#revive
COMMUNITY CHURCH

from Glory to Glory

21 Day
Fast

Daily Devotionals

Why Fast?

In Scripture, fasting is a way of setting aside food in order to seek God. It is not a hunger strike to bargain with Him, and it is not a diet for physical results. We do not fast to force God's attention toward us. We fast so that our attention can turn toward Him, with less noise and more hunger for His presence.

Jesus fasted, and He assumed His disciples would fast as well (Matthew 6:16–18; 9:15). He was more concerned with the heart behind it than with the appearance of it. Anna worshiped with fasting (Luke 2:37). The church in Antioch fasted as they waited on the Lord (Acts 13:2). God asked His people whether their fasting was truly for Him (Zechariah 7:5). Isaiah and the psalms remind us that fasting is a way of humbling ourselves before God, not a way of impressing Him (Psalm 35:13; Isaiah 58).

Daily Bible Reading and Devotional:

This year we fast with a particular aim. We want to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, so that the Spirit can form His life in us and then release that life through us. Fasting does not earn that work. It simply makes room for it. As we put aside the pursuit of comfort, we ask the Spirit to lift what has clouded our sight and to draw us near.

Our fast journey will be anchored by the theme **FROM GLORY TO GLORY.** Each day has a Scripture reading and a written word. A video will accompany the journey. Together they move through three weeks:

Days 1-7: Beholding His Glory

Days 8-14: Reflecting His Glory

Days 15-21: Releasing His Glory

Prayer Challenge:

Prayer is not an extra. It is how this fast becomes more than information. Set time aside each day to sit with the Scripture, to listen, and to respond. Come ready to be corrected, encouraged, and changed.

Do not let what you eat or refuse to eat become the center. The center is Jesus. This is a time to seek Him, to worship Him, and to give Him our attention.

Fast Guidelines

Our basis for the fast is the example of the prophet Daniel (Daniel 1:12 and Daniel 10:2-3) Take simple meals with vegetables, fruits and cereals, that is, to eat without the pursuit of pleasure and refinement, for a time of delight only in the presence of God. When you go shopping for groceries remember to read the labels of packaged foods to make sure they contain only ingredients that are suitable for this time of fasting. You should note especially if they have chemical ingredients, dairy products and sweeteners.

Recommended Foods:

Fruits and vegetables: Fresh, frozen, dehydrated or canned fruits; avocado, açaí, pineapple, plum, banana, grapes, cherry, orange, apple etc. Artichoke, lettuce, chives, green sprouts, cauliflower, spinach, pumpkin, zucchini, eggplant, cucumber, etc.
Cereals, seeds and grain: Brown rice, quinoa, beans, flaked oats, granola, corn, cereal bars (without chocolate), nuts, etc.
Tubers, roots: Potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, etc.
Sugars and sweets: Honey and agave nectar (it is not advisable to use refined sugar because of the toxins, causing strong headaches making it difficult to stay in the fast).
Legumes and similar products: Peas, chickpeas, lentils, soybeans, etc.
Roots and bulbs: Garlic, asparagus, beet, onion, carrot, fennel, turnip, radish, olives, etc.

Drinks: Coconut water, fruit juice, smoothies with coconut milk or almond milk, plenty of water flat or sparkling.
Infusions: All types of tea, give preference to caffeine-free options.

Foods That Should Be Avoided
Meats and animal byproducts**:** All products of animal origin, like: meat (red, fish, pork and chicken), eggs, hams, salami, sausages, etc.
Processed foods: Fried foods, cookies, sweets, pastas, cakes, candies, ice cream, chocolates, refined sugar, foods containing preservatives or additives, butter, margarine and high fat products, etc.
Beverages: Coffee, alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, energy drinks, and milk.

Additional Reference:
http://daniel-fast.com/
https://ultimatedanielfast.com
BOOK: The Daniel Plan by Rick Warren

Additional Recommendations:
- ***If you have any health problems, or take any medications, seek guidance from your doctors.***
- During the twenty-one days try to avoid restaurants, snack bars, sandwiches and snacks on the road.
- It is common to experience a physical detox during the first days of fasting, including headaches, fatigue, leg cramps and other typical symptoms.
- Drink plenty of water, at least two liters a day.
- Try to avoid TV during the 21-day fast as well as the internet for fun and distraction, movie theaters, and shows.
- Begin your day with prayer to the Lord (If possible, with the whole family)
- Do not end your day before you have a moment of worship and prayer to the Lord (if possible, with the whole family)
- Do not let what you do or don't eat, become the focus of your Fast. Focus on what is essential: to deepen your relationship with God. This is a time to forsake bad habits and standards, crucify the flesh and seek God.
- Do not walk with a dejected countenance, do not tell everyone that you are fasting as if it represented a time of suffering. Do it with pleasure! Only God needs to know.

Days 1-7:

Beholding His Glory

There is a kind of seeing that changes everything.

Not the hurried glance of a busy day, nor the distracted look that registers faces without really noticing them. This is the steady, unveiled gaze that Scripture calls “beholding.” In 2 Corinthians 3:18 Paul writes that as we contemplate the Lord’s glory with unveiled faces, we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Transformation does not begin with trying harder. It begins with looking—at a Person.

Before we go further, we need a clear understanding of what we mean by glory. God’s glory is the visible expression of who He is. Wherever His character, presence, goodness, holiness, love, authority, and power are revealed, His glory is being displayed. It is not limited to emotional moments in worship, dramatic manifestations, or the hope of heaven one day. It is the radiant reality of God’s own nature made known, most fully and clearly in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:14).

This first week is about that kind of seeing. It is relational before it is informational or missional. We are not primarily gathering concepts about God. We are learning to behold a Person. In the middle of life’s noise—traffic, deadlines, family needs, the constant pull of screens—we intentionally slow down. Through fasting and prayer we create space so that the veils of distraction, self-reliance, unresolved sin, disappointment, and familiar spiritual routines can begin to lift. We open Scripture not merely to collect truth but to meet the living Christ. We linger in worship. We practice stillness. We ask the Holy Spirit to show us Jesus as He truly is.

Why does this matter so deeply? Because we become what we behold. Without this clear sight of Christ, we remain limited to our own strength. We may serve, pray, and strive, yet the deep change that makes us reflect Him never takes root. The greater works Jesus promised in John 14:12 flow from lives that have first seen Him. Moses understood this when he cried out, “Now show me your glory” (Exodus 33:18). The Lord responded by placing him in the cleft of the rock and proclaiming His own name as He passed by. That encounter marked Moses forever. His face shone. His priorities shifted. His courage rose. The same invitation stands before us.

What hinders this beholding? Paul speaks of a veil that covers the heart (2 Corinthians 3:14–15). For some the veil is the sheer volume of distraction that fragments our attention. For others it is self-reliance—the quiet assumption that we already know enough or that real change is beyond us. Still others carry the weight of sin, disappointment, or a subtle hardness that has settled after years of going through the motions. Busyness can become a shield. Familiarity with spiritual things can dull wonder. Unbelief whispers that God will not really meet us if we slow down long enough to look.

Yet the good news is that the veil is not permanent. “Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” (2 Corinthians 3:16). Fasting is one of the ways we turn. By setting aside the comfort of food and the usual rhythms of our days, we favor the spirit over the soul and give the Holy Spirit room to work. The change we need is not manufactured by effort; it is imparted by the Spirit as we keep our eyes on Jesus.

