



A Six Week Prayer Strategy with an emphasis on our total 'spiritual health' that we may be encouraged and strengthened to stand firm in the faith and on the firm foundation, Jesus Christ, as He truly is our defense, protection, and shield.

Ramparts are defined as “the protective, outer defensive walls of a castle-a means of protection or defense; a bulwark, the most important form of defense” or “a defensive fortification made of an earthen embankment, often topped by a low protective wall.”

If we are not watchful, our protective boundaries (our unwavering faith and trust in the powerful living God and the truth of His Word) can begin to crumble under the weight of this world.

Watch the Ramparts consists of **5 Simple Daily STEPS**:

1) **Daily time in the Word of God** (with a reading **PLAN** to keep you focused and accountable). **Use any reading plan you like.** There is one included on page 5 if needed and can be used as a bookmark and checked off each day. This suggested reading plan does not correspond with the daily devotionals, but it does get you through most of the New Testament in these 6 weeks.

2) **Daily Prayer Time-** for your sphere of influence, community, church, school, etc. and other specifics as led. This will include using a notebook/journal, and there will be directions for how exactly to use that throughout the 6 weeks.

3) **Reading a daily devotional** (included) that will stretch your faith and obedience.

4) **'Listen' daily** and **'HEAR'** and **write** down in your notebook what God is teaching you, scriptures that speak to you, and how He is leading you to pray. There are also questions to answer included each day with the devotionals.

5) **Daily pray aloud with someone** (your **spouse** if applicable and possible). This is such a powerful and rewarding spiritual discipline and is included to give you a 'push' if this is not already a part of your routine. Six weeks can jumpstart a great habit.

Watch the Ramparts also includes:

-Making a 6-week commitment- (You CAN focus on anything for 6 weeks, knowing that there is an end in sight.) If the “commitment” word already scares you, replace it with this: Decide to enjoy being a part of a team for six short weeks that will promote life change for you and your ‘sphere of influence’ with results that will continue on beyond this short span of time.

-Fasting one day each week (however God leads you to do so).

-Enlist 3 people to commit to **pray for you** (and for this prayer ministry) during this 6-week commitment. They will be available to take requests and pray focused prayers for you as you are called by God to step out in obedience. This is another key component. **Prayer is powerful and to be covered in prayer as you pray, wow.** Ask God who those three should be, and He may surprise you with someone you don't even know that well. Be open. This may even open up new friendships.

-Accountability: One of those 3 people will also be assigned the job to keep you accountable (this needs to be the one you know really WILL and that you feel you can be honest with).

"For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." 2 Chronicles 16:9

He deserves our whole heart. Therefore, our hearts surrendered and fully given to Him and His will should not only be a goal for our own lives, but also a goal in the forefront of our discipleship, mentoring, parenting, and relationships. We are living in a time of great trouble, strife, and ‘shaking’ with many in need of the strong support that only He can give. We MUST have His strong support to be victorious overcomers in ‘this present evil age’ (Galatians 1:4). May we have a heart completely His that He may strongly support.

This is an invitation to be a part of a 6-week community with the purpose of positioning ourselves to move toward that goal of having a heart completely His. By feasting on the living Word of God and attending to a few spiritual disciplines that we all in the midst of the busyness of daily life need to be refocused on from time to time, we will build on a firm foundation. We will allow God to build strong ramparts, that we can say ‘I KNOW whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able’ (2 Timothy 1:12) and I WILL ‘contend earnestly for the faith’ (Jude 1:3) and be an overcomer.

How to Get Started?

- Pray about a starting date (or this may already be set for you if you are joining a group).
- Pray about who God may have to join you on this 6-week journey (use it as a small group that actually meets in person once a week or an online email or group that connects with updates on what you're learning and the direction that God is leading you to pray).
- Pray about the three people who will cover your 6 weeks in prayer and about which one will hold you accountable. This will be a very powerful and significant part of the 6 weeks.
- Use the space provided for your listening section or use a journal. (An inexpensive journal or spiral notebook may be best so that you feel free to write anything and everything in it without needing it to be perfect. But do whatever makes you happy.) You can set this up however works best for you: in different sections or just day by day. You can even start one way and decide to change it later. You will be given some suggestions.
- Once you have your start date, PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR and START.

As with anything, you will get out of this what you put into it. I challenge you to do it all. So make a plan. Things seldom are accomplished without a good plan, so decide how this WILL work in your schedule. Plan what you may need to set aside for 6 weeks to ensure that you have the time.

BUT *life* will happen and the unexpected will occur so be flexible and don't let the unexpected or a bad day put a stop to your 6 weeks. Just pick it up the next day.

One last word of encouragement: don't allow this list to keep you from getting started. If you do not have everything by the time your start date comes, don't let it keep you from just getting started.

I am so excited to see what God is going to do IN and THROUGH us.

As you prepare to begin your first week:

-Decide which day you will fast, what exactly that will look like for you, and put it on the calendar. Do this each week.

-Remind those who are praying for you that you are starting and share any requests you have. Ask them to be generally covering you in prayer for the time to set aside, for your time in the word, and for direction. As you need to, update them of what you feel you need prayer covering for during this time.

-Begin to set up your notebook.

Suggested sections:

1) A **prayer requests section** (you may want to list a few different areas that you know that you are to pray for, put that heading at the top of a page, and fill in with requests during the 6 weeks).

2) A **prayer section** if you want to write as you pray.

3) A **listening/journaling section** (this could be combined with the prayer section mentioned above). This is where you will answer the question prompts from the daily devotionals each day.

4) A **section for verses** that stand out in your time in the Word. You may want to start this section from the back of your notebook and work forward if you are using a journal, not knowing how big that section will be. These verses are then useful to go back and pray through during your prayer time. You also may want to leave a few pages at the beginning of notebook for verses pertaining to prayer and quotes that motivate and encourage you for the 6 weeks.

Other section that you may start with or add later:

-An 'ideas' section for those crazy, impossible thoughts that come up as you spend time with Him. Be bold enough to write them down and not just dismiss them. Then you can go back to them and pray through them later to find out if they are truly from God.

-A 'Who God says He is/what I learn about God', 'Who He says I am', 'His promises' section.

-Pay attention to your dreams. You may want to have a section where you write down your dreams (like the literal, when you are asleep kind) that you still remember when you awaken.

And just get started. Don't allow not having some part of this plan in place to keep you from starting.

6 Week Chronological Reading Plan

Week 1-

Day 1- John 1-3

Day 2- John 4-6

Day 3- John 7-9

Day 4- John 10-12

Day 5- John 13-15

Day 6- John 16-18

Day 7- John 19-21

Week 3-

Day 1- Philippians

Day 2- 1 Thessalonians

Day 3- 2 Thess., Acts
17:11-18:11

Day 4- 1 Corinthians 1-3

Day 5- 1 Corinthians 4-7

Day 6- 1 Corinthians 8-10

Day 7- 1 Corinthians 11-14

Week 5-

Day 1- Romans 4-6

Day 2- Romans 7-9

Day 3- Romans 10-12

Day 4- Romans 13-16

Day 5- Acts 20-22

Day 6- Acts 23-25

Day 7- Acts 26-28

Week 2-

Day 1- Acts 1-4

Day 2- Acts 5-8:3

Day 3- Acts 8:4-11:18

Day 4- Acts 11:19-14:28

Day 5- James

Day 6- Galatians

Day 7- Acts 15-17:10

Week 4-

Day 1- 1 Corinthians 15-16

Day 2- 2 Corinthians 1-5

Day 3- 2 Corinthians 6-9

Day 4- 2 Corinthians 10-13

Day 5- Acts 18:12-19:41

Day 6- Ephesians

Day 7- Romans 1-3

Week 6-

Day 1- Colossians

Day 2- Hebrews 1-4

Day 3- Hebrews 5-8

Day 4- Hebrews 9-11

Day 5- Hebrews 12-13, Titus

Day 6- Philemon

Day 7- 1 and 2 Timothy

Week 7:

Day 1- 1 Peter

Day 2- 1 John

Day 3- 2 Peter,
2 & 3 John, Jude

Watch the Ramparts

Week 1

Week 1- Day 1

Daily:

- In the Word-John 1-3
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

- a checklist to check off daily
- or follow whatever reading plan you choose
- included each day below
- answers to the listening section of each day's devotional
- the list you start making today

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week
- decide which day this week

Daily Devotional:

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4

We *need* encouragement (along with honestly *every* single person we come in contact with), and even more than that, we need HOPE. And true, authentic encouragement and hope come from the Word of God and from God Himself. May we have it for ourselves AND for those that 'stumble' into our sphere of influence.

"Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5

May that be a supernatural result of these 6 weeks:

- perseverance,
- encouragement,
- of the same mind with one another (coming from the truth of the Word),
- one voice,
- to the glory of God
- to the encouragement of one another

Pray for that.

Listening section:

On this first day, ask the Lord for whom He wants on your prayer list and write them down as they come to mind. This is a list that you will be praying through daily, so do not make a list of every single thing that you can think of. Ask God what He is specifically wanting you to focus on in prayer during these 6 week.

Who and what areas of your city, your church, and your sphere of influence?

Pray 'beyond the possible' in all these areas.

As you spend your time in your listening section today, ask Him to lay upon your heart what it means for YOU to pray beyond the possible in all those areas that you listed (and in others that He would bring to mind). Remember that 'beyond the possible' is something that is going to sound impossible so you will have to remind yourself that with God, all things ARE possible.

And pray. This may take a little work every day this week to seek His heart for 'beyond' requests for your whole list so keep coming back to it until it is done.

Verse of the day:

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20, 21

Week 1- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- John 4-6 (Note that this reading plan does not necessarily correspond with the day's devotional so you are free to use any plan you like or are currently using, but this one is highly encouraged as it will get you through most of the NT in these 6 weeks. Feel free to go at a slower pace if needed).
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

We must know the Word of God.

We cannot depend upon the rest of the body of Christ to know TRUTH and follow them, trusting that we won't be led astray by "persuasive arguments" (Colossians 2:4). If we don't know what the Word truly says, how will we clearly see if someone is advocating "a different doctrine and does not agree (come) with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness..." (1 Timothy 6:3)?

To not be led astray in these difficult times and to not be shaken from truth amongst all the 'shaking' we must know the truth ourselves and "be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

His ways are NOT the ways of this world. May we not look to the world to define Him and His ways or allow the world to define us and our ways.

We will not learn to recognize the counterfeit by studying the counterfeit out there. We will only know the truth and recognize the counterfeit as we immerse ourselves in His whole Word and allow Him to wash us clean: to wash our motives, our ideas, our desires, our goals, our intentions, and every thought/idea we have (ones we may not even be aware of) that is contrary to His truth (2 Corinthians 10:5). May we allow His Word to cleanse us as we daily expose ourselves to His truth, and IT WILL RESULT IN CHANGE, the change that we and others are longing for.

