and His cross at the center** – not personalities, platforms, or preferences. Christ alone.

Second, Crosstown was to be **a safe space to grow in grace**. Growing in grace is core to who we are and who we're becoming. And now, I believe the Lord is calling us to grow together as a church through a season of consecration during Lent.

Lent is a sacred season of consecration observed by Christians for centuries from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday – not to earn God's love, but to respond more fully to the love God has already shown us in Jesus Christ. Lent invites us to slow down, pay spiritual attention, discipline our flesh, and allow the Holy Spirit to realign our lives around Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord.

This year, as a church, we are stepping into a consecration called **All In: The Way of Yes**. Together, we will engage in prayer, daily devotions, and fasting, growing more reliant on the Holy Spirit with each passing day. We will also gather virtually each Wednesday at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek** – a time to be rooted in God’s Word together and reminded that this journey is not meant to be walked alone.

The way of yes calls us to surrender to and trust the Lord. It stretches us and carries a cost. But as we journey together, my prayer for us is simple: that we would discover that **being All In for life with God is worth everything we could ever lay down.**

Let’s walk this way together.

With gratitude and expectation,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'NP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Nicholas Pearce
Pastor

Consecration FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is Lent?

Lent is a sacred forty-day season in the life of the Christian Church that invites us to slow down, reflect, and realign our lives around Jesus. For centuries, Christians have marked Lent as an important season of preparing our hearts to remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is not about trying to earn God's love or proving how spiritually deep we are. It's about creating intentional space to grow in our relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting, and meditation on the Scriptures. It's about responding to God's grace with repentant, obedient, and hope-filled hearts.

At Crosstown, Lent is a shared journey – it's about faithful participation, not flawless perfection. This year, through **All In: The Way of Yes**, our church family will walk this season together, practicing greater surrender and trust as we follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What is the purpose of consecration & fasting?

Consecration is the act of setting ourselves apart for God. Throughout the Scriptures, God's people consecrated themselves in moments of repentance, renewal, and preparation – not to earn God's favor, but to respond faithfully to His presence and His call.

In the Old Testament, God invited His people to consecrate themselves as they returned to Him:

“Consecrate yourselves, and you will see the Lord do wonders among you.” (Joshua 3:5)

In the New Testament, consecration takes shape as a **whole-life response to grace** – offering ourselves to God in light of what He has already done for us in Christ:

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” (Romans 12:1)

Consecration is not about withdrawal *from* the world – it is about **greater devotion to God *within* the world**. It is a posture of surrender that says, “Lord, my life belongs to you.”

Fasting is one of the primary practices, or spiritual disciplines, through which God's people have historically lived out the call to consecration. In the Scriptures, fasting is not an end in itself – it is a means of creating space for prayerful humility, greater attentiveness to the Holy Spirit, and deeper reliance on God.

Jesus assumed His followers would fast, not as a religious performance, but as a practice shaped by sincerity and faith:

“Whenever you fast...don’t show your fasting to people but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:16-18)

Ultimately, consecration and fasting are not about spiritual performance. They are practices that help us **realign our hearts with the heart of God**, deepen our dependence on Him, and open our lives to His transforming work. As we humble ourselves before the Lord, Scripture promises that God will meet us with grace:

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

How will *our* consecration work?

Beginning on **Ash Wednesday** (February 18) and ending on **Holy Thursday** (April 2), our consecration is built around a simple, shared rhythm designed to help us say yes to the Lord together.

- **Monday–Friday:** Engage in short daily devotions to guide prayer & reflection, along with fasting
- **Weekly:** Practice the fasting & spiritual disciplines outlined each weekday, engaging both food and non-food practices that train our hearts toward God
- **Wednesday evenings at 7pm CT:** Join us for **Crosstown Midweek** – a virtual gathering with practical Bible teaching to help us walk The Way of Yes together
- **Weekends:** Rest, join us for Sunday morning worship, and prepare your heart for the week ahead
- **Grace-filled participation each day:** Miss a day or fall behind? Don't quit – just keep going.

