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CRY OUT TO THE Lord ORESET My Walk with God

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BroadStreet

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Preface

Sometimes it's for you. Sometimes it's for a child, your family, or a friend. Sometimes it's for our nation or a broken world. We've all been there: we've all felt the need to *personally* cry out to the Lord.

- There are times we CRY OUT TO THE LORD because we don't know what to do. Our prayer to Him is a prayer of HUMILITY. Haven't there been times when you have prayed Jehoshaphat's prayer, "[Lord], we do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help?" (2 Chronicles 20:12).
- There are times we CRY OUT TO THE LORD because we have messed up, chosen poorly, or gone against God's plan for our lives. With REPENTANCE, you may have restored your relationship with the Lord by asking Him to give you "clean hands and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:3-4, NASB).
- There are times when we CRY OUT TO THE LORD out of a desire to YIELD to His Lordship and hope for His Spirit to fill us and overflow through us (Ephesians 5:18).
- There are times when we CRY OUT TO THE LORD in INTERCESSION. Haven't there been times when you've poured out the burdens of your heart and carried the needs of others before Him, even when you didn't know exactly what to pray (Romans 8:26)?

 And certainly there are times when we CRY OUT TO THE LORD, asking Him to REENGAGE us in living out the Great Commission. Haven't there been moments of prayer where you've asked the Lord of the harvest to reignite your passion for the lost and send you out (Luke 10:2)?

Cry Out to the Lord is designed to bring a fresh experience to these moments when we all cry out to God. The goal of this resource is to help you move beyond seeking to simply know or obey God's truth and to move toward experiencing it. As we actually experience truth in our relationship with Jesus, He will lead us into a relational faith. It's only a relational faith that will reset our walk with God.

In order to fully illustrate what a relational faith includes, we have defined forty different Spirit-empowered outcomes (see Appendix). *Cry Out to the Lord* is written with a focus on five of these outcomes:

- 1. A Spirit-empowered faith consistently practices selfdenial, fasting, and solitude rest.
- 2. A Spirit-empowered faith lives out a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things.
- A Spirit-empowered faith yields to the Holy Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, the manifestation of divine gifts, and the witness of the fruit of the Spirit.
- 4. A Spirit-empowered faith expresses disciplined, bold, and believing prayer.

5. A Spirit-empowered faith champions Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.

Just as we have all felt the need to cry out to God in a personal way, a Spirit-empowered disciple of Jesus is also committed to corporate times of prayer to the Lord. "Gather the elders...and cry out to the Lord" (Joel 1:14, NASB).

In response to the spiritual wake-up call on September 11, 2001, the Awakening America Alliance has been faithfully urging Christ's followers to gather for Cry Out America prayer gatherings across the nation and to engage in an annual rhythm of prayer through the National Prayer Accord. This Cry Out to the Lord resource is designed to support these corporate gatherings where faith, civic, and community groups cry out to the Lord on behalf of our country. Additionally, the "Cry Out to the Lord Order of Worship" is a useful tool for pastors and church leaders who desire to host their own corporate prayer gatherings (see Appendix).

Imagine what could be different if thousands of churches, with millions of people gathered and with one voice cried out to the Lord in humility, repentance, yieldedness, intercession, and reengagement with the Great Commission! (Visit www.awakeningamerica.us for more information.)





RESET YOUR WALK WITH GOD

When your computer or mobile device freezes, you know to hit the reset button. A reset restores the system to its original design. Hitting "reset" gives it a fresh start. So what happens when it's something in your life that feels frozen? Do you ever wish you could start over? Everyone feels that at times. And Jesus is the reset. Jesus restores you to your original design. He gives you a fresh start. That's what we hope this resource does for your prayer life. May it be a fresh start in your relationship with Jesus!

The Cry Out to the Lord resource is intended to serve the Reset Movement.

Reset is a work of anyone and everyone who wants to see Jesus bring hope to this generation and to this nation. Reset began as a prayer and dream of a young leader from North Dakota named Nick Hall, to see this generation unite around Jesus. The vision was never about one person or organization but a partnership around Jesus—and Jesus calls everyone.

Reset is not an organization. Reset is a prayer and a movement of people sharing the message of the hope Jesus brings

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when we pray it. The vision is not to facilitate a passive audience, but to catalyze an army of individuals who are actively praying to Jesus to reset their lives, their communities, and their cities—and actively seeking to live a life reset by Jesus. While there are organizations involved, the fuel of this movement is you.

The Reset Movement has identified four ways to start your reset. These four ingredients are the inspiration for calls to action that we have inserted into each of the writings by the authors in this resource.