GUARD YOUR MIND FOR ACTION. What we allow in is going to affect us, and we are being bombarded.

We know that He does not want any unwholesome word to proceed OUT of our mouth but only that which edifies (Ephesians 4:29), so what makes us think it is not a big deal to allow all kinds of unwholesome 'words' to enter 'in' and think that it is not going to affect us? Let us decide to think a little more intentionally about how we are going to guard our minds.

1 Peter 1:13-15 "Therefore, prepare your minds (gird* the loins of your minds) for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

BE IN THE WORD. It is equipping, living and active (Hebrews 4:12), life-giving, healing, and infuses with hope and confidence. We are not going to make it victoriously without it. Take up your sword (Ephesians 6:17) and fight.

Oh Lord, would you produce 'change' in us, that we may likewise be used by You to 'produce change' in our world.

Produce change.

*Gird (surround, encircle) your mind. 'Watch the ramparts'.

Listening section:

If you have any trouble answering the questions as you come to this section each day, just start writing. Write down the question, ask God to lead you to the answer, and start writing. He has an answer for you and will help you find it.

1. Would you write a response to these thoughts? What is on your heart as you begin this 6-week journey? What 'change' would you like to see?
2. Ask God what change He would like to see.
3. Ask God to cleanse and renew (through your time in His Word): your ideas, desires, goals, intentions, and every thought/idea that is contrary to His truth. Give Him time to speak to you about each area.
4. How will you guard your mind? What actions will you take?

Verse of the day:

"All Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed) and profitable for teaching,
for reproof,
for correction,
for training in righteousness;
so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16,17

Week 1- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- John 7-9
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Rather than searching for answers to the unknowns of the big picture of life, what if we just took action *today* on what is already known?

What if we all walked in more moment by moment obedience?

There is enough for today.

Often our calling for this very day can be neglected because we are wondering about the big picture for the future.

We must keep the broad view in mind to know where we are headed, but we must not ignore the *daily* steps of obedience that prepare us for that future even though the daily steps may seem somewhat mundane.

This same premise is true of our time in the Word of God.

We need the master plan and should be daily reading to get that entire perspective so that scripture can interpret scripture, but along with that we must also have pinpoint, deep study and meditation on the word so that the truth becomes part of who we are and how we live. Otherwise, there will still be a roaming lostness and no heavy anchor in our troubled seas.

Knowing that we KNOW (in-depth, studied for ourselves in the word, not just because someone else has taught it) builds up a heavy anchor that works to tether us in the storm. The storm may rock our ship and move things around (some things that probably NEED to be adjusted), but it

will not make us drift off course as we know where we are headed and in Whom we have believed and are convinced that He is able (2 Timothy 1:12).

Pray in all areas 'beyond the possible'. A reminder: you are praying for the impossible, to a God with Whom **nothing** is impossible.

Listening section:

1. Spend some time writing down what you already know you are called to in this, your 'today' 'season'. What are the 'steps' He is calling you to take today and each 'today'?
2. What is the 'big picture' out there where you know you are headed or want to be headed? (He intentionally places desires upon our hearts to lead us to His desired goals.)
3. What is at least one preparation step that you can take today for that future?
4. Are there things that God has been leading you to (or convicting you of) that you have neglected taking action on?
5. Do you need to adjust your reading plan of the Word to get both the broad picture and deeper study as well?
6. Ask Him to lay upon your heart what His 'beyond' is for you, according to His power that works within you. Don't be afraid to 'dream' and make sure you write it down.

Verse of the day:

"... I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." 2 Timothy 1:12

Week 1- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- John 10-12
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"And He was saying, 'The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows-how, he himself does not know.

The soil produces crops by itself;

first the blade,

then the head,

then the mature grain in the head." Mark 4:26-29

As a flower grows in all the right conditions, it produces beauty over time: leaves, buds, flowers of color. Life is all a process, and He has begun a process in you that He will finish. He waters and keeps it watered. He shines on it.

A flower cannot make the decision to wither and die in perfect conditions. It is just in its nature, built in by The Creator, to grow and to fulfill the potential that was once only in seed form.

You are "a planting of the Lord" placed in good soil. And He will finish what He has begun, that He may be glorified (Isaiah 61:3). You will bloom BIG.

But it's a process. We are always in process. And even the process of perfect conditions will require uncomfortable times: being buried in soil, enduring hot sunshine, and drowning in water. Certainly, each of these can be misunderstood in the moment, but all have a purpose and all are necessary for growth.

Listening section:

1. Allow God to encourage you in the 'right conditions' that you are currently in. What has He 'started'?
2. Ask Him if there are any 'conditions' (thoughts or actions/behaviors or outside influences) that you are currently 'allowing' in your life that are not 'right' and could be stunting your 'growth'. If so, how can you rid yourself of them?
3. Is there something that you need to choose to refrain from ('weeds to pull' from the root) even temporarily these 6 weeks to build your faith (consider thoughts or attitudes that you may be 'allowing')?
4. Fear can be a 'stunting' factor in all our lives and especially affect our freedom to walk out our calling. In what area of your life is fear being a bully?

"The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted." Proverbs 29:25

5. Allow God to take an honest inventory.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23

If we were serious about consistently praying this prayer, asking Him to tell us, and listening, many of our 'weeds' would probably be pulled up by the root easier and quicker. The longer we allow them to stick around, the more they steal from our sustenance and the harder they are to pull.

Verse of the day:

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

Week 1- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- John 13-15
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

The Lord told Moses that He had come to deliver His people and then continued with the 'how' He was going to do it:

"I will send you."

What a mysterious truth that we see throughout scripture: God has a plan, He answers prayer, and He chooses to use **us**.

"And the LORD said, '**I have surely seen** the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. **So I** have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey,'.... 'Therefore, **come now, and I will send you** to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.'" Exodus 3:7,8,10

"But Moses said to God, 'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?'" Exodus 3:11

And what is God's answer to the "who am I" question?

God responds, "**Certainly I will be with you....**"

And that response makes ALL the difference.

He is the difference.

The great 'I AM' is more powerful in you (you yielded to Him) than anything that can come against you (even your own emotions and fears).

'I AM' BIGGER.

'I AM' ENOUGH,

And 'I Am' with you.

And THAT FACT makes the difference.

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" (Isaiah 6:8)

May we determine to have an open ear to hear the call, listening in complete humility (the place of **entire dependence** upon Him) and respond as Isaiah,

"Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

Listening section:

1. There are needs all around us, and we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). Spend some time today surrendering all your fears, your doubts, your excuses, and insecurities. Pray and lay them down at the foot of the cross to die (along with any sin that has sought to entangle you).

2. What would He call you to do to overcome those fears, doubts, excuses, insecurities, and any and all entangling sin?

Verse of the day:

"..let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1, 2

Week 1- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- John 16-18
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"Then Moses said to the LORD, 'Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.'" Exodus 4:10

The Lord's answer to Moses' second excuse is the same as the first and even more specific:

"Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now then go, and **I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say**" (verse 11). And He repeats it again in verse 15, "**...I, even I, will be with your mouth..., and I will teach you what you are to do.**"

We see it in Joseph's life, "And the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man." Genesis 39:2

We see it repeated to Joshua "Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, **for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**" Joshua 1:9

Gideon is called a "valiant warrior" and responds, "'Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.'" But the Lord said to him, "**Surely I will be with you,...**" Judges 6:14-16

Then there is David's example. "And David became greater and greater;.." Why? "For the Lord God of hosts was with him." 2 Samuel 5:10

His Presence makes the difference.

He tells Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of them, for **I am with you** to deliver you." Jeremiah 1:8,19 And to Paul He says by a vision in the night something we all need to heed, "Do not be afraid

any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; FOR I am with you..." Acts 18:9, 10
Moses' truths were still his truths; Gideon's truths (I am least and youngest) were still his true
circumstances. Joseph was second youngest and David was the youngest; those were still their
natural birth orders. God doesn't care about our natural stature or how the world labels us or even
how we label ourselves.

God's truths override our truths with the fact that "HE IS WITH US" and that FACT makes
all the difference in our lives.

**"...for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we
confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?'"**
Hebrews 13:5, 6

Let that fact make all the difference in this day....
day by day....
one step of obedience at a time.

He is enough to overcome all you consider true about 'your lack'. He is the difference between
the statement: "Who am I? I can't." and the statement: "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

All glory to God.

May we exchange all the "I can't, who am I?"s

for....

"Because You are with me, I will not be afraid. Here am I. Send me."

Listening section:

-What are your 'current excuses' for not doing something you feel God is calling you to? List
them so that you can see them in black and white and outside of your head. Sometimes what
makes sense in our heads can be revealed as foolishness on paper.

He answers your excuses with, 'I am with you.'
So go, be strong and very courageous, do not tremble or be dismayed.

Verse of the day:

"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, **whose word I praise**, In God I have put
my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?" Psalm 56:3, 4

Week 1- Day 7

A day to review the week

Daily:

- In the Word- John 19-21
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"...the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard." Hebrews 4:2

Today review the work you've done this week.

Review what grabbed your attention in your daily reading, how He led you to pray, and any instructions He gave you.

It is so easy, especially in the busyness of life, to learn so much that you can't remember a thing.

And if we can't remember, how will we act upon it? It is those who actually do what He says that have firm footing in these unstable times.

"Therefore everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against the house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock." Matthew 7:24, 25

Built up in His love and in faith in His enabling power, may we be 'effectual doers', not 'forgetful hearers' (James 1:25).

"On the day I called, You answered me;
You made me bold with strength in my soul." Psalm 138:3

Watch the Ramparts

Week 2

Week 2- Day 1

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 1-4
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Free to Obey

From God's Heart:

You HAVE HOPE because I, "the God of hope," (Romans 15:13) am with you.

I love you with an unfailing love.

I will not fail you, leave you, or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

Your mind is the seed-bed of life. What you allow to grow (and what you cultivate there) affects all of life because the way you *think* inevitably influences the way you live.

Therefore 'think' My TRUTH.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).

If you have hidden and "treasured" My Word in your heart that you may not sin against Me, you will KNOW the truth, (John 8:32) and the truth will make you free to obey.

Listening section:

1. What specific truth do you need to cultivate about God (His power, authority, or love) or about yourself and who He says you are? (You may consider starting a new section in your notebook to continually add to this list as you read through His Word.)
2. Once you have answered that question, ask God what truth He says you need to cultivate deeper into your heart.
3. Now ask Him how to cultivate these truths.

Now think and treasure that truth.

Verse of the day:

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'
John 8:31, 32

Week 2- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 5-8:3
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Action

From God's Heart:

Praise... so the rocks don't have to. (Luke 19:40)

Sing... so the song does not go unsung.

