

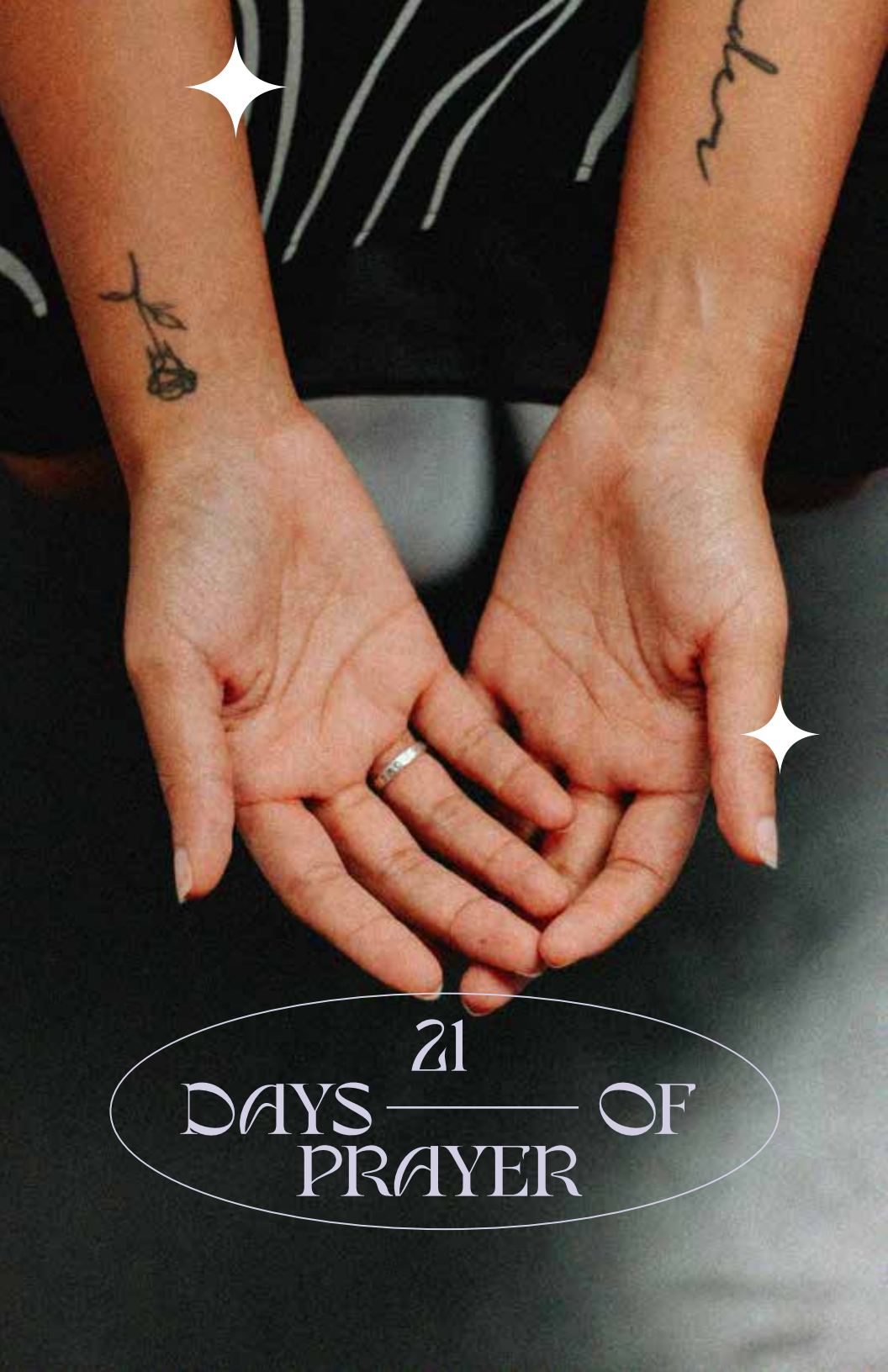
ONE CHURCH

AUGUST 2022



21 DAYS OF PRAYER





21
DAYS — OF
PRAYER

- DAY 1 NO MORE PROCRASTINATING
- DAY 2 HOARDERS
- DAY 3 BEING THANKFUL
- DAY 4 HIDE AND SEEK
- DAY 5 AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS
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- DAY 7 ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES
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- DAY 18 IMPACTING MY WORLD
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- DAY 21 STAYING IN FAITH

DAY 1 ————— NO MORE PROCRASTINATING

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (NKJV)

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

I'm sure we all have a "to-do list" laying around somewhere. If your list is anything like mine, it continues to grow and grow until I'm finally forced to start working on crossing things off the list. In other words, we often procrastinate on doing the things we know need to be done.