The message of Reset is that Jesus can and will reset your life. And that same message and invitation is shared at Reset events. The events are a place to connect in person with others who are praying and living reset lives, hear stories of what Jesus is doing,



Finally, The Great Commandment Network is thrilled to serve each contributor and ministry partner through this resource. Our resource development and training team serves various partners as they develop Spirit-empowered disciples who walk intimately with God's Son, God's Word, and God's people. May Jesus richly bless the unity, commitment, and faith that Cry Out to the Lord represents.

Terri Snead Executive Editor, Great Commandment Network

The Great Commandment Network is an international collaborative network of strategic kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education, and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37–40, Matthew 28:19–20).





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SECTION 1 PREFACE

I CHOOSE TO HUMBLE MYSELF AND SEEK HIS FACE

O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love.... Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.

(Psalm 17:1, 6-8 ESV)

A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED FAITH

consistently practices self-denial, fasting, and solitude. Let these authors encourage your Spirit-empowered faith:

- Ronnie Floyd—When Should You Call upon the Lord?
- Mark Williams—Teach Us to Pray
- Jeremy Story—Transformation through Prayer and Fasting
- Dennis Gallaher—Sabbath Rest

1

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL UPON THE LORD?

From How to Pray by Ronnie Floyd



CRY OUT TO THE LORD

Lord, my hope is not in more money, a different government, a new relationship, or a change of circumstance. My hope is in You and You alone. I humbly declare, "Your ways are not my ways, and Your thoughts are not my thoughts."

(Isaiah 55:8, paraphrased) Help me to call upon You all the days of my life.

PREFACE

Scripture is clear that every Christian should practice calling upon the Lord in prayer. Like the psalmist David, we're encouraged to pray personally: "I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears" (Psalm 18:6). And Joel 1:14 reminds us to pray corporately: "Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the LORD your God, and cry out to him there." When should believers call upon the Lord? Here are five situations in which Christians should call upon the Lord.

CALL UPON THE LORD ALL THE TIME

Do you call upon the Lord all the time or only when you need something? Do you call upon Him out of conviction or out of crisis? Is your life organized enough so that you can spend time daily time with Him in prayer? Do you have a plan that allows time for you to call upon the Lord in prayer? Your spiritual life should not have to be in an intensive care unit for you to pray. Calling upon the Lord continually demonstrates that we are depending upon the Lord rather than ourselves. Call upon the Lord all the time, every day.

Call upon the Lord in a Time of Need

Just as parents love for their children to call on them in a time of need, God loves for His children to do the same. Calling upon the Lord in a time of need does not indicate a lack of faith, but an understanding that God is the ultimate object of our faith. God can do anything, anywhere, and at any time. He can provide for your need.

What kind of need do you have today? I do not believe God categorizes our needs as big or small. At times, we may be tempted to handle the small things and let God handle just the big things. It is as if we are saying "God, we know You are so busy that we will bother You with just the things that we know we cannot handle by ourselves." Prayerlessness indicates dependence upon ourselves. This attitude is wrong. God wants us to come to Him in prayer about all of our needs.

What is your need today? Do you need healing? All healing takes place because of God. Do you need money? Honor Him with what you have, and He will provide for your need. Do you have a relationship that is strained? Only God can bring two hostile or opposing persons together. Do you have a material need? Call upon the Lord! He is able to meet even your material needs.

I believe that God creates needs in your life for the purpose of causing you to depend upon Him. He wants you to rely upon Him. He wants to do the impossible. He loves to show others that with Him all things are possible. Even before your need exists, God already has the supply.

LEARN to Encounter Jesus

He always lives to make intercession for [you]. (Hebrews 7:25, NASB)

Imagine that you walk into a room and find Jesus engaged in prayer. You may not hear the specific words He is using, but you are confident that Christ is praying for someone He dearly loves. You peer over Jesus' shoulder and, to your surprise, your own prayer list is lying in front of Him. Jesus is praying for you—the Savior is praying for *your* needs, *your* temptations, and *your* heartfelt struggles. He is praying for the very vision, ministry, and calling that you hope to pursue.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus intercedes on your behalf? He spends time talking to His Father about you—not judging you or condemning you, not in criticism or in ridicule. Jesus speaks to the Father and reminds Him of your needs, and He reminds Him of the price He paid on the cross so that you might have abundant life both now and forever. How does it make you feel to reflect on Jesus' prayers for you?

As I reflect on how Jesus prays for me, I am filled with

Finally, consider the reality that Jesus often prays to the Father about your needs, but He does so without you. Jesus prays alone. Is there something in your spirit that is prompted to join Him more often? Tell Jesus about that now.