Dance.... so My lead can be followed.

Just move your feet. I make things 'divinely easy' as you step out in My lead.

You can dance a dance that you 'don't know how to dance' and sing a song you 'don't know how to sing'. I enable you to climb to heights you can't imagine your legs could take you or your lungs would be able to handle. I will be your strength and your breath and your song even in the night.

I enable and empower each step. Follow Me and take one step after another, and you won't believe where we'll end up. You will flourish as you bask in the sunshine of My great love for you, My great *powerful towards you* love. Bask in it and grow.

I give you permission to dream, so give yourself that permission.
I give you permission to hope, so hope.

Be released in new desires and songs and dreams and 'wings' and strong ankles for the 'take-off'. 'Hit the ground running', and it will not be a run to 'catch up' with Me nor a run ahead of Me. But

you will hit the ground running with all the 'tools' and strength you need as I am right by your side. I will never abandon you. My eyes are always lovingly on you, always encouraging you and calling you onward, never ever berating you or your 'running form'. You are ready to run this race well.

Be encouraged. Be strengthened. Be LOVED. Hear the call, and ACT.

Listening section:

1. Sit with Him and ask Him what truth about His love would He like you to 'bask in' today?
2. What action do you need to take? What is He 'cheering you on' to do and accomplish?
3. Ask Him what the first steps are? Write them down.
4. Decide to take the 'known steps' in His timing even without having all the steps clearly laid out.
5. What is He calling you to do (action) even today?

Dream and hope and take courage and ACT.

Verse of the day:

"...the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.'

But Jesus answered, 'I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!'" Luke 19:37-40

Week 2- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 8:4-11:18
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

You will KNOW truth, (John 8:32) and the truth will make you free to obey.

“Free? to obey? doesn't sound very freeing,” you say?

Rebellion to the Word of God, sin, and living in any way that is not according to His truth set forth in His Word, 'handed down once for all to the saints' (Jude 1:3) is actually setting people up for slavery. "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience, resulting in righteousness?" Romans 6:16

It is for freedom that Christ has set you free (Galatians 5), freedom from sin, from the power of sin and its devastating consequences, and freedom to walk in obedience to how He 'knows' that it 'works' and how it works well, for **peace** and **abundant** life and **eternal** life. Being THE Creator of all of life, He knows and does have the right and rule and reign on how it all correctly functions well, for our good and His glory.

Therefore real freedom is in the Holy Spirit empowered ability to live in obedience to Him alone. It is not in an 'I can do it myself how I want freedom' or in obedience to the "lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, which is not from the Father, but is from the world" (1 John 2:16). Freedom for ourselves and the freedom that we need to share and encourage in others is in obedience to God, to truly find LIFE as we lay ours down, being dead to sin and alive to God (Romans 6:11,13). That is what Jesus has miraculously done for us, Church. God forbid that we ever find ourselves fighting for the right to encourage sin! Do you realize that it is the **LEAST LOVING** thing we could do? **Don't fall into that trap of the enemy.**

"... Teach and preach (exhort, urge) these principles. If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with **the doctrine conforming to godliness**, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth,..." 1 Timothy 6:2b-5

Listening section:

1. Is there any area that you are directly, indirectly, or inadvertently encouraging activity, motives, or a way of life that does not line up with God's truth?
2. Do we encourage sin as we are silent and do not hold fast to truth, calling others to a doctrine that is according to godliness? (Jesus said of the world, "...it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil." John 7:7)
3. Ask God to transform your mind through His Word. He promises to lead you into all truth (John 16:13).

Verse of the day:

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world (age), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1, 2

Week 2- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 11:19-14:28
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotion:

The TRUTH is...

God is not calling us to be 'softer' and to 'edge' around the truth and therefore allow the enemy to continue deluding and 'creeping into' (Jude 1:3,4) even the church's thinking. Rather it IS time to hide, store up, 'treasure His Word' (all of His truth, not just the easy, feel-good truth), and then not only hear it but DO it:

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not do what I say?" Luke 6:46

Free to obey.

What He says in His Word is the truth that we need to live by and teach, not lowering any of His standards for our own lives or the lives of others.

Being honest about the truth of God that affects people's eternity is the most loving and merciful thing we can do for a person. Contemplate that one. Oh, to be able to say like Paul, "I never shrank or kept back or fell short from declaring to you the whole purpose and plan and counsel of God." Acts 20:27 AMP

And let us NOT listen to the enemy's lie that whispers, "Well, maybe we don't know how to correctly 'interpret' that scripture; that may not be what it really means." Realize that that is a current pervasive lie of the enemy.

Let's love one another enough to not be part of the 'deluding' (2 Thessalonians 2:11) problem. Let's not be influenced by the 'persuasive arguments' (Colossians 2:4). And honestly, we are so bombarded that to not be negatively influenced, we ALL MUST know His Word like the back of our hands, having it always before us! Are you treasuring it?

Listening section:

1. Spend some time today asking God to show you if you, even unknowingly, are 'softening' any of His straightforward truth for your life or others?
2. Ask Him what 'rock solid' truth needs to be added to you 'rampart'? (your outermost protective wall, that you may know that it is a truth to be held and a line not to be crossed)

Verse of the day:

"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert,"
Acts 20:26-31a

Week 2- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- James
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

The truth is:

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4 .."Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**" 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

That is what we were, and now we are free to obey and live the abundant life with the peace that the world is desperately SEARCHING for. That is good news.

"Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions (heresies), envying, drunken, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." Galatians 5:19-24

We live in a society that is fighting for the rights of its citizens to freely live in that first list. And if we come alongside that movement, as Christians, with an attitude of 'live and let live', we

choose not to care about the eternal consequences for others or the peace and the fruit of the Spirit that is kept from those who do not know Him as their personal Savior.

Therefore, speak the truth in love.

Amplified Version Ephesians 4:12-15

...12 [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church]; 13 until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity]. 14 **So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit].** 15 **But speaking the truth in love [in all things—both our speech and our lives expressing His truth], let us grow up in all things into Him [following His example] who is the Head—Christ."**

And if I may put that in other words:

Love enough to speak the truth! All truth... as led by the Holy Spirit.

Listening section:

1. We can speak the truth too hastily and wound people or we may never share truth with people and wound people. Which of these two ditches do you tend to fall into?
2. Ask the Lord what that looks like for you to speak truth in love, keeping in mind that it is "the kindness of God that leads to repentance" (Romans 2:4). Doors open to speak the loving truth when people truly know how much you genuinely care. That may be your starting point. Ask God to give you HIS loving heart for people, a prayer He loves to answer.

Verse of the day:

"**All scripture** is inspired by God (God-breathed) and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

Week 2- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- Galatians
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

As we trust God, there are 'walls' that must come down.

To freely serve God and do what He calls us to do, we must have a certain vulnerability and choose to not be our own protector.

Stepping out of our comfort zone and what *feels* safe and into the unknown, which *feels* risky and chaotic, is at times what our obedience to God's calling demands.

We can so overly 'protect ourselves' that we end up rarely obedient. Instead of "Here I am, send me," we say "Who am I? I can't. So I'll just be safe and won't."

At the same time, there are other good 'walls' that need to be built up.

Once *these* ramparts are in place and strong, they actually build such a level of trust that the unnecessary walls come down as we KNOW our God as our Protector.

This is what we are doing here.

May God build us up in His Word and in His love and in His truth in such a powerful way, building a deeper faith and trust in our trustworthy, all-powerful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ that we fire ourselves from being our own protectors and fully trust in Him.

Listening section:

1. Ask God what 'walls' need to come down? What particular fears or areas of unbelief or lies or misbeliefs (about God or yourself) are keeping you from walking out what He has called you to?
2. What truths need to be built up and established in your life?

Verse of the day:

"He sets up walls and ramparts for security.... The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock." Isaiah 26:1, 3, 4

Week 2- Day 7

A day to review the week

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 15-17:10
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Take this day to review your week.

‘Act.’ What has He laid upon your heart to do? Review the ideas, notes, scriptures- what is there from this week that you need to grab hold of?

Is there something tangible that needs to be done?

A note to be written?

A phone call made?

A belief that you need to solidify, a truth that you need to know that you KNOW to be true (about God or His Word/truth or about yourself)? Ask Him.

And use these verses to pray over yourself and those on your prayer list today.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Amplified Bible

"... we pray for you always,

-that our God will count (make) you worthy of your calling

-and with His power fulfill every desire for goodness

-and complete your every work of faith

**(faith which is that leaning of the
whole human personality on God
in absolute trust and
confidence in His power,
wisdom,
and goodness)"...**

That kind of faith builds some strong ramparts of protection, *for* action.

And for what *ultimate* purpose?...

"...so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you [by what you do], and you in Him, according to the grace (favor and blessing) of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)." v.12

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts [make them steadfast and keep them unswerving] in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16,17
Amplified Bible

Watch the Ramparts

Week 3

Week 3- Day 1

Daily:

- In the Word- Philippians
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

As we pray for the many needs around us, for protection, for revival (even of our own hearts), “let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

He is ABLE....and He works the impossible. And **as** He lives and moves in and through you, **you are able** to do the impossible without shrinking back in fear.

Do not fear, even 'though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea' (Psalm 46:2). In other words, **no matter what, you need not fear**, for He is with you. He holds you, cares for you, and is your great support. You are not, and never will be, forsaken.

He is able, even in the midst of impossibilities. Do not be overcome by any bad report to the point of despondency or paralyzing fear.

"With respect to the promise of God, he (Abraham) did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that **what God had promised, He was able also to perform**" (Romans 4:17-22). Regarding the promise of an heir, Abraham contemplated the true situation (that his body was as good as dead) without becoming weak in faith. *In the same way, hear the report, consider the truth of the reality, but be fully assured that God can and will do what He has said He will do.*

Take courage; take as He gives.

He has gone before you and has known from ages past all that you are currently walking through, and He has never been 'worried' by it or afraid for you. Therefore because His Spirit lives within you, calm and confident, omniscient and seeing your current situation from the foundation of the world, *you* can live calm and confident and worry free *this day*.

May faith speak “move” to your feet.

Lord, increase our faith.

Listening section:

1. What needs to be laid aside so that you can run unencumbered?
2. Is there currently something you are tempted to shrink back in fear at the thought of stepping out in obedience?
3. Review His promises. What does He want you to take Him up on in belief and action today?
4. What peace does it bring to your life to think about the fact that God has known about all that is currently going on in this world (and in your personal life and with family and friends) since the foundation of the world and has not been wringing His hands in dreaded anticipation over it? And therefore, you are able to keep that calm confidence as His Spirit lives within you.

Verse of the day:

"God is our refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride." Psalm 46:1-3

Week 3- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Thessalonians
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Do not be discouraged.