Can I participate if I'm new to Crosstown or new to faith?

Absolutely! This consecration is open to anyone who desires to grow closer to the Lord and walk alongside our church community, regardless of where you are in your faith journey.

You don't need prior experience with Lent – or even with fasting – to participate meaningfully.

Is biblical fasting safe for me?

There are many examples of fasts throughout the Scriptures. In every case, fasting involves disciplining both **our bodies and our behaviors**. Fasting trains us to say no to the appetites of our flesh and other distractions so we can say yes more fully to God. Throughout this consecration, we engage in **food-related fasting alongside parallel non-food disciplines**, recognizing that spiritual formation involves the whole person – mind, body, and spirit.

At the same time, we acknowledge that while generally safe for most people, **fasting from food may not be wise or safe for everyone**. Scripture consistently affirms God's desire for us to carefully steward our physical bodies (*see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). For those who are pregnant or nursing, managing a medical condition, recovering from an eating disorder, or advised otherwise by a medical professional, fasting from food is not recommended. Choosing modified fasts or non-food disciplines is not a lesser form of obedience to God – it is an expression of wisdom and faithfulness. This is about grace-inspired participation, not perfection or performance.

We encourage you to consult your physician with any medical questions or concerns regarding your participation in our season of consecration.

Can children participate in our consecration?

Yes! Children are welcome to participate with us in age-appropriate and parent-guided ways. We do not recommend fasting from meals or restricting nutrition for kids. Instead, families may choose simple, safe practices – such as giving up sweets, snacks, or a favorite treat, or practicing intentional restraint around screen time – to help children learn self-control and attentiveness to God. The goal for children is spiritual formation through participation – not deprivation. Parents are encouraged to prayerfully discern what is best for their child(ren) and to frame these practices as an invitation to turn their hearts toward Jesus in response to God’s love for them – not a way to earn God’s love.

What do I do if I miss a day or fall behind?

Crosstown – and indeed the Christian faith – emphasizes grace over perfection. Nobody is flawlessly perfect. We encourage you to do your best to engage meaningfully each day, but this consecration is not about impressing God by keeping a perfect streak. If you miss a day, don’t quit – just pick back up and keep going.

God is more interested in the posture of your heart than your perfection. Faithful participation matters most.

Week 1 Overview + Daily Devotions (February 18-20)

The First Yes: Honesty Before God

Scripture: Joel 2:12 (CSB)

Even now – this is the LORD’s declaration – turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

Week 1 Spiritual Formation Focus

The first yes to God is not confident or polished – it is raw and honest. The way of yes begins with honesty. The first week calls us to tell the truth before God – about our need, our limits, and our need for His grace. Lent begins not with achievement, but with repentant return to God.

Week 1 Fasting Focus (Wednesday – Friday)

Food: No snacking between meals

Non-Food: Reduce distractions that numb attentiveness (e.g. mindless phone scrolling, background noise)

Why this matters: Before we learn to live a “yes, Lord” life, we must learn to pay attention to our hunger, our habits, and our need for God.

Special Week 1 Note

Our consecration begins on Ash Wednesday. Though this first week is a bit shorter than the weeks ahead, it sets the spiritual tone for the rest of our season of consecration. Take time to move slowly and intentionally.

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

The Honest Yes

Scripture: Joel 2:12–13 (CSB)

Even now – this is the LORD’S declaration – turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and he relents from sending disaster.

Devotional Thought

The first word of Lent is not “do more *for* God” — it is “return to God.” Ashes remind us of our limits, our need, and our utter dependence on grace. God does not ask us to clean ourselves up before coming back to Him. He simply asks for our hearts.

The way of yes begins when we stop pretending and tell the naked truth before God.