Jesus, as I imagine You interceding for me—often without me—I feel

I want You to hear the feelings of my heart concerning

I am so grateful for You

CALL UPON THE LORD IN A TIME OF PURSUING THE FUTURE Some of the most important decisions you will make in life have to do with planning your future. When pursuing what lies ahead, call upon the Lord. He is able to give to you guidance and wisdom in regard to your future. The Bible promises you a great life, wonderful welfare, and God's peace as you call upon the Lord in prayer (see Jeremiah 29:11).

One of the pivotal questions each person must ask pertaining to his or her future is, *God, what do You want me to do*? My life is not my own; I belong to God. I am not owned by any man or any system. I am not the property of this world. I am God's property. Since He owns the title to my life, I must take directions pertaining to my future from Him.

Call upon the Lord in a Time of Worship

In moments of public worship, are you calling upon the Lord? Is your day for worship set aside for the purpose of worshipping Him? Before you go to worship at your church, talk to God. Summon Him to meet with you and the entire body of Christ that is sharing the experience with you.



Much of the worship in church life today is stale and powerless. As a result, lives are left unchanged. Could this be happening because we do not spend time calling upon the Lord in worship? Much of worship today centers on personalities and performance, rather than the Lord and His work in the lives of people. Worship should never be about the people in attendance. Worship should exalt the Lord Jesus and be focused on calling upon Him in prayer. Call upon the Lord in a time of worship.

PRAY and Experience Scripture

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us.... (Ephesians 1:5–6)

Take a few moments to consider the incredible truth that you have been brought into a relationship with the One of whom all these things are true. How does it make you feel to realize that you have the privilege to know, love, and be loved by such a Savior? What does it do to your heart to imagine that God smiles with pleasure when He thinks about you being a part of His family? Take a few moments to praise Him now for His gracious gift found in Christ Jesus.

Lord Jesus, as I think about the incredible privilege of having a relationship with You, my heart is filled with

(For example, gratitude, love, joy, praise, a sense of unworthiness, peace, awe, or wonder.)

I feel ______ when I imagine Your smile, because I'm a part of Your family. I praise You for loving me.

Call upon the Lord in a Designated Prayer Time

Do you have a designated time of prayer in your life? Make a date with God daily. Find a plan to follow. First things first! Get alone with God at the first of the day. Use this time to call upon the Lord in prayer. Let it be the time every day when you bare your heart to God about your life and your greatest needs. Take the time to listen to what He says to you after you share your heart with Him.

A final important suggestion: Make an appeal to the pastors and leaders in your church to set aside worship services that are dedicated solely to prayer. God can do more in a moment of prayer than in all the programs one church could do in a lifetime. Determine to make your church a praying church. Decide today, how you can walk alongside your pastor, helping him create a fellowship of believers who practice calling upon the Lord in prayer. Stand up and be different. Be a Christian who calls upon the Lord in prayer.

SHARE with Others in Community

Everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. (Luke 6:40, NIV)

Imagine Christ standing before you—the only true Teacher (Matthew 23:10), and the One who lives to make intercession for you (Hebrews 7:25). Your Teacher loves to pray; in fact, He lives to pray. Reflect on your opportunity to pray with Jesus. Then talk to a friend, family member, or mentor about your willingness and desire to become a person of prayer, just like your Teacher. Invite this person to pray with you on a regular basis.

LOVE Others in Community

Pause quietly to consider this question: Lord, who needs me to pray for them and call upon You to help them? Lord, I call out to You on behalf of ______. You know the needs, and I'm asking You to ______. By faith, I am claiming the promise that ______. How can I show Your love to this person?



2

TEACH US TO PRAY

From The Praying Church Handbook, Volume II by Mark Williams



CRY OUT TO THE LORD

Lord, I cry out to You today. Help me to be still and listen to You. Open my eyes to see You more clearly. Open my ears to hear Your voice and then sense the things that are on Your heart. Help me make the things of God my priority. T pray with many Christians throughout the ages: Lord, teach me to pray.

PREFACE

Prayer is our simple but amazing privilege to communicate with the Lord, experiencing unhindered intimacy and fellowship with Him. Through prayer we boldly go into the throne room of the Almighty, the very dwelling place of the Most High. God loves our prayers—He loves to hear us talk to Him and He loves to show Himself mighty in answering what we ask of Him. In fact, the book of Revelation tells us that our prayers are like sweet perfume to the Lord—the fragrance of our worshipful hearts sweetens the presence of God (Revelation 5:8). How amazing would it be and how pleased would God be if every Christ-follower became a person of intimate prayer?