These seven days form the necessary foundation for everything that follows. We cannot reflect what we have not first beheld, and we cannot release what has not first reshaped us. So we begin here—faces unveiled, eyes fixed on the glory of the Lord in the face of Jesus Christ—trusting that the Spirit who reveals Him will also begin the quiet, powerful work of making us more like Him.

Come ready to see. Come ready to be changed. The ancient longing still speaks: “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord” (Psalm 27:4). Let this week be a fresh answer to that desire.

- **Day 1 (11/02):** The Invitation to Behold

- **Day 2 (11/03):** Removing the Veil
- **Day 3 (11/04):** Seeing Jesus Clearly
- **Day 4 (11/05):** The Awe of Jesus
- **Day 5 (11/06):** Learning to Abide in Him
- **Day 6 (11/07):** The Spirit Who Shows Us Jesus
- **Day 7 (11/08):** Gazing with Expectation

NOTES

Day 1 (11/02): The Invitation to Behold

Daily Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:16–18, Psalm 27:4, John 1:35–39, Exodus 33:12–14, 18

Daily Word: The Christian life does not begin with a demand. It begins with an invitation. Before God asks us to change, serve, or produce greater works, He first says, “Come near.” He invites us to look. In 2 Corinthians 3, Paul describes people who turn to the Lord and find the veil removed. With unveiled faces they behold the Lord’s glory. Something happens in that looking. Transformation begins—not by human strain, but by the Spirit of the Lord. This is the starting place of our twenty-one days. Not effort. Not performance. An invitation. Notice how consistently Scripture frames the life of faith as a response to God’s initiative. When the first disciples heard John say, “Look, the Lamb of God,” they began to follow Jesus. He turned and asked, “What do you want?” Their reply was essentially, “We want to be with You.” Jesus answered, “Come, and you will see.” They spent the day with Him. The seeing happened in the spending of time. Moses understood this longing. After all the miracles and the law, his deepest request was still, “Now show me your glory.” He wanted more than God’s acts. He wanted God Himself. The Lord responded with presence. Moses’ face later shone because of what he had seen. The same invitation stands open today. In the middle of ordinary life — commutes, work pressures, family needs, and constant noise — God still says, “Come near.” He is not waiting for us to get everything in order first. He invites us while the veils are still present and our hearts may feel dull. The turning itself begins to clear the view. This week is not primarily about doing. It is about accepting the invitation to look at Jesus. God’s glory is the visible expression of who He is—His character, presence, goodness, holiness, love, and power made known. That glory is most clearly seen in the face of Christ. We become what we behold. What we pursue shapes us. So the most important question for today is not “What should I accomplish?” but “Will I come near enough to see?” The Spirit is ready to help. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom—the freedom to turn, to look, and to keep looking. Today we simply say yes to the invitation. Come near. Come and see.

Daily Questions:

- As you read the Scriptures above, what stands out to you about the way God invites people to come near and see Him?

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- In what ways have you sensed God inviting you closer recently—even if the invitation has felt quiet or easy to overlook?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “What do You want me to notice about Jesus today?” Write down whatever comes to mind.

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Guided Prayer: Father, thank You that You invite us near before You ask anything of us. I turn to You now. Lift any veil over my heart—distraction, hurry, pride, or dullness. I do not want to stay at a distance. Jesus, I accept Your invitation. I want to be with You. Show me Your glory. Let the sight of You begin to shape me. Holy Spirit, open my eyes and help me behold Jesus today with an unveiled face.I come near. Amen.

Day 2 (11/03): Removing the Veil

Daily Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:14–18, Hebrews 12:1–2, Psalm 119:1-18

Daily Word: Have you ever finished reading a chapter of Scripture only to realize you barely remember what you just read? Have you sat down to pray and spent the next ten minutes thinking about emails, errands, or yesterday's conversation? Have you ever returned to a passage that once moved your heart, only to find it strangely distant? Most of us know these moments. Paul would say there is a veil. A veil does not mean Christ has withdrawn. It means something is obscuring the view. If you have ever tried to admire a mountain through a fogged-up windshield, you know the mountain has not disappeared. Your view has simply become cloudy. Cleaning the glass does not create the mountain—it reveals what was already there. In the same way, the Spirit does not invent Christ's glory for us. He removes what has been keeping us from seeing Him clearly. The veils have different shapes. Distraction scatters our attention so that nothing stays in focus long enough to be seen. Hurry keeps us from lingering; we move too quickly to notice. Pride quietly convinces us we already see clearly enough. Sin clouds fellowship and dulls spiritual desire. Disappointment makes us afraid to hope again. Familiarity causes us to stop marveling. Unbelief whispers that seeking Him is not worth the effort. Notice the freedom in Paul's words: "Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." He does not tell us to remove the veil before coming to Christ. He tells us to turn to Christ. The veil comes off because of where we turn, not because of how strong we are. We turn, and the Spirit does the lifting. This is why fasting matters. Fasting does not earn clearer vision. It simply quiets competing voices. As we willingly set aside legitimate comforts, we make room to recognize the One who has been speaking all along. The goal today is not to become fascinated with your veil. It is to become captivated by Jesus. The veil matters only because it keeps you from seeing the One your soul was made to behold. What hides your view hinders your transformation. So we turn. And as we turn, the Spirit begins to clear the glass.

Daily Questions:

- What do you think has most affected your ability to see Jesus clearly lately?

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- Looking at the list—distraction, hurry, pride, sin, disappointment, familiarity, unbelief—which one feels most present in your life right now?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "What is covering my view of Jesus?" Write down whatever He brings to mind.

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Guided Prayer: Father, thank You that the veil is not permanent. Whenever we turn to You, it is taken away. I turn to You now. Give me courage to be honest about what You reveal. I bring the things that have covered my heart. I do not want them to keep me from seeing Jesus. Holy Spirit, lift what has grown dull or cloudy. Open my eyes. Jesus, I want to see You more clearly. Help me turn and keep turning. Amen.

Day 3 (11/04): Seeing Jesus Clearly

Daily Scriptures: John 1:14–18, Hebrews 1:1–3, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Colossians 1:15-23

Daily Word: Many of us quietly carry mental pictures of God that are incomplete or distorted. Some imagine Him distant and hard to reach. Others see Him as easily disappointed. Still others picture Him as impossible to please. These images shape how we pray, how we repent, and how we live. Then we meet Jesus. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory—the glory of the one and only Son, full of grace and truth. Hebrews tells us He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Jesus is not merely a messenger about God. He is the visible expression of who God is. If you have ever wondered what the Father's heart is like, watch Jesus; Watch Him welcome the children others pushed aside; Watch Him touch the leper everyone else avoided; Watch Him forgive the woman caught in the act of sin; Watch Him weep at Lazarus' tomb; Watch Him stretch out His hands on the cross. In every moment you are seeing the heart of God. The abstract becomes personal. The distant becomes near. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son has made Him known. The more clearly we see Him, the more accurately we understand everything else. We become what we behold. Today the invitation is simple. Look at Jesus—not first at what He can do for you, and not first at what He requires of you. Look at who He is. Let the weight of that reality settle: the God who made the universe has made Himself known in the face of His Son. Jesus is the perfect revelation of God's glory. Fix your eyes there.

Daily Questions:

- As you read the Scriptures, what stands out to you about who Jesus is?

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- After reading Colossians 1:15-23, what changes in your heart when you consider that looking at Jesus is looking at the very glory of God?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "What do You want me to see of Jesus today?" Write down whatever comes to mind.