Mark 11:23, 24. "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

That is such a big promise, like "big- too hard to believe, how could He say that and leave it in Scripture?" type of thing. Yet this is a promise book which centers on a Savior who is ABLE to DO the outrageously impossible.

Are we going to believe what His word says?

Do you want to take Him up on it?

To not be discouraged, we will have to look away from all that surrounds us that is so discouraging in this world, and continually and habitually (which is the tense of that verb in Hebrews 12:2) look to Him. As we focus on Him and His truth, His omnipotence, faithfulness, loving-kindness, and the promises in His Word (and are reminded of just how big and able He truly is), He will pour forth faith, even in the places where you are most tempted to be discouraged and to fear.

There is an open invitation to fix your eyes upon Him and watch in anticipation for Him to pour forth faith that moves mountains.

He is THE Almighty. You may lay your burden down at His feet to carry for you and to accomplish what concerns you this very day, and in the days to come. He is ABLE to make you walk in confidence: confidence in His loving care for you and for your plight and in what He is able to do.

He is intimately acquainted with all of your ways, cares, and concerns.

Be still and *know* that He IS God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth.

Listening section:

1. Is there a 'mountain' that needs to be moved in your life? What does He say about it?
2. Ask God to increase your faith and to show you how to pray according to His will and heart about that 'mountain'.
3. What issue/circumstance/belief/calling/relationship does He want to pour faith upon? What does He invite you to believe Him for today?
4. And the last question to press into: what do you need to lay down at His feet to leave in His care and let Him carry for you? And what does that look like? Imagine it. What would it look like to surrender it to Him? (Surrender may take action steps.)

Verse of the day:

"Cease striving (let go, relax, be still) and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

Week 3- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- 2 Thessalonians, Acts 17:11-18:11
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"...for The LORD is not restrained to save by many or few." 1 Samuel 14:6

In the book bearing his name, Nehemiah is a 'power of one' example. He didn't just hear the bad report about the state of his people, that they were in great distress and reproach and unprotected because the walls of Jerusalem were down, and lament saying, 'It's all over and hopeless.' Instead, even though he was in NO position to do anything about it (he was probably approximately a two months journey away from the problem, 600 miles away serving as cupbearer to Artaxerxes), he prayed with a broken heart over the state of the people.

In answer to those prayers, he eventually found himself orchestrating and overseeing the rebuilding of the broken-down walls.

But that rebuilding project began with **a broken heart, prayer, and the power of ONE heart on fire and dismayed at the conditions in which God's chosen people were living in**, leaving themselves in disarray and unprotected.

If your heart is currently broken over discouraging news, take the encouragement of the power of one message of Nehemiah's life who built up a team and allowed God to accomplish the impossible through them 'suddenly'. *

Just as Nehemiah did at the report of overwhelming, discouraging news, **bring it before God in prayer and obey what He tells you to do**. Pray and see how He may even use you. Nehemiah had no place to be of any help to the people of Jerusalem, or to be an answer to his own prayer, yet God used him as part of the solution.

Don't settle for the 'truth' of the bad report. But in prayer, seek for His truth, His direction, and **watch Him use even you to 'produce change'**- to bring about the change that you are tempted to even give up hope for.

Do not be discouraged. Look to Him and see if He does not pour forth mountain moving faith.

*(The walls had been down 141 years. The people had been back in the land with the temple rebuilt and just walking around the rubble of the walls for 71 years, and Nehemiah and the people completed the walls in 52 days after starting the work.)

Listening section:

1. What 'breaks your heart'? This may be an indicator of a possible calling on your life. Talk to God about that.
2. There are 'walls of protection' that are broken down all around us in our society. And we do, in a sense, just daily ignore and walk around the 'rubble' thinking that there is nothing we can do. Make a list of those and begin to pray for those areas if you are not already doing so. Don't miss jotting down any instructions or 'wild ideas' of what you can do to be an answer to those problems. (I have a page in my notebook for 'ideas' so that I will be able to go back and pray over them.)
3. Ask God today to break your heart with what breaks His. Ask Him concerning His people: how does He see their welfare? Pray through Nehemiah Chapter 1, confessing sin, and ask Him what part He would have you play in 'rebuilding'.

May we be moved towards a heart completely His (loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength- Luke 10:27) and walking "in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" Ephesians 4:1.

Verse of the day:

"Come, let us rebuild the wall.. ...so that we will no longer be a reproach." Nehemiah 2:17

History: 586 BC destruction of Jerusalem during the Babylonian Invasion- (50 years later) 536 BC some return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple- (2 years later) 534 BC work stopped, Ezra - (14 years later) 520 BC work resumed -(4 years later) 516 BC temple finished- (71 years later- 141 years after destruction) 445 BC Nehemiah returns and rebuild the walls in just 52 DAYS (You may want to read Nehemiah chapter 1 and 2:5, 12-20).

Week 3- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Corinthians 1-3
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, 'It is written, "**My house shall be called a house of prayer**; but you are making it a robbers' den.'" Matthew 21:12,13

Holy Spirit, come in and radically MOVE in our hearts and minds and dispositions and turn over the 'tables', so to speak, where we have misused this temple and have lost Your priorities for our lives.

Come in and overturn the 'tables' and our 'seats' where we have gotten comfortable in the wrong position. Come and set us aright. We invite You to come and rearranged 'the furniture': how we have arranged our lives and our goals in ways which were never Your intention for us, the 'tables and seats' that we may have settled for out of our busy ignorance.

Oh, that our temples, our bodies, would be a house of prayer, a blessed holy place. Cleanse us that You may feel at home and not provoked. Reveal to us ways in which we have become distracted and have given our bodies, our time, and our energy to worthless endeavors and even activities that quench ("dampen, hinder, repress, as in preventing the Holy Spirit from exerting His full influence") and grieve Your Holy Spirit within us (1 Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 4:30).

Oh, for a Holy God, 'the Lord our righteousness' (Jeremiah 23:6), to be free within us. May we live within that holy calling, to lay hold of that for which You have laid hold of us (Philippians 3:12).

Oh Lord, we repent, and may we bear fruit in keeping with that repentance. Matthew 4:17, 3:8

Listening section:

1. Spend some of your time in prayer today allowing Him to search your heart and life. Allow Him to speak to you about the things that you already know are somewhat out of order and then press deeper to hear things that you may not currently be aware of.
2. Are you currently walking around and trying to ignore some 'rubble' in your own life? What 'walls of protection' need to be built back up?

Verse of the day:

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
Ephesians 4:30

Week 3- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Corinthians 4-7
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

From God's Heart:

You have My affection.

I am your help, and My right hand upholds you.

You, for whom I sent My Son to die and to buy out of the marketplace, sing for joy in the shadow of My wings (Psalm 63:7,8). You are redeemed. I declare that to be what names you and to be your name: **Redeemed**. Period.

You need not look any further for your worth or for acceptance or for a 'name'. You are LOVED, held by a Heavenly Father, Who DID hang the moon and the stars for you, My beloved. You are called, beloved in God the Father, and KEPT for Christ Jesus (called, beloved, and kept: Jude 1:1).

You are no orphan, no orphan of any kind on any level. No, you are not. You are **sought out** by the King of Kings and will continue to be **sought after** in My affection for all of your days. Each and every day. And you will stand in the presence of My glory blameless with great JOY (Jude 1:24). Love and joy overflowing onto your head washing away your doubts and fears and all the questions.

Lay it all before Me and watch Me make what you have thought impossible, divinely easy as you **trust Me** more than your feelings and fears, as you **trust what I say** more than what you have always thought you've known (or didn't even know that you were knowing- believing).

I am with you. I am for you.

Who I am:

your Strong Defender,
your Rock,
your Fortress,
your Deliverer,
your Refuge,
your Shield,
your Stronghold.

You are saved from your enemies (Psalm 18:1-3).

And I call you:

Brave
Loved
Called
Beloved
Kept
Sought Out and Sought After

Redeemed.

Listening section:

1. Are you looking for your worth or acceptance in any other place or from anyone else? Ask Him to show you the true answer to that question.
2. Lay down the need to be affirmed by any other person and know that you have His affection and strong support.
3. Pray and press into those 2 lists. What does truly, deeply knowing those truths change? 'What does it mean for my life?'
4. Bask in His strong love for you today.
If you added a section in your notebook, you may want to add these thoughts to the section: Who God is, who God says I am, and what He says I have.

Verse of the day: "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." 1 John 3:1

Week 3- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Corinthians 8-10
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Read Psalm 139 today.

From God's Heart:

You are known and loved.....

I hold your hand and lead you along paths of righteousness for My Name's sake.

For My Name's sake, you will walk in a manner worthy. You will have ears to hear and eyes to see and the strong feet (ankles) to march onward.....to lead and to heed the calling. I have raised you up for such a time as this. Follow My strong lead.....and go where I go.

I will put My words in your mouth. I am able to take you places you never thought you could go. Be faithful in the small and watch My 'suddenly'!

Stay 'tethered' to My heart and fight to not let go, no matter what your 'eyes' may see. You walk by faith and not by sight... a fact and truth that will become more and more pertinent.

I am in control. You CAN 'be still and **know** that **I** am God'. (Oh, there is such depths to that.)

As a good Father, I lead and carry and equip, and I tell you in My Word that I will teach you what to say and give you an answer in the time of need and bring to your remembrance all that you need. You are not alone. Press your ear against My chest and hear My heartbeat.... beating for all.... for each one you meet.... take My word and equip them...take My heart and love them.... take My strong word and exhort and encourage to ACTION... to do the unthinkable. I AM ABLE, and I equip the called.

I do bind up the brokenhearted and wounded. Allow Me.

Let Me in to cauterize and heal, that you may ONLY stretch forward in BELIEF....not step back in fear. I am the MAKER of your heart and can handle 'it'.

Give yourself wholly to Me...no holding back. Do not shrink back in unbelief ...only step forward, and I will meet you in each and every step. Press forward.

Listening section:

1. Take some time today being still and knowing that He is God.
2. What does He specifically have to say to you about “walking in a manner worthy” (Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:12)?
3. ‘Where’ is He leading you? Let Him talk to you about it.
4. Make a commitment to stay tethered to His heart. Let Him direct you in how that would look for you.

Verse of the day:

"Oh Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain to it." Psalm 139:1-6

Week 3- Day 7

A day to review the week

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Corinthians 11-14
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,.." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Make your thoughts obedient to God's truth. Overcome unbelief.

Today.

Fix your eyes on Him, and relentlessly overcome any and all unbelief.

Do not give up. Do not just lay down. You are never helpless or hopeless. There is a remnant, and there is power in even one.

There are walls that need to be rebuilt. Watch the ramparts. Let us, each one, say, "Oh Lord, use me. Let me be the one to start the building."