The one quality that seems to most characterize the life of Jesus Christ and makes the deepest impact upon His disciples was His prayer life. Jesus Christ was a man of prayer. Sure, He raised the dead. Sure, He brought sight to the blind. Sure, He made the lame to walk and the blind to see—but none of this was accomplished without prayer. Prayer was the driving force of His ministry. It was the energizing force of His life. Prayer was the passion of His very existence. When He walked into the temple and found those who were buying and selling oxen. sheep, and doves, others who were making merchandise of the gospel, He became enraged and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, took a chord and drove them out of the temple, and said, "It is written, 'My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves'" (Matthew 21:13). He believed in prayer so strongly that He "spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

Jesus practiced what He preached. Time and again, the Scripture reveals Jesus making prayer a priority. At all times and in all ways, Jesus prayed. Jesus prayed for Himself. Jesus prayed for His disciples! Jesus prayed for all who would believe on Him! Jesus prayed frequently! Jesus prayed faithfully! Jesus prayed fervently! Jesus prayed fruitfully!

Most importantly, right now, Jesus is praying for you! He is the great High Priest, and He ever lives to make intercession for us!

PRAY and Experience Scripture

Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness. (1 Chronicles 16:8)

Jesus was a model for us because He prayed for specific people. In fact, when Jesus told Peter that he was going to experience persecution, Jesus actually told him that he made the Savior's prayer list. Luke reminds us, "Jesus said to Peter, 'But I have prayed for you'" (Luke 22:32). But what's more amazing is that Christ doesn't just pray for Peter or for people who lived in the first century; He prays for you too. Isn't it amazing to know that we have a historical Jesus, but we also have a contemporary Jesus? This is why the writer of Hebrews says that He is the "same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Pause quietly to picture Jesus bowed in prayer. When Christ finishes His prayer, He lifts His head and says the same to you: "Dear one, I have prayed for you." He then begins to tell you about the prayers of protection that He is praying for your life, the prayers of provision and the divine intervention He has asked for on your behalf. Jesus explains all that He is sharing with the Father because He deeply cares for you. Now respond to Him in gratitude. Give Him thanks and declare His greatness.

Thank You, Lord, for being a present-tense, right-now Jesus. I'm grateful that You are praying for me because _____. You are great because _____.

Secondly, for prayer to be effective, Jesus says that we must remember that prayer is based on relationship. That intimate union between a believer and his Lord, whereby we see God, not as some sovereign dictate of heaven that is void of love and compassion, not as the Unmoved Mover, but we come to understand that God is. "Our Father which art in heaven." We must come to recognize that God is transcendent, but He is also immanent. He is the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, but He is also a very present help in the time of need. And Jesus, the one who prays for us, is both fully God and fully human. We have the opportunity to relate to someone who is as real and human as our next door neighbor and at the same time, a sovereign and omnipotent King. And just as Scripture notes that Abraham was a "friend of God," we can rejoice that we also are a friend of God. He reveals Himself to you and involves you in prayerful intimacy!

LEARN to Encounter Jesus

Reflect on Christ's final moments in the garden of Gethsemane. The divinity of our Savior knew His sacrifice was going to be offered for our redemption. However, at the same time, the humanity of our Savior knew the pain He faced at Calvary would be unlike any pain He had ever known before. And out of that mixture of emotion, Jesus asked His disciples for support: "[Jesus] told them, 'My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me'" (Matthew 26:38).

Remarkably, at the saddest hour of Christ's earthly ministry, the time when the disciples where supposed to be awake

and supportive of Jesus' upcoming sufferings, the disciples fell asleep. Even after Jesus repeatedly pled for them to join Him in prayer, His closest friends failed to pray. Remember Christ's pain-filled words at this point: "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.... Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?" (Matthew 26:38, 40).

Reflect on this scene for a moment. How might you have responded to Jesus' request to watch with Him? Is there something within you that longs to make up for what the disciples missed? Listen as the Holy Spirit speaks these same words to your heart: "Can you come pray with Me for just one hour?"

Respond to Jesus now.

As I sense Your invitation for me to join You in prayer, my heart is moved to _____.

Now celebrate! Through the blood of Jesus at Calvary, we who were once alienated and distanced from Him have been brought nigh and made to be part of the family of God! "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:15, 16). We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ! Jesus is our elder brother and God is our Father! He is a Father who is dependable! He is a Father who loves, cares, and protects His own! He is Father to the fatherless! He is the Father who knows what we need before we ask Him! And if we, being earthly, "know how to give

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good gifts unto our children, how much more shall the heavenly Father give good gifts unto them that ask Him!" What a privilege to come into His presence and say, "Our Father which art in heaven!"

SHARE with Others in Community

The decision Christ made in the garden and His choice to give His life at Calvary was the greatest demonstration of love we'll ever know. Jesus made the choice to give of His life at Calvary because He loved you so much that He wanted to give His life for you: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

As His grateful ambassadors, we are called to pass on this divinely extravagant love. Some of Christ's final words on earth confirm this truth: "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:34– 35). Refresh your commitment to this commandment. And pray this prayer with another Jesus-follower:

Father, I want to make You my priority as I live out the commandment You have for me. As I reflect on the privilege—and the wonder of passing along the love You demonstrated, my heart is moved with ______. Continue to reveal

Yourself to me as I share Your love with those around me.