Prayer

*Lord, we return to You with fragile, honest hearts.
Show up and meet us in our weakness. And draw us near again.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Midweek Reminder

Lent is not meant to be walked alone. Join us tonight at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek**, our virtual Wednesday evening Bible Study gathering, as we walk *The Way of Yes* together. **Streaming on www.crosstownchicago.org.**

Thursday, February 19

The Yes That Names Our Need

Scripture: Psalm 51:16-17 (CSB)

You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; you are not pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.

Devotional Thought

God is not impressed by put-on appearances or religious performance. What He desires first is a heart that knows – and is willing to name – its need for Him. When we admit our brokenness, we create space for God’s mercy to meet us.

Prayer

*God, we bring You our true selves, not our best selves.
Receive our honesty, we pray, and renew us by Your mercy.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Friday, February 20

The Yes That Turns Toward God

Scripture: James 4:8 (CSB)

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Devotional Thought

Repentance is not about shame – it is about direction. To repent means to change your mind – to simply turn back toward God, trusting that He welcomes us. The opportunity to repent is evidence of God’s grace in action in our lives. When we take even a small step toward Him, Scripture promises that He draws near to us.

The first yes sets our direction for the journey ahead.

Prayer

Lord, we turn our hearts toward You again.

Thank You for still being there for us.

Teach us how to walk with You in trust and humility.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Week 2 Overview + Daily Devotions (February 23–27)

The Costly Yes: Yes in Obedience

Scripture: Luke 9:23 (CSB)

Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Week 2 Spiritual Formation Focus

The love of God that saves us also shapes us. This week invites us to face the reality that following Jesus costs us something. Obedience requires surrender but ultimately leads to freedom. We learn to trust that following Jesus is more valuable than whatever He asks us to lay down.

Week 2 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: Fruits and vegetables only

Non-Food: Reduce indulgence and excess (e.g. limit impulse spending, entertainment, and indulgent comforts & conveniences)

Why this matters: Simplicity exposes our attachment to the things that control us. As we loosen our grip on what is gripping us, we create space for deeper obedience to God and the freedom He alone can provide.

Monday, February 23

The Call to Follow

Scripture: Luke 9:23 (CSB)

Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Devotional Thought

Jesus doesn't force anyone to follow Him. He invites us. But He is honest about what it means. To "take up your cross" is to let Jesus lead your life instead of trying to lead it yourself. That can feel hard. It may mean giving up habits, attitudes, or plans that do not honor Him. But the One who calls us to follow is the same One who gave His life for us. Obedience is not about earning love. It is about trusting the One who already loves you.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Yourself fully for me.
Teach me to trust You enough to follow where You lead.
Help me surrender what competes with Your authority in my life.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Tuesday, February 24

Love that Obeys

Scripture: John 14:15 (CSB)

If you love me, you will keep my commands.

Devotional Thought

Obedience is not about fear. It is about love. When someone loves you and wants what is best for you, you learn to trust their words. Jesus' commands are not meant to crush us. They are meant to shape us into people who live in freedom and truth. When we obey Him, we are saying, "Jesus, I believe You know what is best." Love for Christ leads to obedience—not out of pressure, but out of gratitude.

Prayer

Lord, help me to deepen my love for You.

Shape my heart so that obedience flows from gratitude, not guilt.

Let my life reflect my love for Christ.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, February 25

A Daily Yes

Scripture: Luke 9:23 (CSB)

Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Devotional Thought

Notice that Jesus says we are to take up our crosses "daily." Following Him is not one big decision made once and forgotten. It is a choice we are invited to make again and again.

Each day brings new moments to trust Him – in our words, our thoughts, and our actions. Some days, obedience feels natural. Other days, it feels like a costly sacrifice. But every daily yes strengthens your spiritual muscles and builds your faith.

Prayer

Lord, give me grace for today's yes.

