



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

DEVOTION + PRAYER + FASTING

*Awaken*  
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26

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# About Awaken Texas

Prayer and fasting have always been at the center of spiritual renewal, both personally and corporately. Throughout Scripture, when God's people sought Him with humility, repentance, and hunger, heaven responded. Prayer is not preparation for the work; it is the work. Fasting sharpens our focus, quiets distractions, and positions our hearts to hear God clearly.

In our personal lives, prayer realigns us with God's purposes. It reminds us that transformation does not come through strength, strategy, or speed, but through dependence. James reminds us that, *"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective"* (James 5:16). When we pray, God moves first in us, then through us.

God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 still speaks with clarity and urgency today: *"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."* Renewal begins when God's people respond with humility and repentance, choosing prayer over passivity.

The same is true for our local churches. History teaches us that every genuine revival was preceded by extraordinary prayer. When pastors lead their congregations to pray, something shifts. Faith is stirred. Repentance deepens. Unity grows. The presence of God becomes unmistakable.

What would happen if churches across Texas united in prayer? What if we cried out together for spiritual renewal, revival in our churches, and a fresh awakening across our state?

Awaken Texas is an invitation to return to the altar, to lead boldly, pray fervently, and believe expectantly. Now is the time to mobilize our churches and trust God to do what only He can do.

# How to Use This Devotional

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The Awaken Texas Devotional exists to guide churches across Texas in a focused time of prayer, scripture reading, and personal reflection from February 1 – 21, incorporating fasting as God leads.



Each day begins with a devotional written by a Texas Ministries partner or pastor. This devotional is followed by a guided time of reflection that includes the following components:

## **PREPARE**

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An invitation to spend a few moments in silence before God, with a prompt to guide your thoughts as you do.

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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A passage to look up in your Bible and slowly read and reflect on.

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## **GUIDE**

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A thought-provoking quote from a wise voice in the faith.

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## **QUESTIONS**

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A prompt based on that day's devotional that you can pray, discuss, or journal about.

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## **CLOSING PRAYER**

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A way to conclude your time and invite God into your day.

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# Three Components to Awaken Texas

We believe that God can and will work through this dedicated season of scripture reading, prayer, and fasting.

## Scripture Reading

You are encouraged to find a consistent time for daily scripture reading. Returning to God's Word at the same time each day helps cultivate this important spiritual discipline. Choose a time when you are at your best and most attentive. For some this might be in the morning or during a lunch break. Others may choose the quietness of evening. Make sure whatever time you decide to read your Bible that you are in a place where you can focus and reflect on God's Word.

We provide a passage of Scripture for you to reflect on with each day's study in our Awaken Texas Devotional. We encourage you to take notes as you read – be in your Bible or in a journal. If you have a question or have difficulty understanding something, use a study Bible or resource like Bible Gateway to explore answers, or seek counsel from a trusted fellow believer. As you read, you might consider writing down a verse or two that stood out to you. This can help you stay focused on what God is saying through His Word and how it intersects with your everyday life.

You might also consider this simple three step process from the Lectio Divina Bible reading model:

**1. One Word:** What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit is impressing upon you? In silence, meditate on that.

**2. Feelings:** What do you feel? What specific situation in your life now relates to what you've just read? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

**3. Invitation:** What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You might write down what the Lord may be saying to you or offer a prayer of thanks. Of course, you can also always rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

## Prayer

The power of prayer deepens our dependence on Him and sharpens our faith. When we pray, we choose to put everything in God's hands knowing that His hand will show up in every aspect of our lives and in those around us.

The act of prayer is what creates our intimacy with God. We can practice the spiritual habit of prayer knowing that our requests go to a God who hears us and who invites us to be intimately involved in His plan. For this reason, we pray in confidence knowing that our prayers are powerful and can bring about change in any circumstance.

There are no levels to this. We all can enter prayer with a posture of trust, openness, and faith, believing that God can do far more than we could even ask or imagine. It's not about our circumstances; it's about our heart stance.

During the Awaken Texas, we ask you to intentionally pray for the following:

- **Your own faith:** Invite God to deepen your relationship with Him. Ask Him to reveal any areas in your life where you've missed the mark of His holy standard. Confess and repent of any sin and commit anew to living for Christ.
- **Your family and friends:** Entrust your loved ones to God, asking Him to draw them closer to Him.
- **Your church:** Pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit within your church family. Ask God to provide a renewed passion and unified vision for all who call your faith community home.
- **Your community:** Ask God for opportunities to connect with the people in your neighborhood, then be on the lookout for Him to move.
- **Your city:** Pray for your city by name, submitting it to God. Ask the Lord to use His Church (both the church you attend and others in the area) as a catalyst for life change and hope.

## **Fasting**

Fasting is the ancient practice of choosing to abstain from food for a certain period of time. It is a spiritual discipline, the purpose of which is training to become more like Jesus. The motivation of our fasting is to draw closer to the heart of God. Fasting is a Christian discipline to break the power of the flesh in our life – our desires, sins, and cravings – and to be fueled by the Holy Spirit.

Fasting teaches us that we can go without getting what we want and survive. Fasting can free us from having to have what we want. Therefore, fasting can teach moderation or self-control, not only in relation to food, but in other areas as well. It teaches contentment. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Fasting expresses and deepens our hunger for God. Theologian Richard Foster says, “Fasting reminds us that we are sustained ‘by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’ (Mathew 4:4). Food does not sustain us; God sustains us. In Christ, ‘All things hold together’ (Colossians 1:17). Therefore, in experiences of fasting, we are not so much abstaining from food [or other activities] as we are feasting on the Word of God.” Fasting must always, first and foremost, center on God. It must be about Him.

In summary, fasting is not about getting from God, but it is about getting to God.

There are different types of fasting, and we recommend prayerfully considering which practice is best for you at this time. Be mindful that engaging in a fast that requires a significant calorie deficit for a prolonged period may not be safe or wise for some individuals. We have listed three suggested kinds of fasts below.

- **Liquid Fast:** Consuming only liquids for a specific period.
- **Partial Fast:** Abstaining from specific kinds of food or omitting a specific meal from your diet. (See Daniel 1:12)
- **Indulgence Fast:** Denial of a habit, such as television, social media, shopping, sweets, etc.

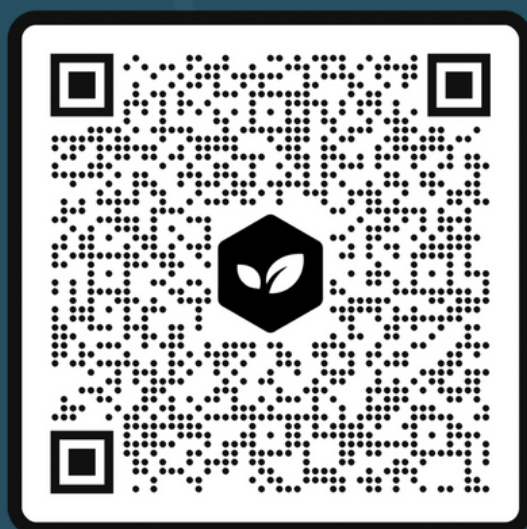
# Get Involved

Stay encouraged and engaged with the Awaken Texas Prayer and Fasting Initiative by signing up for daily text prompts.

Text **Awaken26** to (346) 472-4078.

We also encourage you to follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Let us know that you and/or your church is participating in Awaken Texas 2026! Scan the QR code and complete the form to let us know you're in.



# Day 1 - Sunday, February 1

## Revival Begins Within



Psalm 51 gives us a rare, honest look into the heart of a leader who knows he needs God. David isn't performing. He isn't making excuses. He simply comes before the Lord and prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10) David understood something that still holds true today — real awakening doesn't start in a city, a church service, or a movement. It starts in us.

As we step into Awaken Texas, we're not just asking God to move around us, we're asking Him to move within us. Prayer and fasting help position our hearts for that kind of work. Fasting strips away distractions and reminds us how much we depend on God. Prayer slows us down long enough to hear His voice and align our hearts with His will. Together, they create space for God to search us, cleanse us, and restore what's grown cold.