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Guided Prayer: Father, thank You that You have not left us guessing about who You are. You have made Yourself known in Your Son. Jesus, You are the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. I turn my eyes toward You. Correct every false picture of You that I have carried. I want to see You clearly; not just as Savior or Teacher, but as the full expression of the Father's heart. Holy Spirit, open my eyes. Let the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ shine in my heart today. Amen.

Day 4 (11/05): The Awe of Jesus

Daily Scriptures: Exodus 34:5–8, Matthew 11:28–30, Psalm 27:4, Isaiah 33:17

Daily Word: David could have asked for many things. Victory. Protection. Provision. Instead he asked for one: to gaze on the beauty of the Lord. Somewhere along the way he discovered that seeing God was more satisfying than receiving from God. That seeing produced awe. The same invitation is offered to us. When the Lord passed in front of Moses, He proclaimed His name: compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Moses bowed to the ground and worshiped. Centuries later Jesus said of Himself, “I am gentle and humble in heart.” The same heart that spoke galaxies into being is the heart that welcomes the weary and carries the burdened. See Him kneeling beside children while others push them away; Watch Him stop for blind Bartimaeus when the crowd keeps walking; Listen as He restores Peter instead of shaming him; Watch Him welcome the woman everyone else wanted to stone; Stand beneath the cross and hear Him pray, “Father, forgive them"; This is the One we are invited to behold. Holiness that never compromises, yet still draws near; Truth that refuses to flatter, yet mercy that refuses to condemn the repentant; Authority that calms storms, yet gentleness that lifts the lowly. All of it held together in perfect beauty, and it leaves us in awe. Awe changes us differently than information ever can. We can study someone we respect. But when we truly stand in wonder before someone, love begins to grow almost unnoticed. We become what we behold. We start to want not only what He can do, but who He is. Today the invitation is simple. Slow down. Gaze. Let the eyes of your heart rest on Jesus until wonder rises. The more clearly we see Him, the more accurately we understand the God we are called to love. His beauty awakens holy awe because we become what we love.

Daily Questions:

- Where did you sense the awe of Jesus most clearly in today’s Scriptures?

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- In what ways have you tended to focus more on Jesus’ power or gifts than on the wonder of who He is?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “What do You want me to notice about Jesus that would awaken awe in me today?” Write down whatever comes to mind.

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Guided Prayer: Father, thank You for revealing Your heart in Your Son. Jesus, You are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. You are gentle and humble in heart. I want to gaze on You until wonder rises. Let my admiration become awe. Awaken in me a deeper desire for who You are, not only for what You can do. Holy Spirit, open the eyes of my heart. Let me see the King in His beauty and stand in awe today. Amen.

Day 5 (11/06): Learning to Abide

Daily Scriptures: John 15:1–11, Psalm 63:1–8

Daily Word: One encounter is not enough. We can have a moment of clarity, a day of fresh hunger, even a season of real openness, and still drift. The invitation of Day 1 and the clearing of Day 2 are meant to lead somewhere deeper: remaining. Jesus does not simply call us to visit. He calls us to abide. Notice the comfort in His words: He doesn't simply ask us to remain in Him. He reminds us that He has already chosen to remain with us. "Remain in me, as I also remain in you." The life is already flowing. The branch never wakes up wondering whether it has enough life for the day. It simply remains connected to the vine, and life continues to flow. Apart from Him we can do nothing, not because He is distant, but because life itself flows from the Vine. Abiding is not another discipline to master. It is the natural response of a heart that has begun to delight in Him. After the invitation, after the turning, after the clearer sight of who He is, remaining starts to feel less like duty and more like home. We stay because we have seen something worth staying for. In the middle of ordinary days, answering emails, driving children, working, cleaning, sitting in traffic, abiding can feel almost impossible. Yet abiding does not require escaping ordinary life. It means carrying Christ's presence into ordinary life. The branch does not reconnect to the vine every few minutes. It simply never leaves it. Jesus never describes abiding as burdensome. He describes it as joyful. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." The branch doesn't remain because it has to. It remains because life, nourishment, and fruit are found nowhere else. His invitation isn't, "Stay with Me so I can control you." It's, "Stay with Me so My joy can become yours." This week has been about clearing space and fixing our eyes. Today the space becomes a place to stay. Not a brief visit. Not a single encounter. Remaining—so that the joy He has becomes our joy, and the love the Father has for Him becomes the atmosphere in which we live. We become what we continually behold. Stay with Him.

Daily Questions:

- As you read John 15, what do you notice about the way Jesus describes remaining in Him?

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- Where in your daily life do you most easily drift from that connection?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "Where are You inviting me to stay with Jesus today?" Write down what comes.

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Guided Prayer: Jesus, You remain in me. Teach me to remain in You. I do not want only moments of clarity. I want to stay. Teach me that Your presence is not a place I visit but the home where my soul belongs. Quiet the noise that pulls me away. Let Your words remain in me, and let Your joy become mine. Holy Spirit, keep me connected to the Vine. I yield the effort of trying to produce life on my own. I simply stay. Amen.

Day 6 (11/07): The Spirit Who Shows Us Jesus

Daily Scriptures: John 16:13–15, 2 Corinthians 3:17–18, John 14:26, Romans 8:26–27

Daily Word: We do not behold Christ by human effort alone. If the first five days have shown us anything, it is how easily our vision becomes clouded and how quickly our attention drifts. Left to ourselves we grow distracted, hurried, or simply tired. The good news of this week is that we are not left to ourselves. The Holy Spirit never competes with Jesus for our attention. His joy is to direct our eyes toward Christ. Like a trusted guide standing beside a masterpiece, He does not ask us to admire Him. He quietly says, “Look at Him.” Every prompting, every conviction, every moment when Scripture suddenly feels alive has one purpose: to make Jesus more clearly known and more deeply loved. The same Spirit who removes the veil is the One who keeps revealing Jesus to us. Every time your heart is moved by the words of Christ, every time a familiar passage becomes fresh, every time Jesus becomes more precious than He seemed the day before, you are witnessing His quiet ministry. He takes what belongs to Jesus and makes it real to us. He reminds us of what Jesus has said when our memory fails. He helps us in our weakness. Even when we cannot find the right words, the Spirit has not stopped praying. Our weakness is not an obstacle to His work. It is often where His help becomes most evident. We have spent these days learning to come, to turn, to look, to marvel, and to remain. None of that has happened by sheer willpower. The Spirit has been the One making true seeing possible. He has been inviting, clearing, revealing, awakening delight, and helping us stay. Today we simply become more aware of the One who has been with us all along. The Spirit opens our eyes to Christ. Depend on Him.

Daily Questions:

- As you read the Scriptures, what stands out to you about the way the Holy Spirit works?

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- Where do you most need the Spirit’s help right now to keep your eyes on Jesus?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “How are You wanting to show me Jesus today?” Write down whatever comes to mind.

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Guided Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You that I am not left to see Jesus by my own strength. You glorify Him. You take what belongs to Him and make it known to me. Open my eyes again today. Illuminate the Scriptures. Remind me of His words. Help me in my weakness. I depend on You. Keep showing me Christ, and keep transforming me as I look at Him. Amen.