When obedience feels costly, remind me that You are faithful and strengthen me to choose You again.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Midweek Reminder

Lent is not meant to be walked alone. Join us tonight at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek**, our virtual Wednesday evening Bible Study gathering, as we walk *The Way of Yes* together. **Streaming on www.crosstownchicago.org.**

Thursday, February 26

A New Life in Christ

Scripture: Galatians 2:20 (CSB)

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Devotional Thought

When we follow Jesus, something changes deep inside us. The old way of living – ruled by sin and self – has been put to death with Christ. A new life begins to grow. Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit. That means we are not trying to obey in our own strength. He gives us the power to do what we could not do alone. Obedience becomes possible only because Christ loves us, is present with us, and is active within us.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me and giving Yourself for me.

Please, Lord, live your life through me today.

Strengthen my faith so that I may walk in obedience with confidence.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, February 27

The Joy Ahead

Scripture: Hebrews 12:2 (CSB)

Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Devotional Thought

Jesus endured the cross because He saw the joy ahead. He knew that suffering would not be the end of the story. When obedience feels hard, remember that God always works with a bigger picture in mind. Our obedience is never pointless. God always works with resurrection in mind.

When you fix your eyes on Jesus, you remember that the cross leads to glory. Your surrender today is part of something greater than you can see.

Trust that God is working for your good and His glory.

Prayer

*Lord, help me stay focused on Jesus and hold onto hope when obedience feels hard.
When obedience feels heavy, remind me of the joy ahead.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Week 3 Overview + Daily Devotions (March 2–6)

The Daily Yes: Yes in Faithfulness

Scripture: Luke 16:10 (CSB)

Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much.

Week 3 Spiritual Formation Focus

Spiritual growth is rarely dramatic – it is formed gradually through ordinary faithfulness day in and day out. This week focuses on the power of small, repeated yeses to God – learning to show up consistently and trust God in the mundane, everyday moments of life.

Week 3 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: Liquids only until 3:00pm

Non-Food: Exhibit simple faithfulness in your daily routines (e.g. punctuality, follow-through on responsibilities & commitments, focused presence)

Why this matters: Faithfulness forms character. Daily, consistent yeses shape who we are becoming more than sporadic moments of occasional faithfulness.

Monday, March 2

Faithful in the Small

Scripture: Luke 16:10 (CSB)

“Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much.”

Devotional Thought

Faithfulness is often formed in small, unseen moments. We may long for big opportunities, but God shapes character through a life of ordinary, simple faithfulness. The way we speak, the way we serve, the way we manage time — these daily decisions matter. God is not only watching public victories; He is shaping private faithfulness. Small yeses build strong disciples.

Prayer

*Lord, help me honor You in the small things today.
Train my heart to be faithful when no one is watching.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Tuesday, March 3

Established Steps

Scripture: Psalm 37:23 (CSB)

A person's steps are established by the Lord, and he takes pleasure in his way.

Devotional Thought

God delights in steady obedience. Faithfulness does not mean perfection — it means persistence. Even when progress feels slow, the Lord is guiding your steps. You may not see dramatic change overnight, but daily obedience forms a life that pleases Him. Trust that God is working through your steady walk.

Prayer

Father, establish my steps in Your truth.

Give me patience for the process of growth and grant me joy in faithful living.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, March 4

New Every Morning

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22-23 (CSB)

Because of the Lord's faithful love, we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

Devotional Thought

Your faithfulness rests on God's faithfulness. His mercy meets you again each morning. Yesterday's failures do not cancel today's grace. God's steadfast love sustains your steady obedience. Every new day is a new opportunity to say yes.

Prayer

*Lord, thank You for mercy that meets me every morning.
Help me reflect Your faithfulness in my daily life.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Midweek Reminder

Lent is not meant to be walked alone. Join us tonight at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek**, our virtual Wednesday evening Bible Study gathering, as we walk *The Way of Yes* together. **Streaming on www.crosstownchicago.org.**

Thursday, March 5

Do Not Grow Weary

Scripture: Galatians 6:9 (CSB)

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.