Show us your blueprint, Lord.

Ask Him today (don't wait to get around to it) to search you and to reveal to you any and every way unbelief has crept its way into your daily life and into your honest thinking. And then use the divinely powerful weapons you have been given, to destroy and take captive **every thought** or **attitude** or **any sense of hopelessness** that does not line up with what God says (2 Corinthians 10:5).

1. Take some time to review the week. Pray through your lists. Make sure that you've journaled about all that God is teaching you (so that you don't lose it).
2. Is there a step of obedience you need to take? a verse you need to memorize?
3. Is there someone on your heart to share what God is teaching you? Do it!
4. If you've had 'ideas' come to mind over these 3 weeks, pray through some of those, asking God if they are of Him and if so, what are some 'first steps' in that direction.

Halfway through. Great job! Keep pressing on.

Watch the Ramparts

Week 4

Week 4 Introduction Halfway done!

A note of encouragement as we enter this week:

Thank you for your perseverance. For some of you, most of the *requirements* of this exercise have already been part of your normal routine. For others, this may be a stretch.

Stretch yourself.

My prayer is that you would persevere through these six weeks, taking the time to allow God to speak and do some work in the depths of your heart. I pray that you would fall in love with some new *spiritual disciplines* that you decide to continue after this 6-week commitment.

God spoke the phrase ‘watch the ramparts’ to my heart a few years ago, which is included in this week’s devotionals.

But first, I want you to see that you have all you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), that you may be protected and stand firm.

Times of shaking are coming (and have come) for the body of Christ. There is a ‘deception’ that seems so inconsequential that will be our downfall if we do not know the unadulterated truth of His Word. Satan uses scripture. We see that tactic in the Word itself (Luke 4:1-12). As we hear ‘misinformation’ and quickly think, ‘oh, that’s scripture and truth’, let us not forget that we must use our discernment and know the truth of the Word in its context that we may realize what may have been added or left out.

May we quickly recognize when the *application* of scripture is from the great deceiver, being able to do so because we have steeped ourselves in truth and our protective ‘ramparts’ of truth are strong.

Satan’s ploy is to take the truth of scripture, put his twist on it, and use it to lead astray, and some are already ‘believing’ his lies thinking that it is truth.

We *must* know the truth to recognize the LIE within the *application* of the enemy's so-called truth to recognize the great deception.

Many, sadly, are already being deluded by the persuasive arguments (Col. 2:4), therefore when the lines are drawn, they will 'fall' easily on the wrong side of truth.

His people must know the Word to not fall on the wrong side.

I believe that the temptation will be so great that it will be almost impossible to resist without knowing the truth that will make you free. So that has been our focus here in the beginning of these 6 weeks. We have been laying the groundwork, making sure our foundation is strong in His Word, so that our 'rampart' of truth of knowing what and Who we believe is firmly in place and built up high (like a protective wall) so that we may stand firm.

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **Stand firm** therefore, having girded your loins with **truth**,...” Ephesians 6:13,14

Persevere, and finish these 6 weeks strong.

Week 4- Day 1

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 Corinthians 15-16
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

We have been praying and pressing into our own wall of truth so that we would not just *live* stepping over and avoiding the ‘toppled walls’ or areas in disrepair (Nehemiah 2:13,14). Instead, may we be motivated to strengthen, or ‘rebuild’ if necessary, real structures: the real thing. May we not be foolishly content with beautiful sand castles that may *look* impressive but will not withstand even the gentlest of storms.

Storms are certainly coming, and as Jeremiah 12:5 says,

"If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out,
Then how can you compete with horses?
If you fall down in a land of peace,
How will you do in the thicket...?"

“Do not be afraid...Do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.” Zephaniah 3:16,17

Listening section:

1. Resolve (make a firm determination) to know scripture and His Promises. What is the line that you will not cross and will not allow the enemy to encroach upon? ‘Build’ a rampart with the truth of God’s Word on that demarcation that will aid you in victoriously holding to that standard.

2. His church needs to awaken and rise up. In that awakening, what is He calling you to do? Ask Him. And listen.

Verse of the day: "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7; 3:1

Week 4- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- 2 Corinthians 1-5
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

“The earnest [heartfelt, continued] prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].” James 5:16b,17 Amplified Bible

As we have been focused on the Word and prayer and have allowed the Lord to search our own hearts these last few weeks, whether you realize it or not, we have been focusing on rebuilding or strengthening *our own ramparts*.

Within the body of Christ, this is so important. When our walls are down, it gives the enemy the opportunity (a place, Ephesians 4:27) to come in and set up new ‘rules’ contrary to the Word of God, even “doctrines of demons” in our midst (1 Timothy 4:1).

Ask God to open your eyes to see how our walls may be down and giving the enemy a place. And pray against it.

May this cause us to weep and fast and pray before the God of heaven and listen to what He may tell us to do about it (Nehemiah 1:4, 2:4,5).

If it is the prayers of the righteous that are effective and have power and the heart that is completely His that He strongly supports (2 Chronicles 16:9), then it is imperative to our spiritual wellbeing that we allow Him to challenge us with the truth of His Word and to search our hearts to reveal to us what needs to change.

Listening section:

1. What type of misbelief or unbelief am I currently struggling with? Show me, Lord.
2. Do I truly believe what He says is true?
3. Am I living that truth out (hearing and doing)?
4. Because of my faith in Him and His Word, do I have clear boundaries against the enemy? If so, I can say, “You will go no further” and take the authority that I know I have. And I do that in prayer right now.

Verse of the day:

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16b

Week 4- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- 2 Corinthians 6-9
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

John said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” (John 1:23)

The world is continually trying to “make crooked the straight ways of the Lord” (Acts 13:10), but the world does not change God's Truth. No matter how many times the 'world' may change its opinion, His Word stands true and unchanging and CONSTANT. God's people will more and more have to choose to stand for truth in the face of compromise in their midst. And many, sadly, will fall, even those that you think would stand.

Be in the Word. As we are daily bombarded with the false wisdom of this world, we must be in His Word to know if our thoughts and our beliefs are lining up with His truth.

Believe what He proclaims as truth.

It will be harder and harder to stand for truth but for truth, you must and will stand. **Contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all handed down to the saints (even in your own mind and daily life). (Jude 1:3)

God is raising up a people of boldness who WILL proclaim truth in the midst of this present evil age (Galatians 1:4) that is making crooked the straight way of the Lord. Stand firm. Give yourselves to prayer and fasting. And proclaim truth. Be ready... have your lamps trimmed (Matthew 25:1-13).

**Pray today for the strength of the individual believer.
Pray for the PURITY of His Word spoken.**

And determine that you yourself will speak it forth in boldness.

“...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that **with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body**, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:20-21

Listening section:

1. What truth is He asking you specifically to proclaim where He has placed you?
2. How does He desire you to ‘make straight the way of the Lord’ among your sphere of influence (and beyond)?

Verse of the day:

“...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:2-5

Week 4- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- 2 Corinthians 10-13
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

He has raised up a standard that must be held. He has poured out His Spirit and given us authority which enables us to walk victoriously in His truth, thus where we see the weakened state of His people, there is no excuse. We *have* allowed sin in the camp, and it must be dealt with.

Who will go? Who will **stand** up for His righteousness?

He is loving and compassionate and long-suffering, but it is not loving of Him to allow sin to go unchecked and to multiply. (Romans 1:18-32) He has given what was wanted, handed them over to the desires of their flesh, and we are all reaping those effects. He has turned His back on those who have rejected Him so that they may reap what they have sown, that they make known that He IS the Lord God of heaven and see that they have need for Him. He will not reject them forever. He wishes that none should perish. If they turn back with all their heart, He will turn back to them. In the meantime, we will see who 'stands.'

Who will now stand up and shout, 'Enough!'?

Who will stand against the sin, take the authority that we know we have, and say to the enemy, 'You will go no further'?

He is righteous and holy and shall be treated as holy. He is not something just to tag on and wear as a patch on your sleeve for luck or to look good or because that is what has always been done. I believe that He is making it hard to stand in these days so that each person can see for themselves (even you yourself can truly see) if they are truly standing in the faith, in the truth of His Word. Are you? 2 Corinthians 13:5

Can you stand because your feet stand on a firm foundation, Jesus Christ? Or are you finding that your feet are unknowingly on shaking ground?

Have you built nice looking, impressive ‘sand castles’ (found that you’ve built with hay and straw, 1 Corinthians. 3:10-15)? Or have you built the real thing, magnificent castle structures (with gold, silver, precious stones), with the watchtower so that you see what is coming and shall not be taken by surprise.

Rise up!

Watch the ramparts *

*A reminder: ‘ramparts’ are defined as the protective, outer defensive walls of a castle-a means of protection or defense; a bulwark, the most important form of defense!

Listening section:

1. Ask the Lord where you have allowed sin in your own life and have made excuses to allow it to continue.
2. Where do you need to draw a line in the sand in your own life, thoughts, actions or in your sphere of influence and say, ‘Enough!’? And do so.
3. Take a stand against sin, the sin that so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1).
4. Where has it been hard for you to stand firm, and what will you resolve to do about it? Are you standing in the truth?

Verse of the day:

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Week 4- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 18:12-19:41
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Watch the ramparts.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Ephesians 6:11-13

A second definition of a rampart is “a defensive fortification made of an earthen embankment, often topped by a low protective wall”.

We have an enemy, the devil, and we will use this visual to refer to our warfare against his tactics.

There is a call of God for us, as His people, to take our place on our high places, on our strong ramparts (knowing our God and His truth and power and standing on the love that surpasses knowledge, Ephesians 3:19), AND watch the depths, the ‘incognito’ in our midst, which may not look particularly ominous (just an earthen low wall). We must be watchful as we move forward because we have a real enemy. We must watch these ramparts as well.

May we see where the enemy is in hiding and not just disregard it and therefore possibly fall into the trap.

Don't ignore the signs. When we see the 'earthen, low wall' (in whatever form that takes/ask for and depend upon the discernment of the Holy Spirit), KNOW that there is an enemy and fight.

May we not let down our guard. The earthen, low wall is all he has; we have the Strong Tower (Proverbs 18:10) and all the weapons needed.

Do not walk into and fall into his defensive fortifications. The enemy really is on the defensive so don't retreat. March on, ready to take his ramparts. He is a defeated foe.

May we be watching in the Spirit from the watchtower so that we have a clear picture of where we are headed and are aware of his schemes: "Here is where we are headed out into the world; now watch this rampart."

Know the plot before you come across it and even be ready to take the battle TO the enemy.

Go plunder his ramparts and take back ground.

Watch the ramparts. Don't ignore them.