I think a lot of us procrastinate the important things when it comes to our spirituality too. The list of things we want to change in our lives most often includes things like: eat healthier, get more exercise, or get more sleep. However, do you have a plan to grow yourself spiritually as well?

The Holy Spirit wants to work in our lives and grow us spiritually every day. Our responsibility is to stay open and willing to let the Holy Spirit do the work in us daily. Don't procrastinate or put it off. Ask Him to work in your life today.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, do whatever you want to do in my life right now. I invite you in and I ask you to work in my life. Lead me, guide me, and show me the areas where I need to grow spiritually. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAY 2 ————— HOARDERS

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (NKJV)

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Most of you have probably seen or heard of the show "Hoarders." This show is all about people that hold onto things that they don't need until their home becomes so cluttered with stuff that it drastically affects their daily lives.

You probably aren't a hoarder with material things, but you might be a hoarder emotionally. Emotional hoarding is trickier to manage because no one else can see what you are holding onto internally. There are many people who are hoarding bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, and resentment. They continue holding onto these negative emotions until they eventually pile up, hindering their everyday mobility. Life has a way of hurting us, and when it does, we need to let God heal the pain we've acquired. We need to give Him the hurt, the pain, the anger, the bitterness, and the unforgiveness. We need to let Him remove all the rubbish in our lives so that we can live free and fulfilled lives.

Prayer: God, I give you (take a moment to give God whatever you have been holding onto.) I release the pain, the unforgiveness, the bitterness, and the anger, and I ask you to remove the things in my life that are hindering me from living a free and fulfilled life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 3 ————— BEING THANKFUL

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 (NKJV)

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

It is amazing how quickly the newness can wear off of something. When I was a kid, I would beg my parents for a certain Christmas gift. After receiving the gift, it would only be a matter of a few weeks before the coveted toy became a mundane addition to my collection. I would quickly move on to thinking, “What’s next?”

We have all experienced the fading admiration of something we once really yearned for, but I believe we should try to remain thankful for both the new and the old. We need to thank God for “today” because it’s full of opportunities, but we also need to thank God for all he accomplished in our “yesterday” as well. One thing is for certain, we can all work on becoming more thankful.

Prayer: God, thank you for this brand new day that is full of possibilities! Thank you for all that you have done in my life. (Take a few moments to thank God for your relationships, your house, your car, your job, etc.) God, help me to live a life of gratitude. Help me to be thankful for all of the blessings in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 4 ————— HIDE AND SEEK

MATTHEW 6:33 (NKJV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hide and seek was one of my favorite games growing up! When you were the seeker, you had one goal: to find who was hidden. Finding the person that was hiding was always an exhilarating feat. The Bible tells us, “seek first the kingdom of God and all of these things will be added to you.” If I’m being honest, there have been times in my life that I have found myself searching for things outside of God’s Kingdom. “Seeking first the kingdom of God” isn’t as complicated as you may think. In fact, you are doing so as you read this devotional. By going through this content, you have carved out some time to seek God. I am so proud of you! The goal is to continue to make this time a priority in your life after these 21 days are complete.

Take 15 minutes every day to seek God. Spend 5 minutes in worship, 5 minutes in God’s Word, and 5 minutes in prayer. When we take time out of our day to focus on God, we are doing exactly what Matthew 6:33 encourages us to do.

Prayer: God, help me to be a Christian that puts you and your kingdom first. Help me to make time with you a priority. Give me a hunger for your word and for your presence. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 5 ————— AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

JAMES 5:16 (NKJV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

When I worked at the fire department, I worked an entire morning with a booger in my nose. The guy I was working with saw it but neglected to tell me it was there! When we got back to the station a friend of mine nonchalantly commented, “Sparks, you have a booger in your nose.” I asked the guy I was working with, “Why didn’t you tell me?” He responded, “I just thought it was funny.”

The truth is we all have “boogers.” We all have things in our life that we can’t see. These flaws come in all kinds of different shapes and sizes. Unlike a booger, some of these blindspots can cause major setbacks and impact your destiny.

We need people in our lives who will see our blindspots. Community Groups are an amazing way to connect with people and develop authentic relationships that will point out the issues in our lives that we can’t see. I want to challenge you as your pastor to make Community Groups a priority this semester. Don’t just sign up - go! Make going weekly your goal.