Devotional Thought

Faithfulness can feel tiring. Obedience does not always bring quick results. But Scripture reminds us that there is a harvest in due season. God sees your endurance. Keep planting seeds of obedience and trust Him with the growth.

Prayer

Dear God, strengthen me when I feel weary.

Help me persevere in doing good and trust You for the harvest.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, March 6

Finish the Race

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7 (CSB)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Devotional Thought

Faithfulness is not just about starting with good intentions – it is about finishing well. The Christian life is not a sprint; it is a steady race. What matters most is not how loudly we start, but how faithfully we continue. God honors endurance rooted in trust.

Prayer

Lord, keep me steady and strong.

Help me keep the faith until the very end.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 4 Overview + Daily Devotions (March 9-13)

The Desperate Yes: Yes in Dependence

Scripture: Matthew 4:4 (CSB)

*He answered, "It is written, **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"*

Week 4 Spiritual Formation Focus

As our journey continues, fatigue begins to set in and our human limits become clearer. This week invites us to really lean into acknowledging our dependence on God – not just for occasional strength, but for life itself. We learn to listen more closely and rely more fully on God and His Word.

Week 4 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: One full meal per day (water or tea anytime)

Non-Food: Reduce and monitor your intake of noise; increase intentional meditation on the Scriptures

Why this matters: Dependence recalibrates our desires. By quieting the excesses in our daily lives and nourishing ourselves on Scripture, we learn what truly sustains us.

Monday, March 9

Apart from Me

Scripture: John 15:5 (CSB)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

Devotional Thought

Jesus speaks clearly: apart from Him, we can do nothing of lasting value. Dependence is not weakness – it is wisdom. When we admit our need, we position ourselves to receive from God – His love, peace, joy, and strength. The branch does not strain to produce any fruit on its own – it simply stays connected to the vine.

Prayer

Lord, keep me close to You.

Without You, I would be nothing.

Teach me to depend on Your strength instead of my own.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, March 10

Cry for Mercy

Scripture: Mark 10:47 (CSB)

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'"

Devotional Thought

In Mark 10, Blind Bartimaeus cried out in desperation when he heard that Jesus was passing by. He did not hide his need. He did not pretend to be strong or self-sufficient. He asked for mercy – unapologetically and dependently.

Dependence means coming to Christ honestly – showing our weakness and trusting Him to respond.

Prayer

Gracious God, I need Your mercy.

Help me bring my needs to You without fear or pride.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, March 11

Grace Is Enough

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (CSB)

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfect in weakness.'"

Devotional Thought

Even when we are dependent on God, He does not remove every struggle. Instead, He promises us sufficient grace. His power shines brightest in our weakness when we surrender it to Him. When we feel inadequate, we are reminded that Christ is enough.

Prayer

Lord, let Your grace be enough for me today.

Teach me to rest in Your strength whenever I feel weak.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Midweek Reminder

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Thursday, March 12

Daily Bread

Scripture: Matthew 6:11 (CSB)

"Give us today our daily bread."

Devotional Thought

Dependence on God is a daily discipline. We ask God for what we need today, not next year. This prayer – and this cadence of daily prayer – teaches us the joy of daily trust. God is a faithful provider. We can come to Him with confidence.

Prayer

Father, provide what I need for this day.

Help me trust You one step at a time.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, March 13

Near to the Brokenhearted

Scripture: Psalm 34:18 (CSB)

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted; he saves those crushed in spirit.

Devotional Thought

Desperation draws us near to God. When our hearts are heavy, He is close. He does not turn away from weakness; He moves toward it with compassion.

Prayer

Lord, draw near to me in my weakness.

Remind me that You are a close and faithful friend.