Awakening is more than an emotional moment or a powerful gathering. It's a deep, personal renewal that starts in the hidden places of our lives. Before we cry out for revival in our churches and communities, God invites us to pray a simple but courageous prayer: "Lord, start with me."

Fasting has a way of revealing what truly has our attention and affection. It exposes the things we rely on instead of God and brings us face-to-face with our need for Him. And in that place of hunger, physical and spiritual, we're reminded that our God is, "... gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love." (Psalm 103:8)

Set aside intentional time each day for prayer and Scripture during Awaken Texas. Let God's Word shape your thoughts and desires. Respond quickly with repentance when the Spirit convicts you and receive God's grace with gratitude. Walk this journey with others — invite accountability, pray together, and encourage one another.

Awakening begins within. As God renews your heart through prayer and fasting, may your life become a testimony — sparking hope, faith, and renewal everywhere you go.

## **PREPARE:**

Spend two minutes now in silence and stillness before God. Quiet your heart before Him. Step away from noise and invite the Holy Spirit to search you. Ask Him to reveal anything that needs renewal — habits, attitudes, distractions, or compromises.

## **SCRIPTURE:**

Psalm 51

## **GUIDE:**

“A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God.” -Charles Finney, minister

## **QUESTIONS:**

- What might God want to awaken or renew in your heart during this season of prayer and fasting?
- What distractions, dependencies, or habits might you need to surrender so God can have your full attention?

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord God, thank you for speaking to my heart and highlighting the areas I need to submit to you. Please continue to reveal these broken pieces to me so that I may hand them over to you. During these next 21 days, may I reflect on what you are uncovering in my life and how you are calling me to deeper dependence on you. Please rekindle your fire in my heart. Amen.



**Efrain Cirilo** is the State Pastor for Texas Ministries. This year, he’s looking forward to watching the New York Giants play against the Texans in Houston.

Day 2 - Monday, February 2

# The Gift of Spiritual Hunger



There are seasons in our walk with God when we realize how easy it is to grow comfortable; busy with good things, yet quietly distant from the One who called us. Jesus' words in Matthew 5:6 remind us that spiritual hunger is not a weakness but a gift. To hunger and thirst for righteousness means to desire God Himself above everything else; to long for His presence, His truth, and His transforming power in our lives.

In today's culture of constant distraction and self-sufficiency, the posture of hunger requires humility. It's the acknowledgment that our souls cannot be satisfied by success, comfort, or routine. Only Jesus can fill what is empty within us. And He promises that those who seek Him with genuine longing will be filled; not with fleeting emotions, but with His abiding presence and sustaining grace.

When our hearts are awakened to hunger for Him again, revival begins; first in us, then in our churches, and ultimately across our communities. It's in these moments of renewed pursuit that the Holy Spirit stirs passion, restores joy, and rekindles purpose. Hunger for God becomes the spark that lights the fire of spiritual awakening.

As we enter this season of prayer, let's ask the Lord to renew in us a deep desire to know Him more intimately. May we not settle for routine devotion but pursue His heart with expectancy. Let our lives be marked by the kind of hunger that moves heaven and draws others toward the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

## **PREPARE:**

Begin by being still before God for two minutes. Ask Him to speak to you throughout your day and to give you ears to hear.

## **SCRIPTURE:**

Matthew 5:1-12

## **GUIDE:**

“It works like this: we hunger spiritually and are then filled and become supremely satisfied. The satisfaction then makes way for a deeper spiritual hunger, a further filling and blessed satisfaction. And so it goes on in sublime paradox: hunger — filling — satisfaction, hunger — filling — satisfaction. We become more and more full of Christ.” - Kent Hughes, pastor

## **QUESTIONS:**

- What has dulled your spiritual hunger? What steps can you take to make more space for God’s presence in your life?
- How might your renewed hunger for God inspire revival within your home, church, and/or community?

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord God, thank you for the reminder that my spiritual hunger is a gift that can lead me into deeper intimacy with you. I pray that as I learn to increase in my hunger and thirst for righteousness, you would spark revival within me that spreads out into my home, my church, and my community. Amen.



**Albert Wright** is the Lead Pastor at New Life Church of God in Brenham. Albert enjoys spending time traveling with family and catching a few live sports games together. It’s always refreshing to make memories beyond the daily rhythm of ministry and he looks forward to doing so in 2026.

Day 3 - Tuesday, February 3

# Stirring a Holy Hunger



Hunger is a powerful signal. It reminds us that something essential is missing and needs to be taken care of. Jesus uses this physical reality to describe our spiritual lives, promising blessing and fullness to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Yet spiritual hunger does not happen by accident — it develops from neglect.

Over time, even a sincere faith can drift into routine. We may keep our schedules full of good things — church attendance, Bible studies, even service opportunities — yet we just feel empty inside. Faith can so easily drift into routine without pursuit. Renewal comes when we realign ourselves with Him and not just our schedules. God is not interested in mere activity; He longs for our hearts. We know this but instead of feasting on Him, we often graze on quick snacks, thinking sermon preparation time, or that Bible Study on Sunday morning will hold us over.

Work and complacency often dulls desire. When life becomes busy or familiar, we may stop intentionally seeking Jesus and start relying on habits alone. While spiritual disciplines are valuable, they are meant to draw us closer to Christ, not replace our dependence on Him. Without intentional pursuit, our hunger fades, and we begin settling for spiritual maintenance rather than spiritual vitality.

This month, let Jesus invite you to the table with Him. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to desire Him above all else — to long for His presence, His truth, and His transforming work in your life. This kind of hunger is not about striving harder, but about surrendering fully. It begins with a humble prayer: “Lord, restore my desire for You.”

Personal renewal often starts when we acknowledge our need. Just as physical hunger drives us to seek food, spiritual hunger needs to drive you to seek God. Psalm 63:1 echoes this longing: “Earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You.” When we admit our emptiness and ask God to awaken our appetite for Him, He faithfully responds.

The promise in Matthew 5:6 is clear: those who hunger and thirst will be filled. God does not ignore sincere longing. He meets us with grace, refreshment, and renewal. As we intentionally pursue Jesus — through prayer, Scripture, and quiet attentiveness — we begin to experience a renewed joy, clarity, and closeness with Him.

Today, take a moment to examine your heart. Are you running on routine, or are you pursuing Jesus with desire? Ask God to stir a holy hunger within you once again. When we seek Him wholeheartedly, He fills us with what truly satisfies. True renewal is found not in doing more, but in desiring Him more.

**PREPARE:**

Pause and sit in silence with the Lord for two minutes. Invite Him to stir a holy hunger within you.

**SCRIPTURE:** [Psalm 63](#)

**GUIDE:**

“Few people arise in the morning as hungry for God as they are for Corn Flakes or toast and eggs.” -Dallas Willard, theologian

**QUESTIONS:**

- In what ways has your faith become routine rather than a daily pursuit of Jesus? What might God be inviting you to realign in your heart?
- What distractions or comforts may be dulling your spiritual hunger? How can you intentionally seek God to renew your desire for Him?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord, awaken my hunger for you. Where my faith has grown routine, renew my desire. Help me pursue you with my whole heart, trusting that you alone can satisfy my soul. Amen.



**Lila Clay** is the Senior Pastor at NorthPointe Church of God. In 2026, she’s especially hoping to travel to Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter — a meaningful and fun experience she’s been excited about for a long time.

# Day 4 - Wednesday, February 4

## A Call to Seek His Face



C.S. Lewis once wrote, “I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless.”

That confession resonates deeply with those of us in ministry.

We lead services. We carry vision. We shoulder responsibility for people, churches, and communities. And yet, beneath the competence and calling, we are still utterly dependent. This 21-day fast is not about proving spiritual strength. It is about admitting holy helplessness.

Prayer humbles us. Fasting quiets the noise. Together, they realign our loves so that before we seek God’s hand, we once again seek His face.