LOVE others in Community

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling....(Ephesians 1:18, NASB)

Pray and ask God to open the eyes of your heart; ask Him to reveal the person or persons who need a fresh demonstration of Christ's love—through you. Claim the promise of Ephesians 1:18, that you might "see and hear," just as Jesus does.

Lord, open my eyes to the people You want me to love. Show me the person who needs a fresh demonstration of Your care this week. Reveal how You want me to be a part of loving them. Show me, Lord. I'm ready to demonstrate Your love in a real and life-giving way.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PRAYER AND FASTING

by Jeremy Story



CRY OUT TO THE LORD

Lord, I cry out to You and acknowledge that You are the Lord of my life. You are all-powerful over this world, and You are all-powerful over my heart. Empower me to live a life of faith in You. Make my life marked by fasting and prayer so that I am sensitive to Your Spirit and pleasing to You. God, I'm desperate for Your presence. I need You.

PREFACE

Our humility before the Lord is the beginning of great things that He is about to do in our lives. It is then our submission to His agenda and His power that paves the way for the Spirit's transformation, causing us to be more and more like Christ. We'll know true inner transformation has begun in our own lives and in our communities when one unified voice resonates with His love. 30

Recently I returned from the New York City area after living there for six years. During my time there I was reminded again how God lays out clear principles in the Bible to see any family, campus, city, or nation transformed.

New York and New England are known for being the toughest ground for ministry among us college students. However, during my time in New York City, we saw God do miraculous things. Thousands of students across the Northeast were mobilized into prayer and action. Together with other leaders, a city-wide prayer gathering was established, involving students from over fifty campuses. God united campus ministers in prayer and in plans for action across the city. This unified effort provided an environment where many college-focused churches and ministries were able to do things they had only dreamed of before.

Please don't misunderstand, there is still much more to do in New York City. The Bible promises us that this side of heaven there will always be more ways we need to see God's transformation. Would you like to know how to take transformation steps in your sphere of influence? Read on.

THE EPHESIAN ELEMENTS

Transforming a campus, business, or city may be a big topic, but the Bible does break it down into key elements. The Oxford Online Dictionary defines an "element" as, "A part or aspect of something abstract, especially one that is essential or characteristic." Paul's letter to the Ephesian church provides a clear outline of these essential elements.

ELEMENT 1: GOD'S ULTIMATE WILL IS TO SEE EVERYTHING SUBMITTED TO JESUS

The Bible actually tells us this clearly! Ephesians 1:9–10 (NIV) states, "He [God] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."

God is certainly moving now (as he has been since the first day of earthly history) to do one primary thing: Unite everything under the authority of Jesus. He created you, specifically to be a part of this plan. This means that every time you submit and obey God, even when the prevailing culture isn't, you are moving with the overall, forceful flow of history rather than against it. Don't shrink back because you have a hard time believing God's stated goal. Don't recoil because you think it's impossible for Jesus to reign in the lives of those around you. Let God's voice speak louder than the culture of your neighborhood, business, or city.

PRAY and Experience Scripture

God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. (Ephesians 1:9–10)

Pause now and pray a prayer to the Lord, asking Him to continue to reveal the things in your life that need to be placed under His authority. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these things to your heart, in order to fulfill His good pleasure and purpose in your life.



Lord, what parts of my life need to be more pleasing to You? I want You to reveal any thought, action, attitude, or behavior that needs to be placed under Your authority. I submit to You, Lord. Forgive me for not allowing You to be Lord over every part of my life. I submit to You now and confess that Jesus is Lord.

After the Lord has spoken about the areas you need to submit to Him, consider including a regular day of fasting and prayer as a part of your submission to His plan.

ELEMENT 2: THE POWER OF JESUS IN YOU HAS AUTHORITY TO OVERCOME ANYTHING

By God's grace, not our virtue, Jesus' authority reigns in and through us now. Ephesians 1:21–23 (NIV) reminds us, "...He [God] raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

Don't accept that the things which are contrary to God's desires are unchangeable. God has placed us into his family, the body of Christ. God has placed "all rule and authority, power and dominion...under his feet," and because we are the body that authority is under our feet as well. Let us not be people who embrace the reality of God, but deny his everyday power in and through our lives. God wants you to live in purity and exercise his authority in prayer. He wants to dispel the darkness that brings bondage to our lives and the people around us.