Thank You for the comfort in knowing that You are a constant companion on my journey.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 5 Overview + Daily Devotions (March 16–20)

The Silent Yes: Yes in Trust

Scripture: Psalm 62:5 (CSB)

Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him.

Week 5 Spiritual Formation Focus

Trust only deepens when answers are delayed and silence remains. This week invites us to wait, listen, and rest in God without rushing to control outcomes. Silence becomes a holy haven – a place where trust is refined.

Week 5 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: One full meal per day (water or tea anytime)

Non-Food: Embrace the gift of silence and exercise restraint in your words (less talking, less noise, intentional stillness); limit social media posting to that of an encouraging, spiritual nature

Why this matters: Stillness teaches us the profound power of God's presence. In silence, we learn that God is present and faithful even when He seems absent or quiet.

Monday, March 16

Be Still

Scripture: Psalm 46:10 (CSB)

“Stop fighting, and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth.”

Devotional Thought

Trusting in God is a process. And it all begins with stillness.

The command to “be still” is not passive resignation. It is an invitation to stop striving for control. Much of our anxiety comes from trying to manage outcomes that belong to God. Trust begins when we loosen our grip. Silence creates space for us to remember who God is — sovereign, present, faithful. When we stop fighting for control, we begin resting in His rule. The silent yes says, “God, You are God — and I am not.”

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, You alone can quiet my anxious thoughts.

Please teach me to release what I cannot control and rest in who You are.

Strengthen my trust in Your faithful rule over my life.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Tuesday, March 17

Trust Beyond Understanding

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 (CSB)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

Devotional Thought

Trust is most real when understanding is limited. We prefer clarity, plans, and guarantees. But Scripture calls us to rely on the Lord more than our own reasoning. To trust “with all your heart” means placing your confidence fully in God’s character. He sees what you cannot see. He understands what you cannot yet understand. A straight path does not mean an easy path — it means a directed one. Trust aligns us with God’s guidance even when the way feels uncertain.

Prayer

*Father, I confess that I often lean on my own understanding.
Help me trust You more deeply than my fears or my logic.
Gently lead me when I do not understand the way ahead.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Wednesday, March 18

The Gentle Whisper of God

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:12 (CSB)

"...And after the fire there was a voice, a soft whisper."

Devotional Thought

The prophet Elijah expected God in the dramatic wind and fire. Instead, God spoke in a gentle whisper. Trust requires attentiveness. We often look for loud signs, but God often shapes us through quiet conviction and steady guidance. Silence is not emptiness; it is space for communion with Him. When we slow down, we begin to recognize the subtle movements of the Spirit. The silent yes listens carefully and responds faithfully.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for speaking to my heart.

Help me quiet my heart enough to hear Your voice.

Tune my ears to be attentive and shape my heart to be responsive to Your voice.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Midweek Reminder

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Thursday, March 19

Strength in Confidence

Scripture: Isaiah 30:15 (CSB)

“For the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said: ‘You will be delivered by returning and resting; your strength will lie in quiet confidence.’”

Devotional Thought

True strength is rarely loud or hurried. God tells His people that deliverance comes through returning and resting. Quiet confidence is not the denial of difficulty; it is assurance in God’s faithfulness. When we return to Him, we find steadiness. Trust does not remove hardship, but it anchors the soul within it. The silent yes chooses confidence in God over panic in challenging circumstances.

Prayer

*Holy God, anchor my heart in quiet confidence in You.
When troubles rise, steady my soul in Your promises.
Teach me to return and rest in You alone.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Friday, March 20

Courage to Wait

Scripture: Psalm 27:14 (CSB)

Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord.

Devotional Thought

Waiting is not weakness — it is disciplined trust. Scripture connects waiting with courage because it takes strength to resist rushing ahead of God. When answers delay, faith deepens. Waiting refines our motives and clarifies our dependence. The silent yes does not force outcomes; it trusts God's timing. Courage grows in the space between promise and fulfillment.