God’s promise in 2 Chronicles is not given to crowds, but to His people, leaders willing to humble themselves, slow down, and turn their attention fully toward Him. Renewal does not begin with strategy or scale. It begins with surrender.

As pastors and ministry workers across Texas set these days apart, we are declaring together: We will not run on yesterday’s oil. We will not minister on empty dependence on ourselves. We will seek the Lord until His presence becomes our priority again.

**PREPARE:**

As you spend a couple of minutes in silence, focus on seeking God's presence.

**SCRIPTURE:**

2 Chronicles 7:14

**GUIDE:**

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." -Martin Luther, theologian

**QUESTIONS:**

- Where have you been relying on your gifting, experience, or leadership skills more than on daily dependence on God? What would it look like to surrender that area to Him during this Awaken Texas period?
- What distractions, comforts, or routines might God be inviting you to lay aside so that seeking His face becomes your primary focus again?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

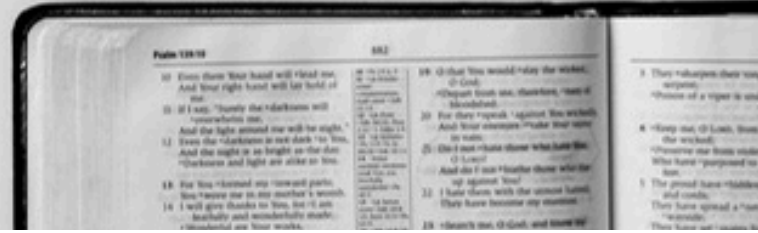
Lord, I come not as an expert but as a servant. Strip away what distracts me. Reorder my loves. Renew my first love. As I fast and pray, meet me not just with answers, but with yourself. Awaken me, so you might awaken the land. In Jesus' name, amen.



**Manny Cirilo** is the Senior Pastor at Crosspointe Church in Kilgore. His goal for 2026? Write and publish a Christian fiction adventure novel for a teenage audience!

## Day 5 - Thursday, February 5

# Release!



Back in the day, they used to have these books that had an invisible ink marker that came with them. Later on, they came out with other books that included a special light called an ultraviolet, or UV, light. Some of these books were called Yes & Know and Mr. Mystery.

They were just really cool as a kid. I could write something down, but you couldn't see it! It was hidden — unless you had the special UV light.

Well, that got me thinking ... the light always exposes what is hidden.

How many of us have had some terrible things happen to us, but we've hidden them away, deep inside our spirit? Maybe someone hurt us with words or actions. Maybe we experienced some painful church hurt. Oftentimes, we let that become a secret. We don't want to talk about it, so we act as if everything is okay, when it's really not.

We go to school, we go to work, we go to the parties, we go to church, we hang out with our friends ... and we just fake it.

Now, we may be able to hide our anger, bitterness, and frustrations from others — but we can't hide anything from Jesus. His light can always expose what is hidden.

At my church, Impact, our word of the year is release. Maybe for someone reading this, it's time to release something that we're holding on to in secret — a hidden sin we don't want to bring to the light because we don't like to talk about it. Or maybe it is time to release a grudge! It's hard to pursue Jesus with all of our heart when we hold onto a grudge. If we're not careful, those grudges can keep us in a dark place. Sure, we can hide them for a while, but eventually the grudge begins to affect us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Unresolved grudges can become dangers if they aren't released. Maybe it's time to let God's light penetrate your heart so He can release you of that grudge.

**PREPARE:**

As you spend a few minutes in quiet stillness before God, ask Him to reveal any sin or grudge you've been trying to hide.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Proverbs 20:27

**GUIDE:**

"Our lack of forgiveness is why we choose to hold on to bitterness, letting it ripen into full grown resentment. While it looks like we are unable to forgive, sometimes we need to face that we are unwilling." -Anne Peterson, author and speaker

**QUESTIONS:**

- What sin has God illuminated that you need to bring fully into His light?
- Do you have a grudge you need to release? A simple way to begin is by writing down the person's name on an index card, praying and releasing it to God, then throwing the card in the trash.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Jesus, thank you that you are the light that outshines any darkness. Please work in my heart to remove any hidden sin or grudge. Forgive me for holding onto bitterness. Make my heart more like yours. Amen.



**Keith Herrin** is the Lead Pastor at Impact Church in Beaumont. In 2026, he's hoping to become an average pickleball player!

## Day 6 - Friday, February 6

# Come and Talk with Me



In Psalm 27:7-8, David cries out, “Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me. My heart has heard you say, ‘Come and talk with me.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord, I am coming.’”

Have you ever wished for an invitation that never came? Invitations are meaningful to us. They tell us that we are thought of; that our presence matters. It feels like an honor to appear on the “guest list.”

This is the beauty King David, the psalmist, is writing about. He has heard God’s personal invitation to meet with Him. And David doesn’t miss an opportunity to engage in these intimate and sacred moments with God.

Jesus, God’s Son, continues to extend this personal invitation to us in Matthew 11:28: “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Even unto the end of the age, this invitation by our Lord and Savior echoes for all of eternity.

So, consider yourself lovingly invited! Personally invited by God Himself. Know that as you devote yourself to prayer and fasting in these special days, God is well please that, like King David, you have responded, “Lord, I am coming.”

**PREPARE:**

Take a few minutes to be still before God. Let Him know you have accepted His invitation to come into His presence.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Revelation 22:16-17

**GUIDE:**

“Jesus is handing out God’s party invitations. They read: ‘You’re invited to my party in the new creation. Come as you are.’” -Tim Chester, author

**QUESTIONS:**

- What is your experience when you come into the presence of God to spend intimate and scared time with Him?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

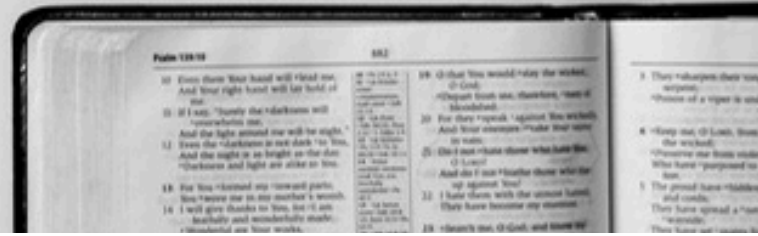
Jesus, thank you for inviting me to come into my Father’s presence. May I never take this precious gift for granted. Help me to cultivate time each day to simply rest in your presence, just as I am. May I come and talk with you. Amen.



**Cindy Magsig** is the Lead Pastor at Real Hope Church in Austin. This year, she hopes to have a successful planting and harvesting season, growing her own food on her homestead.

## Day 7 - Saturday, February 7

# Personal Renewal



Christianity is not a cultural religious worldview or a system of doctrines or even a set of creeds, but a life. It is a life that has been resurrected with Christ, a life that is hidden and kept secure in Christ, a life that is sustained by things above and by Christ, as Paul puts it, who is our life. A life that is still yet to come when Christ appears.

The importance of personal renewal is vital to the apostle Paul's exhortations to the Colossians. They are to pursue things from the heavenly realm where Christ is because we have died to our old life and have been raised to a new life in Christ — therefore all of life and our interests and outlook should be centered on things above not on things here on earth.

We should take care of our obligations and responsibilities but not make them the centerpiece of life. Instead, we should seek to find those areas in our life we have yet to put to death. We should seek the new life we have in Christ, where we set our focus on becoming people with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

The reminder to the Colossians is for us as well, to remember that we are risen and seated with Christ, to seek after the Christlike life that is kept above, letting the word of Christ dwell richly in us that we might bear with one another, putting on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**PREPARE:**

Begin this time in stillness and quiet before God, inviting Him to speak to you and asking Him to give you ears to hear.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Colossians 3:1-4

**GUIDE:**

“Ask the Lord to make your life a glory to him, a menace to the devil, a strength to your church, and a witness to the world.” -Frederick P. Wood, author

**QUESTIONS:**

- How do the specific “things above” that Paul is referring to in this passage contrast with earthly things?
- How might you incorporate reminders of “things above” into your daily routine to help keep your focus where it belongs?
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus, image of the invisible God, firstborn over all creation, I look to you, grateful and encouraged to seek after the life that you have given me, the life that is secure, the life that is to come. I put to death what is earthly in me and, by your strength, put on the things from above. In your name I pray, amen.



