

JULY '26

# Devotion



## “More of God’s Presence in 2026”

*July  
Devotion '26*

### DEDICATION

This manual is dedicated:

To every believer who longs for more of God.  
To every worshipper who refuses a lukewarm life.  
To every leader, intercessor, disciple, and seeker  
whose heart burns to host the Presence of God.

And especially:

To those who will carry His glory into future generations —  
may your hunger shape nations, your devotion build altars,  
and your lives declare: “Here is a people who walk with God.”  
With love, honour, and expectation,  
this journey is offered to you.

### DAILY DEVOTIONAL

(How to Use Each Day)

1. Begin With Silence
  - Take time to quiet your mind and acknowledge God’s Presence.
  - A simple prayer: “Here I am, Lord. Speak to me.”
2. Read the Daily Scripture (NIV)
  - Read the verse with attention, allowing it to speak directly to your heart.
3. Reflect on the Focus Thought
  - One sentence captures the essence of the day.
  - Let this truth challenge, comfort, or correct you.
4. Commit to the Daily Action Step  
Each day invites you to practice the truth tangibly:
  - A decision
  - A moment
  - A step of obedience
  - A shift in attitude
5. Respond to the Reflection Question
  - Write a few sentences in your Presence Journal.
  - This is where growth is measured and recorded.
6. Close With Prayer
  - Thank God for His Presence.
  - Invite Him to walk with you through the rest of your day.
7. Stay Aware of His Presence
  - Return to the Scripture, thought, or prayer throughout the day.
  - Let the truth keep shaping your heart until bedtime.

## Wednesday, 1 July—Trust Requires Letting Go of Control

**Psalm 37:5 (NIV)** *“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.”*

### Focus Thought: Trust means handing over the reins

Control is one of the most subtle but powerful enemies of peace. It often hides behind responsibility, planning, or careful thinking, but at its core, control is rooted in fear, the fear that if we do not manage everything, things will fall apart.

When we try to control outcomes, we take on a burden that belongs to God alone. This creates internal pressure because we are attempting to manage variables that are beyond our reach. The result is a restless heart, an anxious mind, and a constant sense of tension.

Peace cannot dwell where control dominates, because control keeps the heart in a posture of striving rather than surrender.

Hosting the presence of God requires releasing control. God’s presence rests where He is trusted, not where everything is tightly managed. The word “commit” means to roll your life over to God. It is a deliberate transfer of responsibility.

When you release control: Pressure lifts. Striving stops and Peace enters. You move from “I must fix this” to “God, I trust You with this.” This shift creates space in your heart for God’s presence to settle. Peace is not found in managing life, it is found in entrusting life to God.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) *“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”* *“Surrender is the transfer of control from self to God.” — Andrew Murray*

**Action for Today:** Identify one situation where you are trying to control the outcome. Verbally surrender it to God and write down: *“God, I trust You with this.”*

### Reflection Question:

1. What did you feel in your heart when you released control to God?

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2. What are you trying to control right now, and why is it difficult to release it to God?

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**Prayer:** Lord, I release control into Your hands. Forgive me for trying to carry what only You can carry. Teach me to trust You fully and to rest in Your leadership. Let Your peace replace my striving. Amen.

## Thursday, 2 July—Trust Is Rooted in Knowing His Character

Nahum 1:7 (NIV) *“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”*

**Focus Thought: Peace is not sustained by circumstances; it is sustained by revelation.**

If your understanding of God is unclear, your trust will be unstable. And if your trust is unstable, your peace will be easily shaken. But when you truly know who God is, peace becomes anchored.

Nahum gives us three anchors for trust: God is good. God is a refuge, and God cares for you. These are not temporary attributes; they are His unchanging nature. Hosting the presence of God requires more than knowing about God; it requires knowing Him relationally. Because in moments of pressure, your response will not come from what you’ve heard, it will come from what you **believe deep within your** heart.

When your heart is convinced of God’s goodness, you stop questioning His intentions. You stop fearing His decisions. You begin to rest in His care

Peace grows where God’s character is trusted. Even when life feels uncertain, you can remain steady because your confidence is not in outcomes—it is in who God is. The more you meditate on His character, the more your heart becomes a resting place for His presence.

Psalm 34:8 (NIV) Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

“A right view of God restores a peaceful heart.” A. W. Tozer

**Action for Today:** Speak out loud throughout the day: *“God, You are good, and I trust You.”* Especially when uncertainty arises.

### Reflection Question:

1. How did focusing on God’s character change your emotional response to your situation?

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2. What wrong belief about God might be affecting your peace today?

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**Prayer:** Lord, reveal Your goodness to me in a deeper way. Help me to trust You because of who You are, not what I see. Let my heart rest in Your unchanging nature. Amen.

## Friday, 3 July—Trust Turns Fear into Confidence

Psalm 56:3-4(NIV) *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*

**Focus Thought: Joy in trials strengthens spiritual endurance.**

Fear is not just an emotion; it is an atmosphere that shapes how we think, respond, and perceive reality. Fear magnifies problems and minimises God. It creates a lens through which everything appears bigger, heavier, and more overwhelming. If left unchallenged, fear becomes the dominant voice in the heart. But trust shifts the atmosphere.

Hosting the presence of God requires actively confronting fear with truth. David shows us a pattern: Fear arises. Trust is activated. Peace is restored. Trust does not deny fear; it **repositions it**. Instead of focusing on what might go wrong, trust focuses on who God is. When you respond to fear with God’s Word, you realign your heart with truth.

Truth changes the atmosphere. Confidence grows when you trust God’s promises more than your fears. And where confidence grows, peace follows. Hosting God’s presence means refusing to allow fear to dominate your inner world. It means choosing faith over fear, again and again, until peace becomes your default atmosphere.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

“Feed your faith and your fears will starve.” Kenneth E. Hagin

**Action for Today:** When fear arises, immediately speak a scripture out loud and declare God’s truth over that situation.

1. What fear lost its power when you responded with God’s Word?

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2. What fear keeps repeating in your thoughts? What truth from God’s Word will you use to confront it?

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**Prayer:** Lord, I refuse to be ruled by fear. Fill me with Your truth and strengthen my faith. Let Your presence drive out every fear and replace it with confidence in You. Amen.

## Saturday, 4 July—Trust Waits on God’s Timing

**Psalm 27:14 (NIV)** *“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”*

**Focus Thought:** Waiting reveals the true condition of the heart.

When things do not happen in our timing, we often become restless. We want movement, answers, and resolution. But God often works in hidden ways during seasons of waiting.

Waiting is not inactivity; it is **active trust**. Hosting the presence of God requires learning to wait without anxiety. In waiting, God is: Aligning your heart. Strengthening your trust. Preparing for what is ahead. Impatience creates pressure, but trust creates peace.

When you trust God’s timing, you stop striving to force outcomes. Instead, you rest in the assurance that God is working, even when you cannot see it. Waiting becomes worship when your heart says, *“God, I trust Your timing more than my expectations.”*

And in that place, peace grows.

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) *“Blessed are all who wait for him!” “God’s timing is always perfect, even when it feels delayed. — Unknown*

**Action for Today:** Identify an area where you feel delayed. Surrender your timeline to God and declare: “Your timing is perfect.”

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did surrendering your timeline affect your peace today?

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2. Where in your life are you struggling with waiting, and what is God teaching you through it?

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**Prayer:** Lord, teach me to wait without anxiety. Help me to trust Your timing and rest in Your process. Strengthen my heart while I wait. Amen.

## Sunday, 5 July—Trust Leads to Divine Direction

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV) *“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”*

### **Focus Thought: Trust produces a life that is stable, rooted, and fruitful.**

Trust is more than belief; it is dependence. It is choosing to anchor your life in God rather than in circumstances, emotions, or outcomes. It is a settled confidence that God is faithful, present, and actively leading you, even when you cannot see the full picture.

Jeremiah gives us a powerful image: a tree planted by water. This tree does not rely on rainfall or favourable conditions; it draws from a deeper, constant source. Its strength is not determined by what is happening around it, but by what it is connected to.

This is the picture of a life that hosts the presence of God. Hosting God’s presence requires this kind of rooted life. It is not a shallow connection that fluctuates with circumstances; it is a deep, consistent relationship that sustains you in every season.

When your life is rooted in God, you are not shaken by pressure, because your strength comes from Him. You are not controlled by circumstances, because your source is deeper. You are not defined by seasons, because your identity is anchored in Him.

Your stability is no longer external; it is internal, rooted in your connection with God’s presence. Trust is what deepens those roots.

Every time you choose to trust God, especially in uncertainty, you are sending your roots deeper into Him. You are choosing connection over control, surrender over striving, and faith over fear. And deep roots always produce visible fruit. When your roots go deep, your life begins to reflect it: Strength in difficult seasons, you endure without breaking. Consistency in your walk, you remain steady, not fluctuating.

Fruitfulness in your life, your life produces what honours God.

This is the power of a rooted life; it is not easily shaken, not easily dried out, and not easily defeated. One of the clearest examples of this kind of life is peace. Peace is not the absence of trouble; it is the presence of stability. It is the quiet assurance that God is in control, even when things feel uncertain. It reflects a heart that is deeply rooted in God’s presence.

A rooted life does not react impulsively; it remains. It does not panic, it trusts. It does not strive, it abides. And from that place of stability, something powerful begins to unfold, divine direction.

God leads those who trust Him. When you trust Him, you become sensitive to His voice. When you remain in Him, you become aligned with His ways. When your roots are deep, your life becomes responsive to His guidance. Direction flows naturally from a relationship.

You do not have to force it, chase it, or manufacture it. As you remain connected to Him, He directs your steps, orders your path, and leads you in His purpose. This is why trust is so important—it is the foundation of guidance. When your roots are deep, your life becomes fruitful.

**Psalm 1:3 (NIV)** *“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”*

This reinforces the same truth: a life rooted in God is sustained, stable, and fruitful, regardless of the season.

*“The strength of your life is determined by the depth of your roots.”* — Billy Graham

Trust leads to rootedness, rootedness leads to stability, and stability leads to divine direction. And when your life is deeply rooted in God’s presence, you will not only endure, you will flourish, bear fruit, and be led by Him in every season.

**Action for Today:** Ask God to guide your steps for the coming week and commit your plans to Him.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did trust keep you steady this week?

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2. Where do you need deeper roots in God to remain steady in every season?

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**Prayer:** Lord, root my life deeply in You. Let my trust in You bring stability, peace, and fruitfulness. Guide my steps and establish my path. Amen.