Prayer

Lord, I confess that Your plans for me are good.

Please give me the courage to wait for You – to wait on You.

Strengthen my heart to trust your timing.

Keep me steady as I hope in You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 6 Overview + Daily Devotions (March 23–27)

The Yielding Yes: Yes in Submission

Scripture: Proverbs 16:9 (CSB)

A person's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.

Week 6 Spiritual Formation Focus

Submission is the posture and practice of yielding control. This week moves us from trusting God internally to releasing our grip externally – on plans, outcomes, and expectations. This is hard! We learn to cooperate with God's leading rather than resist it.

Week 6 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: Moderation and simplicity (no seconds, no indulgent foods, no sweets)

Non-Food: Commit to practicing the release of control (e.g. over-planning, over-fixing, and forcing outcomes)

Why this matters: Submission frees us from the burden of control. Yielding creates space for God to take the lead more clearly and deepen a longing in us to submit to Him with joy.

Monday, March 23

In View of Mercy

Scripture: Romans 12:1 (CSB)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Devotional Thought

Submission begins with mercy. Paul does not suggest surrender apart from grace — he roots it in “the mercies of God.” Because Christ has already given Himself for us, we now offer ourselves back to Him. A living sacrifice means daily availability to God’s will. This is not a loss of identity — it is alignment with purpose. Real worship is not confined to songs; it is embodied surrender. The yielding yes flows from gratitude, not fear.

Prayer

Merciful Lord, I confess that Your grace has been consistent.

In view of Your grace, I humbly offer myself to You.

Align my desires with Your will.

Let my life be an offering of worship to You.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Tuesday, March 24

Yielded Clay

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:6 (CSB)

“House of Israel, can I not treat you as this potter treats the clay?’ — this is the Lord’s declaration. ‘Just like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, house of Israel.’”

Devotional Thought

Submission is not merely doing what God says. It is allowing God to shape who we are in totality. Clay does not argue with the potter. It yields to his hands. In the same way, the yielding yes says, “Lord, form me.” Sometimes, that shaping feels very uncomfortable. God presses, smooths, and reshapes parts of us that resist His design.

Submission is trusting the skill and goodness of the One who holds you. The potter is not careless. He is attentive and intentional. When we yield, we place our lives in wise and loving hands.

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, shape my heart according to Your will.

Where I resist, please forgive me – and soften me.

Where I cling to control, teach me to yield.

Teach me to trust Your purposes above my preferences.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Wednesday, March 25

The Humility of Christ

Scripture: Philippians 2:8 (CSB)

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross.

Devotional Thought

Christ's obedience at Calvary was not partial – it was complete. His humility secured our salvation. Submission reflects the character of Jesus Himself. When we yield to God, we mirror His heart. The yielding yes is shaped by the cross – not as self-punishment, but as self-giving love. Because Christ humbled Himself for us, we can humbly follow Him.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary.

I pray that You would form Christ-like humility in me.

Teach me to obey with a willing heart and reflect Your self-giving love.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Midweek Reminder

Lent is not meant to be walked alone. Join us tonight at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek**, our virtual Wednesday evening Bible Study gathering, as we walk *The Way of Yes* together. **Streaming on www.crosstownchicago.org.**

Thursday, March 26

Led by the Spirit

Scripture: Romans 8:14 (CSB)

For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Devotional Thought

Submission is not passive compliance. It is an active responsiveness to the Holy Spirit's leading. God does not command from a distance; He guides from within. To yield is to remain attentive to the Lord's prompting. The Holy Spirit shapes our desires, guides our steps, and strengthens our obedience. The yielding yes says, "Holy Spirit, lead – and, by your grace, I will follow."

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Please guide my decisions and refine my desires.

Make me sensitive to Your leading and make me courageous in my obedience.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, March 27

Under His Mighty Hand

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6 (CSB)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time.