Day 7 (11/08): Gazing with Expectation

Daily Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1–8, Revelation 1:12–18, 2 Corinthians 3:18

Daily Word: No one truly sees the Lord and remains the same. Isaiah walked into the temple as a man of unclean lips. He left with his guilt taken away and a new readiness to be sent. John turned to see the risen Christ and fell at His feet as though dead. Then he heard the words, “Do not be afraid.” Peter came down from the mountain different from the way he went up. Paul met the risen Jesus on the road and never walked the same path again. We have spent these seven days learning to come near, to turn, to look, to marvel at His splendor, to remain, and to depend on the Spirit who shows us Jesus. The purpose of all of this has never been information alone. The purpose has been transformation. “We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.” Seeing Jesus is never a dead end; It is a beginning. Transformation is often quieter than we expect. Rarely do we notice it all at once. More often the Spirit changes us the way dawn fills the sky, steadily, faithfully, almost unnoticed until the landscape looks different. The same Spirit who invited you to behold Christ this week has already begun that work in you. You may not feel dramatically different. That does not mean nothing is happening. Paul never promised instant maturity. He promised continual transformation by the Spirit as we keep our eyes on Jesus. Today we stand at a threshold. Week 1 has been about clearing the view and fixing our gaze on Christ. Week 2 will be about the Spirit forming His life in us. We do not move forward by striving harder. We move forward by staying before the One who has already begun to change us. Those who behold His glory begin to reflect it. Gaze with expectation.

Daily Questions:

- As you read the accounts of Isaiah and John, what stands out to you about what happens when people truly see the Lord?

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- Looking back over these seven days, where have you noticed even a small shift in how you see Jesus?

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- What would it look like to carry a quiet expectation into the coming days that the Spirit is still at work in you?

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Guided Prayer: Lord Jesus, I have tried to come near, to turn, to look, and to remain. Thank You for every glimpse of Your glory this week. I do not want to leave the same. Continue the work You have begun. Transform me as I keep my eyes on You. Holy Spirit, I depend on You. Lead me from this place of seeing into the deeper work of becoming like Him. I gaze with expectation. Amen.

Days 8-14:

Reflecting His Glory

In the first week we learned to come near, to turn, to look, to marvel at His splendor, to remain, and to depend on the Spirit who shows us Christ. We discovered that no one truly sees the Lord and remains the same. Seeing Jesus is never a dead end. It is a beginning. The invitation of Week 1 was not meant to leave us standing at a distance with a clearer picture of God. It was meant to draw us into a life that starts to look more like His.

Now the journey continues. The same Spirit who opened our eyes begins the deeper work of forming the life of Christ in us. Paul writes that as we contemplate the Lord's glory with unveiled faces, we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). Notice the order of his thought. Paul does not say we behold Christ so that we can try harder to copy Him. He says we behold Him, and we are transformed. The change is not first a project of the will, it is the fruit of communion. The Greek idea behind "being transformed" is not a sudden costume change. It is an ongoing work, a present and continuing action of God. As we keep looking, the Spirit keeps changing us. That is how close relationships tend to work; over time, friends begin to share speech, values, and instincts without sitting down to plan it. In the same way, life with Christ slowly reshapes the inner life until His heart becomes more visible in ours. This is what it means to reflect His glory. It is not self-improvement dressed in spiritual language. It is the restoration of the image of Christ in ordinary people who live ordinary days in ordinary places, with real families, real work, and real pressures.

The compassion we saw in Jesus begins to soften our own responses. The humility we admired in Him loosens our grip on pride. The patience, the truthfulness, the mercy, and the holiness we encountered in the Son start to take root in us by the Spirit's work. Paul wrote to the Galatians with the longing of a spiritual father: "My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you" (Galatians 4:19). That verse becomes a quiet banner over this week. Week 1 was about beholding Christ's glory. Week 2 is about Christ being formed in us. The two belong together. We do not move from wonder into duty. We move from seeing Jesus into becoming more like the One we have seen.

Transformation is often quieter than we expect. It rarely arrives all at once. More often it grows the way daylight fills the sky as the sun slowly rises, steadily and faithfully, almost unnoticed until life looks different. At times the Spirit's work also involves pruning. In John 15 Jesus says that the Father, as Gardener, cuts away what does not bear fruit so that what remains can become more fruitful. That process can feel costly. It may expose habits we have protected, attitudes we have excused, or patterns that no longer look like Jesus. Yet the pruning is never harmful. It is the careful love of the One who is committed to making us like His Son.

This week we stay before the Lord. We yield the places that still resist. We allow the Spirit to do the deeper work of forming Christ's life in us. The goal is not that we become impressive. The goal is that Jesus becomes increasingly recognizable in us, in our homes, our conversations, our work, and our hidden thoughts. We have beheld Him, it is now time to ask the Spirit to make us more like Him.

- **Day 8 (11/09):** From Beholding to Becoming
- **Day 9 (11/10):** The Spirit Who Transforms
- **Day 10 (11/11):** Softening the Heart
- **Day 11 (11/12):** Walking in Humility
- **Day 12 (11/13):** Full of Grace and Truth
- **Day 13 (11/14):** Enduring with Patience
- **Day 14 (11/15):** Christ Formed in You

NOTES

Day 8 (11/09): From Beholding to Becoming

Daily Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:16–18, Romans 8:28–29, 1 John 3:1–3

Daily Word: Paul does not treat beholding as a private experience that stays on the mountain. Those who contemplate the Lord's glory with unveiled faces are being transformed into His image. The looking and the becoming belong together. We do not study Jesus from a distance and then try to reproduce Him by effort. We stay before Him, and the Spirit slowly makes us more like the One we see. Before God begins changing us, He names us. John reminds us that we are already His children. We do not become sons and daughters because we resemble Jesus perfectly; we become sons and daughters through adoption, and claiming that identity is a necessary first step. Identity comes before likeness. Grace comes before growth. That is the Father's purpose as well. Romans 8 says God is conforming us to the image of His Son. The destination of the Christian life is not merely forgiven status, it is family resemblance. John adds the same hope from another angle: when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Seeing and becoming keep meeting in Scripture. You may not feel dramatically different after seven days of seeking God. That does not mean the Spirit has been inactive. Seeds grow long before fruit appears, and roots deepen long before branches are visible. God's deepest work is often the quietest. The compassion you admired in Jesus becomes the compassion the Spirit begins to cultivate in you. The humility you saw in Him begins to loosen pride. The holiness that once felt distant starts to matter in hidden places. One of the greatest encouragements of the Christian life is that God is never surprised by how unfinished we are. He sees every place that still needs to change, yet He does not grow impatient or abandon His work. The Father who called us His children has also committed Himself to making us look like His Son. Our confidence is not in how quickly we change, but in the faithfulness of the One who is changing us.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what connection do you see between seeing Christ and being changed?

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- Where have you noticed even a small shift in your heart since Week 1 began?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "What in me are You beginning to make more like Jesus?" Write down what comes.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that seeing You is never the end of the story. Thank You that You are more committed to making me like Christ than I am. I want more than a clearer picture of You. I want to become more like You. I yield the places that still resist. Transform me as I keep looking. Holy Spirit, do the quiet work I cannot do myself. Form the life of Christ in me. Amen.