## 6 - 12 July - COURAGE: “Presence Empowers Boldness.”

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” — Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

God’s Presence gives courage to face impossible things. Boldness doesn’t come from self-confidence but God-confidence. When you know He is with you, fear loses its voice.

Practical Application:

- Step out in obedience even if you feel afraid.
- Declare this promise daily: *“God is with me; I will not fear.”*
- Encourage someone else who’s hesitant to move forward.

Prayer: Lord, fill me with holy courage. When fear whispers, remind me that You are near. Let Your Presence make me bold for Your glory. Amen.

### Monday, 6 July—God’s Presence Drives Out Fear

**Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)** *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

**Focus Thought: Fear loses power when God’s presence becomes greater in your awareness than the problem standing before you.**

One of the enemy’s primary strategies is fear. Fear paralyzes, intimidates, delays obedience, and causes people to shrink back from what God is calling them to do. Fear magnifies obstacles and minimises God. But throughout Scripture, whenever God called someone into a difficult assignment, He consistently gave the same promise: *“I am with you.”*

God understands that courage is not produced merely by positive thinking or human determination. Courage is born from presence. His presence. This is why Isaiah 41:10 is so powerful. God does not simply say: *“Do not fear.”* He says: *“Do not fear, for I am with you.”*

The reason fear loses its authority is that His nearness changes everything. Hosting the presence of God means learning to live with continual awareness that you are not alone.

Fear thrives where God’s presence is forgotten. But when you become conscious of His nearness, Anxiety begins to weaken. Confidence begins to rise. Peace begins to settle over your heart. God’s presence becomes your security.

Courage is not pretending fear does not exist. Even great men and women in Scripture experienced fear. David faced giants. Moses faced Pharaoh. Esther faced death. Paul faced persecution. What made them courageous was not the absence of fear, but the awareness that God was with them.

Fear says: *“What if you fail?”* God’s presence says, *“I will strengthen you.”* Fear says: *“You are not enough.”* God’s presence says, *“I will help you.”* Fear says: *“You will fall.”* God’s presence says, *“I will uphold you.”* Hosting God’s presence changes your inner atmosphere.

Instead of being controlled by fear, you become anchored in faith. This is why intimacy with God is essential for courage. The more you dwell in His presence, the more His strength becomes greater than your weakness.

Courage grows where His presence is recognised.

**Psalm 56:3–4 (NIV)** “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.”

“Courage is fear that has said its prayers.” — **Corrie ten Boom**

**Action for Today:** Declare throughout the day: “God is with me; I will not fear.”

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did the awareness of God’s presence silence fear today?

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2. What fear has been speaking loudly in your life, and how does God’s presence change your perspective on it?

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**Prayer:** Lord, when fear rises, remind me that You are near. Strengthen my heart with Your presence and help me walk in faith rather than fear. Amen.

## Tuesday, 7 July—Courage Grows Through Obedience

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.”*

**Focus Thought: Courage does not usually appear before obedience—it grows through obedience.**

Many people wait until they feel courageous before obeying God. But in Scripture, courage often developed only after people took the first step of faith. Joshua still had to cross the Jordan. Peter still had to step onto the water. David still had to walk toward Goliath.

Courage grows in movement. Hosting the presence of God means learning to trust His voice more than your emotions. Fear often remains present at the beginning of obedience. But every step of obedience strengthens your confidence in God. Obedience teaches you that God really is faithful. God really does sustain you. God really does go before you. This is why courage and obedience are deeply connected. You cannot grow in courage while remaining passive. God’s promise in Deuteronomy is not merely: *“Be courageous.”* It is: *“The Lord your God goes with you.”* Obedience becomes possible because His presence accompanies you.

The more you obey, the more you experience His faithfulness. The more your trust deepens. The more your fear weakens. Hosting God’s presence requires movement. Many people remain spiritually stuck because fear keeps them from obeying what God already said. But breakthrough often waits on the other side of obedience. Courage is not reckless self-confidence; it is responding to God despite uncertainty. And every act of obedience enlarges your faith for the next step.

James 1:22 (NIV) “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” “Faith means obeying God even when you do not understand His plan.” — Warren Wiersbe

**Action for Today:** Take one step of obedience today that you have been delaying because of fear.

### Reflection Question:

1. What step of obedience required courage today?

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2. What area of obedience have you been postponing, and what first step is God asking you to take?

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**Prayer:** Lord, help me not to shrink back in fear. Give me the courage to obey You even when I feel uncertain. Strengthen me as I move forward in faith. Amen.

## Wednesday, 8 July—Courage Is Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:31 (NIV) *“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”*

**Focus Thought: Boldness is not produced by personality; it is produced by the Holy Spirit.**

The disciples who once hid in fear became fearless proclaimers of the Gospel after they were filled with the Holy Spirit. This reveals an important truth: Courage is not merely human determination; it is supernatural empowerment. Before Pentecost, Peter denied Jesus out of fear. After Pentecost, Peter boldly preached before thousands.

What changed? The presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God transforms fearful people into bold ones. The Holy Spirit strengthens you internally.

He gives: Confidence in God. Strength in weakness. Boldness in opposition and clarity in uncertainty. Fear often causes people to remain silent, passive, or hesitant. But the Holy Spirit empowers believers to: Speak truth boldly. Step out courageously. Stand firm under pressure. This is why intimacy with the Holy Spirit is essential. You cannot sustain Kingdom courage through natural strength alone.

Human courage eventually weakens. But Spirit-empowered courage remains steady because it flows from God Himself. Notice that the disciples first prayed, and then they were filled.

Prayer increases awareness of God’s presence. And awareness of His presence produces boldness. Hosting God’s presence means continually inviting the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh. Because courage flows from fullness.

The more filled you are with His presence, the less fear controls you. The more faith rises within you. The more boldly you live for God. Boldness is not striving; it is overflow.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*

*“The Holy Spirit makes ordinary people extraordinarily bold.” — Smith Wigglesworth*

**Action for Today:** Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh with boldness and courage.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit empower you to act boldly today?

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2. Where do you need fresh empowerment from the Holy Spirit right now?

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**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today. Replace fear with boldness and hesitation with faith. Empower me to live courageously for God's glory. Amen.

### **Thursday, 9 July—Courage Sees God, Not Giants**

1 Samuel 17:45 (NIV) *"David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...'"*

**Focus Thought: Courage is determined by what captures your attention.**

The Israelite army saw Goliath and became paralysed by fear. David saw God and became empowered by faith. The giant was the same. The difference was perspective. Fear magnifies problems. Faith magnifies God. Hosting the presence of God changes what dominates your vision. When you lose awareness of God's presence, your problems begin to look larger than His power.

But when your focus returns to Him, Fear begins to shrink. Confidence begins to rise. Faith begins to speak. David did not deny the existence of the giant—he simply believed God was greater.

This is true courage, not pretending challenges are small, but believing God is greater than them.

Many people today are facing giants: Financial pressure. Health battles. Emotional struggles. Opposition. Uncertainty about the future. The enemy wants you to focus so intensely on the giant that you forget who stands with you. But hosting God's presence restores perspective.

God's presence reminds you: You are not fighting alone. God's power exceeds the challenge. Heaven's resources are greater than earthly obstacles. David's courage came from history with God.

He remembered: *"The God who delivered me before will deliver me again."* Courage grows when you remember God's faithfulness. The more aware you are of His presence, the less intimidating the giants become.

Romans 8:31 (NIV) "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

"Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death." — Kenneth Hagin

**Action for Today:** Identify one “giant” you are facing and declare God’s greatness over it.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did focusing on God change your perspective on your challenge?

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2. What “giant” has been intimidating you, and what truths about God speak against it?

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**Prayer:** Lord, help me to see You more clearly than the giants before me. Strengthen my faith and remind me that nothing is greater than Your power. Amen.

**Friday, 10 July—Courage Strengthens Your Heart**

**Psalm 27:1 (NIV)** *“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”*

**Focus Thought: Courage is not merely a reaction to circumstances; it is the condition of a heart anchored in God.**

David begins Psalm 27 with a declaration of confidence: *“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”*

This is significant because courage always begins with revelation. David’s confidence did not come from his own ability, military strength, or perfect circumstances. His courage flowed from who God was to him personally. He did not merely know facts about God; he knew God intimately. Hosting the presence of God builds this kind of inner stability. The more time you spend with Him, the more deeply your heart becomes rooted in His character. Fear weakens the heart because it focuses on uncertainty. But courage strengthens the heart because it focuses on God’s unchanging nature.

David describes God as: His light, God gives clarity in darkness. His salvation, God rescues and delivers. His stronghold, God protects and secures. This means courage grows when your heart becomes convinced of who God is.

Many people attempt to fight fear by focusing on themselves: *“I must be stronger.”* *“I must try harder.”* But biblical courage is different. It is not self-confidence. It is God-confidence. Hosting God’s presence shifts the foundation of your confidence away from your own strength and onto God’s character.

When your heart is anchored in Him, Fear loses its dominance. Anxiety loses its control. Discouragement loses its voice.

This does not mean difficult emotions disappear instantly. David himself faced enemies, betrayal, pressure, and uncertainty. Yet he continually returned to God’s presence because he understood that courage is sustained through communion with God. The presence of God stabilises the heart. His presence reminds you: *“You are not abandoned.”* *“You are not powerless.”* *“You are not alone.”* The more you dwell in His presence, the stronger your heart becomes.

Courage is cultivated through relationships. A heart that knows God deeply will stand firmly even in difficult seasons because His presence becomes its refuge and strength.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) *“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles...”*

*“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”* — Corrie ten Boom

**Action for Today:** Spend a few minutes declaring God’s character aloud: *“You are my strength.”* *“You are my refuge.”* *“You are my peace.”*

**Reflection Question:**

1. What part of your heart felt strengthened as you focused on God’s character today?

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2. Which aspect of God’s character gives you the greatest courage right now?

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**Prayer:** Lord, anchor my heart in who You are. Be my light, my salvation, and my stronghold. Strengthen me through Your presence and teach me to live with courage rooted in You. Amen.

## Saturday, 11 July—Courage Encourages Others

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) <sup>24</sup> *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**Focus Thought: Courage is never meant to stop with you; it is meant to strengthen others.**

One courageous person can shift the atmosphere of an entire room, family, workplace, church, or generation. Fear is contagious, but so is faith. This is why Scripture repeatedly calls believers to encourage one another. Encouragement is not merely kind words; it is the impartation of strength, hope, and courage into someone else's heart.