**Matt Hodges** is one of the pastors at Resolute Church in Corpus Christi. He’s looking forward to his family’s first vacation together in 2026 – though the destination is still unknown!

## Day 8 - Sunday, February 8

# A Heart Fully Set on Jesus



God never calls us to a half-hearted faith. He invites us into a wholehearted pursuit — one where our deepest desire is not comfort, success, or even answers, but Him. To pursue Jesus with all our heart means we continually choose Him above distractions, fears, and competing loves.

Jesus echoes this invitation when He says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). Hunger and thirst are powerful images. They remind us that our souls were designed to crave God just as our bodies crave food and water. When we recognize our spiritual need and run to Him, He promises not emptiness, but fullness.

Pursuing Jesus is not about perfection — it’s about direction. It’s waking up daily with a heart that says, “Lord, I need you more than anything else today.” As we seek Him in prayer, Scripture, and obedience, our desires slowly align with His, and our hearts are transformed.

**PREPARE:**

Spend two minutes in quiet stillness before God. Invite Him to speak to you today.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Jeremiah 29:10-14

**GUIDE:**

“Following Christ isn’t something that can be done halfheartedly or on the side. It is not a label we can display when it’s useful. It must be central to everything we do and are.” - Francis Chan, author and pastor

**QUESTIONS:**

- Why is Scripture essential for spiritual growth? How has God used His Word to correct and train you?
- Which part of engaging God’s Word is most difficult for you – hearing, reading, or studying? Why do you think this is?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Jesus, I want to know you more. Stir a holy hunger in my heart and teach me to pursue you above all else. Fill me as I seek you and let my life reflect my love for you. Amen.



**De'mo Moffett** is the Lead Pastor at Orange Church of God. He’s looking forward to attending a family reunion this year, back in his old neighborhood in Detroit, MI.

Day 9 - Monday, February 9

# Saving Faith



Faith is a word that we use often, but in such a way that I think we miss the life-changing meaning behind it. Sometimes we use it to mean trust. This isn't that bad of a definition if you consider having faith in Jesus. But think of all the other ways you can finish the phrase, "I have faith in ..." This blank can be filled in with a spouse, parents, kids, quarterback/pitcher/goalie, elected leaders, employer, yourself, or really anything or anyone else. Sometimes we use faith generically to just mean religion or belief. We say something like, "I have faith," or "My faith is ..." with the same level of significance as saying, "I have blue eyes," or "It's raining outside." These uses fall far short of the saving faith demonstrated in Scripture!

Where do we start? For me, the first thing is to answer the question, "In whom is my faith placed?"

If you said, "Jesus", congrats! You have given the answer I would expect from people in the Church! But is that your real, heart-honest answer?

For years, I dreamed of becoming a dad. I longed to have a child of my own and assumed this would happen before I hit my mid-twenties. I placed my faith in my own desired circumstances, instead of in God. My mid-twenties came and went — I remained single and childless. My own plans failed me, as they always will, and I had to make a new turn to God. God had never promised me a child or a spouse — but He had promised me that if I trusted in Him, He would guide my steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Letting go of our own plans is hard, but I can say with confidence that God's plans are better, if you will trust them. When my faith was in my own dreams, I was destined for disappointment. But when I put my faith in God's Word — that He would guide my steps — disappointment melted away, because God always does what He says He will do! Sometimes it won't be when we expect or even in this lifetime, but God is always faithful to answer His promises.

Faith is also more than simple trust. In James 2:14-17, we see that biblical faith is trust and belief so complete that it creates change and drives us to take action. Biblical faith isn't passive! When you faithfully follow God, He will at times call you into the unknown. Maybe you'll step into a career change, maybe you'll plant a church, maybe you'll have to redesign your ministries to remain relevant in the changing context of your community. Without God, these changes can be earth-shattering and terrifying, but with faith, we walk into the unknown boldly, knowing that He is faithful to complete the good work which He has started.

Wherever you find yourselves this year, whatever plans you have, take heart and know that God is good and that you never walk alone.

**PREPARE:** In these quiet minutes before God, reflect on recent ways you've seen God's faithfulness on display in your life.

**SCRIPTURE:** [James 2:14-17](#)

**GUIDE:**

"Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right." -Max Lucado, pastor and author

**QUESTIONS:**

- How are you living faithfully for God today?
- How has God called you personally to be faithful in the future?

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord, thank you that your faithfulness truly is great. Thank you that I can rest in the knowledge that you are always at work and I am never alone. I entrust my hopes, plans, and future to you. Give me eyes to see your faithfulness on display in the world around me. Amen.



**Jacob Haines** is a licensed minister currently finishing the Leadership Focus program. He attends Wake Church. Jacob is looking forward to making quilts for his kids this year. He describes slowing down and making things with his hands as being very restorative for him and he counts it as a blessing to share this with his kids.

Day 10 - Tuesday, February 10

# An Unapologetic Holy Appetite



I write with a heart full of love and a deep conviction that we must refocus our collective gaze on one singular, transformative pursuit: Jesus Christ. True transformation begins when we shift from the noise of religious routine to the rhythm of a daily, lived relationship with Jesus. When Christ becomes our foundation, everything else — our peace, our purpose, and our perspective — comes into proper alignment.

As we meditate on Matthew 5:6, take a moment to recall the most intense physical hunger or thirst you have ever experienced — that all-consuming need where nothing else matters until it is satisfied. That is the level of desire Jesus calls us to have for righteousness. This hunger is about a deep, spiritual longing for God’s ways. It is a desire for His integrity and holiness to be formed within us, extending outward into our communities and even our nations.

In a world marked by shifting trends, Christ offers a solid foundation through His unfailing love. Our hope must be anchored in Him — not in programs, methods, or buildings. A holy appetite is “a profound spiritual craving for God Himself: His presence, His truth, and His righteousness above all worldly pursuits.” Jesus describes this longing in the Beatitudes as the desire for a righteous relationship with God and a life fully aligned with His will. It is the daily decision to seek Him first through prayer and His Word, inviting the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Christ. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness produces fruitful evidence of a healthy, satisfied spiritual life.

The beautiful promise Jesus gives is that this hunger and thirst will not go unmet. He assures us that we will be filled — completely satisfied. Pursuing Jesus wholeheartedly; we encounter a divine satisfaction and enduring fulfillment that only He can provide.

So how do we pursue Him together — as a church, as a state, and as a nation? We cast our hope fully on Christ. We pray for deeper unity. We seek His heart daily. In such a time as this, we must refuse lukewarm faith and instead passionately pursue the One who gave His all for us. May we become a body of believers who truly embody His presence and purpose within our communities.

Let us present a full and uncompromised faith — although sometimes challenging, but always life-giving — without apology. May we build our lives on the solid foundation of Christ rather than the shifting sands of culture.

In summary, just as physical hunger and thirst drive us toward food and water, Matthew 5:6 reminds us that a deep, hunger for spiritual nourishment and alignment with God’s will brings blessing. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

**PREPARE:** Be still before the Lord for two minutes. Listen for His voice.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:6

**GUIDE:** “Unsatisfied spiritual hunger is ravenous, grasping for anything close to us that resembles sustenance. The junk food of life tempts us with the false promise of rest and escape, but it can’t sustain our souls. Ultimately, it is Christ that fuels our faith and satisfies our growling spirits.” -Sarah Valentour, author

**QUESTIONS:**

- Where has your hunger for God grown strong and where has it grown dull? What might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to surrender so that your appetite for righteousness can be renewed?
- What specific step is God calling you to take to pursue Him more wholeheartedly – through prayer, Scripture, obedience, or repentance? Are you willing to respond?