Listening section:

1. In what areas are you currently aware of the enemy scheming against you and how is he doing so?
2. Ask God about what other areas the enemy is attacking and you have not recognized it as him?
3. And what are you to do about it?
4. Choose at least one other person on your prayer list to pray against the enemy's attacks against them.

Verse of the day:

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe (set on high)." Proverbs 18:10

Week 4- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- Ephesians
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Watch the ramparts.

Don't ignore the sign.

You are fully equipped to win the battle, for greater is He who is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Take courage, do not let down your guard. Fight for righteousness and for those, who for lack of feasting on the word, are too weak to fight for themselves.

There is a call of God to have the people ready, to be ready to fight with the **power of the word** and **weapons of warfare** (2 Corinthians 10:4) and **of righteousness** for the right hand and the left (2 Corinthians 6:7).

There are times of shaking coming that will shake many to the very core. What will arise out of that core?

Will it be FAITH? Is it in there, in the depths of our bone and marrow? It must be present. **Pray** it in. Press in, that it IS who you are so that when fire from heaven reveals it, you can stand with strength in your soul.

Guard your heart above all things.

Live your life passionate for the ways of God, exalting His Word and His precepts. He will not allow His Word to fall to the ground (Isaiah 55:1).

Leaders will be grown and equipped in godly families.

It is time to get serious and PRAY and fast for our people- those who are in our sphere of influence, that we are strengthened and they as well.

Listening section:

1. How can you grow your faith?
2. What is He calling you to do to be ready? And to help others be ready to stand on steady ground during difficult times?

Verse of the day:

“Lord, increase our faith” (Luke 17:5).

Week 4- Day 7

A day to review the week

Daily:

- In the Word- Romans 1-3
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

From God's Heart:

Set out on the course ahead of you. Set out and take the 'known' steps. Those are the only steps that you are currently responsible for: just the known ones. Don't concern yourself with the unknown that comes after that. There will be the faith there to take those risks too when the time comes. Fix your eyes on Me and see that no step that I direct is risky, honestly, because I am always 'a sure thing'!

That's true even when the 'sure thing' doesn't look like it was very successful in the natural.

Go forth in abandoned confidence in My great love.

When you call, I always answer. I have made you bold with strength in your soul. (Psalm 138:3)

Habakkuk 2:1 "I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved."

1. Review your notes and thoughts from this week.
2. Are there any 'known' steps that need to be taken?
3. Spend some time 'dreaming'. What makes your heart 'fly'?

Pray into some of God's promises over your life.

Watch the Ramparts

Week 5

Week 5- Day 1

Daily:

- In the Word- Romans 4-6
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, although in the natural day to day life this may often be the ‘package’ the struggle comes in and the delivery system the devil uses. Our struggle is actually “against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” May we be mindful of this truth and THEREFORE love people who may seem like the enemy. And let us put on the full armor of God so that we WILL BE ABLE to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:12,13,11).

We are in a war. Be ready to stand. We can know that the assault is coming. Satan knows the promising words over your future, and therefore you are just naturally a target, and he has a ‘no holds barred’ approach. He doesn't fight 'fair'.

May we confuse and thwart the attacks of the enemy by prayer.

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,..” Ephesians 6:18

May prayer be an impregnable shield, a strong rampart, that frustrates the enemy.

Don't take the attack on. Pray for it to be shielded, DEFLECTED, and that the enemy's plan will not go forward, that it ricochets off and that the enemy himself feels the blow.

Lord, reveal the tactics of the enemy and where he has set the trap so that we do not fall in. Show us where he plans to attack the ‘ramparts’. Each of us have been strategically placed by You and have authority to pray with power over our ‘spheres of influence’ as a parent, as a spouse, as a member of this city, this specific community, and church body, etc. Lord, open our eyes to see

the specific opposition of the enemy, that we would truly not be ignorant of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11). And show us what You are doing, that we may pray accordingly.

I pray that You will seal up all loose ends, all points of attack, and make our ramparts strong. I pray for the body, that we may all be strengthened with the truth of the Word.

Uncover and heal up all character issues from within (before they are shown without), that the enemy has less ammunition. I pray that no form of flattery or insincere offers to ‘help’ allow the enemy entrance to attack from within (Ezra 4:1-3). We put on the full armor of God that we will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Listening section:

For yourself and your prayer list today:

1. Pray that the tactics of the enemy would be clearly revealed, that you would clearly see where he has set the trap (for yourself and those on your prayer list) so that they do not fall in. And ask the Lord to show you where the enemy plans to attack the ramparts (yours and theirs).
2. Believe that you have been strategically placed (in your family, business, church, leadership, community, with a group of friends, etc.), and ask him to show you what He is doing and how to specifically pray for protection and against how the enemy would try to come against what He is doing. And pray about what you are also to DO. Press in and listen and write down anything that comes to mind.
3. Pray through the full armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-19, ending with a prayer for boldness (v. 19) that utterance may be given to us all in the opening of our mouths, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

Verse of the day:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” Romans 1:16

Week 5- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- Romans 7-9
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

We have, in a sense, closed our eyes and ears to 'the taunting Goliaths' and allowed them to dishearten and intimidate 'the troops'.

Is God waiting for someONE, someone like you, to stand up today against the taunting evil and show that there IS a God and that He is living and active in us and works through us? (Ephesians 3:20).

In 1 Samuel 17, David comes in the Name of The Lord of Hosts against Goliath's sword, spear, and javelin and says, 'This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your headthat all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that The Lord does not deliver by sword or spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands.' (V.45, 46)

Oh, what powerful, faith-filled words. May they be on our lips. "This day the Lord WILL.....to the glory of His Name!"

Saul and all of Israel were dismayed and greatly afraid of Goliath's taunts (1 Samuel 17:11). But David, who was only sent to find out how his brothers were doing and to take them bread and cheese, came upon the scene and was provoked in his spirit by Goliath's taunts and provoked to action.

David's 'action' comes out of his utter dismay of "...who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the LIVING GOD?" (1 Samuel 17:26).

We should be asking that same question today in the midst of warfare. May we, like David, realize Whose we are (on the side of the Living God), take our stand, and 'fight'. It is truth that "... The Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6), and David was the 'ONE' who rose up and took his place to overcome. As a result, "David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand." (1 Samuel 17:49, 50). So here was a 'suddenly' after 40 days of morning and evening taunting and fear (verse 16).

So I'll ask the question again, "Is God waiting for someONE, someone like you, to stand up today against the taunting evil and show (the earth and the 'assembly') that there IS a God and that He is living and active in us and works thru us?"

I feel like that question comes with inspiring music that invites us, each one, to stand up and be the ones, like the 'to be continued' cliffhanger closing movie credits, a 'wait and see' who will.

Let us be appalled at the taunting against the people of a Living God and at the fear and compromise that surrounds us, and let us take action.

It is time for some Godly 'sudden-lies' to take place.

It is time to be strong, to allow the Word of God to abide in us, and to overcome the evil one. (From 1 John 2:14)

Let us rise up and be the ones.
May we be provoked to action.

"This day the Lord WILL....." so "I will...." 1 Samuel 17:46

Move forward. Be provoked to action.

Listening section:

1. Ask Him to show you where, even in your own life, the enemy is 'taunting' you in ways that have left you 'dismayed and greatly afraid' and have hindered you from moving forward.
2. What does the enemy's 'taunt' sound like for you currently?
3. Give this serious thought: Are you currently 'agreeing' with the enemy's taunting and therefore giving those taunts power? Confess and repent. Stop doing that, and consider what God's truth (answer) is to that taunt?
4. David in this instance is only called by flesh and bone to be a delivery boy, aside from his normal shepherding. How does this encourage you as you come upon situations and feel like 'this' or 'that' is not your 'position' to take care of, or that no one on earth has called you to it? According to flesh, David was not called, and no one believed in him. They only discouraged him, and we tend to use that as an excuse and reason not to attempt great things. It's so important to take God's perspective over man's! What perspectives of yours need to be adjusted?

Verse of the day:

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...” 2 Corinthians 10:5

Week 5- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- Romans 10-12
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Expect Discouragement to Come and Be Ready

"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine who should taunt the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:26

David's eldest brother burned with anger against him when he heard him speak these words and responded, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle."

David was misunderstood and accused of evil motives, and the discouragement didn't stop there. Do you identify with that attack? Are you currently experiencing it?

When God Himself provokes us to faith and action, there are often those who have been standing by in fear who will go on the attack 'to put us back in our place' or we may just experience the attack of our accuser in our head asking, "Who do you think you are?"

This did not deter David.

David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

King Saul instructed David, "***You are not able*** to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for ***you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.***"

These were true comparisons based on worldly reality. Sadly, this is where we often agree with people's worldly opinions. We STOP even dreaming of possibilities and abandon the truth of what His word actually says about us and the victory that He has called us to. But David draws on what training he has had, as he has been faithful right where God had placed him, and says, "The Lord God who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

David was still choosing to speak faith-filled truth in the midst of others' discouraging words. Oh Lord, help us do the same. Renew our minds in Your truth.

Listening section:

1. Who is telling you that you are not able?
2. Are you being lied to and reminded that you have NO training compared to _____ the great 'warrior' _____ ?
3. Are you believing 'them' (even those doubts in your head) or are you trusting in God Who has given you everything you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)?
4. Are you trusting in Him who WILL enable you to do all that He calls you to do?
5. Are you being faithful right where God currently has you for training?
6. Today as part of your listening time ask Him what He says about who you are. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of truth. "Who do You say that I am?"
7. If your thoughts are not lining up with the knowledge of God (and if you are feeling helpless or hopeless, then they are not), use your weapons that are divinely powerful and destroy and take captive, to make them obedient to the truth of Christ.

Verse of the day:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...**" 2 Corinthians 10:3

Week 5- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- Romans 13-16
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: *From God's Heart:*

Move Forward

“Oh Lord, You are my God;
I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name;
For You have worked wonders,
Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.” Isaiah 25:1

Plans formed long ago, with My perfect faithfulness.

I AM.

May My name be exalted above all things of earth and heaven.

I AM God – alone.

And I will not give My glory to another.

Worked wonders.....plans formed long ago.....with perfect faithfulness.

Bow the knee to Me and to Me alone.

Do not bow (in weeping and fear) to the circumstances surrounding you.

Do not bow (in discouragement and fear) to the people around you.

Do not bow to fear.

I have not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and love and sound judgment.

Work out what has been entrusted unto you.

And do not bend the knee to any other.

Do not bend.

Do not let your hands fall limp.