Hosting the presence of God changes the atmosphere you carry. When you are filled with fear, anxiety often spreads through your words and attitude. But when you are filled with God's presence, courage begins to flow outward from your life.

People around you begin to feel strengthened because His presence within you affects them. Throughout Scripture, courageous people strengthened others: Moses strengthened Joshua. David strengthened himself in the Lord and then led others. Paul encouraged churches while imprisoned. Jesus strengthened His disciples before the cross. Courage is not selfish; it is contagious. Many people are quietly battling fear, discouragement, insecurity, or hesitation. Some are standing on the edge of obedience but are afraid to move forward.

Your encouragement may become the very thing God uses to help them step into their calling. Hosting the presence of God makes you spiritually aware of the people around you.

You begin to notice: The discouraged person. The hesitant leader. The weary friend and the fearful believer. And instead of ignoring them, God's presence moves you to strengthen them. Encouragement carries spiritual power.

Sometimes one conversation, one prayer, one word of hope, one reminder of God's faithfulness, can completely change someone's direction. Courage grows in community.

This is why isolation is dangerous. Fear grows stronger when people withdraw, but courage increases when believers strengthen one another. Hosting God's presence means becoming a carrier of courage.

Your life begins to say to others: *"If God is with me, He will also be with you."* And through your encouragement, others find the courage to move forward again.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

"God often uses ordinary people to speak extraordinary courage into others." — Christine Caine

**Action for Today:** Encourage someone who feels fearful, discouraged, or hesitant to move forward.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Who did you strengthen today, and how did it affect them?

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2. Who in your life currently needs encouragement, and how can you intentionally strengthen them?

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**Prayer:** Lord, use my words and actions to strengthen others. Let me carry courage, hope, and encouragement wherever I go. Fill me with Your presence so that others may encounter Your strength through me. Amen.

**Sunday, 12 July—Courage Produces Breakthrough**

2 Samuel 22:33 (NIV) *“It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.”*

**Focus Thought: Breakthrough often waits on the other side of courage.**

Many people pray for change, breakthrough, and victory, yet remain trapped by fear, hesitation, and passivity. Fear keeps people standing at the edge of what God has promised without stepping into it, but throughout Scripture, breakthrough consistently followed courageous obedience.

Israel had to step into the Jordan before the waters parted. David had to run toward Goliath before victory came. Peter had to step out of the boat before walking on the water. Esther had to approach the king before deliverance came.

Courage creates movement. And movement positions you for a breakthrough. Hosting the presence of God empowers this kind of boldness because His presence gives you confidence that God is already ahead of you. Breakthrough is not produced by reckless ambition or human striving; it is produced by trusting God enough to obey Him despite fear.

Fear focuses on risk. Faith focuses on God’s faithfulness. The enemy knows that if he can keep you intimidated, he can keep you inactive. Fear says: *“Stay safe.” “Do nothing.” “Avoid the risk.”* But God’s presence calls you forward. Courage does not mean you fully understand everything. It means you trust God enough to move anyway.

Many breakthroughs are delayed because people wait until they feel completely fearless before acting. But courage is often revealed while your hands are still shaking.

Hosting the presence of God strengthens you internally so that fear no longer controls your decisions. When God's presence becomes greater than your fear, you begin to step forward. You begin to speak boldly. You begin to obey quickly. You begin to trust deeply

And as you move in obedience, God releases a breakthrough. Sometimes the breakthrough is external: Provision. Healing. Open doors. Restoration. Sometimes the breakthrough is internal: Freedom from fear. New confidence. Greater faith and spiritual maturity.

But in every case, courage becomes the doorway. God does not call you to courage to pressure you. He calls you to courage because breakthrough lives on the other side of obedience. And His presence guarantees that you never walk into that breakthrough alone.

Joshua 1:7 (NIV) "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." — Nelson Mandela

**Action for Today:** Thank God specifically for the courage He has given you this week.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did courage create a breakthrough in your life this week?

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2. What breakthrough might be waiting on the other side of your courage and obedience?

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**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for strengthening me through Your presence. Help me to move forward in bold obedience and never allow fear to keep me from Your purpose. Lead me into every breakthrough You have prepared for me. Amen.

## 13-19 July - PATIENCE : “Wait Well in His Presence”

Psalm 37:7 (NIV) “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways...”

Patience is not passive resignation, it is active trust in God’s timing. Waiting in God’s presence is never wasted time. In the waiting, God strengthens faith, develops character, deepens intimacy, and aligns your heart with His purposes. Patience teaches you to rest in God instead of rushing ahead in your own strength.

### Monday, 13 July—Waiting Is Trusting

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)<sup>31</sup> *but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

**Focus Thought: Waiting on God is one of the deepest expressions of trust.**

Human nature prefers speed, control, and immediate results. We want answers quickly, breakthroughs instantly, and prayers fulfilled according to our own timelines. Waiting often feels uncomfortable because it exposes how much we want control. But throughout Scripture, waiting is never presented as wasted time. Waiting is a spiritual process where God strengthens the heart and deepens trust.

Isaiah says: “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” This means waiting is not stagnation; it is renewal.

Hosting the presence of God teaches you that God is still working even when you cannot yet see visible movement. Many people assume nothing is happening during seasons of delay. But Heaven often accomplishes its deepest work in hidden seasons.

While you are waiting, God is strengthening your faith. God is refining your motives. God is shaping your character. God is preparing you for what is ahead. Waiting exposes whether your trust is truly in God or merely in quick results.

The enemy often uses delay to create frustration, doubt, impatience, and discouragement. He whispers: “*God has forgotten you.*” “*Nothing is changing.*” “*Take control yourself.*” But waiting in God’s presence teaches your heart to rest rather than to strive. Hosting God’s presence means learning to trust God’s process even when you cannot yet understand His timing. Patience is not inactivity; it is surrendered confidence. It is the quiet assurance that “*God knows what He is doing.*”

Waiting develops spiritual endurance by teaching you to remain faithful before the breakthrough arrives. Many people want God’s promises, but few want God’s process. Yet the process is where strength is formed. Isaiah promises that those who wait on God will “renew their strength.” This means waiting actually increases spiritual capacity. Instead of weakening you, God uses waiting to deepen you. His presence sustains you in the silence. And often, what God develops in you during the waiting becomes more valuable than the thing you were waiting for. Waiting well means remaining close to Him while trusting His perfect timing.

Psalm 130:5 (NIV) “I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.”

“God is never late. His delays are not His denials.” — A. B. Simpson

**Action for Today:** Resist the urge to rush outcomes today. Pause and consciously trust God’s timing.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did waiting strengthen your trust in God today?

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2. What area of your life feels delayed, and what might God be developing in you through the waiting?

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**Prayer:** Lord, teach me to wait well. Help me to trust You when answers seem delayed. Renew my strength as I rest in Your presence and timing. Amen.

## Tuesday, 14 July—Patience Grows in Stillness

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)<sup>10</sup> *He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

**Focus Thought: Stillness is one of the most neglected spiritual disciplines in modern life.**

The world constantly pushes people toward noise, activity, speed, and distraction. Many people are physically exhausted, mentally overwhelmed, and spiritually distracted because they rarely slow down long enough to become aware of God’s presence. But God often speaks most clearly in stillness.

Psalm 46 does not merely say: *“Be still.”* It says: *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* Stillness creates awareness. Hosting the presence of God requires slowing down enough to recognise Him. Hurry clouds' spiritual sensitivity.

When life becomes rushed, prayer becomes shallow. Worship becomes distracted. Discernment becomes weak. Anxiety increases. But stillness quiets the soul. Stillness allows your heart to shift from striving to surrender.

Patience grows in this environment because stillness teaches you that God does not need your panic to accomplish His purposes. Many people struggle with silence because silence exposes what is happening internally.

When external noise disappears, hidden fears, anxieties, frustrations, and distractions often surface. But this is exactly why stillness is important. God wants to heal and calm the inner life.

Hosting God’s presence means learning to sit with Him without constantly needing movement, answers, or activity. Stillness teaches dependence. It reminds your heart:

*“God is God—and I am not.”* In stillness, your awareness of His sovereignty deepens.

You begin to realise: God is still in control. God is still speaking. God is still working. Even when nothing outward appears to be changing. Patience is strengthened in quiet places.

The more you practice stillness before God, the more peaceful your spirit becomes. The more sensitive you become to His voice. The more secure your heart becomes in His presence.

Stillness is not empty; it is filled with awareness of God. And in that stillness, patience begins to grow naturally because your heart learns to rest in Him instead of striving for control.

Lamentations 3:26 (NIV) *“It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”*

*“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”* — John Bunyan

**Action for Today:** Spend intentional time in silence before God today. Listen more and speak less.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What did God reveal to your heart during moments of stillness?

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2. What distractions most often keep you from stillness with God?

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**Prayer:** Father, quiet my heart before You. Teach me to slow down and become aware of Your presence. Let stillness deepen my trust and strengthen my patience. Amen.

**Wednesday, 15 July—God Works in the Waiting**

Romans 8:25 (NIV) *“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*

**Focus Thought: Waiting seasons are rarely comfortable but often deeply transformational.**

One of the hardest parts of waiting is feeling like nothing is happening. Human nature wants visible progress, immediate movement, and clear answers. But God frequently works beneath the surface long before anything becomes visible outwardly. This is why waiting requires hope. Hope enables you to trust God even when you cannot yet see the outcome.

Hosting the presence of God changes how you view waiting. Instead of seeing waiting as punishment, delay, or abandonment, you begin to see it as preparation. God often accomplishes His greatest work in hidden seasons. A seed develops underground long before it breaks through the surface.

Likewise, God often develops spiritual roots before visible fruit appears. During waiting seasons, character is refined. Motives are purified. Faith is strengthened. Dependence on God increases. Waiting exposes what controls your heart.

If your peace disappears in delay, it reveals how much your security depends on outcomes rather than on God’s presence. But waiting with God develops stability. Patience grows when you realise that God’s silence does not mean His absence. Many people assume God is inactive simply because they cannot see immediate evidence. But Scripture repeatedly reveals that God is always working behind the scenes. Joseph waited. David waited.

Abraham waited. Hannah waited. Jesus Himself waited. And in every case, the waiting season became preparation for something greater.

Hosting God's presence teaches you to trust what God is doing internally while waiting for external breakthrough. The waiting room of God is often the training ground. This is why waiting is not wasted. God uses waiting to build people who can carry His promises with maturity and humility.