Day 9 (11/10): The Spirit Who Transforms

Daily Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:17–18, Ezekiel 36:25–27, Philippians 2:12–13, Galatians 5:22–25

Daily Word: Yesterday left us with a question. If looking at Jesus leads to becoming like Him, who actually does that work? Paul's answer is clear. The transformation comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. We stay before Christ, and the Spirit changes us. That is not a new idea. Long before Pentecost, God promised through Ezekiel that He would give a new heart and put His Spirit within His people. He would not merely command a different life from the outside. He would move us from the inside. Philippians says the same thing in another way: we work out what God is already working in. Even the desire to change is a gift before it is a duty. This matters because Week 2 can quietly turn into pressure. We see the beauty of Jesus and immediately feel the gap. We start managing ourselves, and try to produce love, humility, and patience by effort. But fruit does not appear because a branch strains; fruit appears because life is flowing. The Spirit does not ask us to manufacture the character of Christ, he forms it as we keep in step with Him. Notice where Paul locates the work. It happens while we contemplate the Lord's glory. The Spirit is not a separate project from beholding Jesus. He is the One who makes beholding fruitful. He takes what we have seen in Christ and begins to write it into our instincts, our reactions, our hidden thoughts and feelings. You already belong to the Father, so the Spirit is not trying to make you acceptable, He is simply making the family resemblance more visible. Our part is not to force the change. Our part is to stay yielded, to keep looking, and to walk with the One who is already at work. The Spirit is the one who transforms us. Depend on Him.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do they show you about the Spirit's part in change?

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- Where have you been trying to produce the life of Christ by your own effort?

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- What would it look like today to keep in step with the Spirit rather than manage yourself?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "Where are You already at work in me?" Write down what comes to your mind.

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Guided prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You that I am not left to change myself. You give a new heart. You work in me to will and to act. You form the life of Jesus where I cannot. I yield the places I have been forcing. Keep me looking at Christ, and keep transforming me as I look. I depend on You. Amen.

Day 10 (11/11): Softening the Heart

Daily Reading: Matthew 9:35–36, Luke 15:20–24, Ephesians 4:31–32, Colossians 3:12–13

Daily Word: The heart of Jesus is not hard to find in the Gospels. Again and again we are told that He was moved with compassion. He saw crowds and did not pull away. He saw the sick and moved toward them. He told a story in which the father ran while the son was still a long way off. That is the heart we have been beholding. Week 2 is not asking us to invent a softer personality. It is asking us to stay before that heart long enough for the Spirit to treat our own. Some of us have learned to survive by staying guarded. Some of us carry bitterness that has quietly become normal. Some of us are kind in public and sharp in private. The Spirit does not expose those places to shame us. He exposes them because He is committed to family resemblance. Notice the order in Colossians, before Paul tells us to put on compassion, he reminds us who we are: chosen, holy, dearly loved. Identity comes first. We do not become tender so that the Father will finally accept us. We are already loved, and from that place the Spirit begins to clothe us with the mercy we have received. This is heart treatment, not self-improvement. The same Spirit who opened our eyes to Jesus now works in the hidden reactions: the quick judgment, the closed-off reply, the refusal to forgive. He takes the compassion we admired in Christ and begins to cultivate it in us. That work can feel costly. A hard heart often feels safer. But a heart made like His becomes able to see people as He sees them. Keep looking at the One who ran toward the lost and stood over the crowds with mercy. As you look, yield the places that have grown hard. The Spirit knows how to soften what we cannot.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the heart of Jesus?

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- Where has your own heart grown guarded, sharp, or slow to forgive?

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- What would it look like today to let the Spirit treat that place rather than manage it yourself?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where do You want to soften my heart?” Write down what comes to your heart.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for a heart that moves toward the weary and runs toward the lost. I have received mercy I did not earn. Now I yield the places in me that have grown hard. Forgive me for the bitterness I have protected. Holy Spirit, treat my heart. Cultivate in me the compassion I have seen in Christ. Amen.

Day 11 (11/12): Walking in Humility

Daily Reading: Philippians 2:1–11, John 13:3–5, 12–15, Matthew 11:29

Daily Word: Paul does not first say, “Try to think less of yourselves.” He says, “Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” Then he shows us the descent of the Son: from glory, into servant form, all the way to the cross. John gives the same story in a room with a basin. Jesus knew the Father had given Him all things. Then He knelt and washed feet. His humility was not insecurity. It was security poured out in love. That is the heart we have been beholding. Week 2 is not a call to self-erasure, it is the Spirit forming in us the lowliness we have seen in Christ. Pride has many disguises. It can look like the need to be right, the fear of being overlooked, the quiet ranking of people, the refusal to serve unless we are noticed. The Spirit does not expose those places to crush us, He exposes them because the Father is committed to family resemblance. Notice where humility is anchored; Jesus could stoop because He already knew who He was and whose He was. We do not become humble in order to become children. We are already loved. From that place the Spirit loosens our grip on self-promotion and teaches us to value others without losing ourselves. This work often happens in ordinary places: traffic, meetings, family conversations, the unnoticed tasks no one applauds. The question is not whether we can perform humility. The question is whether we will keep looking at the One who knelt, and let the Spirit make His mind our own. Walk in the humility of Jesus, and learn from His heart.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the humility of Jesus?

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- Where does pride still show itself in you: the need to be right, the fear of being unseen, or the reluctance to serve?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where do You want to form the humility of Jesus in me?” Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, You did not cling to status. You knelt. You served. You went all the way to the cross. Thank You that I already belong to the Father. I yield the need to prove myself. Form in me Your gentle and humble heart. Holy Spirit, loosen my grip on pride. Teach me to walk as He walked. Amen.

Day 12 (11/13): Full of Grace and Truth

Daily Reading: John 1:14–17, John 8:3–11, Ephesians 4:15

Daily Word: John does not say that Jesus balanced grace on one side and truth on the other, as if holiness and mercy were rivals that needed a truce. He says the Son came from the Father full of both. Grace and truth were not traits He switched between. They were the single glory the disciples saw when they looked at Him. We have been beholding that glory. In John 8 it becomes visible in a courtyard. The accusers wanted truth without mercy, a verdict they could use as a weapon. Jesus would not join them. He refused to condemn the woman, and He refused to leave her in the life that had destroyed her. “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.” That is grace that does not flatter, and truth that does not crush. Week 2 is not asking us to become nicer or more blunt. It is the Spirit forming in us the same fullness we have seen in Christ. Some of us lean toward truth and call it honesty, while our words leave people smaller. Some of us lean toward grace and call it kindness, while we withhold the truth that could heal. The Spirit does not expose those imbalances to shame us, He exposes them because the Father is committed to family resemblance. Notice the order again. We have received grace upon grace. We do not become truthful and merciful in order to become children. We are already loved. From that place the Spirit teaches us to speak the truth in love, to tell the truth without cruelty, and to offer mercy without pretending that sin is harmless. This work shows up in ordinary conversations: the hard word we have avoided, the sharp word we have justified, the silence that looked like peace and was only fear. The question is not whether we can manage the right tone. The question is whether we will keep looking at the One who was full of grace and truth, and let the Spirit make His way our own.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, where do you see grace and truth held together in Jesus?

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- Which way do you more naturally lean: truth without tenderness, or grace without honesty?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where do You want to form the fullness of Jesus in my words?” Write down what comes.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, You are full of grace and truth. You did not condemn, and You did not leave us unchanged. Thank You for mercy I did not earn. I yield the sharpness I have defended and the silence I have called kindness. Holy Spirit, form in me the fullness I have seen in Christ. Teach me to speak the truth in love. Amen.