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, awaken within me a holy hunger for your righteousness. Strip away every distraction and renew my desire for your presence above all else. Align my heart with yours, fill me with your Spirit, and transform me into the image of Christ. May I be one set apart, fully surrendered, and boldly devoted to you — now, until eternity. In Jesus’ name, amen.



**Cynthia Carter** is the Lead Pastor at One Grace Church in Cedar Hill, Texas. She’s looking forward to a couple’s trip to Orlando, FL for a Disney World Adventure this year!

Day 11 - Wednesday, February 11

# Remember Who You Are and Whose You Are



Friends, today I want to encourage you to remember who you are and whose you are.

Let's begin with remembering who you are. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

In creating the world, God said, "Let there be light," and there was. "Let there be animals," and there they were. To everything He created, He said, "Let there be," but when He created you, He did it with His own hands. As Pastor Vincent Miller would say, "You are not a, 'Let there be.'" You are God's creation! He created you just like He wanted to. He did not make you out of spare parts, He took His time in making you. To God you are special and fearfully and wonderfully made. We should recognize the work God put in to make good and to do good. Feel good about yourself, for you are good, wonderful and marvelous.

Also remember whose you are. John 1:12-13 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

You are not just anybody. You are a child of God because you believed and received His Son Jesus Christ. We not only believe in God, know God, and know of God but we belong to God. What a comfort it is to know that the Creator of heaven and earth is our Father who will always look after us with lovingkindness. We don't have to worry because our lives are in His hands. (Worry is assuming responsibility that God never intended for us to have.) Always remember, you are a child of God!

**PREPARE:**

Focus on your breathing. As you breathe in, pray, “God, I remember who I am.” As you breathe out, pray, “God, I remember whose I am.” Spend a few minutes in prayer this way.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 139

**GUIDE:**

“We may be overlooked by others, but we are handpicked by God.” -Lysa TerKeurst, author

**QUESTIONS:**

- How does understanding God created you purposefully change the way you think about yourself?
- Who do you know that needs to be reminded they are God’s child today?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

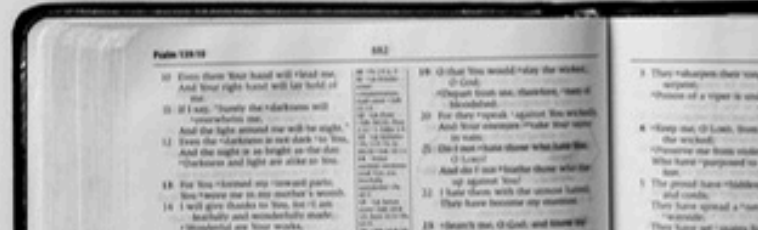
Thank you, Father, for all my blessings. Help me to remember who I am and whose I am. Help me to live as a good and responsible child of yours, always living a life that reflects who I am and whose I am. In Jesus’ name, amen.



**Bill Banda** is the Lead Pastor at Love and Grace Church in Corpus Christi, TX. He looks forward to continuing to cultivate his backyard garden in 2026!

Day 12 - Thursday, February 12

# Standing in The Gap



John C. Maxwell is one of my favorite authors. In the Maxwell Leadership Bible, one of his lessons on Nehemiah says this: "When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, that its charred gates sat rotting, and that the Jewish survivors lived in distress and reproach, he did what every great leader must do. He fasted and prayed.

Something powerful happens when a leader prays and stands in the gap for his people. Intercession must always be a primary role for a leader. The apostle Peter once declared his top two leadership priorities: prayer and the ministry of God's Word (Acts 6:4).

A leader's prayer accomplishes four things:

1. Prayer internalizes the burden, deepening our ownership of a need.
2. Prayer insist that we quiet our hearts and wait, slowing us down to receive from God.
3. Prayer infuses the vision, enabling us to see what God wants to do.
4. Prayer initiates the vision's fulfillment, acting for a catalyst for us to act."

The story of Nehemiah is considered to be a classic example of great leadership. Great leaders are problem solvers. After hearing about the problems in Jerusalem, Nehemiah spent much time fasting and praying. When problems arise, priority one should always be fasting and prayer.

**PREPARE:**

Take two minutes to be still before the Lord. Ask Him if there is anything additional you need to add to your prayer life or if there is an additional fast He is calling you to participate in.

**SCRIPTURE:** Nehemiah 1:4-7

**GUIDE:**

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.” – Andrew Murray, minister

**QUESTIONS:**

- How have you committed yourself to a lifestyle of consistent fasting and prayer? How might you grow in these areas?
- Can other people count on you to intercede for them in prayer? Who can you intercede for today?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

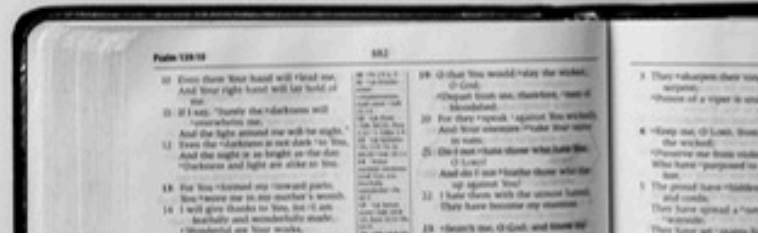
Heavenly Father, thank you for being the great and awesome God, and for keeping your covenant and mercy with those who prove their love by keeping your commands. Where I have missed the mark, I ask for your forgiveness. Please forgive members of my family for not obeying your commands. I pray for the ekklesia, the called-out ones. Please forgive our disobedience and help us to represent your kingdom well. Amen.



**Anthony Parrett** is the Pastor Emeritus of Dominion Christian Centre. He looks forward to taking trips with his family in 2026.

Day 13 - Friday, February 13

# Strength For The Journey



For the last several years, my brother-in-law Ken has participated in the Dalmac, Michigan's epic bike ride. There are routes ranging from two days to five days. (84 miles to 325 miles), with different starting points and different stops along the way. The goal is to reach the end point, Mackinaw City, Michigan. At the stops along the way, there is dinner each night and breakfast before they begin the next day.

Ken begins preparing for the ride as soon as it is warm enough to begin training; he starts with small rides almost every day and graduates to longer rides before the event. He prepares by obtaining the necessary tools for the trip: a good bike, a helmet, spare tire tubes, water, snacks, and a GPS device. He decides which route he will take and who will be his riding companions — usually his brother, daughter, grandsons, and nephews. While riding, he looks ahead and keeps the end goal in mind. When he gets tired in the afternoon, he keeps riding to the stopping point for the night. When it rains, he puts on his rain gear and keeps riding. When he and his companions get to the end of the ride, they celebrate by taking a photo or two. There is no winner or loser in the race — they just finish the ride. Each rider has a bike.

As I think about this ride, it is much like our Christian walk. We begin at different places. It is not where we start but the ending point that matters in our journey of faith. On our journey, we need stops for refreshment and companionship along the way. We need our tools for the journey (Bible study, prayer, fellowship, worship), and we need our companions to encourage us and help us keep focused. We keep the end goal in mind. When the journey becomes difficult, we need to keep moving forward by putting on our spiritual rain poncho. We have to make the journey by ourselves; someone else can't walk/run it for us. Sometimes, Ken rides a tandem bike with one of his grandsons. Sometimes we need to walk in tandem on our journey to help or be helped by our Christian brother or sister.

The words penned by the author of Hebrews in today's Scripture reading speak of what needs to happen on our journey.

As we awaken on each day of the journey, we need nourishment from God's Word and His presence. When we take the time for nourishment along the way, we are ready for the next day's journey.

Jesus is our leader on the journey. His life was focused on the goal. Let us live our lives with our eyes focused on Him so that the things of this world don't distract us on our journey.