Prayer: God, help me to find real and authentic relationships. Help me to surround myself with people that will point out the areas in my life that need to change and help me to commit to that change and that process. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 6 ————— LOVING OTHERS

PHILIPPIANS 2:3 (NKJV)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Most of us grew up hearing the golden rule, “Treat others the way you want to be treated.” Most people agree that if we all lived by that rule the world would be a better place, but the Bible raises the standard. This verse in Philippians 2:3 tells us to treat others better than we would want to be treated. We are not only to reciprocate kindness but to go above and beyond.

How different would the world around us look if every day we decided to treat our spouses, our kids, our families, our friends, and our co-workers better than we want to be treated? What would happen if we extended that effort towards people who didn’t know God? I’d propose to you that this type of whole-hearted kindness could help someone encounter Jesus for the very first time.

Prayer: God, help me to treat the people around me with love, honor, and respect. Help me to live my life treating others better than I want to be treated. I can only do this with your help. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



DAY 7 ————— ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES

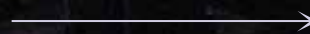
ECCLESIASTES 5:3 (AMPC)

For a dream comes with much business and painful effort, and a fool's voice with many words.

We've all had dreams that we have talked about with a loved one, but there comes a time when your dream has to become more than words in order to become reality. There is a point we all reach that requires taking steps on our part in order to make our ambitions come true. Pursuing a dream is never comfortable, but neither is hedging. Dexter Yager said, "You will never leave where you are until you decide where you would rather be."

What steps can you take today to see the dream in your heart come to pass? Remember the journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step. If you wait for the stars to align then you might never start at all. You don't have to travel miles towards your dream in a day, but ask yourself what step you might be able to take to keep moving forward.

Prayer: God, show me the steps that I need to take to help make the dreams in my heart a reality. Surround me with people that will encourage me and give me wisdom on how I can accomplish this dream. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAY 8 ————— GOD POWER > MAN POWER

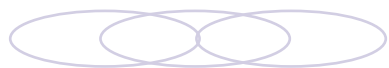
JOHN 5:19 (NIV)

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

As much as we need to roll up our sleeves and take action to see our dreams come to pass, we must also remember that we desperately need God’s help in our lives to accomplish those dreams. If our dreams can be accomplished on our own, then our dreams are too small. The call God has on our lives is too big to ever accomplish on our own.

A lot of us only call on God when we are experiencing problems or major turmoil in our lives, but God wants to be involved in every step along the way. He is present in every moment, every single day. God’s strength is so much greater than your strength. God can do more with 10% of your strength surrendered to him than you can do with 100% of your strength on your own.

Prayer: God, give me your strength today. I know that I can’t carry the weight of today on my own, so give me your strength today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



DAY 9 ————— FORGIVE AND FORGET

LUKE 23:34a (NIV)

Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

At the time Jesus spoke these words He was surrounded by the people who caused the pain and anguish He was immersed in. He was in more pain than any of us could ever possibly imagine, and He forgave them in the middle of it. He didn’t wait until He rose from the dead 3 days later, He forgave them quickly.

There are two powerful lessons we can learn from this verse in Luke:

1. Forgive the people that have hurt you the most.
2. Forgive people as quickly as you can.

If you are struggling to forgive someone that has wounded you, today is a great day to forgive them. Your future is too great to let the pain from your past hold you back another day. Today is a great day to start the process of forgiving and forgetting. We don’t forgive because the person deserves forgiveness necessarily, but because we ourselves have been guilty and have also been forgiven.

(Take a moment to talk to God about the pain or the person you need to forgive.)

Prayer: God, I need your help to forgive the people that have hurt me. Today I am making the choice to forgive them so that I can move fully into my future. Help me forgive. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (NIV)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

One of the greatest decisions we can make in life is to be excellent in all that we do. “Work at everything as if you are working for the Lord.” What would our lives look like if we did everything as if it was unto the Lord?

Excellence isn't being the greatest at something, but always doing the best you can with what you've been given.

Excellence when no one is watching is just as important as excellence when everyone is watching.

Excellence is a choice.

We should work towards excellence even when we think no one notices or sees what we are doing. You have to decide that everything that you do will be done to the best of your ability.

Prayer: God, help me to do everything with excellence. Help me to work at everything in my life as if I am doing it for you. Show me areas where I need to improve and grow in this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LUKE 16:10 (AMPC)

He who is faithful in a very little [thing] is faithful also in much, and he who is dishonest and unjust in a very little [thing] is dishonest and unjust also in much.