Day 13 (11/14): Enduring with Patience

Daily Reading: James 5:7–11, Hebrews 12:1–3, 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, 2 Peter 3:9

Daily Word: Patience is not first a personality trait. It is the love of Jesus refusing to hurry. James points us to a farmer who cannot force the rain or the harvest. He waits because he trusts that life is at work in the soil. Hebrews points us to Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Paul says it even more simply: love is patient. Peter adds the gospel underneath it all. The Lord is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish. That is the heart we have been beholding. The Son did not rush past suffering, and the Father has not rushed past us. Week 2 is not asking us to become less human about delay, pain, or difficult people. It is the Spirit forming in us the long-suffering love we have seen in Christ. Impatience has many disguises. It can look like irritation in traffic, sharpness with family, despair when prayer seems unanswered, or the quiet demand that God and people move on our timetable. The Spirit does not expose those places to crush us, He exposes them because the Father is committed to family resemblance. Notice the order again. We endure because we have first been endured. We do not become patient in order to become children. We are already loved. From that place the Spirit teaches us to wait without hardening, to stay kind when we want to force an outcome, and to keep our eyes on Jesus when the race feels long. This work happens in ordinary pressures: a delayed answer, a slow change in someone we love, a process in us that is taking more time than we wanted. The question is not whether we can perform calm. The question is whether we will keep looking at the One who endured, and let the Spirit make His patience our own. Love does not hurry. Stay with Him.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the patience of God and the endurance of Jesus?

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- Where does impatience most often show itself in your life right now?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where do You want to form the patience of Jesus in me?” Write down what comes.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, You endured the cross for the joy set before You. You have been patient with me. I yield the places where I demand that God and people move on my timetable. Teach me to wait without growing hard. Holy Spirit, form in me the long-suffering love I have seen in Christ. Keep my eyes on Him. Amen.

Day 14 (11/15): Christ Formed in You

Daily Reading: Galatians 4:19, Colossians 1:27–29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 2:20

Daily Word: Paul does not end the work of transformation with a list of improved habits. He names the goal in the language of a father in labor: until Christ is formed in you. That has been the quiet banner over this week. We have not been collecting virtues. We have been asking the Spirit to make the life of Jesus recognizable in us. Look back over the path. We moved from beholding to becoming. We learned that the Spirit is the One who transforms us. We watched the heart of Jesus and asked for our own hearts to be treated. We saw Him kneel and asked for humility. We saw Him full of grace and truth and asked for that same fullness in our words. We saw His patience and asked for love that does not hurry. None of that was a project of self-improvement. It was communion doing what communion always does. The One we have kept looking at is the One now being formed in us. Colossians calls this the hope of glory: Christ in you. The glory we beheld in Week 1 is not meant to stay outside us as a beautiful vision. It is meant to take up residence within. 2 Corinthians 3:18 still holds. As we contemplate the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His image. The looking continues, and the becoming continues. You may still feel unfinished. That is not a failure of the week. God is not surprised by the work that remains. Identity still comes before likeness. You already belong to the Father. Christ already lives in you by faith. The Spirit is not trying to make you impressive. He is making Jesus recognizable in your home, your conversations, your work, and the hidden places no one else sees. Week 3 will turn us outward. What has been formed in us is meant to be released through us. For today, stay with the goal. Christ in you. Christ formed in you. That is enough to carry forward, and that is glorious.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what does it mean to you that the goal is Christ formed in you, not merely a better version of yourself?

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- Looking back over this week, where have you noticed even a small resemblance to Jesus beginning to grow?

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- What would it look like to enter the next days with confidence in the Spirit's work rather than pressure to finish yourself?

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Guided prayer: Father, thank You that I already belong to You. Lord Jesus, live in me. Be formed in me. I do not want a more impressive self. I want You recognizable in me. Holy Spirit, continue the quiet work of this week. Transform me as I keep looking, and prepare me for what You will release through me. Amen.

Days 15-21:

Releasing His Glory

What has been formed in us is meant to be released through us.

Week 1 taught us to behold Christ. Week 2 asked the Spirit to form His life in us. Now the gaze does not leave Jesus, but it turns outward. The glory we have seen and the life being shaped in us were never meant to end as a private experience. They were meant to move through ordinary people into ordinary places, so that others can encounter Him.

This is where the church's word for the year becomes clear. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12). He does not say that greater works belong to the most impressive, the most gifted, or the most finished. He ties them to faith in Him and to His going to the Father. That departure is not withdrawal from the work. In John's Gospel it is the doorway through which the Spirit comes, so that the life and ministry of Jesus can continue through His people. The next sentences make the hinge even clearer: "And I will do whatever you ask in my name" (John 14:13–14). Prayer is not only preparation for mission. Prayer is part of the mission. Greater works are not a demand to perform. They are Christ's life continuing through those who believe, ask, and depend on the Spirit.

We need to be careful with the word release. We do not possess God's glory and then dispense it. The glory remains His. We become vessels through whom His life, love, mercy, truth, and power become visible. Paul protects that mystery: "We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). The treasure is the glory of God in the face of Christ. The vessel is still fragile. Week 3 is not a call to become powerful enough for God to use. It is a call to let the life of Jesus overflow through the life we already have.

Jesus framed the sending the same way He framed the seeing. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). The question is not only where we are sent. It is how He was sent: compassionately, humbly, truthfully, patiently, sacrificially, dependent on the Father, and empowered by the Spirit. Week 3 is not a new identity. It is Week 2's character moving outward. Acts 1:8 still stands. We receive power to be witnesses, not celebrities.

You do not need a platform to make Jesus visible. You need availability. The Spirit can work through a conversation at the kitchen table, a prayer in a hospital room, a word spoken to a coworker, a meal shared with a neighbor, a child taught at home, or a person noticed on a city street. The greater works of Jesus are not reserved for stages. They happen wherever surrendered people make themselves available to the Spirit. John 7:37–39 gives the picture: whoever believes in Him will have rivers of living water flowing from within. Week 1 received the water. Week 2 let that life reshape us. Week 3 is the river moving outward.

We do not pursue greater works to prove how powerful we are. We pursue them because we have encountered Someone worth making known. The glory we have beheld becomes the character we have reflected, and that character becomes the way we minister. Compassion moves. Truth speaks. Mercy acts. Prayer intercedes.

Weakness becomes a vessel. The Spirit empowers. And Jesus becomes visible. We have come near. We have been changed. Now we're sent.

- **Day 15 (11/16):** From Formation to Overflow
- **Day 16 (11/17):** Sent as He Was Sent
- **Day 17 (11/18):** The Works of Jesus
- **Day 18 (11/19):** Compassion in Motion
- **Day 19 (11/20):** Words That Carry Life
- **Day 20 (11/21):** Treasure in Jars of Clay
- **Day 21 (11/22):** Called to Be His Witnesses

NOTES

Day 15 (11/16): From Formation to Overflow

Daily Reading: John 7:37–39, John 4:13–14, 2 Corinthians 4:6–7, Psalm 23:1-5

Daily Word: Jesus does not describe the Spirit as a private reservoir. He describes a river. “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me… rivers of living water will flow from within them.” There is a movement in His words: thirst, come, drink, believe, then overflow. The Jesus who invited us on Day 1 to come and see is now inviting us to come and drink. The same Christ we have been beholding is the source of the life we are now called to carry. John is careful to tell us what the river is. “By this he meant the Spirit.” Overflow is not vague influence or natural enthusiasm, it is Spirit-produced life. John also tells us when that life is given: after Jesus is glorified. In this Gospel, Jesus is glorified through His death, resurrection, and exaltation, and then the Spirit is poured out. Jesus is glorified, the Spirit is given, and the Spirit becomes the river flowing through those who believe. John 4 and John 7 belong together without being the same picture. John 4 emphasizes the source within us: the water Jesus gives becomes a spring welling up to eternal life. John 7 emphasizes the overflow from us: rivers flowing outward. The life of Christ is not only meant to satisfy us, it is meant to move beyond us. God does not merely fill an empty cup. He fills it until there is enough to spill over. We do not possess the glory and then release it on command. The treasure is His, but the vessel is still clay. The power is from God, not from us. Overflow is not a personality type. The Spirit can move through a quiet prayer, a listening ear, a meal, a word of truth, an act of mercy, or a conversation that names Jesus. You do not need a platform, you need availability. The goal this week is not to become impressive. The goal is that someone encounters Christ through you. What the Spirit has formed in you is not meant to remain contained. Let it overflow.