Patience develops when you continue to trust God without needing constant reassurance. And often, when the breakthrough finally comes, you realise that the waiting was not God ignoring you; it was God preparing you.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

"God is preparing you in the waiting for what He has prepared for you." — Unknown

**Action for Today:** Reflect on one past season where waiting eventually produced something beautiful.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What blessing or growth came from a previous season of delay?

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2. What might God currently be developing in you during this waiting season?

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**Prayer:** Lord, help me trust You in seasons where I cannot yet see the outcome. Strengthen my hope and remind me that You are always working behind the scenes. Amen.

## Tuesday, 16 July—Patience Honours God’s Timing

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV) *“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”*

**Focus Thought: One of the greatest challenges in the spiritual life is trusting God’s timing when it does not match your own.**

Most people are comfortable trusting God’s ability but struggle to trust His timing. We often want God to act quickly, remove discomfort immediately, and fulfil promises according to our preferred schedule. But God works according to eternal wisdom, not human urgency.

Ecclesiastes says: *“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”* This means timing matters to God. A thing can be right, but still premature. A promise can be true, but not yet fully prepared. A door can be from God, but not yet the correct season.

Hosting the presence of God teaches you to trust not only *what* God is doing, but *when* He chooses to do it. Impatience often leads to frustration because it tries to force outcomes before the proper season. When people rush ahead of God, they become weary. They create unnecessary complications. They step outside in peace. They miss deeper lessons God wanted to teach. Patience protects your heart from striving. It teaches you to walk with God rather than run ahead of Him. Many biblical figures had to learn this lesson. Abraham received a promise but waited years for Isaac. David was anointed king long before he sat on the throne. Joseph carried dreams long before he saw fulfilment.

In every case, God used time as part of the preparation. Hosting God’s presence develops trust in God’s process. Waiting does not mean God is inactive. Often, God is arranging circumstances, preparing hearts, opening doors, and shaping character behind the scenes. God sees the full picture, while you see only a small part. This is why patience honours Him, it acknowledges His wisdom.

Patience says: *“God knows better than I do.”* It is an act of surrender. When you trust God’s timing, peace replaces striving. You stop trying to manipulate outcomes and begin resting in His sovereignty. Patience also deepens intimacy because waiting draws you closer to God. In seasons where answers are delayed, you often discover His presence more deeply.

Sometimes the greatest gift in waiting is not the answer itself—but the deeper relationship with God that develops along the way. And when the right season finally arrives, you often realise that His timing truly was beautiful.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NIV) For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

“God’s timing is perfect. He is never early, never late.” — Joyce Meyer

**Action for Today:** Surrender your personal timelines to God in prayer.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where is God inviting you to trust His timing instead of forcing outcomes?
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2. What situation in your life are you most tempted to rush, and how might patience transform your perspective?

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**Prayer:** Lord, help me trust Your timing even when I do not understand it. Teach me to wait with peace instead of striving. Let patience deepen my trust in Your wisdom and goodness. Amen.

## **Friday, 17 July – Patience Guards the Heart from Anxiety**

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)<sup>6</sup> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### **Focus Thought: Impatience and anxiety are deeply connected.**

When people become impatient, anxiety often follows because impatience creates the feeling that everything depends on immediate results. The heart begins to race with questions: “What if things never change?” “What if God does not answer?” “What if I miss the opportunity?” Anxiety grows when people try to carry tomorrow’s burdens without tomorrow’s grace. But patience calms the heart because patience trusts that God is still in control.

Hosting the presence of God changes your internal atmosphere. His presence teaches your heart to move from panic to peace. Paul says: *“Do not be anxious about anything...”* This does not mean believers never feel concern or pressure. It means anxiety is not meant to rule your inner life. Instead of allowing worry to dominate your thoughts, Scripture instructs you to bring everything to God in prayer.

Patience replaces anxious striving with surrendered trust. Impatience says: *“I need answers now.”* Patience says: *“God’s peace will sustain me while I wait.”* Hosting God’s presence strengthens this peace because His presence reminds you that your future is secure in Him. The peace of God guards your heart like a shield. This peace does not always remove the situation immediately, but it protects your inner life from being overwhelmed by fear.

Patience allows you to remain steady while waiting for God’s timing. This is powerful because anxiety drains emotional and spiritual strength. People consumed by anxiety often lose focus, joy, clarity, and peace. But patience restores stability. The more time you spend in God’s presence, the quieter your heart becomes. The calmer your thoughts become. The stronger your trust becomes. Prayer shifts your focus from the problem to God’s faithfulness.

Thanksgiving reminds you of what He has already done. And peace begins to settle over your soul. Patience is not passive; it is active trust expressed through prayer and surrender. Instead of carrying the burden alone, you place it into God’s hands.

And where trust increases, anxiety begins to lose its grip.

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV) “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of sorrow; it empties today of strength.” — Corrie ten Boom

**Action for Today:** Whenever you feel restless today, pause and pray before reacting.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did peace replace anxiety in your heart today?

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2. What situation most often triggers anxiety in you, and how can patience and prayer transform your response?

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**Prayer:** Father, calm my anxious thoughts and teach me to trust You deeply. Let Your peace guard my heart while I wait on You. Amen.

## Saturday, 18 July—Patience Produces Spiritual Maturity

James 1:3-4 (NIV) *because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

### Focus Thought: Patience is one of God’s greatest tools for developing spiritual maturity.

Most people want quick breakthroughs, instant answers, and immediate growth. But spiritual maturity is rarely formed quickly. Deep character is usually developed slowly through seasons of testing, waiting, and perseverance. James says: *“The testing of your faith produces perseverance.”*

This means difficult seasons are not meaningless interruptions—they are opportunities for growth. Hosting the presence of God changes how you interpret challenges. Instead of asking: *“Why is this happening to me?”* You begin asking: *“What is God forming in me through this?”*

Patience develops depth. Without patience, people often remain spiritually shallow because they never stay in difficult seasons long enough for God to complete His work. Patience teaches you: Endurance under pressure. Stability during uncertainty. Faithfulness in delay. Dependence on God instead of self. Testing reveals the true condition of your faith.

It exposes weaknesses, fears, impatience, pride, and self-reliance that God wants to refine. This process is not punishment; it is preparation. Hosting God’s presence means allowing Him to shape your inner life, not just your external circumstances. God is often more concerned with who you are becoming than how quickly your situation changes.

Maturity develops when you continue trusting God even when the process feels uncomfortable. Many believers want God’s promises, but fewer desire God’s refining work. Yet the refining is essential. Gold becomes pure through fire. Faith becomes mature through perseverance.

Patience allows God’s work to continue instead of quitting prematurely. The more you remain surrendered in the process, the stronger your character becomes. The deeper your faith becomes. The steadier your heart becomes. And over time, you begin to reflect more of Christ’s nature.

Mature believers are not people who never face difficulty; they are people who have learned to remain faithful while walking through it. Patience produces this kind of spiritual stability. And stability allows you to carry greater dimensions of God’s presence and purpose.

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope.

“God is more interested in your character than your comfort.” — Rick Warren

**Action for Today:** Ask God to strengthen perseverance in the area where you currently feel tested.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did you sense God developing maturity within you today?

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**Prayer:** Lord, use every season of testing to shape my character and deepen my faith. Teach me to persevere with patience and trust in Your refining work. Amen.

2. What area of your life is God currently using to develop perseverance and maturity?

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**Sunday, 19 July—Patience Receives God’s Best**

Psalm 27:14 (NIV) *“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”*

**Focus Thought: Waiting well positions your heart to receive God’s best.**

Impatience often leads people to settle for less than God intended because they grow tired of waiting. Saul lost his kingdom because he refused to wait. Abraham and Sarah tried to produce God’s promise through human effort. Many people step outside God’s timing because delay feels uncomfortable. But patience protects you from premature decisions. Hosting the presence of God teaches you that waiting is not weakness—it is strength under control.

Psalm 27 says: *“Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”* This reveals that waiting actually requires courage. It takes strength to trust God when answers are delayed. It takes faith to remain surrendered when outcomes are unclear. It takes patience to resist the urge to force things ahead of God’s timing. But those who wait well often experience deeper blessings because they receive what God prepared rather than what human striving produced.

Waiting refines motives. It teaches you whether you desire God Himself or merely the outcome you are praying for. Hosting God’s presence transforms waiting from frustration into fellowship.

In the waiting: Intimacy deepens. Faith strengthens. Character matures. Spiritual sensitivity increases. Sometimes the greatest reward of waiting is not merely the answer, but the deeper relationship with God formed through the process.

Patience also protects your peace. When you trust God's timing, you stop striving to control everything yourself. You begin resting in His wisdom and sovereignty.

This rest allows you to remain emotionally and spiritually healthy while waiting. Those who wait will receive well because they are prepared internally for what God desires to release externally. God's delays are often acts of love and preparation.

He sees what you cannot yet see. And His timing is always connected to His goodness. Patience allows you to receive God's best rather than settle for temporary solutions born of fear or frustration. Waiting well is worship.

It says: *"Lord, I trust You enough to wait for Your perfect will."* And hearts that trust Him this deeply become strong, steady, and deeply rooted in His presence.

Psalm 84:11 (NIV) "No good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."

"Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting." — Joyce Meyer

**Action for Today:** Spend time resting quietly in God's presence without an agenda or request.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What confidence did waiting on God produce in your heart this week?

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2. Where might impatience be tempting you to settle for less than God's best?

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**Prayer:** Lord, help me wait well. Teach me to trust Your timing and receive Your best instead of rushing ahead in my own strength. Let waiting deepen my intimacy with You and strengthen my faith. Amen.

## 20 - 25 July - PRAYER & FASTING WEEK – INTERCESSION: “Stand in the Gap.”

Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV) "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

### Monday, 20 July—Intercession Begins with Compassion

Matthew 9:37–38 (NIV) *"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"*

#### **Focus Thought: Every true intercessor begins with a compassionate heart.**

Intercession is not merely a spiritual discipline or a prayer activity. It is the expression of God's love flowing through a believer toward people, communities, cities, and nations. Before Jesus instructed His disciples to pray for workers, He first looked upon the crowds with compassion. Matthew tells us that Jesus saw people who were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

What moved Him was not irritation. It was compassion. What stirred His heart was not judgment. It was love. This is where intercession begins. Intercession is born when we begin to see people through God's eyes instead of our own. Most people see behaviour. God sees brokenness. Most people see problems. God sees potential. Most people see failure. God sees redemption.