We become people of excellence by making seemingly small, supporting decisions to be people of excellence in every area of our lives. If we are completely honest, sometimes we focus so much on what we don't have that we fail to be faithful with what we do have. God's desire is for all of us to be faithful with what we have been given.

Some of our biggest heroes in the Bible simply used what was in their hands to accomplish great things.

- Moses used a staff in his hand to part the Red Sea.
- David used a slingshot to take down a giant.
- Gideon used 300 men to defeat a great army.

God wants to use you today to accomplish great things, and it starts with being faithful stewards of everything He has already given.

Prayer: God, forgive me for the areas that I haven't been a faithful steward of what you have given me. Help me to start today being faithful with what you have put in my hand. Holy Spirit, show me the areas that I haven't been as faithful as I could be. Show me how to be faithful in those areas I haven't been. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 12 ————— YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

What if we lived our lives constantly looking for ways to serve others? We have a core value at One Church that "Servant Leadership is our identity." When something becomes our identity it means that it is who we are all the time. So when servant leadership is our identity it doesn't just mean we serve others, rather we are servants of others. Everywhere that I go I look for ways to help and serve the people around me.

What if we allowed the role of a servant to be so much a part of us that people can't describe us without talking about our servant's heart? What would it look like to live our lives focused on what we could do for others rather than what they can do for us?

Prayer: God, help me to become someone that serves the people around me with love and with grace. Help me to see the needs of others not just on occasion but help it to become something I always see. Because people are on your heart, God, help them to be on my heart too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 13 ————— LAMP UNTO MY FEET

PSALM 119:105 (NKJV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

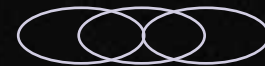
One of the greatest habits we can develop in our lives is reading God's Word daily. I am so proud of you for sticking to this devotional for almost 2 weeks, and I want to encourage you to continue the habit of being in God's Word every day even when this 21 day journey is complete.

We aren't committed to being in God's Word because of religious obligation, but because the Word lights our paths, gives us wisdom, and shows us the way of truth. God's Word is a bright light in a dark world even when we don't understand everything we are reading.

If you aren't sure where to start reading your Bible, start in the book of John and read all the way until you get to Revelation. When you've done that, start again at John and continue the process. Develop a daily habit of being in God's Word and watch as His Word changes you over time.

Prayer: God, thank you for giving me your Word. Give me a passion to read your Word and wisdom to understand how it applies to my life. Thank you that your Word lights my way and shows me where to go and what to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.





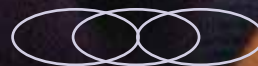
DEUTERONOMY 31:6 (NIV)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

We live in a world that is more uncertain than ever. There are times when every passing day seems more overwhelming than the day before. This scripture in Deuteronomy has always helped me when I am facing uncertain circumstances in my life. It reminds me that God is with me and that I don't have to live my life in fear of what I don't know. I don't have to obsess over what I can't control! I can face whatever comes my way with courage because the God of the universe is with me and He is on my side.

Be encouraged today that no matter what you are facing, God is on your side. He has the solution to whatever problem you might deem unsolvable. He sees how it ends, and He's urging you not to be afraid! Lean on Him to receive the courage you need today.

Prayer: God, I thank you that you never leave me and you never forsake me. I thank you for the gift of your presence, your peace, and your comfort no matter what I am facing. Thank you for staying by my side in every situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAY 15 ————— SPURRED ON

HEBREWS 10:24 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

If you have ever rode a horse you probably understand the concept of spurs. If you're not familiar with spurs, they are most often used to get a horse to do what you want even when they don't want to do what you're asking.

This passage of scripture in Hebrews says, "spur one another on." According to what we have learned about spurs, this means that we need people in our lives that will encourage us to do what we need to do even when we don't necessarily want to do it. We not only need to receive this type of encouragement, but we need to give it to the people around us as well.

I am so thankful to be a part of a Community Group where we encourage each other, pray for each other, and spur each other on towards love and good deeds. You need people in your life! You will never be the person God has called you to be without people to spur you on.

Prayer: God, thank You for surrounding me with people in my life to spur me on toward Your calling on my life. Thank You for my community group. Thank You for the people that pray for me, encourage me, and spur me on when I need it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(If you've never been in a Community Group make plans to join one this upcoming semester! iamonechurch.com/community)

DAY 16 ————— ENCOUNTER JESUS

PHILIPPIANS 3:10a (NLT)

I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.