Daily Questions:

- As you read John 7, what do you notice about the movement from thirst and coming to rivers flowing outward?

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- Where might God be inviting you to move from simply receiving from Him to becoming a source of His love, mercy, truth, or presence to someone else?

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- Who around you might need the overflow of Christ through you this week, and what would it look like to make yourself available to the Spirit in that relationship?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where do You want the life of Jesus to flow through me today?” Write down what comes.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, I came thirsty, and You have given living water. I yield my need for a platform and my fear of being used. I do not need to be impressive. I simply want to be available. Let Your life move through this ordinary vessel. Holy Spirit, fill me again, and send that life toward someone who needs to encounter Jesus. Amen.

Day 16 (11/17): Sent as He Was Sent

Daily Reading: John 20:19–22, John 17:18, Luke 4:18–19, Matthew 9:36–38

Daily Word: Yesterday the river began to move. Today Jesus names the manner of that movement. “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” The first question is not where we are going. It is how He was sent. John has already prepared this moment. In John 17 Jesus prays, “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” The church does not invent its mission. We inherit it from Jesus. The Father sent the Son, and the Son sends us. We are not sent into a mission disconnected from His. We are sent to bear witness to Him and embody His kingdom in the world. His cross and resurrection remain uniquely His. Our part is to continue His manner among people. The order in John 20 matters. He comes to frightened disciples behind locked doors and speaks peace. He shows them His wounds. Then He sends them. Then He gives the Spirit. He does not send them out of anxiety, or to prove themselves, or in their own strength. We are sent from His peace, through His wounds, by His Spirit. Some of us think we have to become fearless before God can use us, but Jesus entered the room while the doors were still locked. Their courage did not create the mission. His presence created their courage. Luke 4 shows the mission of Jesus: good news to the poor, freedom, sight, and the favor of God. Matthew 9 shows the heart behind it: He saw the crowds and had compassion. That is how He was sent, and that is the life Week 2 has been forming in us now turned outward. You do not need a platform, you need availability. God is not looking for impressive vessels. He is looking for available ones. The mission field is not somewhere else. It is the person across the table, beside you at work, in the next room, on your street. As the Father sent Jesus, Jesus sends us. Receive His Spirit, and go as He went.

Daily Questions:

- What do you notice about the order in John 20: peace, presence, sending, and the Holy Spirit? What does that teach you about how Jesus sends His people?

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- Which part of the way Jesus was sent do you most need the Spirit to form in your going: compassion, humility, truth, patience, or dependence?

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- Where has God already placed you where you can make Jesus visible, at home, at work, in your neighborhood, in your church, or in your city?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “How are You sending me as Jesus was sent?” Write down what comes.

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Guided prayer: Father, thank You that You sent Jesus toward us. Jesus, thank You that You now send us with Your heart. Holy Spirit, fill me and empower me to go. I do not need to be fearless, impressive, or finished. I simply need to be available. Send me into the ordinary places where You have already placed me. As You were sent, send me. Amen.

Day 17 (11/18): The Works of Jesus

Daily Reading: John 14:12–14, John 5:19–20, Acts 1:1-8, John 17:1-3

Daily Word: Jesus does not attach greater works to the most gifted, the most finished, or the most impressive. He attaches them to those who believe in Him, and to His going to the Father. That departure is not withdrawal. In John's Gospel it is the doorway through which the Spirit comes, so that the life of Jesus can continue through His people. The next sentences make the connection plain: "I will do whatever you ask in my name." Prayer is not only preparation for the works. Prayer is part of the works. What are the works in this Gospel? They are not a short list of miracles. Jesus reveals the Father, heals, sets people free, speaks truth, shows mercy, calls disciples, and brings men and women into life with God. The signs matter, but they serve a larger purpose: that people come to know the Father through the Son. "Greater" does not mean more spectacular than the cross, and it does not mean we replace Jesus. It means His ministry now reaches farther, through many witnesses, by the Spirit, across cities and generations. Acts is the first comment on His promise. Power is given so that we will be witnesses, not celebrities. We do not pursue greater works to prove how powerful we are. We pursue them because we have encountered Someone worth making known. The glory we have beheld becomes the character we have reflected, and that character becomes the way we minister. Compassion moves, truth speaks, mercy acts, prayer intercedes, and Jesus becomes visible. You do not need a platform, you need availability. The works of Jesus still look like Jesus. Ask in His name. Depend on the Spirit. Let His life continue through you.

Daily Questions:

- As you read John 14, what do you notice about the connection between believing, going to the Father, prayer, and the works of Jesus?

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- What would it look like this week to join one work of Jesus in an ordinary place: revealing the Father, showing mercy, speaking truth, praying for someone, or bearing witness?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, "How do You want the works of Jesus to continue through me?" Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, You promised that those who believe in You would continue Your works because You have gone to the Father. I yield the desire to impress. I ask in Your name that the Father would be glorified. Holy Spirit, make me a witness, not a celebrity. Continue the life of Jesus through this ordinary vessel. Amen.

Day 18 (11/19): Compassion in Motion

Daily Reading: **Luke 10:33–37, Matthew 9:36, 1 John 3:16–18, James 2:15–17**

Daily Word: Day 10 asked the Spirit to treat the heart. Today that heart is meant to move. The compassion we beheld in Jesus was never only a feeling He carried inside Himself. When He saw the crowds, He was moved, and then He moved toward them. Love that stays only in words has not yet taken the shape of His life. The Samaritan in Luke 10 does what the priest and the Levite would not do. He sees, he comes near, he binds wounds, he pays a cost, and he stays involved. Jesus ends the story with a sending of His own: “Go and do likewise.” John and James press the same point. The love of God made visible in the cross now asks for hands, time, presence, and truth, not sentiment that leaves a person unchanged. This is overflow with a face. We do not perform compassion in order to become children. We have already been met by mercy. From that place the Spirit turns a softened heart toward the person in front of us. Sometimes that looks like a meal, a ride, a bill, a hospital visit, or an interruption we did not plan. Sometimes it looks like staying long enough to speak the name of Jesus to someone who has only known the church from a distance. Compassion in motion can open a door for the gospel because people often encounter the heart of Christ before they can hear His words. You do not need a platform, you need availability on the road you are already traveling. The wounded man was not in another country. He was lying in the path of people who had somewhere else to be. The works of Jesus still look like Jesus, and Jesus still stops. See, come near, and let mercy act.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the difference between feeling compassion and moving toward someone?

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- Where has God placed a person in your path whose need you have seen but not yet approached?

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- What would it look like this week for mercy to become action, and how might that action also make Jesus known?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Whom are You asking me to move toward?” Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, You saw the crowds and came near. You laid down Your life, and You still stop for the wounded. I have received mercy I did not earn. Now I yield the hurry that walks past people. Holy Spirit, move this treated heart toward someone who needs Your compassion, and through that mercy let them encounter You. Amen.