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Jesus, and the early Christ-followers, didn't beg God to act. They prayed with confidence that God *would* act. They knew God's authority could be directly appropriated through their prayers and resulting faith-filled actions. Ephesians 3:10 even tells us that the wisdom of God is revealed to beings in the heavenly realms through our actions here on earth!

LEARN to Encounter Jesus

Imagine the scene described in Ephesians. Christ is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms. Imagine yourself kneeling before the One who has all things placed under His feet; He has been appointed the head over everything in the world. Picture the King on His throne, and as you sit at His feet He begins to remind you of where you are. You have the ability to talk and relate to the One who has the power to do anything He wants, the One who has the ability to change everything with just one word.

Picture the face of Jesus as He says to you, "Dear one, I am both the God of all comfort and the Lord God Almighty. I am the God of grace *and* I'm the Lord of all. It may seem difficult to imagine, but I can't wait for you to call upon Me and trust Me. Your faith actually brings Me pleasure. In fact, without faith it's impossible to please Me."

Spend a few moments meditating on this fact. In what area of your life do you need to trust Him more? In what new way can you depend upon Him and, by faith, wait for Him to act on your behalf? Lord, in what area of my life do You want me to trust You more? Because You are the God of all grace, I know You care about me deeply. Thank You for Your fatherly care for me. And because You are the God of all power and dominion, the One who is seated at the Father's right hand, I trust You to work Your plans and purposes in my life.

After the Lord has spoken to you, consider including a regular day of fasting and prayer to sensitize your heart and empower your faith in what only God can do.

ELEMENT 3: UNITE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS TO MAGNIFY JESUS Unity in prayer and action is the paramount hallmark of transformation. Ephesians 4:3 implores every believer to, "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Outside of God's love for us, there is no greater recurring theme in the New Testament than the call to unite with other Christ-followers. Biblical unity doesn't mean uniformity. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that each of us are gifted in different and unique ways. We should fulfill our different callings and exercise our different gifts, but we should make every effort to bring together our different strengths. In fact, our differences were put there by God in order to reveal that we need each other and in the beauty of unity we see him more clearly.

Biblical unity also is a testament to the existence and relevance of Jesus. Ephesians 4:14 says that our oneness will actually better proclaim truth rather than water it down. When different people stand together around the same Christ; we speak more loudly into the culture around us.



• SHARE with Others in Community

Ask a friend to share a specific prayer request or need with you and then vulnerably share your own with them. Spend some time praying over one another. Submit to the Lord's agenda for your prayer partner. Declare God's power over their life and then unite in prayer.

Lord, we are praying for ______, and we submit to Your plans and desires for this situation. We know that You are powerful enough to ______. And so, in unity we ask You by faith to ______.

LOVE Others in Community

Join with some friends in praying for God to involve each of you in changing your community. Unite in prayer and in action. Discuss and plan ways to express Christ's love to the people around you. Utilize your differing gifts, talents, and callings to collectively show God's love to those you come into contact with. Pray toward this plan in unity and with faith.

God, we want to be a picture of You in our community. How is the best way to show Your love? God, we know You promised to be with us when we gather together in Your name, so we trust you to______. And we ask You in faith to involve us in showing love to our community by

Finally, ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to tell an unchurched friend about the difference prayer is making in your life.

Appendix

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND THEIR RESOURCES

MARK BATTERSON

Excerpt from: **Wild Goose Chase: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God** Copyright © 2008 by Mark Batterson Publisher: WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group ISBN: 978-1-59052-719-1

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mark Batterson is the New York Times best-selling author of The Circle Maker, The Grave Robber, and A Trip around the Sun. He is the lead pastor of National Community Church, one church with seven campuses in Washington, DC. Mark has a doctor of ministry degree from Regent University and lives on Capitol Hill with his wife, Lora, and their three children. Learn more at: www.markbatterson.com.

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DOUG BEACHAM

Excerpt from: Solemn Assembly: Seizing the Future on Our Knees

General Superintendent's presentation, IPHC National Conference (1996) Solemn Assembly, Northwood Temple, Fayetteville, NC.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A. D. (Doug) Beacham is the General Superintendent and Presiding Bishop of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. He is an accomplished leader, writer, teacher, and speaker. Before his election as General Superintendent, he served as the executive director of World Missions Ministries. Doug has published six books, the latest of which is *The Christmas Spirit*. In addition to his service within the church, Dr. Beacham represents the IPHC at various organizations and gatherings. For more information, visit: www.iphc.org.