Hosting the presence of God develops this same perspective within us. The closer we walk with God, the more our hearts begin to reflect His heart. We start noticing people differently. The struggling colleague. The discouraged neighbour. The rebellious teenager. The broken family. The hurting nation. Instead of criticising them, we begin carrying them before God. One of the greatest signs of hosting God's presence is that His burdens become our burdens. What breaks His heart begins to break ours. What matters to Him begins to matter to us. Many people complain about darkness. Intercessors pray into it. Many people criticise leaders. Intercessors pray for them. Many people focus on problems. Intercessors focus on God's ability to bring transformation. Compassion changes the way we pray. Prayer stops becoming a religious duty and becomes an expression of love. You no longer pray because you have to. You pray because you care. This is exactly what happened in the life of Jesus. His compassion consistently moved Him to action. Compassion led to healing. Compassion led to miracles. Compassion led to restoration. Compassion led Him to the Cross. Hosting God's presence means allowing the Holy Spirit to soften your heart. The Holy Spirit often places people, communities, and situations on our hearts for a reason. Those burdens are invitations to intercede.

God is looking for people who will not merely observe needs but bring them before His throne. Intercession begins when compassion moves from your heart to your knees. The greatest prayers are often birthed from hearts that genuinely care. As you host God's presence, ask Him to give you His eyes. Because when you begin to see people the way Jesus sees them, intercession becomes a natural response.

**Psalms 145:8–9 (NIV)** "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

The heart of intercession is rooted in the compassion of God. When His compassion fills your heart, prayer becomes a powerful expression of His love.

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness." — **Martin Luther**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast soften your heart toward the people God places in your life. Ask Him to help you see others through His eyes, carrying their burdens with compassion instead of judgment. As you deny yourself, allow His love to deepen your concern for those who need His grace, healing, and hope.

**Action for Today:** Ask God to place one specific person, city, ministry, school, community, or nation on your heart today. Commit to praying intentionally for them.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Who did God place on your heart today, and what burden did you sense Him sharing with you?

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2. Who has God repeatedly brought to your mind recently? What might He be inviting you to pray for regarding that person, community, or situation?

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**Today we pray for:**

- "Father, fill my heart with Your compassion. Help me to see people through Your eyes and to love what You love. Break my heart for the things that break Yours. Teach me to carry people before Your throne in prayer. Let my life reflect Your compassion and Your heart for the lost."
- Healthy + loving marriages and loving + pure families walking with Jesus.
- Christ Gen Church: Growth in all areas - That the harvest will keep coming in + people will hunger to walk with God in.
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy."
- The peace of Israel. "May all who love this city prosper." Ps. 122:6.

## Tuesday, 21 July—Intercession Carries Others Before God

1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV) *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people."*

**Focus Thought: Intercession is one of the greatest expressions of love that a believer can offer another person.**

The word "intercession" means to stand between. It means to approach God on behalf of someone else. An intercessor becomes a bridge between Heaven and earth, bringing people's needs before God and inviting God's purposes into their lives. Paul places intercession at the very beginning of his instruction to the church. He says:

*"First of all..."* This reveals its importance. Intercession is not supposed to be an occasional activity. It is meant to be a priority. Hosting the presence of God naturally produces a heart that prays for others. One of the dangers of modern Christianity is that prayer can become self-focused. We pray for our needs. Our problems. Our concerns. Our goals. While God certainly invites us to bring our personal needs to Him, intercession moves us beyond ourselves. It teaches us to carry others' burdens. When you host God's presence, your heart begins to expand. You start caring about things beyond your own circumstances.

You begin praying for: Family members. Friends. Leaders. Churches. Communities. Schools. Hospitals. Cities and nations. You become aware that prayer is not merely about getting things from God. Prayer becomes partnering with God. Intercession allows us to participate in God's work on the earth. Throughout, God often responded to the prayers of intercessors. Abraham interceded for Sodom. Moses interceded for Israel. Samuel interceded for the nation. Daniel interceded for Jerusalem. Jesus intercedes for His Church. Their prayers mattered. And your prayers matter too.

Hosting God's presence means understanding that prayer is not passive. It is powerful. Every prayer offered in faith releases spiritual influence. Every prayer creates opportunities for God's intervention. Every prayer invites Heaven into earthly situations. Many believers underestimate the significance of their prayers because they cannot immediately see results.

But intercession often works beneath the surface long before visible change appears. Seeds are planted. Hearts are softened. Circumstances shift. Doors open. Strongholds weaken. People encounter God. The intercessor may never fully see everything their prayers accomplish, but Heaven records every prayer offered in faith.

God is looking for believers who are willing to carry others before Him. People who will pray when others complain. People who will stand in faith when others lose hope. People who will believe for breakthrough when situations seem impossible. Intercession is love on its knees.

And when you host God's presence, carrying others before God becomes one of the greatest privileges of your spiritual life.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."* One of the greatest ways we carry others is through faithful intercession before God.

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that—it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." — **Charles Spurgeon**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast remind you that intercession is an act of love. As you pray, intentionally bring the needs of others before the Father, trusting that He knows every detail and cares deeply for them. Stand in the gap with faith, believing that your prayers make an eternal difference.

**Action for Today:** Set aside dedicated time to pray for at least three people by name. Pray specifically and intentionally for their needs.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Who did you carry before God's throne today, and what did you sense as you prayed for them?

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2. Who are the three people God is calling you to consistently intercede for in this season, and what specific breakthroughs are you believing for in their lives?

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**Today we pray for:**

- “Lord, teach me to become an intercessor. Help me to carry the burdens of others faithfully before You. Let my prayers become channels through which Your grace, mercy, healing, and power flow into people's lives. Use me to stand in the gap for those who need Your intervention.”
- Lord show me my Next Step at Christ Gen: Attend Growth Track? Lead a Small Group? Join a Small Group? Join the Dream Team? Reveal my Next Steps in Your dreams + calling for me.
- Small Groups for this term: leaders, sign-ups, real life change, healthy relationships, spiritual growth.
- Our Pastors, Church staff, Team Leaders, Small Group leaders, Dream Team - may the walk under an open heaven and hear your voice clearly. Protection and the blood over them + their families.
- Youth Leader Training 1 August: Heavenly Father, we dedicate this Youth Leader Training morning to You. Thank You for every leader You have called to invest in the next generation. Fill them with fresh wisdom, compassion, and courage as they learn and grow together. Strengthen their faith, deepen their love for You, and equip them to lead with humility, integrity, and the power of the Holy Spirit. May this morning inspire, encourage, and unite them as they step confidently into Your calling. Let every leader leave refreshed, empowered, and ready to make a lasting impact in the lives of young people.

## Wednesday, 22 July—Intercession Changes Outcomes

James 5:16 (NIV) *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

**Focus Thought: One of the greatest truths about intercession is that prayer truly matters.**

Many believers know they should pray, but not everyone fully believes that prayer changes things. Yet throughout we see a consistent pattern: when God's people pray, God moves. Intercession is not a religious exercise designed merely to make us feel spiritual. It is a divine partnership where God invites His people to participate in His purposes on the earth. James tells us that the prayer of a righteous person is "powerful and effective." This means prayer is not powerless. It is not empty. It is not insignificant. Prayer carries spiritual authority because it connects us with the God who rules over all things.

Hosting the presence of God helps us understand that prayer is far more than presenting requests. It is cooperating with Heaven. When we pray according to God's heart and purposes, we become channels through which His will is released on earth. Many biblical examples demonstrate this truth. Elijah prayed, and drought came. Elijah prayed again, and rain fell. Moses prayed, and judgment was delayed. Hannah prayed, and Samuel was born. The early church prayed, and prison doors opened. These examples remind us that God works through the prayers of His people.

Intercession changes outcomes because prayer invites God's intervention into situations that might otherwise continue unchanged. This does not mean we manipulate God or force Him to act according to our desires. Rather, intercession aligns our hearts with God's purposes and allows us to participate in what He desires to accomplish.

Hosting God's presence develops faith in prayer. The more time you spend with God, the more confident you become in His power. You begin to pray differently. Instead of focusing on the size of the problem, you focus on the greatness of God.

Instead of speaking fear, you release faith. Instead of accepting defeat, you contend for breakthrough. Intercessors understand that circumstances do not always tell the whole story. Even when nothing appears to be changing externally, God may be working internally. He may be softening hearts. Opening doors. Changing perspectives. Preparing people. Creating opportunities. Prayer often accomplishes far more than we can immediately see. The enemy wants believers to become discouraged and stop praying. God wants believers to remain faithful and keep believing. Every prayer offered in faith becomes a seed planted in the soil of God's purposes. And in God's perfect timing, those seeds often produce fruit beyond what we imagined.

Hosting God's presence teaches us to pray with confidence because we know that our prayers matter and that God is actively working through them.

**Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)** "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

God invites His people to pray because He desires to respond. Prayer opens the door for divine intervention and supernatural breakthrough.

"Prayer is not preparation for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." — **Oswald Chambers**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast strengthen your expectation that God is at work. Refuse to pray with doubt or resignation—instead, pray with confidence that the Lord hears, moves, and accomplishes His purposes. Believe that as you intercede, God can open doors, soften hearts, bring healing, and change situations according to His perfect will.

**Action for Today:** Choose one situation that seems impossible and pray boldly for God's intervention. Refuse to focus on the problem; focus on God's power.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did your faith grow as you prayed for something that seemed beyond human ability?

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2. What situation have you almost stopped praying about? What would happen if you renewed your faith and began interceding for it again?

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**Today we pray for:**

- “Father, thank You that my prayers are powerful and effective because of Your power at work through me. Help me to pray with faith and confidence. Strengthen my heart to believe that You are able to do far more than I can ask or imagine.”
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy.”
- Small Groups for this term: leaders, sign-ups, real life change, healthy relationships, spiritual growth.
- The Vision of Christ Gen: Praying for all people on their journey of faith to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Make a difference.
- Sunday services - the Lost to be saved, spiritual growth and a move of God.

## Thursday, 23 July—Intercession Aligns You With God's Heart

Romans 8:26–27 (NIV) *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."*

**Focus Thought:** One of the greatest discoveries an intercessor can make is that effective prayer does not begin with human effort; it begins with the Holy Spirit. Many believers feel inadequate when it comes to prayer. They wonder if they are praying correctly. They struggle to find the right words. They feel uncertain about what to pray for.

Romans 8 offers tremendous encouragement. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. Prayer was never intended to be something we do alone. The Holy Spirit is not only our Helper; He is also our Intercessor. He knows the heart of God perfectly. He understands every situation completely. He sees what we cannot see. He knows the future while we only see the present. Because of this, the Holy Spirit can guide us to pray according to God's will.