Put your hand to the plow and
Move forward.
Face set,
With a listening ear to hear My voice guiding you
On a mission of love, power, discipline
To give out to those around you.
To do good as you have opportunity.
I have chosen you to stand before Me, to minister to Me, and to be My minister.
Do not be negligent now. 2 Chronicles 29:11

You are My witness and My servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He.
Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.
I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no savior besides Me.
It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed,
so you are My witness, and I am God.
Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand;
I act and who can reverse it? Isaiah 43:10-13
I make a way.....Isaiah 43:16

Listening section:

1. In what specific areas of your life does this encouragement speak?
2. In what areas are you 'bowing down' to something/someone other than God alone? And why? Write it out so that you may see the answer in black and white. Irrational thoughts can make so much sense stuck inside our heads, but they often 'expose' themselves as lies written on paper.

Verse of the day:

"Oh Lord, You are my God;
I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name;
For You have worked wonders,
Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness." Isaiah 25:1

Week 5- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 20-22
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Know Who You Are and Do Not Turn Back

"The sons of Ephraim were archers equipped with bows, yet they turned back in the day of battle." Psalm 78:9

Notice that it states **what they were** (archers), **how they were equipped** for who they were (with bows: the needed equipment), and **what they did** with who they were and their equipping: **they turned back in the day of battle.**

THIS is no time to turn back.

It could certainly be said of us, as sons and daughters of God, that we are well equipped and divinely enabled.

“[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight." (Philippians 2:13 AMP)

May we NOT turn back in this day of battle. May we instead, be diligent to present ourselves approved unto God as workmen, who do not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15), and may we follow The Lord our God fully (Joshua 14:8, 9).

Oh Lord, settle that in the depths of our being, that we truly are equipped and enabled, despite any doubt or fear that we experience. May that truth, mixed with real faith (Hebrews 4:2), be our strength in You. As we call out to You, make us bold with strength in our soul. (Psalm 138:3)

Knowing WHO we are (who YOU have called us and made us to be) and knowing how we ARE equipped (the gifts, enabling, calling, the armor-Ephesians 6:10-20, and weapons of warfare- 2 Corinthians 10:4), may we take up Your bold confidence. And let us resolve (make up our mind ahead of time- Daniel 1:8) that with Your help, we will NOT turn back and abandon who we are and our equipping in the day of battle.

We are hidden in Christ (Colossians 3:3). Knowing all that He has made available to us, let us recognize it, acknowledge it, and use it. It is there, in this vessel of clay. Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Hope, hope, and hope again.

Know in the depths of your being WHO you are through knowing Who He is, that you will not turn back in the day of battle.

Listening section:

1. Ponder that last statement. How does knowing 'Who He is' speak specifically to your heart about who you are?
2. Ask Him to remind you of all that He has 'equipped' you with and how He longs for you to use it?
3. What is He specifically calling you to make resolutions about (a firm decision to do or not to do something)?

Verse of the day:

“On the day I called, You answered me;
You made me bold with strength in my soul.” Psalm 138:3

Week 5- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 23-25
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Speaking Against God

As Psalm 78 continues, we see that the people of God forgot His deeds and His miracles which He had shown them (this should not have been so- see Deuteronomy 4:9,10). He wrought wonders, divided the sea and caused them to pass through, made the waters stand up like a heap, led them with the cloud by day and all the night with a light of fire, split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths (Psalm 78:12-16), yet they forgot.

Had all the extraordinary become so ordinary for them? They had seen the miracles, as have we. They heard the stories, as do we.

Yet, it says, they still continued to sin against Him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert. And in their heart, they put God to the test by asking food according to their desire. *“Then they spoke against God; They said, ‘Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, and streams were overflowing; can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people?’* Therefore the Lord heard and was full of wrath; and a fire was kindled against Jacob and anger against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust in His salvation (Psalm 78:19-22).”

Scripture says that they "spoke against God", something we certainly would NEVER want to do, and how do we see that they did that exactly? By asking, even in the midst of rehearsing what He had done before, "Can God.....?".

We do this, don't we? He is doing extraordinary things, and we've seen it. We've tasted and seen and beheld His power and His glory, because His lovingkindness is better than life, our lips

praise Him (Psalm 63:2, 3), YET we doubt He can provide for 'this', can take care of 'this' (whatever today's 'this' is- and the 'this' can be a new thing every morning sometimes, can't it?).

"This I recall to mind, therefore I have hope. The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul. 'Therefore I have hope in Him.'" Lamentations 3:22-24

In those moments of doubt, may we lay down all our 'Can God?'s at the foot of the cross to die, lift our eyes 'from' the present troubling 'impossibility', and fix our eyes upon Him -the God with Whom nothing is too difficult. (Hebrews 12:2, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26)

May we not speak against Him asking, "Can He?" Oh, may we, instead, allow Him to implant the big dreams and the promises of His Word and pray and trust Him with the impossible fulfillment, because His power is NOT ever limited.

Listening section:

1. What are you presently, knowingly or unknowingly, speaking against God saying, "Can God.....?"
2. Are you currently feeling hopeless about some area of life?
3. Make a list of all the deeds and miracles of God that He has shown you in your life. Ask Him to bring them to mind, and then go through the list and thank Him for what He has done and what you know He will do.

Verse of the day:

"Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You...." Jeremiah 32:17

Week 5- Day 7

A day to review the week

Daily:

- In the Word- Acts 26-28
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: What Would He Have You Do?

May God raise up a mighty group of warriors who will stand for truth and say, 'Enough!'

May there be a holy uprising that won't just take what the enemy is doing lying down and saying, 'It is what it is. What can we do about it?'

May our eyes be opened to truly SEE the outrageousness of all that is not of God that's going on in our world and see that 'our' response has been: 'Who will fight? Who can? Who can change this tide?' rather than, as it should be (like David),

'Who is this that should taunt the armies of the Living God?!'

May the 'armies of the living God' rise up in faith and walk in a manner worthy (Colossians 1:10), seeing the truth of His holiness and His call to godliness in His Word (1 Timothy 6:3).

May the attack of the enemy against that very truth be seen, and taking up the divinely powerful weapons of warfare and righteousness for the right hand and the left (2 Corinthians 6:7,10:4), go make a difference.

Pray, fast, and rise up in His bold confidence, trusting in the name of the Most High God and none other, asking, **'What would You have me to do?'** And *decide to say, 'yes,' even before hearing the answer.*

‘The Lord God is my strength
[my source of courage, my invincible army];
He has made my feet [steady and sure] like hinds’ feet
And **makes me walk**
[not to stand still in terror,
but to walk forward with spiritual confidence]
on my high places
[of challenge, trouble, suffering, or responsibility].”
Habakkuk 3:19 AMP

He calls us to 'action' and promises to be with us. May we seek Him for strategies for revival.

1. What would He have you do?
2. Ask God to show you areas in your sphere of influence (and even outside of what you would consider your sphere, this nation for example) where it is time to say, ‘Enough!’. Ask Him to make you bold with strength in your soul (Psalm 138:3) and show you what He may have you to do about that.
3. Review the week. Are there any steps of obedience you need to take? Are there any insights that you need to make sure you don’t ‘lose’?

Watch the Ramparts

Week 6

Week 6- Day 1

Persevere and finish strong. This last week read through the devotional and ask God for your own question to be asked and answered. And keep praying for breakthroughs.

Daily:

- In the Word- Colossians
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Put Your Faith into Practice

May we realize who we are and what we have in Him, be encouraged, and use our God-given authority.

It's as if the enemy has thrown a cloak of hopelessness over the church in an attempt to silence us from using the authority that he knows we have.

If you are at all feeling hopeless, shake off that cloak; it is NOT from Him. Hopeless, with the God of Heaven with Whom all things are possible?

*May we know who we are **by** knowing *Who He is*. May we daily be renewing our mind in His word, where we see what He has done, what He does, what He promises to do, and more importantly- **Who He is**. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, **knowing the end from the beginning and holding it all**. This truth brings great hope.*

Will you **AWAKEN, arise, and put into practice** all that you say that you have faith for? You have faith that He '*can*'. Now have faith that He '*will*', along with the attitude that "even if He does not" (Daniel 3:17,18), you will do the right thing and trust the consequences to a sovereign God. And go and DO...(Luke 6:46-49).

You, who have been given weapons of warfare that are divinely powerful (2 Corinthians 10:3-6), will you choose to use them? **Choose**. It is not a question of if you can, it's a "*will you?*"

May His people call on His Name, allow Him to heal up their own woundedness, be appalled at sin among His people rather than expecting it (Ezra 9:3-10:6), walk in repentance and put away any form of evil from their midst, serve Him with their whole hearts (1 Samuel 7:3), pray, and go make disciples.

What if through our prayers we could take the oxygen, so to speak, the 'fuel' out of the flame of evil and infuse it instead into the flame of the true Light, which is so much greater (John 1:1-13, 8:12), shining brightly for the world to see: Him, high and lifted up. Could prayer 'shift' the 'fuel' from evil to the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to feed the flame of righteousness and snuff out the flames of evil burning brightly? That would be revival. Awaken and fast and pray for that shift- the shift to snuff out evil and ignite truth and righteousness. Pray for the turning of the tide. The Creator of the real tides is fully able to shift this negative tide of change.

Be filled with His boldness and big faith to move into the midst of the darkness and bring His powerful life-changing LIFE.

"..pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith;..." 1 Tim.6:11 and "be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry.**" 2 Tim. 4:5

Listening section:

1. Do you identify with that sense of hopelessness over yourself or the church, and how has the Lord encouraged and instructed you through this study to battle that hopelessness?
2. What specifically is at least one thing you know you need to put into practice? What do you have faith for that you need to now ACT on?
3. What did He put on your heart to pray for that you have not yet seen answered and you know that you are not supposed to stop asking yet? Keep praying.

Verse of the day:

"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it." Isaiah 46:8-11

Week 6- Day 2

Daily:

- In the Word- Hebrews 1-4
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: Where Will You Stand?

I believe that there will be more and more lines drawn in the sand, more and more issues for those who carry the name of Christ to decide: 'Where will I stand? Will I STAND FIRM *WITH* God and on His Word or will I stand on the wrong side of truth and therefore against Him (Matt. 12:30)?'

This is no time to be neutral, undecided, or double-minded (wavering, uncertain). Double-mindedness only leads to being *unstable* in *ALL* our ways (James 1:5-8, 4:7,8) and therefore '*unable*' to STAND, being 'tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming...' (Ephesians 4:14).

We are warned of those who creep in *unnoticed* (Jude 1:4) and twist 'the *application* of truth' (turning the grace of God into licentiousness). We are told that some will pay attention to "deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1), and we are instructed to **contend earnestly for the faith** that was **once for all** handed down to the saints (Jude 1:3).

Choosing to be 'neutral' is not an option.

On the issue of sin, God is not neutral, and the culture cannot redefine sin.

Being 'neutral' and 'silent' will not only be part of the problem, but it will also be siding with the enemy.

One "whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16:9) stands on the truth of the Word and is not afraid to proclaim it.