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DAVE BUTTS

Excerpt from: **When God Shows Up: Essays on Revival** Copyright © 2013 by David Butts Publisher: PrayerShop Publishing Terre Haute, IN 47801 www.prayershop.org ISBN: 978-1-935012-46-7

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David Butts is President of Harvest Prayer Ministries. He also serves in the following positions: President, Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming); Chairman, America's National Prayer Committee; Facilitation Committee, Mission America Coalition; Executive Committee, Awakening America Alliance. Besides authoring numerous magazine articles on prayer and missions for various publications, Dave is the author of: Forgotten Power; When God Shows Up: Essays on Revival; and Pray Like the King: Lessons from the Prayers of Israel's Kings, which he wrote jointly with his wife, Kim. To purchase resources: www.prayershop.org. For scheduling, contact: dave@harvestprayer.com.

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FRANCES CHAN

Excerpt from: **Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit** Copyright © 2009 by Francis Chan Publisher: David C. Cook ISBN 978-1-4347-6795-0 Default Bible translation: ESV

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Francis Chan is the former teaching pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Simi Valley, CA, a church he and his wife started in 1994. He is also the Founder and Chancellor of Eternity Bible College and author of the best-selling books *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*, and most recently, *You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity.* For more, visit: francischan.org.

ANTHONY EVANS

Excerpt from: **America: Turning a Nation to God** Copyright © 2015 by Anthony T. Evans Publisher: Moody Publishers www.moodypublishers.com ISBN (hardcover): 978-0-8024-1267-6 Default Bible translation: NASB

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tony Evans is one of the most respected leaders in evangelical circles. As a wellknown pastor, teacher, author, and speaker, he has devoted his life and ministry to presenting biblical truth and its uncompromising application to the whole of life. Dr. Evans' innate ability to connect biblical principles to everyday realities continues to transform lives all over the world. He has written numerous books and booklets, including *Oneness Embraced*, *The Kingdom Agenda*, *Raising Kingdom Kids*, and *Kingdom Man*. For more information, visit: www.ocbfchurch.org.

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DAVID FERGUSON

Original article by David Ferguson: **"Godly Sorrow: Key to Repentance"** Contact David at: 2511 South Lakeline Blvd. Cedar Park, Texas 78713 (512) 795-0498 www.greatcommandment.net

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David Ferguson serves as the Executive Director for the Great Commandment Network that serves more than twenty denominations and para-church ministries through pastoral care, training strategies, and resource development. David is a member of the Oxford Society of Scholars and has authored more than twenty-five books, including *Relational Foundations*, *Relational Discipleship*, *Intimate Encounters*, and *The Great Commandment Principle*. David and his wife, Teresa, are the co-founders of Intimate Life Ministries and the Center for Relational Leadership and have conducted training and coaching events for ministers and leaders from more than fifty countries.



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RONNIE FLOYD

Excerpt from: **How to Pray** Copyright © 1999 by Word Publishing Publisher: Word Publishing, a Thomas Nelson Company ISBN: 0-8499-3746-9 Default Bible translation: NASB

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ronnie Floyd was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 2014 and is pastor of Cross Church, a multisite fellowship of believers, in northwest Arkansas. From a desire to influence the vibrant northwest Arkansas business community, he founded the Northwest Arkansas Business Persons Summit. Additionally, he also founded the Cross Church School of Ministry, a one-year ministry residency that prepares leaders for life, ministry, and gospel advancement globally. Currently, he is the general editor of LifeWay's Bible Studies for Life, and author of over twenty books. For more information, visit: www.RonnieFloyd.com. Follow him on Twitter @RonnieFloyd and Instagram@RonnieFloyd.

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DENNIS GALLAHER

Excerpt from e-book: **A Sabbath Rest** www.amazon.com/dp/B008RLYFL4

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Dennis Gallaher and his wife, Jan, have been caring for God's people for thirty-seven years, the past twenty-seven years at Freedom Fellowship Church. They have two grown sons and four grandchildren. Dennis has a degree in Ministry from Hill Country Bible College, a BA in Biblical Counseling from Trinity College, and a MA in Professional Counseling from Texas State University. In their heart of hearts, they are committed to shepherding God's people and loving His church with sincerity and dedication. Read Dennis' blogs at www.dennisgallaher.com and at www.actlikemenblog.com.

ALTON GARRISON

Excerpt from: A Spirit-Empowered Church: An Acts 2 Ministry Model Copyright © 2015 Publisher: Influence Resources ISBN: 978-1681540016

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Alton Garrison serves as the Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. In addition, he serves as the director of the Acts 2 Revitalization Initiative, which helps churches renew their spiritual vitality and reach their full kingdom potential. He is the author of Hope in America's Crisis; Building the Winning Team; Acts 2 Church; and The 360° Disciple. Garrison and his wife, Johanna, currently reside in Springfield, MO.