Hosting the presence of God is essential for effective intercession. The more time you spend in God's presence, the more sensitive you become to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Instead of merely praying your own ideas, you begin praying God's heart. You begin sensing His burdens. You begin hearing His priorities. You begin caring about what He cares about. This is where intercession becomes powerful. True intercession is not trying to convince God to do something. True intercession is partnering with what God already desires to do.

The Holy Spirit often places people, situations, churches, cities, or nations on our hearts. Sometimes we cannot explain why. Yet these burdens are often invitations to pray. The Spirit may lead you to pray for: A struggling family. A church leader. A friend facing temptation. A community experiencing hardship. A nation in crisis. As you yield to His prompting, your prayers become increasingly aligned with Heaven.

Hosting God's presence means learning to listen before speaking. Many people enter prayer immediately with requests. Intercessors learn to pause and ask: *"Holy Spirit, what is on Your heart?"*

This simple question can transform your prayer life. Prayer becomes less about your agenda and more about God's purposes. The Holy Spirit also gives perseverance. When answers seem delayed, He strengthens us to continue praying. When situations appear impossible, He renews our faith. When we feel weak, He supplies strength. The most powerful intercessors are not necessarily the most eloquent. They are the most yielded. They allow the Holy Spirit to guide their prayers.

And when God's people pray in partnership with the Spirit, Heaven's purposes are released on earth.

**John 16:13 (NIV)** "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth..."

The Holy Spirit is the perfect prayer partner. He leads us into God's will and helps us pray with power and accuracy.

"The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and can teach us how to pray the heart of God." — **Andrew Murray**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast draw you closer to the heart of God. As you spend time in His presence, allow Him to shape your desires, priorities, and prayers until they reflect His will. The more you know His heart, the more your intercession becomes a partnership with His purposes on the earth.

**Action for Today:** Before you begin praying, ask the Holy Spirit: *"What is on Your heart today?"* Allow Him to guide your prayers.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What burden, person, or situation did the Holy Spirit emphasize as you prayed today?

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2. What differences do you notice between prayers that begin with your own concerns and prayers that begin by listening to the Holy Spirit?

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**Today we pray for:**

- "Holy Spirit, teach me to pray according to the Father's heart. Help me become sensitive to Your leading and willing to follow Your direction. Let my prayers align with Heaven's purposes and release Your will on earth.
- "Father, align our hearts with Yours as we stand in the gap for others. May our prayers reflect Your love, Your compassion, and Your will, so that what matters to You becomes what matters most to us."
- For people to sign-up to lead a Small Group and that many people will find freedom in Christ.
- Our Church's bigger Vision - A bigger Cape Town Campus; Campus launches, Building projects, Ground and Buildings, Finances, Raising up new leaders, Outreach, Missions; Zambia Project; Elim Night Shelter; Emit: reaching Africa for Jesus; ARC: new church launches.
- Growth Track: Growth in membership and that people will discover their purpose.
- South Africa will be saved. Cancel Satan's agenda over SA. Revival and salvation for SA. Bind the spirit of hate & anger & intolerance. We pray for godly Spirit-filled leaders. We call the LIGHT & FIRE of God over SA.

## Friday, 24 July—Intercession Strengthens the Church

**Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)** *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*

**Focus Thought:** One of the greatest gifts God has given to the Church is the ministry of intercession.

Every healthy church, every effective ministry, every spiritual awakening, and every lasting move of God has been supported by people who faithfully prayed behind the scenes. While preaching may be visible and leadership may be recognised, intercession often happens quietly and privately. Yet it is one of the most powerful ministries in the Kingdom of God. Paul closes his teaching on the armour of God by emphasizing prayer.

After describing the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, he reminds believers that they must pray continually. Why? Because prayer empowers everything else. Without prayer, ministry becomes human effort. Without prayer, leaders become vulnerable. Without prayer, churches lose spiritual sensitivity. Without prayer, believers become weak and distracted.

Hosting the presence of God means understanding that prayer is not an optional activity—it is the atmosphere in which spiritual life flourishes. Just as the human body requires oxygen, the Church requires prayer. Intercessors help create an atmosphere where God's presence is welcomed, honoured, and experienced.

When intercessors pray, leaders receive wisdom. Ministries become effective. Unity is protected. People are strengthened. Souls are saved. Spiritual attacks are resisted. God's purposes advance. Many people desire strong churches, but strong churches are usually built on strong prayer foundations. Throughout history, every major revival was preceded by prayer. The Welsh Revival. The Moravian Revival. The Prayer Revival of 1857. The Hebrides Revival. In every case, intercessors prepared the ground before God moved in power.

Hosting God's presence means becoming a guardian of the spiritual atmosphere. Intercessors watch over their churches through prayer. They pray for pastors. They pray for worship teams. They pray for ministries. They pray for unity. They pray for spiritual growth. They pray for salvation. They pray for protection.

Many spiritual victories happen because someone prayed when nobody else knew there was a need. Prayer strengthens the Church because it invites God's power into every area of ministry. The Church was never meant to operate through human wisdom alone. It was designed to function through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Intercessors help make that possible. God is looking for believers who will faithfully stand before Him on behalf of His people. People who will pray not only in times of crisis but consistently and faithfully. People who understand that some of the greatest Kingdom work happens in the place of prayer.

Hosting God's presence means becoming one of those people. And when intercessors pray, churches become stronger, healthier, and more effective in fulfilling God's mission.

Acts 6:4 (NIV) *"And will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."* The early Church understood that prayer was not secondary to ministry; it was foundational to ministry.

"The church advances on its knees." — **E.M. Bounds**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast remind you that every prayer strengthens the body of Christ. Pray for your church, its leaders, its families, and its mission. Ask God to unite His people in love, fill them with fresh courage, and empower the Church to shine brightly as a witness of His grace and truth.

**Action for Today:** Spend intentional time praying for your church, pastors, elders, leaders, ministries, volunteers, and congregation. Pray specifically for wisdom, protection, unity, revival, and the presence of God

**Reflection Question:**

1. What did the Holy Spirit show you about your church as you prayed today?

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2. What specific area of your church needs greater prayer support right now, and how can you commit to interceding faithfully for it?

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**Today we pray for:**

- “Father, I lift my church before You today. Bless our pastors, leaders, volunteers, and every ministry. Protect us from division, discouragement, and distraction. Let Your presence fill every gathering and every heart. Strengthen Your Church and let us become a powerful witness of Your Kingdom.
- Dream Team: Growth, expansion, leadership development, new labourers (Luke 10:2).
- CG Kids and CG Youth - volunteers, raising up leaders, life change.
- Baptism Sundays; Men’s Night; All the events at Christ Gen in 2026.
- Peace and Salvation for our city, Cape Town. Pray over your neighbourhood and street. Healing + miracles from heaven to flow like a river in Cape Town.
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy.”

## Saturday, 25 July— Intercession Leaves a Legacy

Isaiah 59:16 (NIV) *"He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him."*

**Focus Thought: One of the most sobering statements is found in Isaiah 59:16: "He saw that there was no one... no one to intervene."**

God was looking for someone to stand in the gap. Someone to pray. Someone to intercede. Someone to carry His heart. Yet He found no one. This passage reveals something important about God's heart. God actively seeks people who will partner with Him in prayer. Throughout, God consistently worked through intercessors. Abraham stood before God for Sodom. Moses stood before God for Israel. Samuel stood before God for the nation. Daniel stood before God for Jerusalem.

Nehemiah stood before God for his people. Jesus continues to stand before the Father as our great Intercessor. Their prayers left a legacy that extended far beyond their own lives. Intercession is one of the few ministries whose full impact may only be understood in eternity. Many intercessors never see all the results of their prayers while they are alive. Yet their prayers shape generations. Their prayers influence families. Their prayers impact churches. Their prayers affect cities and nations. Their prayers prepare the way for future breakthroughs.\

Hosting the presence of God means living with an awareness that your prayers matter beyond the present moment. Every prayer offered in faith leaves a spiritual imprint. Some prayers become seeds that produce fruit years later. Some prayers protect people from dangers they never even knew existed. Some prayers open doors for future generations. Many believers desire a visible ministry.

Yet some of the most influential people in God's Kingdom are intercessors whose names are largely unknown. Heaven measures influence differently from the world. The world celebrates visibility. God values faithfulness. An intercessor may never stand on a platform. May never write a book. May never lead a large ministry. Yet through faithful prayer, they may shape the destinies of countless lives. Hosting God's presence develops this eternal perspective. You begin to realise that prayer is not merely about today's needs. It is about God's purposes across generations. The prayers you pray today may bless your children tomorrow. The prayers you pray today may strengthen your church for years to come. The prayers you pray today may impact a nation you have never visited. God is still searching for people who will stand in the gap. People who will pray when others are silent. People who will remain faithful when answers seem delayed. People who will carry His burdens and release His purposes through prayer. May God find such people in us. May He find hearts willing to intercede. May He find believers who understand that prayer is not merely an activity; it is a legacy. And may that legacy continue long after we are gone.

**Psalm 126:5–6 (NIV)** "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them."

Every prayer sown in faith becomes a seed in God's Kingdom. In His perfect timing, a harvest will come.

"History belongs to the intercessors who believe the future into being." — **Walter Wink**

**Action for Today:** Review your week of prayer. Record one burden, one breakthrough, one promise, and one answered prayer in your intercession journal. Thank God for His faithfulness.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did you see God's hand moving through your prayers this week?

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2. If your prayer life were to leave a spiritual legacy for future generations, what would you want that legacy to be? What specific people, ministries, cities, or nations do you feel called to carry before God in prayer?

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**Prayer:** Father, thank You for the privilege of intercession. Help me to remain faithful in prayer even when I do not immediately see results. Let my prayers leave a legacy that impacts generations. Use my life to carry Your heart and release Your purposes on earth. May I always be willing to stand in the gap. Amen.

## **Sunday, 26 July—Intercession Stands Between Judgment and Mercy**

Numbers 16:47–48 (NIV) *"So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped."*

**Focus Thought: Intercessors are often called to stand in difficult places.**

Numbers 16 presents one of the most powerful pictures of intercession in all of. A plague was spreading through the camp of Israel because of rebellion and sin. Death was moving through the people. Yet Aaron took incense, ran into the midst of the crisis, and stood between the living and the dead. The result was remarkable. The plague stopped. This is the ministry of intercession. Intercessors stand in the gap between brokenness and restoration, between despair and hope, between judgment and mercy.