Listening section:

1. Lord, show me if I am acting as part of the problem or the solution?
2. Have you had anything 'whispered in your ear' that you know you are being called to proclaim?

Verse of the day:

"Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows." Matthew 10:26-31

Week 6- Day 3

Daily:

- In the Word- Hebrews 5-8
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

“Act resolutely, and the Lord be with the upright.” 2 Chronicles 19:11b

Have the courage to stand up and be resolute, steadfast and firm in purpose and belief. “..the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action” Daniel 11:32b. Knowing your God and what He says in His Word, make up your mind now, ahead of time with the leading of the Holy Spirit rather than the leading of the world, concerning what you believe and how you will obey. Know the promises that you can cling to as you obey His Word, and be faithful to stand with Him and not against Him.

Many, who would call themselves Christ-followers today, are standing up against the truth that is clearly set forth in His word. They need to KNOW the truth; the truth will set them free. May we know and be fully convinced of the truth we believe, so that we can rise up and proclaim freedom to the captives. Freedom has come and been made available, but many prefer being fed by Egypt (their captors) because it is 'easier' (Exodus 16:3, Numbers 11:5), not realizing the bondage of spirit that accompanies it.

Today may we heed God's instruction in the book of Jude. Do not just skim over the familiar words, but allow the Word of God to transform your mind more and more every time you come in contact with it (Romans 12:2):

"Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." Jude 1:4...

"But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, 'In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.' These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Jude 1:17-25.

These instructions are concerning the faith that was once for all handed down to the saints. Truth does not change with the changing times or changing worldviews. He created it all and knows how it runs best. Let's listen to His instructions and not to our own 'opinions' and 'ideas' (Matthew 17:4,5).

Contend earnestly for the faith and proclaim freedom to the captives.

Listening section:

-Is God placing something on your heart today that you need to settle your biblical belief on and obey and be resolute?

Verse of the day:

"..be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:17,18

Week 6- Day 4

Daily:

- In the Word- Hebrews 9-11
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

Do you claim Him as your own and yet live in opposition to what He has set forth as truth?

We need to be built up in FAITH for these days ahead. Faith in a big God, but also faith in TRUTH, faith that His truth will prevail. His truth is true regardless of who chooses to believe it or not. We cannot go forward believing lies. We cannot just believe 'peace, peace' with God where there is no peace (Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11).

There is no pretending. We cannot 'think' that we're okay and be okay. We must obey, to be okay.

His heart is clearly spoken and revealed. Where can we flee from His Spirit? Nowhere. So the only good choice is to embrace truth, even if we are persecuted for it (2 Timothy 3:12), even if it flies in the face of today's view of tolerance and love. How is it loving to condone sin that God must judge? The enemy has duped us by making biblical issues seem like political issues in an attempt to gag our mouths.

Take back the ground given over. Shout, 'Enough!' and watch the walls fall down, only to BE rebuilt on firm foundation (the truth of His Word spoken). Who will shout!? Who will go?

Say yes to the Lord and take your place

- to loosen the chains of those harassed by the enemy,
- to open eyes to SEE the FIGHT- to see the war in the heavenlies,
- to acknowledge that we are at war,
- and to fight for victory.

From God's Heart:

I am God, and there is no other. So bow to Me alone.
I am serious, and you cannot be TOO serious about Me.

Are you bowing to what the world says is right, or what My Word says? Are you taking your cues from the world, or My Spirit? Keep your eyes "fixed" on Me -that you will not be swayed by the propaganda* of this world's system (led by the enemy himself, even posing as an angel of light 2 Corinthians 11:14). Beware and be shrewd (Matthew 10:16) and know truth like the back of your hand -have it always before you -that you may be more familiar with My truth than you are with the deceitfulness of this world. Stop being led astray by this world system, which lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). Open your eyes and behold the ways of your God. You can either live for Me or against Me. There is no neutral ground. PRAY- for strength.

Take courage.

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The victory is yours, but you must fight for it. It will not come as you 'rest on your laurels' (definition= to be satisfied with one's past success and to consider further effort unnecessary). Fight in word and deed and in prayer and fasting. Loosen the chains and loosen My people to speak forth My word in power and truth.

My word is true, and My light WILL dispel darkness! Darkness CANNOT withstand My light.

So go light up the world with My love and My power: Christ exalted, high and lifted up, with praise going before you. You will slay them with your presence as you go forth in My anointing. Darkness cannot hide, and darkness cannot withstand! It is just the 'natural quality' of light.

So be a light unto the world and SHINE for My glory and fame. Don't hide it.
Shout it from the rooftops.

* definition of propaganda-information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.

Verse of the day:

"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:12-15

Week 6- Day 5

Daily:

- In the Word- Hebrews 12-13, Titus
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

From God's Heart:

“When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.' Psalm 27:8

Beloved, you are Mine, called out from among.
(Have you answered that call, opened that free gift?)

You are each uniquely different FOR My purpose.
(Give yourself and others grace to be different.)

Keep seeking My face, and it will be My face you will find.

Care only what I think, My Child. I am FOR you (not against you), and the praise and acceptance of this world cannot even begin to compare to 'My pleasure in you'. Do not live for today. Deny these worldly desires (of being praised and lauded by men OR of not being looked at, criticized, talked about) and look for and live for the age to come.

There are many examples of men afraid and ‘unable’ in their own eyes: just consider Moses or Gideon. Who you ‘think’ you are, with your limitations, is NOT the issue--it is all about Who I am and what I have planned to do with you.

Don't forget that I am what people are longing for, what people are hungry for (even My people).
GIVE ME AND MY WORD.

LEAD THEM TO THE RIVER OF LIVING WATER TO DRINK FOR THEMSELVES. Make their hearts long for the PURE word: living and powerful and active and judging even the intentions of hearts. Give it out.

As you pray for revival, obey and do your part as I use you to answer that prayer.

Allow Me to use the gifts I have given you for their purpose.

Verse of the day:

Titus 2:11-14 "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

Week 6- Day 6

Daily:

- In the Word- Philemon
- Daily Devotional
- Listen and write
- Pray through your list
- Pray aloud with someone

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional: War

War is happening in the heavenlies. Will we close our eyes and ears and refuse to stand and fight on the side of truth?

Stand for truth!

There is a spiritual war going on, and many of His people are at lazy, gluttonous rest, following idols of greed and debauchery that He never intended for them.

Who will stand up? Who will go? Who will stand on the wall and pray and sound the alarm: 'War is coming, war is coming. Learn to stand! Train yourself for battle. Discipline yourself to fight.'

Most are inadvertently training themselves to give in and give up, believing the LIE that there is no hope and nothing they can do.

He has given you weapons of warfare that are divinely powerful to demolish strongholds. Where did this attitude that nothing can be done come from? It comes from the pit of hell.

Rise up army! Rise up and take your stand on your ramparts. Keep your eyes on the horizon and watch, for the battle is breaking through and coming to you, but you are not defenseless or unarmed. You are instead uniquely equipped and prepared. Look up. Eyes on Him. He will lead you into truth and will magnify His Name with exploits through you.

Do not grow weary or grow faint. Do not let your hands fall limp (Zephaniah 3:16-17) or tremble in fear. Face it headlong. Eyes set. And fight. He is for you and promises to be with you

and fight for you. Faith and trust in Him makes you strong, as He will strongly support those whose hearts are completely His.

So here before the battle, give Him your whole heart. He will scrub it clean and make it ready and fit for warfare.

Call hearts to purity of devotion.

Colossians 2:15 "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

Do not give up. Do not just lay down. You are not helpless and hopeless. Why just give the enemy ground and room to swallow up? Why? Why are you buying into Satan's lie? There is a remnant, and there is power in even one.

(2 Samuel 14:6) He is not restrained to save by many or few. Let us, each one, take our place. And start by asking, 'What is MY place?' *For sure it is a time of prayer and fasting for all.*

There are walls that need to be rebuilt! ('Watch the ramparts!') Let us, each one, say, 'Oh Lord, use me. Let me be the one to start the building.'

Show us your blueprint, Lord.

Verse of the day:

“Do not be afraid, O Zion;
Do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
A victorious warrior (a warrior who saves).
He will exult over you with joy,
He will be quiet (renew you) in His love,
He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.” Zephaniah 3:16,17

Week 6- Day 7

A day to review the week and a Wrap-up

Daily:

- In the Word- 1 and 2 Timothy
 - Daily Devotional
 - Listen and write
 - Pray through your list
 - Pray aloud with someone
- Then with a few extra days -Week 7 read: Day 1- 1 Peter
Day 2- 1 John
Day 3- 2 Peter,
2 & 3 John, Jude

Weekly:

- Fast one day a week

Daily Devotional:

From God's Heart:

I Am yours. I am your God, your Father. Ask and it shall be given to you. Believe it. I offer you mountain moving faith.

Take up the authority that has been given to you by My Spirit, with Whom NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE (and nothing will be impossible to you, Matthew 17:20). My Word says, 'Ask, and it will be given to you, seek and you will find,'

AND that 'you do not have because you do not ask'...(James 4:2)

....so what should you be doing? PRAYING

Ask your Father.. for your needs/wants/desires...

Why would you lament?..... ASK.....

Why would you worry?.....ASK...

Why lose sleep?.... ASK and TRUST ME...

This is the confidence you have in approaching God, dear friend: that if you ask anything according to His will, He hears you. (1 John 5:14) "On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul." Psalm 138:3

"When I am afraid, I will trust in You.... with whom all things are possible... limitless!!"
Matthew 7:7, 17:20, 21:21-22, Psalm 56:3, Matt 19:26

'Watch the Ramparts' Wrap-up

I hope that this time has been a blessing to you and that you have renewed some spiritual disciplines, or fallen into some brand new ones, that you will continue. Oh, that you would have experienced and realized the depths of the benefits of intimacy with Jesus in even new ways as you have committed to these 6 weeks of focus.

I pray that this has sparked a deep hunger in you, one in which you will continue to **turn to Jesus and His Word to fill.**

I *dream* that God will use what He has placed on my heart here to change lives and draw many closer to His heart and to obedience. I *long for it* to be passed along and therefore spread so that we cover more and more areas in prayer as we each pray for 'our sphere' and areas that He has placed on our hearts.

I ask that you take two weeks away from this commitment and then pray about starting it again and asking others to join you.

Let's join together and cover our world in effective prayer, as we also love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and ACT, loving our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27).

Ask and Act.

Don't neglect reviewing all that God has spoken to your heart and taught you these 6 weeks. **Thank you for your commitment. I know that God has surely met your commitment with His Presence.** Thank you for joining me.

Blessings to you all,
Traci Shinnick

"O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.
Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.
Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips will praise You.
So I will bless You as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands in Your name.
My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth offered praises with joyful lips,...." Psalm 63:1-5