Day 19 (11/20): Words That Carry Life

Daily Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, Colossians 4:5–6, Ephesians 4:29, Acts 4:18–20

Daily Word: Day 12 asked the Spirit to form in us the fullness of Jesus, grace and truth held together. Today that fullness is meant to find a voice. Paul does not call us advertisers of a religious brand. He calls us ambassadors. God has reconciled us to Himself in Christ, and He now makes His appeal through ordinary mouths. The message is not first our story about improvement. It is the announcement that God in Christ is not counting sins against people, and that they may be reconciled to Him. Words that carry life are not only evangelistic presentations, and they are not only sermons. Sometimes the word someone needs is the gospel itself. Sometimes it is encouragement, gentle truth, comfort, or the reminder that they are seen and loved. Ephesians 4:29 is speech that builds the weary. 2 Corinthians 5 is speech that announces reconciliation. Those are not identical, but they belong together, and all of it should carry the character of Christ. Acts 4 shows the cost of that kind of speech. Peter and John have been threatened and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus, and they answer that they cannot help speaking about what they have seen and heard. This is not mere enthusiasm. It is Spirit-empowered witness under pressure. The Spirit who gives power in Acts 1:8 produces witnesses, and those witnesses proclaim. He does not merely give us something to say. He gives us courage to say it. We speak because we have first heard the good news of Christ ourselves. Some of us hide behind silence and call it humility. Some of us speak quickly and call it boldness, while our tone leaves no room for the person in front of us. Grace without truth withholds the hope people need. Truth without grace makes the hope sound like a weapon. Jesus was full of both, and the words that carry His life still need both. You do not need a platform, you need availability in the conversations you already have. Speak as one who has been reconciled, and let the appeal of God come through you.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the purpose of our words in the mission of Jesus?

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- Who is already in your life that needs either the good news of reconciliation or a life-giving word of encouragement, truth, or comfort?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “What word of life do You want to speak through me, and will You give me courage to say it?” Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: Lord Jesus, I have heard the good news myself. Now make Your appeal through me. I yield the silence I have called humility and the sharpness I have called boldness. Holy Spirit, season my words with grace and truth. Give me courage to speak of what I have seen and heard, so that someone may be built up and brought near to You. Amen.

Day 20 (11/21): Treasure in Jars of Clay

Daily Reading: **2 Corinthians 4:6–10, 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, 1 Corinthians 1:26–29**

Daily Word: Week 3 has been calling us outward, and today Paul tells us what kind of people God uses. We have this treasure in jars of clay. The treasure is the glory of God in the face of Christ. The vessel is still fragile, ordinary, and easy to crack. God designed it that way, so that the surpassing power would unmistakably belong to Him and not to us. Weakness is not merely something He tolerates. He places His treasure in clay so the greatness of Christ cannot be confused with the greatness of the jar. This is one of the kindest correctives in the fast. Days 17 through 19 can raise a quiet fear: Jesus wants to work through you, move through you, and speak through you. Day 20 answers that fear. You do not have to become strong enough, healed enough, confident enough, or finished enough first. Greater works do not begin with greater activity. They begin with greater dependence, because the power belongs to God, not the vessel. Greater power does not make the vessel impressive. It makes Christ visible. Paul keeps repeating the same message. Not many were wise, influential, or noble, yet God chose what the world calls weak, lowly, and unimpressive, so that no one may boast before Him. The treasure is extraordinary precisely because the vessel cannot take the credit. Being ordinary is not a disqualification. It is the kind of vessel God has always been pleased to use. Availability does not mean carelessness. We grow, we prepare, we mature, and we steward what God gives us, but we never wait until we feel impressive enough to obey. That does not mean we celebrate brokenness as if pain were holiness, and it does not confuse limitation with sin. It means we stop disqualifying ourselves from the mission of Jesus because we are still clay. Paul does not say the clay eventually becomes strong. He says we are hard pressed, but not crushed, and that we carry the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in the middle of pressure. You do not have to pretend to be stronger than you are. Offer God the vessel you actually have, rather than the one you wish you were, and let His grace meet you there. The point is not that people admire the jar. The point is that they encounter the treasure.

Daily Questions:

- As you read these passages, what do you notice about the relationship between the treasure and the clay?

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- Where are you experiencing pressure, limitation, or weakness right now, and what would it look like for the life of Jesus to become visible there, not after the weakness disappears, but in the middle of it?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “How do You want the life of Jesus to be revealed through this vessel?” Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: Father, the treasure is Yours, and I am still clay. I yield the demand that I must feel finished before I can be used. Lord Jesus, let Your life be revealed in this ordinary vessel. Holy Spirit, make Your power known in my weakness, so that someone encounters Christ and not my impressiveness. Amen.

Day 21 (11/22): Called to Be His Witnesses

Daily Reading: Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:18–20, John 20:19-22, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Daily Word: Our entire fast journey can be summarized in one line: behold Him, become like Him, make Him known. Today the fast does not end with a private feeling of completion. It ends with a sending. Jesus does not say, “You will receive power so that you can become impressive.” He says we will receive power to be His witnesses. He does not merely give us a task. He gives us an identity. Witness is not something we turn on when we enter a ministry setting. It is who we are because we belong to Him. That identity does not stop at the church door. We do not cease to be His witnesses because we are at work, at home, or on a city street. Matthew 28 keeps the sending from shrinking into a single conversation. Our witness is not merely about helping people hear about Jesus. It is about helping people become His disciples, baptized into His name and taught to walk in His ways. John 20 tells us what kind of witnesses we are: sent as He was sent, in compassion, humility, truth, grace, and dependence on the Father, toward ordinary and broken people, empowered by the Spirit. Acts 1:8 also gives the mission a geography. Jerusalem is where we already are. Judea is the wider circle around us. Samaria is the person who may be different from us, uncomfortable to us, or historically divided from us. The ends of the earth is the heart of God for the nations. We begin with the people He has already placed around us, but we refuse to believe His heart stops at the boundaries of our comfort. The fast was never meant to become a spiritual mountain we visit and then leave. It was meant to change how we walk through ordinary life. Monday morning is not a return to life without Him. It is the field where the Jesus we have beheld is meant to become recognizable: a kitchen table, a workplace, a hospital room, a child, a neighbor, a street in this city. The looking does not stop when the twenty-one days stop. 2 Corinthians 3:18 still holds. As we keep contemplating the Lord’s glory, the Spirit keeps transforming us, and that life keeps seeking an overflow. You do not need a platform. You need availability. You do not need to feel finished. You need to remember that He is with you always. The fast trained us to depend, not to trust our own spiritual momentum. Go as one who has seen Him. Remain as one who still depends on Him. Let the world meet Jesus through you.

Daily Questions:

- Looking back over these twenty-one days, what have you seen about Jesus that you did not see as clearly before, what has the Spirit begun changing in you, and where are you now sensing Him sending you?

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- Whom is the Spirit placing on your heart as you leave this fast, and how can you make yourself available to them this week?

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- Sit quietly for a few moments. Ask the Holy Spirit, “Where are You sending me as a witness of Jesus?” Write down what comes to mind.

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Guided prayer: [You are the one who will write the last prayer of our fast. Be intentional in your declaration to the Holy Spirit, commit to practical changes in your daily life, and try to synthesize your learning in gratitude to the Lord for this time of consecration.]