Hosting the presence of God develops this kind of heart. The closer we grow to God, the more we care about the spiritual condition of those around us. Instead of watching from a distance, we step into the gap through prayer. The world is filled with people who are hurting.

Families are struggling. Young people are confused. Communities are broken. Nations are divided. Many believers look at these problems and feel overwhelmed. Intercessors respond

differently. They pray. Intercession is not passive. It is spiritual engagement. It is choosing to stand before God on behalf of people who may not even know they need prayer.

Aaron's actions reveal an important truth. He did not wait for someone else to respond. He ran into the middle of the crisis. This is the heart of an intercessor. Intercessors move toward the need rather than away from it. They carry God's compassion into difficult situations. They believe that prayer can change what seems impossible.

Hosting God's presence means carrying God's heart for people. God is merciful. God is compassionate. God desires restoration. When we spend time in His presence, these same qualities begin to shape our lives. We stop praying only for ourselves and begin praying for others. We begin standing in the gap for families. Churches. Schools. Communities. Leaders. Nations.

Intercession allows us to participate in God's work of mercy. While we cannot solve every problem ourselves, we can bring every problem before God. The intercessor becomes a bridge through which God's mercy can flow. And often the greatest spiritual victories happen because someone was willing to stand in the gap when others would not. God is still looking for people who will stand between the living and the dead.

People who will carry His heart. People who will pray until breakthrough comes. People who will not quit. Hosting God's presence means becoming one of those people.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)** "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, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Prayer remains one of God's primary instruments for bringing mercy, healing, and restoration.

"Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer."  
— Richard Halverson

**Action for Today:** Identify someone facing a crisis, struggle, addiction, grief, or spiritual battle. Commit to standing in the gap for them in prayer today.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did God enlarge your heart as you interceded for someone else's need?
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2. Who in your life needs someone to stand in the gap for them right now? What specific prayers is God calling you to pray on their behalf?
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**Prayer:** Lord, give me a heart that stands in the gap. Help me carry Your compassion and mercy to those who are hurting. Teach me to pray faithfully for those facing challenges and crises. Use my prayers as instruments of Your healing and restoration. Amen

## 27 July - 2 August - PURSUIT: “Keep Seeking His Face.”

“My heart says of You, ‘Seek His face!’ Your face, Lord, I will seek.” — Psalm 27:8 (NIV)

Pursuit proves desire. Those who truly host His Presence are never casual about His nearness. Seeking God isn’t a one-time event—it’s a lifelong chase that deepens intimacy and fuels revival.

### Monday, 27 July—Pursuit Begins with Desire

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV) *"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

**Focus Thought: Every genuine pursuit of God begins with desire.**

Before there is prayer, there is hunger. Before there is devotion, there is desire. Before there is pursuit, there is a heart that longs for more of God. Throughout , God consistently responds to those who seek Him wholeheartedly. Jeremiah 29:13 reveals one of the greatest promises in the Bible: God allows Himself to be found by those who seek Him with all their heart. Notice that God does not say we will find Him when we seek Him casually. He does not say we will find Him when we seek Him occasionally. He says we will find Him when we seek Him wholeheartedly. Hosting the presence of God begins with desire. The presence of God is not attracted to perfection. It is attracted to hunger. Throughout history, the people who experienced the deepest encounters with God were not necessarily the most gifted, educated, or influential. They were often the most hungry. Moses desired to see God's glory. David longed for God's presence. Mary sat at Jesus' feet. Paul desired to know Christ more deeply. Their pursuit began with desire. The same is true today. Many believers are satisfied with knowing about God. But God desires people who want to truly know Him.

There is a difference between seeking God's hand and seeking God's face. Seeking His hand means pursuing what He can do. Seeking His face means pursuing who He is. Many people seek God for answers, provision, protection, or blessing. While God graciously provides these things, His greatest invitation is relationship. Hosting God's presence means developing a heart that longs for God Himself. A heart that says: "Lord, more than Your blessings, I want You."

"More than answers, I want Your presence." "More than success, I want intimacy."

The beautiful truth is that God responds to hungry hearts. He never ignores genuine pursuit. Every moment spent seeking Him matters. Every prayer. Every act of worship. Every moment in prayer. Every surrender. Every expression of hunger. God sees it all. The more you seek Him, the more you discover Him. And the more you discover Him, the more you desire Him. Pursuit creates greater hunger. Greater hunger leads to deeper encounters. Deeper encounters produce greater transformation.

Hosting God's presence is not about maintaining a religious routine. It is about cultivating a relationship fuelled by desire. God is not hiding from you. He is inviting you. And every step you take toward Him is met by His loving response.

**Psalm 63:1 (NIV)** You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my soul being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

God responds to hearts that genuinely long for Him.

"God is always giving Himself to us. The problem is that we are often satisfied with too little of Him." — **A.W. Tozer**

**Action for Today:** Set aside extended time for worship, prayer, and solitude with God. Seek His presence without rushing.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What stirred in your heart as you intentionally sought God today?

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2. What currently fuels your desire for God, and what distractions might be reducing your hunger for His presence?

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**Prayer:** Father, awaken a fresh hunger within me. Help me seek You with all my heart. Let my desire for You grow stronger than my desire for anything else. Draw me deeper into Your presence and reveal Yourself to me. Amen.

## Tuesday, 28 July—Pursuit Requires Consistency

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV)** *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

**Focus Thought: A passionate beginning is valuable, but consistent pursuit is what produces lasting intimacy with God.**

Many believers experience moments of spiritual excitement. They attend a conference. Hear a powerful sermon. Experience a breakthrough. Feel renewed passion. But sustained spiritual growth is not built on occasional moments of inspiration. It is built on daily pursuit. Jesus said: *"Seek first the Kingdom of God."* Notice that He did not say seek God occasionally. He said seek Him first. This speaks of priority. Hosting the presence of God requires intentionality. God's presence is freely available, but intimacy requires pursuit. Every healthy relationship grows through consistent connection. The same is true in our relationship with God. A strong marriage is built through daily investment. Deep friendships develop through ongoing interaction. Likewise, intimacy with God grows through regular fellowship.

Many believers desire a deep relationship with God while giving Him only occasional attention. Yet intimacy is cultivated through consistency. Small daily habits often produce greater spiritual growth than occasional spiritual highs. Daily prayer. Daily worship. Daily reading. Daily obedience. Daily surrender. These habits position our hearts to host God's presence. Consistency creates spiritual momentum. Every time you prioritise God, you strengthen your relationship with Him. Every time you choose His presence over distraction, your spiritual sensitivity increases. Every time you spend time in His Word, your understanding deepens. Every act of consistent pursuit strengthens intimacy.

Hosting God's presence means making God your first priority rather than your last resort. Many people fit God into whatever time remains. Jesus teaches the opposite. Seek Him first. When God occupies first place, everything else begins to align properly. Your decisions become clearer. Your priorities become healthier. Your perspective becomes stronger. Your peace becomes deeper.

Seeking first does not mean neglecting responsibilities. It means allowing God to influence every responsibility. The goal is not merely spending time with God. The goal is walking with God throughout the day. Consistent pursuit transforms occasional encounters into a lifestyle of intimacy. The people who carry God's presence most powerfully are often not those who have the most dramatic stories. They are those who have learned to seek Him faithfully day after day, year after year.

Consistency may not seem exciting, but it is often where the deepest spiritual growth occurs. And when pursuit becomes a lifestyle, hosting God's presence becomes natural.

**Luke 10:42 (NIV)** *"Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

The greatest investment you can make is consistently choosing time with Jesus.

**"Small disciplines repeated with consistency lead to great spiritual breakthroughs." — John Maxwell**

**Action for Today:** Read one chapter from one of the Gospels. Ask yourself: "What does this reveal about Jesus?"

**Reflection Question:**

1. What aspect of Jesus' character stood out most to you today?

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2. What practical habits could help you become more consistent in your pursuit of God's presence?

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**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help me make You my first priority. Teach me to pursue You consistently and faithfully. Let my relationship with You grow deeper every day as I seek Your Kingdom above everything else. Amen.

### **Wednesday, 29 July – Pursuit Deepens Intimacy**

**James 4:8 (NIV)** *"Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*

**Focus Thought:** One of the most beautiful promises in is found in James 4:8: *"Come near to God and He will come near to you."* This verse reveals the heart of God. God is not distant. He is not reluctant. He is not hiding from His children. He invites relationship. He invites intimacy. He invites closeness. Hosting the presence of God is ultimately about relationship, not ritual. Many people view Christianity primarily as a set of beliefs, responsibilities, or activities. But at its core, Christianity is an invitation into intimacy with God. The Creator of the universe desires fellowship with His people. This truth should never cease to amaze us. The God who created galaxies desires relationship with you. He desires your attention. Your affection. Your time. Your heart.

Every step you take toward God is met by His loving response. Notice that James does not say God will reluctantly acknowledge you. He says God will come near. God delights in responding to pursuit. Throughout we see this pattern repeatedly. Moses sought God and encountered His glory. David sought God and found strength. Daniel sought God and received revelation. The disciples pursued Jesus and experienced transformation.

Those who seek God discover that He always gives more of Himself to hungry hearts. Hosting God's presence means learning to value His nearness above everything else. His presence changes us. His presence strengthens us. His presence heals us. His presence brings peace. His presence produces joy. His presence transforms our thinking and reshapes our priorities. Many believers spend their lives seeking God's gifts while neglecting God's presence. But His presence is the greatest gift. Because wherever His presence is, everything else we need is found.

Intimacy develops through time. It develops through honesty. It develops through surrender. It develops through consistent pursuit. The more time you spend with God, the more familiar you become with His voice. The more you recognise His voice, the easier it becomes to follow His leading. The more you follow His leading, the deeper your relationship becomes.

Hosting God's presence is not about earning God's love. It is about responding to God's invitation. God already desires closeness with you. The question is whether you desire closeness with Him. Every moment spent seeking Him deepens intimacy. And intimacy remains one of the greatest treasures available to every believer.

**Philippians 3:10 (NIV)** "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

Paul understood that knowing Christ was life's greatest pursuit.

"The whole Christian life is summed up in this: knowing Christ." — **Watchman Nee**

**Action for Today:** Spend 10 minutes in complete stillness before God. Welcome His presence and simply enjoy fellowship with Him.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did God's nearness affect your heart, thoughts, and emotions today?