### **PREPARE:**

Spend two minutes in quiet reflection before God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 12:1-3

### **GUIDE:**

"I shall pass through this world once. Therefore, any good I can do, any kindness I can show, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again." - Henry Drummond, evangelist

### **QUESTIONS:**

- Who can you encourage on their spiritual journey?
- What tools can you use to quip your spiritual journey?
- How can you better keep your eyes on Jesus through the remainder of this Awaken Texas journey and beyond?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

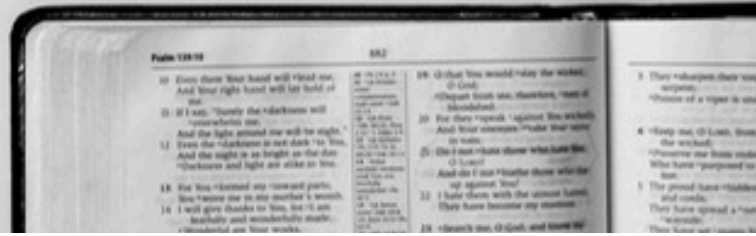
Father, thank you for being with me today. Thank you for giving me what I need for this day of my journey. Please help me fix my eyes on you today. Help me encourage others today and to allow myself to be encouraged in return. Thank you, Father, that my journey is my journey. Amen.



**Dr. Margaret Dunn** is an adjunct instructor at Mid America Christian University. She attends Parkgate Community Church. Margaret looks forward to continuing to learn Spanish in 2026, as well as celebrating her great-nephew's high school graduation and entrance into the United States Marine Corps. She also hopes to read one book a month for fun.

Day 14 - Saturday, February 14

# It's Easy to Hate. It's Hard to Love.



Hatred comes so easily. It can spring from the seemingly harmless personal choice to cheer for your favorite sports team — quickly devolving into a physical altercation because you're wearing the wrong jersey. Why? Because it's easy to hate.

You don't have to go far to experience human hatred. Social media bullies are real. Road rage is alive and well. The political lines have been drawn. Even disunity in the church can create irreconcilable differences. Why? Because it's easy to hate. Why? It's hard to love!

Human love has limitations. Trying to love the way God wants us to is like looking at the ocean and wanting to explore the fullness of its depths — we can't. Human love is only superficial and surface level. But human hatred is our specialty. We can turn a misunderstanding into a full-scale war.

The only thing that can cure the human heart of its perverted sense of justice, and wicked hatred for our fellow man is love — God's love. The only way to access God's love is to respond to the passionate, pursuing, relentless, unconditional love He has demonstrated toward us.

Why is the greatest of all commandments in scripture to love God? I believe it's not only a law to obeyed, but a response to the cry of God's heart.

Throughout Scripture we see God longing for His creation to respond to His affection toward us. He provided all things in the garden of Eden; the expected response was loyalty and obedience. He was patient with the patriarchs and developed their character as they learned to trust Him. He called out through the prophet Isaiah: "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isaiah 55:1) The nation of Israel was constantly challenged to pursue God in response to His presence and supernatural provision and blessing.

For those of us who belong to God, we belong because we responded to His love. (See John 3:16) The apostle John reminds us, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

Let this be a reminder for us: our pursuit of loving God doesn’t begin with us — rather, it is a response to Him. “We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) If the church desires to see spiritual renewal, we must return to our first love — responding to something Christ has already done. Responding to who Christ really is — the resurrected, glorified, soon returning King of Kings!

**PREPARE:** Focus on your breathing. Breathe in and pray, “We love ...” then breathe out, “... because He first loved us.” Repeat this for two minutes.

**SCRIPTURE:** [Matthew 22:34-39](#)

**GUIDE:** “God teaches us to love by putting some unlovely people around us. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving to you.” -Rick Warren, author and pastor

**QUESTIONS:**

- Who is God teaching you to love?
- How can you better respond to God’s affection toward you?

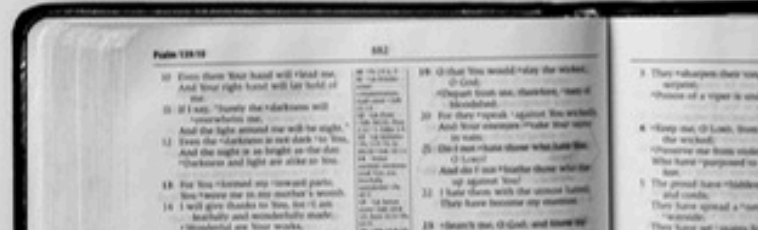
**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord God, I confess that my human understanding of love is limited and pales when compared to passionate, pursuing, relentless, unconditional love you have for me. As much as it pains me to admit, I even confess that sometimes I’m better at hating than at loving. Please cultivate your love in my heart. May I return to you, my first love, and be so overwhelmed that I can’t help but share that love with others — even those who are difficult to love. Amen.



**Ray Hodges** is the Lead Pastor at Resolute Church in Corpus Christi. He plans on enjoying his grandkids throughout 2026 and is especially excited to watch the Super Bowl – a highly anticipated day in his year!

## Day 15 - Sunday, February 15

# When Obedience Precedes Strategy



Acts 13 opens with a scene that feels almost ordinary—and yet it changes the course of the church’s history. The leaders of the church in Antioch are gathered. They are worshiping. They are fasting. They are listening. There is no agenda. No strategic plan. No discussion about expansion or influence. They are simply giving their full attention to God. And it is there — while they are worshiping and fasting — that the Holy Spirit speaks. “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

What follows is not debate or delay, but obedience. After more prayer and fasting, the church lays hands on them and sends them out. From that single act of obedience flows a movement that carries the gospel across cities, cultures, and continents.

This is a reminder we desperately need.

We often assume that renewal begins with better ideas, clearer strategies, or more effective plans. But Scripture shows us something different. Spiritual awakening begins when God’s people quiet themselves long enough to hear His voice — and humble themselves enough to obey it.

The church in Antioch did not set out to start a missionary movement. They did not gather to solve a problem or build a program. They gathered to seek the Lord. Obedience was not the outcome of their strategy; it was the fruit of their devotion. That same pattern holds true today. Personal renewal precedes corporate awakening. When leaders hunger for God more than results, when churches fast and pray before they plan and act, God begins to move in ways we could never orchestrate.

Obedience, however, is rarely convenient. For Antioch, obedience meant releasing two of their most trusted leaders. It meant embracing uncertainty and trusting God with the future of their church. Yet their willingness to surrender control became the catalyst for multiplication.

The lesson is clear: God does not ask us to figure everything out before we obey. He asks us to listen — and then to trust Him with the outcome.

As churches across Texas unite in prayer and fasting, the invitation is not simply to ask God to bless our efforts. It is to open ourselves fully to His direction. Awakening begins when we stop rushing ahead with our plans and choose instead to follow His voice, wherever it leads. May we be a people who hunger for God enough to wait, and who trust Him enough to obey.

### **PREPARE:**

Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection before God. Ask Him to open yourself fully to His direction.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 13:1-3

### **GUIDE:**

“Great moves of God are usually preceded by simple acts of obedience.” -Steven Furtick, pastor and author

### **QUESTIONS:**

- Where might God be inviting you — or your church — to listen more carefully before acting?
- What act of obedience might God be prompting, even if the outcome feels uncertain?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord, please deepen my hunger for your presence. Quiet the competing voices in my life. Give me the courage to obey whatever you reveal to me. Amen.



**Craig Whitney** is the founder and president of Multiply Project, a strategic partner of Texas Ministries. Craig’s daughter and son both had baby girls born in 2025. 2026 will be filled with the joy of being a grandparent!

## Day 16 - Monday, February 16

# Same Old Sins



Do you remember the late 90s/early aughts Christian band Caedmon's Call? They had a kind of funky bluesy folksy vibe that teenage Chelsea thought was very cool.

In 1999, Caedmon's Call released an album called 40 Acres. On it was a song called, "Thankful," that opened with a lyric I've frequently revisited over the years:

"You know I ran across an old box of letters  
While I was bagging up some clothes for Goodwill.  
You know I had to laugh that the same old struggles  
That plagued me then are plaguing me still."