At One Church our greatest desire is that everyone that comes through our church doors has an encounter with Jesus. My life was forever changed the day that I accepted Jesus as my savior and my life continues to be changed every time I encounter Jesus!

No matter where you find yourself in your faith journey, you will never outgrow encountering Jesus! Jesus is way too big to discover all that He is in one lifetime. We will spend eternity discovering more of who He is. Whether you've been a Christian for 20 years or 2 days, God wants to encounter you again today. If you're a seasoned Christian, you haven't seen it all! If you're new to your faith, you're not behind. God wants to meet you right where you are today. You don't have to clean yourself up before approaching Him, He's available with open arms. Whatever you are needing today can be found in the person of Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, I need an encounter with you today. I need your power and your presence in my life. Your Word says to seek and I will find, so today I come seeking you. Thank you for your presence in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NLT)

For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Did you know that God has given you a purpose? God prepared good works specifically for you to do long before you knew him! There are things that God has put you on this earth to do. We often say, “You were created on purpose, for a purpose.”

God calls you a masterpiece! You are uniquely you. You have a unique calling on your life. Don’t believe the lie of the enemy that you aren’t gifted or talented. God doesn’t make trash, He only makes treasure. Don’t believe what others told you when they were angry or insecure. God didn’t make a mistake when he created you. He thought through every aspect of your life, and he made no errors in the process.

Prayer: God, thank you for gifting me. Thank you for creating me with unique talents and abilities. I refuse to believe the lie that I have no purpose and I embrace your Word that tells me that I have purpose. God help me to do the good works that you have planned for me to do long ago. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



MATTHEW 5:14-16 (TPT)

Your lives light up the world. For how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it’s placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So don’t hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that your commendable works will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.

Notice the scripture simply says, “Let your light shine.” Light doesn’t have to try to shine, it just does! In the same way, we should never make impacting our world complicated. Every time you encourage someone you are letting your light shine. When you tell someone how Jesus has changed your life you are letting your light shine. When you comfort someone that is hurting you are letting your light shine. When you invite someone to church you are letting your light shine. Because we know that heaven and hell are real, we will do anything short of sin to reach people for Jesus.

Prayer: God, show me new ways to let my light shine to the people around me. Show me people that I can love, encourage, invite to church, and share my faith with. Thank you for making me a light in a dark world. Thank you for showing me how I can shine brightly. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ROMANS 12:10 (TPT)

Be devoted to tenderly loving your fellow believers as members of one family. Try to outdo yourselves in respect and honor of one another.

I am a pretty competitive person! I am so competitive that I don't generally participate in games with my friends and family to make sure that my friends and family stay my friends and family. Competition isn't often encouraged in the Bible, but this scripture in Romans is one of the rare occasions. Paul encourages us to outdo each other in respect and honor. This means that if there is any area we should be competitive in, it's respect and honor for each other. To honor is to esteem, cherish, to value, to build up, to encourage, and to believe the best. To dishonor is to treat as common, to tear down, to criticize, and to assume the worst. Looking at both of these definitions, does your life look more like honor or dishonor?

Whether you feel like you are honoring well, or you need some improvement in this area, today is a great day to try to outdo yourselves in honor and respect of one another.

Prayer: God, help me honor the people in my life. Help me to cherish them, believe the best in them, and treat them like the treasure that they are. I need your help to do this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 (NKJV)

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Walking by faith and not by sight isn't an easy thing to do. We are trained to operate using our senses. We even say things like, "I will believe it when I see it!" However faith says, "I want you to believe it before you see it!" You don't need faith to believe if you've already seen it. Faith doesn't need proof. God loves it when His children choose to walk by faith even when their senses are screaming "this is crazy!"

When the facts say "That is impossible," Faith says "That's God's specialty!" When facts say "You are sick," Faith says "You are healed." When the facts say "You are broke," Faith says "God is your provider."

Walking by faith means that I declare God's Word over my circumstances and my situations. There are 7,487 promises in the Bible that God made to mankind. In 2 Corinthians 1:20 God's word says, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." This applies to all 7,487 promises God has made to us – they are all "yes" and "amen."

Prayer: God, today I choose to walk by faith! I declare that all of your promises are "yes" and "amen" through your son Jesus! I know that healing is mine, provision is mine, restoration is mine, and freedom is mine!!! I declare your Word over my life! In Jesus' Name. Amen!