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**Prayer:** Father, thank You for inviting me into intimacy with You. Help me draw near to You daily. Let my pursuit deepen my relationship with You and transform every area of my life. Amen.

2. What does intimacy with God practically look like in your current season of life?

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## Thursday, 30 July—Pursuit Awakens Hunger

**Psalm 42:1–2 (NIV)** *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"*

**Focus Thought:** One of the great mysteries of the spiritual life is that the more you seek God, the more you desire Him.

Natural hunger works differently. When you eat food, your hunger decreases. But spiritual hunger often increases the more you feed it. The more you experience God's presence, the more you realise there is still more to discover. The more you encounter His love, the more you desire His heart. The more you know Him, the more you long to know Him better. This is what the psalmist describes.

He compares his longing for God to a deer desperately searching for water. A thirsty deer does not casually look for water. It pursues it. It needs it. It cannot survive without it. That is the picture God gives us of spiritual hunger. Hosting the presence of God requires this kind of desire. Many believers want God's presence, but often only when it is convenient. David and the psalmist understood something deeper. God's presence was not an addition to life, it was life itself. One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is spiritual complacency. Complacency happens when we become satisfied with yesterday's encounters. Satisfied with old testimonies. Satisfied with past experiences. Satisfied with knowing about God instead of pursuing God. Yet God continually invites us deeper. There is always more of His love to experience. More of His wisdom to discover. More of His character to understand. More of His presence to enjoy. Hosting God's presence means refusing to settle. It means waking up each day with the attitude: "Lord, I want to know You more." "Holy Spirit, reveal more of Jesus to me." "Father, awaken fresh hunger within me." Spiritual hunger is often the birthplace of revival.

Every revival in history began because people became dissatisfied with spiritual routine and began seeking God passionately. They wanted more than religion. They wanted God's presence. The Holy Spirit delights in awakening hunger. In fact, the very desire you have for God is often evidence that God is already drawing you closer. Hunger is not something to suppress. It is something to cultivate. Feed it through worship. Feed it through prayer. Feed it through . Feed it through obedience. Feed it through time in God's presence. The more you seek Him, the more you will discover Him. And the more you discover Him, the greater your hunger will become.

Hosting God's presence means living with a holy dissatisfaction that continually longs for more of God.

**Matthew 5:6 (NIV)** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

God always responds to spiritual hunger. Those who pursue Him will never be left empty.

"To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love." — **A.W. Tozer**

**Action for Today:** Ask the Holy Spirit to awaken fresh spiritual hunger within you. Spend extra time in worship and tell God how much you desire Him.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What new hunger or desire for God did the Holy Spirit awaken in your heart today?

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**Prayer:** Father, create within me a deeper hunger for Your presence. Do not allow me to become satisfied with past experiences. Draw me closer to You and increase my desire to know You more deeply every day. Amen.

2. What areas of your spiritual life have become routine, and how can you cultivate fresh hunger for God in those areas?

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**Friday, 31 July—Pursuit Aligns Your Heart With His Will**

**Psalm 105:4 (NIV)** *"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."*

**Focus Thought:** One of the greatest benefits of pursuing God's presence is that it gradually aligns your heart with His heart.

Many people approach prayer as a way of convincing God to support their plans. But true pursuit works differently. The more you seek God, the more your desires begin to reflect His desires. The more you spend time in His presence, the more your priorities begin to mirror His priorities. Hosting God's presence is not primarily about getting God to agree with your will. It is about allowing your will to become aligned with His. This alignment is one of the greatest miracles of spiritual growth. When we first come to God, our prayers are often centred around our own needs, desires, fears, and goals. There is nothing wrong with bringing these things to God. He invites us to do so. But as intimacy grows, something changes. We begin asking different questions.

Instead of: "Lord, bless my plans." We begin asking: "Lord, what are Your plans?" Instead of: "Lord, help me achieve what I want." We begin praying: "Lord, help me fulfil what You want." This transformation happens in the place of pursuit. The more time you spend with God, the more clearly you begin to understand His heart. You start loving what He loves. You begin valuing what He values. You become concerned about the things that concern Him. Hosting God's presence creates spiritual alignment. Your thoughts become more aligned with. Your attitudes become more Christlike. Your decisions become more God-centred. Your ambitions become more Kingdom-focused. The Holy Spirit gently adjusts areas that are out of alignment.

Sometimes He corrects our motives. Sometimes He changes our priorities. Sometimes He redirects our plans. Sometimes He calls us to surrender things we thought were important. This process is not punishment. It is transformation. God knows that true fulfilment is found in His will. The closer you walk with Him, the more clearly you realise that His plans are better than your own.

Seeking God's face continually keeps your heart calibrated. Just as a compass must remain pointed north, believers must continually orient their lives toward God. Pursuit prevents spiritual drift. It keeps our hearts tender. It keeps our priorities healthy. It keeps our focus on what matters most. Hosting God's presence means living in continual alignment with God's heart. And when your heart aligns with His will, peace, clarity, purpose, and fruitfulness naturally follow.

**Romans 12:2 (NIV)** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

The more your mind is renewed in God's presence, the more clearly you will recognise His will.

"The will of God is not a destination to discover but a relationship to cultivate." — **Oswald Chambers**

**Action for Today:** Review your priorities, schedule, and goals. Ask God if there is anything that needs realignment.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What area of your life became more aligned with God's heart today?

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2. What area of your life currently needs the greatest alignment with God's purposes?

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**Prayer:** Lord, align my heart with Yours. Let my desires, priorities, and plans reflect Your purposes. Teach me to seek Your face continually and to walk in step with Your will. Amen.

## Saturday, 1 August—Pursuit Transforms Your Life

**Hosea 6:3 (NIV)** *"Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."*

**Focus Thought:** Pursuing God is never wasted effort. Every moment spent seeking Him leaves a mark on your life

Even when change seems slow, God's presence is quietly transforming you. Hosea gives us a powerful invitation: *"Let us press on to acknowledge Him."* This language speaks of intentionality, perseverance, and determination. There are seasons when pursuing God feels easy. His presence feels tangible. Prayer flows naturally. Worship feels effortless. But there are also seasons when pursuit requires persistence. Moments when you do not feel anything. Days when distractions seem stronger than desire. Times when spiritual growth feels slow. Yet Hosea encourages us to keep pressing on. Why? Because God promises to reveal Himself. Hosting God's presence is not about chasing emotional experiences. It is about pursuing relationship. Transformation happens through consistent exposure to God's presence. Consider Moses. After spending time with God, his face literally reflected God's glory. The disciples who spent time with Jesus were recognised as people who had been with Him. Why? Because God's presence changes people. The same is true today.

The more time you spend with God: The more you begin thinking like Christ. The more your attitudes change. The more your character develops. The more your reactions become healthier. The more your love for others grows. The more your faith increases. Transformation is often gradual. Like rain watering the earth, God's presence slowly nourishes growth beneath the surface.

Seeds develop roots before they produce fruit. Likewise, God often works internally before visible change appears externally. Many believers become discouraged because they expect immediate transformation. But God is usually more interested in lasting transformation than instant change.

Hosting God's presence means trusting His process. Every prayer matters. Every act of obedience matters. Every moment in His Word matters. Every time of worship matters. God uses all these moments to shape your life. Pursuit changes you because you become like what you behold. As you continually focus on Jesus, His character begins to influence your own.

The goal of pursuit is not merely spiritual experiences. The goal is becoming more like Christ. And those who continue pressing on will discover that God's presence never leaves them unchanged.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Transformation is the natural result of consistently beholding Jesus.

"We become what we behold." — **David Wilkerson**

**Action for Today:** Spend extra time in worship, prayer, and listening to God. Press deeper than your normal routine.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did you notice God's transforming work in your life today?
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**Prayer:** Father, continue transforming me through Your presence. Help me persevere in pursuing You even when I cannot immediately see results. Let every encounter with You shape me into the image of Jesus. Amen.

2. Looking back over the past year, how has pursuing God's presence transformed your character, priorities, and relationship with Him?
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## **Sunday, 2 August—Pursuit Fuels Revival**

**Isaiah 55:6 (NIV)** *"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."*

**Focus Thought: Every revival begins with pursuit.**

Before revival changes cities, it first changes hearts. Before revival transforms churches, it first transforms individuals. Before revival impacts nations, it begins with people who become hungry for God. History consistently demonstrates this pattern. Every significant move of God began because someone sought Him. Someone prayed. Someone worshipped. Someone refused to remain spiritually comfortable. Someone pursued God's presence. Revival is not something people manufacture. It is something God releases. But God often releases revival where there is hunger.

Hosting God's presence creates an atmosphere where revival can begin. Revival is more than emotional meetings or increased church attendance. True revival is the restoration of first love. It is renewed passion for Jesus. It is fresh surrender. It is deeper holiness. It is greater hunger. It is increased awareness of God's presence. Isaiah's invitation is urgent: *"Seek the Lord while He may be found."* This reminds us that opportunities for spiritual growth should not be postponed.

Every day is an invitation to pursue God. Many people wait for a better season. A less busy schedule. A more convenient time. But revival begins when people respond now. Personal revival often starts with simple decisions: Choosing prayer over distraction. Choosing worship over complacency. Choosing surrender over self-interest. Choosing God's presence over comfort. Hosting God's presence means becoming a revival carrier. The more passionately you pursue God, the more His presence influences your home, workplace, church, and community.

Revival is contagious. Hungry people inspire hunger. Passionate worship inspires worship. Authentic pursuit inspires pursuit. God wants to do more than occasionally visit His people. He desires to dwell among them. The greatest revival begins when believers become passionately committed to seeking His face. Revival begins in the prayer room. It begins in personal devotion. It begins in surrendered hearts. It begins in people who refuse to settle for less than God's presence. The invitation remains the same today. Seek Him. Pursue Him. Draw near to Him. And allow your pursuit to become the spark that ignites revival wherever God has placed you.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)** 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, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Revival begins when God's people seek His face above everything else.

"Revival is the Church falling in love with Jesus all over again." — **Vance Havner**

**Action for Today:** Ask God to revive your pursuit of Him. Commit yourself afresh to seeking His face daily.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What area of your life is God calling into deeper pursuit and greater surrender?

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**Prayer:** Lord, revive my heart. Awaken fresh passion, hunger, and desire for Your presence. Let my pursuit of You become stronger than ever before. Use my life to carry Your presence and help ignite revival wherever You have placed me. Amen.

2. If God were to bring personal revival to your life today, what areas would He most likely transform first?

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