Do you ever find yourself frustrated by repeated patterns of behavior? We're only in the second month of the year – by now most of our New Year's resolutions have probably started to fall apart. Maybe you've made great strides to remedy a bad habit only to find yourself swallowed back up by temptation's grip.

I've been there.

Do you ever struggle to understand why you continue sinning, even though you really do love God? Ever want to toss your hands up in the air and cry out, "What gives?!" Ever look at yourself in the mirror and find yourself completely frustrated with the person staring back at you?

I've been there. And so has the apostle Paul! (See today's Scripture passage.)

The reality is we're all sinners. (See Romans 3:23.) We're all flawed and broken and messy. We continue to make foolish decisions, settling for less than God's best. The only way out of this vicious cycle is to continually confess our sinfulness over to God and to ask for His help.

But there lies the rub. If I had to venture a guess, I'd say most of us probably don't consistently practice confession. How can we tackle repeated sin patterns if we aren't regularly admitting we have a problem?

Too often we take God's forgiveness for granted. We just assume He'll do it, so we don't even bother to confess our sins to Him. We embrace the, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness," part of 1 John 1:9 but neglect the precursory statement: "If we confess our sins ..."

My encouragement to us is this: let's be better about openly confessing our shortcomings to God and encourage those in our circles to do the same. Let's admit it when we mess up. Let's raise up our arms from the bottom of the pit and ask God to pull us out. Even when we "just" dip our toe in the pit ... let's bring that before Him, too. Let's get specific about the places in our hearts we need God to intervene.

As I've embraced the discipline of confession, I've found myself with a deeper appreciation for the gift of Christ. I've grown in my dependence on the Lord. And I've found myself with a renewed sense of gratitude for God's mercies, which are new every morning.

As we confess our sins and then do the heart work, calling on the Holy Spirit for help, we will see God's transformative, restorative love in action – and the next time we come across those "old boxes of letters" like Caedmon's Call sings about, we won't laugh about ongoing sin struggles. We'll rejoice in how God is growing in and sanctifying us!

**PREPARE:**

Sit quietly before the Lord. Ask Him to reveal the unconfessed sins you need to bring before Him.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 7:15-25

**GUIDE:**

“When we deal seriously with our sin, God will deal gently with us.” -Charles Spurgeon, pastor

**QUESTIONS:**

- What stops you from confessing your sins to God?
- What heart work is God calling you to do to eliminate sinful patterns in your life?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Jesus, thank you for what you did on the cross so that I can boldly approach the Father and seek forgiveness for my sins. May I never be so prideful as to think I don't need to come before you in humble repentance each day. Give me a renewed understanding of the importance of confession, while also helping me not be swallowed up by guilt and shame. Help me be vulnerable about the sin in my life and to do the heart work to address it. Amen.



**Chelsea Haines** is an ordained Church of God minister currently serving as Administrative Services Manger for Texas Ministries. She's looking forward to day trips and dance parties with her husband and kids in 2026.

Day 17 - Tuesday, February 17

# Let It Go!



We seem motivated by the logic of unlimited accumulation of stuff and things. Yet, when we are captured by such a lifestyle, we become tempted to believe that all our passion or zeal must be aimed at holding tightly to what we have or possess.

Long before our age of materialism or consumer-driven economy, the Gospel of Mark has Jesus confronting a young (rich) man who ran up to him. Let's give this young rich man his due. He "runs" to Jesus, not from Him. He "falls on his knees." Then, he asks Jesus an important question – the answer to which could transform his very life: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" It is interesting that Jesus identifies those commandments that deal with one's relationship with others. The young rich man says I have kept all of these from a boy. Jesus looked at him [as if looking into his soul] and loved him.

Jesus reveals to him that "one thing you lack ... Go, sell everything you have [don't keep the money] and give to the poor. Then come, follow Me." Hearing this, the rich young man was appalled, devastated, grief-stricken, sad. Why? "Because he had great wealth." More accurately though, his great wealth had him. His possessions came between him and Jesus — kept Jesus at a distance.

Jesus wanted him to keep going His way, sell all his possessions and give it all to the poor, then come nearer to Jesus and follow Him in discipleship – the way of God's kingdom. Jesus knew his riches weighed him down and his downright refusal to relinquish his wealth made him unable to receive the superabundant grace of God! He chose rather to keep walking away from Jesus, for his love and zeal for his possessions was greater than his love and zeal for Jesus.

Notice this. He walked away and Jesus never ever calls him back, as if to say: "No, don't go! We could use your wealth! We need you!" Jesus lets him go because the young man could not and would not let go of all that kept him from knowing Jesus and following Jesus on the journey to eternal life.

Do you believe that Jesus only intended this demand for this young man, but not really for us?

He did mean it specifically for that rich young man — and also for us. A few verses later, Jesus expands this demand to His own disciples — that’s you and me. Jesus said that it is hard for the wealthy to inherit eternal life. His disciples, hearing this, asked who possibly could be saved. Jesus says in essence: “In your own strength — no chance to be saved! If you truly trust me with all you got [that is, relinquish, let go, surrender, give away, abandon] — every chance to be saved!”

Therefore, “whatever” you may be holding on to without relinquishing or letting go will own you! Is it really your material possessions that Jesus has in mind? Yes! Also much more: Your unforgiveness? Your spirit of self-dependence? Your love affair with power and prestige? Your stinginess in sharing your resources with the poor? Your hardness of heart toward the least among us?

Whatever you are holding on to, that possesses you, that keeps you from following Jesus with your whole heart and sharing the good news of God’s kingdom with a hurting and lost world — RELINQUISH IT! LET IT GO!

In repenting, receive forgiveness, and follow Jesus with utter zeal in doing His will in the world.

Don’t keep going your own way sadly but obey and joyfully inherit eternal life — the only treasure that lasts forever and ever!

**PREPARE:**

As you take a few minutes to sit in silence before the Lord, ask Him to reveal to you what you need to let go of.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10:17-22

**GUIDE:**

“If you go to Jesus, He may ask of you far more than you originally planned to give — but He can give you infinitely more than you dared ask or think.” -Tim Keller, pastor

**QUESTIONS:**

- What do you need to relinquish to God today?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Dear God, look into my heart and hands. If there is anything that owns me, then show me. Holy Spirit, purify my deepest desires that they might become Jesus' desires for me. Give me the wisdom, courage, and strength to let go of every such thing. Give me again your best, Lord, that I might live each day as one who is healed and set free. Place before me and Your church only what is best for us. Let me never claim as my own possessions what rightfully belongs to you or to others. Awaken me! Awaken us! Awaken your church! Awaken Texas! Amen.



**Dr. James Lewis** is Lead Pastor at South Park Church of God in Houston. He looks forward to becoming a first-time Great Grandpa (and the best one ever, at that!) in 2026. He also plans to learn at least two of the following line dances: Electric Slide, Cupid Shuffle, Cha Cha Slide, and the Wobble. He is open to recommendations from the saints!

Day 18 - Wednesday, February 18

# A Heart That Hungers For God



True personal renewal begins when we long for God above everything else. Pursuing Jesus is not a casual walk — it is wholehearted devotion.

When we hunger and thirst for Him, we acknowledge that nothing else can satisfy the deep places of our heart and soul. This hunger is a gift, especially in the times we are now living in! We need to take the time to seek God.

In the Church of God, we used to sing the hymn “Take Time to Be Holy”.

The first verse says:

“Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.  
Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak,  
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.”

Personal renewal happens when we lay aside distractions and make room for God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to fill our lives. During the Pandemic years, I read the Bible twice. I read the entire Bible the first year, and then I read the 2-year Bible in the following years. Since then, I have returned to my normal reading of the New Testament. However, this year I feel the urgency to read the entire Bible again. I am looking forward to the help and strength I will receive from the Word.