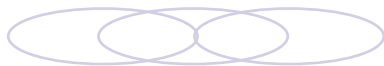
DAY 21 ————— STAYING IN FAITH

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

As we come to the end of 21 Days of Prayer let me reemphasize how proud I am of you for starting and completing this journey! We are celebrating with you all the prayers you have seen God answer over the last few weeks. I also understand that you might have been praying for something specific that hasn't happened yet, and I want to encourage you to keep praying, standing, and believing in faith! Don't give up hope. Just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean that it's not going to happen at all. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." At the proper time you will reap a harvest, just don't give up!

Prayer: God, I continue to stand in faith because I know that your timing is perfect! I'm going to keep standing, praying, believing, and declaring that what I have asked you for is on its way! In Jesus' name, Amen!

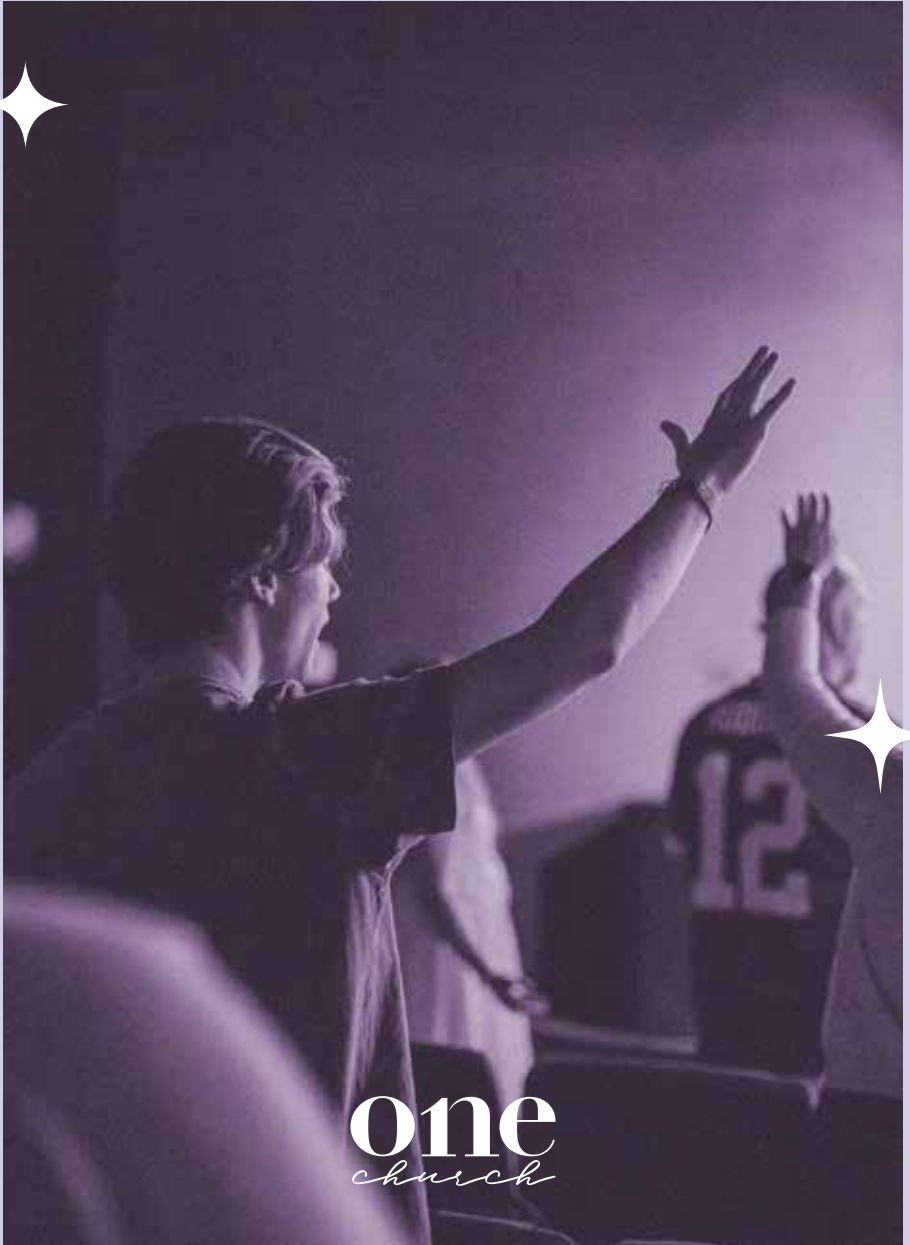


✦
IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED SOMETHING YOU WERE
PRAYING FOR, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

PLEASE EMAIL US AT
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21 DAYS OF PRAYER



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