Devotional Thought

Submission trusts God with outcomes. Humility places our lives under His sovereign hand. Promotion and increase belong to God's timing, not ours. Yielding frees us from striving for recognition or control. The yielding yes rests confidently beneath the Lord's wise and loving authority.

Prayer

Almighty God, I place myself under Your hand.

Teach me humility and patience as I trust Your timing and Your care.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week 7 Overview + Daily Devotions (March 30 – April 2)

The Final Yes: Yes in Surrender

Scripture: Luke 22:42 (CSB)

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Week 7 Spiritual Formation Focus

The final yes is a surrendering yes. As Lent draws to a close, we follow Jesus into the garden and learn the way of surrender. This is the epitome of living an “All In” life. This week calls us to place our all in the Father’s hands. This final yes is not about certainty or strength but about intentionally trusting God with our lives.

Week 7 Fasting Focus (Monday – Friday)

Food: Prayerfully chosen – your choice

Non-Food: Continuing to let go and entrust outcomes to God

Why this matters: Surrender places our lives fully in God’s hands – not with certainty of outcome but with deep confidence in His love.

Special Week 7 Note

The final week of our Lenten consecration is intentionally brief, ending on Holy Thursday and preparing us to remember Christ’s suffering, death, and burial on Good Friday. We must prepare ourselves to pause at the cross. And then, we will prepare to wait with expectant hope for the resurrection that is coming on Easter Sunday. Rather than introducing new practices, this week prepares us to live *The Way of Yes* every day.

Monday, March 30

A Costly Offering

Scripture: Mark 14:3 (CSB)

While he was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on his head.

Devotional Thought

This woman's act was extravagant and irreversible. Once the jar was broken, it could not be gathered back. Surrender often feels like that – complete and costly. She gave what was precious because she believed Jesus was worthy. The final yes releases what we treasure most into Christ's hands. It is not about loss; it is about devotion.

Prayer

Lord, You are worthy of my whole life.

Help me surrender what I cling to most and offer You my best in love.

I love You.

You are truly worthy of my all.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, March 31

Into Your Hands

Scripture: Luke 23:46 (CSB)

And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Saying this, he breathed his last.

Devotional Thought

These final words from Jesus on the cross were words of trust. Even in suffering, He entrusted Himself fully to the Father. Surrender is confidence in God's goodness – even when circumstances lead us to question or doubt. Surrender is placing our present and our future into His care. The final yes rests in the faithfulness of the Father alone.

Prayer

*Father, I entrust my life to You.
Hold my present, my future, and my fears in Your faithful hands.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Wednesday, April 1

It Is Finished

Scripture: John 19:30 (CSB)

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Devotional Thought

Our surrender stands on Christ's finished work. We do not strive to complete what He has already accomplished. The cross declares that our salvation is secure! The final yes is not an attempt to earn God's grace; it is a response to the grace God has already given. We surrender *from* victory, not *for* victory.

Prayer

Lord, thank You that the work is finished.

Help me to live surrendered, resting in the completeness of Your salvation.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Midweek Reminder

Lent is not meant to be walked alone. Join us tonight at 7:00pm CT for **Crosstown Midweek**, our virtual Wednesday evening Bible Study gathering, as we walk *The Way of Yes* together. **Streaming on www.crosstownchicago.org.**

Thursday, April 2 (Holy Thursday)

Loved to the End

Scripture: John 13:1 (CSB)

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Devotional Thought

From the first yes to the final yes, one thing has remained consistent: love is the key. Jesus loved fully and faithfully to the end. His love did not waver in moments of betrayal or suffering. When we surrender, we are responding to God's steadfast love. The cross proves that Christ is *All In* for us. Our final yes echoes His faithful love back to Him.

Prayer

*Dear Lord, anchor my heart in Your steadfast love.
Teach me how to be All In – for Christ, for our church, and for your commission.
And keep me All In – not out of pressure, but out of gratitude and devotion.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*



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