**PREPARE:**

Take a few minutes to be still before the Lord. Ask Him to renew the hunger for God in your heart.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:6

**GUIDE:**

“Always remember the essence of Christian holiness is simplicity and purity: one design, one desire: entire devotion to God.” -John Wesley, theologian

**QUESTIONS:**

- What are you truly hungry for? Does your answer lead you back to Jesus Christ and His Word?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, stir my heart to hunger for you above everything else. Teach me to thirst for your presence and to find satisfaction in only you and your Word. Renew me as I seek you with all my heart. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray, amen.



**Darius Miller** is the Senior Pastor at Shadydale Church of God. He’s looking forward to playing some golf and taking a cruise vacation in 2026.

Day 19 - Thursday, February 19

# For Our Deliverance



Recently, I was rereading the story of Joseph and his brothers in the book of Genesis. For several years, I have been captivated at how different people see this story differently.

Some see Joseph as a faithful servant even through trying circumstances. Others see him as a young punk who needed to learn humility.

We may not know Joseph's attitude, but we do know the attitude of the brothers. They hated Joseph, and when he told them about his dreams, they hated him all the more. Yet we come to find at the end of the story that the dreams were never designed to make the brothers feel discouraged or embarrassed. Rather, those streams would be the sign that he was preparing for their deliverance all along.

Pastors and leaders, the Lord is preparing for our deliverance — our salvation, our revival — even right now.

If you feel like you are in the pit or the prison, He is here to lift you out. If you feel discouraged, embarrassed, or ineffective, He will meet you in your famine. And if you find yourself in the king's palace, recognize that He is delivering others through your faithfulness to Him.

**PREPARE:**

Spend a few minutes in stillness before God. Invite Him to speak to you as you revisit the story of Joseph.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 37, Genesis 39 – 45

**GUIDE:**

“Let us not be surprised when we have to face difficulties. When the wind blows hard on a tree, the roots stretch and grow the stronger, Let it be so with us.” -Amy Carmichael, missionary

**QUESTIONS:**

- Where are the places in your life you feel like God isn't working? Take a moment to surrender those afresh to Him.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

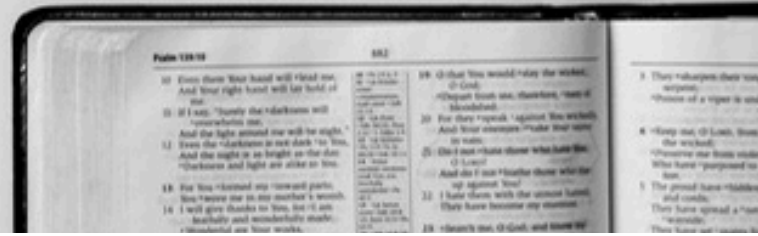
Lord, show me your vision for my life. Use me for the deliverance of your people, for your glory. Amen.



**Tim Gould** is the Lead Pastor at Houston First Church of God. He is working to take his entire family on a missions trip to Kenya in 2026.

Day 20 - Friday, February 20

# Seek Out and Sacrifice



Pastor Perry Noble wrote, “Love is determined by what we’re willing to seek out and what we’re willing to sacrifice for.” Our culture determines love by other measurements. For example,

- Love is determined by how I feel. (Emotions)
- Love is determined by what you can do for me. (Benefits)
- Love is determined by how you make me look. (Do you make me look good?),

I love those little Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups. LOVE THEM! Let’s say I’m sitting in my living room, craving a handful of Reese’s so much so that I’m willing to get in my car and drive several miles to get them. However, when I walk into the store, I discover there’s been a nationwide chocolate shortage, which has increased the price of Reese’s to \$500 a bag! Right then and there, my “love” for Reese’s ends. Why? Because while I would be willing to seek them out, I’d refuse to sacrifice \$500 of my hard-earned money to eat a few.

I also love The Lord of the Rings. Let’s say they came out with a new movie. You know I’m going to go and see it. It’s a given. I’ll make a Gandalf costume, grab my staff from the wall, drive to the Cinemark Theater, and wait for hours in line. But imagine that when I get to the counter, I discover they’re only showing one viewing of the movie per city, and it’ll never come out on DVD, thus driving ticket prices up to \$1,000 apiece. I love The Lord of the Rings, but that is not happening.

On the other hand, let’s say my sons go missing; they just didn’t come home one day. I wouldn’t hesitate for a moment. I would look for them everywhere, and I wouldn’t rest. I would vigorously pursue any leads to find them, and I wouldn’t care what it cost me to get them back: time, money, or even my life. Why? I love them enough not only to seek them out but also to sacrifice for them.

Love is determined by what we're willing to seek out and what we're willing to sacrifice for. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Jesus sought us and sacrificed for us. That's real love. Are you willing to seek and sacrifice for Him?

### **PREPARE:**

As you spend a few moments of quiet with the Lord, consider what you are willing to seek out and sacrifice.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19

### **GUIDE:**

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."  
-Augustine of Hippo, theologian

### **QUESTIONS:**

- When push comes to shove, are you willing to seek and sacrifice for God? If not, what heart changes need to take place to get you to a place of surrender before Him?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord, I pray that you would give me the boldness to answer today's reflection questions honestly. I ask that you would convict my sin and correct my heart, reordering my loves to prioritize you first and foremost. May my life reflect rightly ordered loves and point others to you. Amen.



**Kenneth Spiller** is the Lead Pastor at Parkgate Community Church. He's looking forward to a new year of adventure and relationships ... and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups!

Day 21 - Saturday, February 21

# Carry The Fire Forward



As we come to the end of these 21 days of prayer and fasting, it's worth pausing to reflect, not just on what God has done in us, but on what He has done among us. Year after year, through Awaken Texas, we've seen clear evidence of God's faithfulness across our state.

We've watched churches step out in faith and launch new ministries. We've seen believers take next steps, choosing obedience, stepping into leadership, and saying yes to God's calling. We have seen leadership raised and churches planted. We've celebrated stories of people who were far from God finding saving faith in Jesus. And recently, we witnessed something only God could do: we surpassed our Raised to Life baptism goal of 500 by 2025, with over 890 baptisms to date. This is a powerful reminder that prayer truly changes lives and advances the mission of God.

Romans 12:1 calls us not to a moment, but to a way of life: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." What God has awakened in us during these 21 days isn't meant to stay here. It's meant to shape how we live, lead, and love long after the fast ends.

Prayer and fasting may be concluding, but our hunger for God doesn't have to fade. These days have reminded us that when God's people humble themselves, pray, and seek His face, He responds. We don't want to return to spiritual autopilot. We want to steward what God has entrusted to us.

Awaken Texas has always been about more than personal renewal; it's about believing God for a spiritually awakened Texas. What God does in us is meant to flow through us into our churches, neighborhoods, and communities. Awakening always leads to mission. As we move forward, the invitation is simple: keep going. Keep praying. Keep listening. Keep obeying. God is faithful to finish what He starts, and the seeds planted in this season will continue to bear fruit as we remain rooted in Him.

Awaken Texas may be coming to a close, but what God has started is far from finished. Carry the fire forward. Let it burn bright in your heart, your church, and across Texas.

**PREPARE:**

Spend two minutes now in silence and stillness before God. Consider how God has moved in your life the past 21 days.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:1-2

**GUIDE:**

“God is constantly on the move. I cannot stay where I am and follow God at the same time; responding requires movement.” -Margaret Feinberg, author

**QUESTIONS:**

- How has God met you personally during these 21 days? What do you sense He is inviting you to carry forward in your daily life?
- What habits, convictions, and/or renewed hunger have you experienced during these 21 days? What do you want to ensure you carry with you as this season ends?
- How is God calling you to participate in what He is continuing to do through your church, relationships, and/or next step of obedience?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

God, thank you for your faithfulness across Texas. Thank you for every life changed, every church strengthened, and every step of obedience taken. As we carry this awakening forward, help us live surrendered, prayer lives. Use me to bring hope, healing, and renewal wherever you send me. In Jesus' name, amen.



**Efrain Cirilo** is the State Pastor Texas Ministries. In 2026, he's looking forward to watching the New York Knicks win the NBA Championship!