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NICK HALL

Original article by Nick Hall: "**When We Pray, God Moves**" Contact Nick at: 34 13th Ave. NE, Suite B001 Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 248-8080 team@pulsemovement.com

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Nick Hall is the Founder and Chief Communicator for PULSE, a prayer and evangelism movement on mission to empower the church and awaken culture to the reality of Jesus. He sits on the leadership teams for the US Lausanne Committee, the National Association of Evangelicals, the student advisory team for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and the executive committee for Luis Palau's Next Generation Alliance. Nick has a master's in Leadership and Christian Thought from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He lives in Minneapolis, MN, with his wife, Tiffany, and son, Truett. They are expecting a baby girl in late 2015.

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KAY HORNER

Original article from Kay Horner: **"A Call to Sacrifice**" Contact Kay Horner at: PO Box 3986 Cleveland, TN 37320 (888)-9-AWAKE-US (888)-929-2538 www.awakeningamerica.us

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Kay Horner is the Executive Director of Awakening America Alliance and National Coordinator for the Cry Out America 9/11 Prayer Initiative. The Awakening America Alliance provides a broad umbrella under which the body of Christ can unite together in seeking a contemporary spiritual awakening. Kay makes her home in Cleveland, TN.

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JOSH MCDOWELL

Excerpt from: **God-Breathed: The Undeniable Power and Reliability of Scripture** Copyright © 2015 by Josh McDowell Ministry Publisher: Shiloh Run Press, imprint of Barbour Publishing, Inc. Default Bible translation: NLT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Josh McDowell has been reaching the spiritually skeptical for more than five decades. Since beginning ministry in 1961, Josh has spoken to more than 25 million people in 128 countries. He is the author or coauthor of 148 books, with over 51 million copies distributed worldwide, including *Straight Talk with Your Kids About Sex*, *Experience Your Bible, Evidence for the Historical Jesus*, *More Than a Carpenter*, and *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, recognized by *World Magazine* as one of the twentieth century's top-40 books. For additional resources and to reach Josh, visit: www.josh.org.

BYRON PAULUS AND BILL ELIFF

Excerpt from: **OneCry: A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening** Copyright © 2014 by Byron Paulus and Bill Eliff Publisher: Moody Publishers; new edition ISBN: 13: 978-0802411396 Default Bible translation: NASB

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Byron Paulus, as President and Executive Director of Life Action Ministries, oversees numerous revival-oriented outreaches (www.lifeaction.org), including the OneCry movement of believers who are urgently crying out to God to revitalize the church and transform our culture. For more than three decades, Byron has influenced thousands through his various speaking, writing, and leadership endeavors. Byron and his wife, Sue, have raised three children and reside in Niles, MN.

Bill Elliff leads the pastor emphasis of the OneCry movement. As the Senior Teaching Pastor of The Summit Church in North Little Rock, AR, his passion is to see genuine revival and methodological renewal in the church. Bill is a frequent conference speaker, writer, and consultant to churches, drawing from more than forty years of pastoring and revival ministry. He and his wife, Holly, have eight children and live in Little Rock, AR.

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TOM PHILLIPS

Excerpt from: **Revival Signs: The Coming Spiritual Awakening** Copyright © 1995 by Tom Phillips Publisher: Vision House Publishing, Inc. 1217 NE Burnside, Suite 403 Gresham, OR 97030 ISBN: 1-885305-15-X visionpublishinghouse.com

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Tom Phillips is the Vice President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Dr. Phillips is an expert in global evangelism, revival, and church growth and evangelism trends throughout the world. His extensive background of leadership involvements includes leading the training program at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove,

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Senior Crusade Director (Billy Graham crusades), Director of Counseling and Follow-up (BGEA), School of Evangelism (instructor), and numerous other leadership assignments. For more information, visit: billygrahamlibrary.org.

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SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ

Excerpt from: The Lamb's Agenda: Why Jesus Is Calling You to a Life of Righteousness and Justice

Copyright © 2013 by Samuel Rodriguez Publisher: Thomas Nelson ISBN: 978-1-4002-0449-6 Default Bible translation: NIV

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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ED STETZER

Excerpt from the e-book: **Compelled: Living the Mission of God** Original title: *Compelled by Love* These excerpts are from the new edition, 2012 Copyright © 2012 by Ed Stetzer and Philip Nation Publisher: New Hope Publishers ISBN: 13: 978-1596693517

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Ed Stetzer has planted, revitalized, and pastored churches. He has trained pastors and church planters on five continents, holds two master's degrees and two



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Philip Nation works as the Director of Adult Ministry Publishing at LifeWay Christian Resources and serves as the teaching pastor for The Fellowship, a multisite church in Nashville, TN. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. His books include *Compelled*: Living the Mission of God and Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow. He is the happy husband to Angie and father to Andrew and Chris.

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JEREMY STORY

Original article by Jeremy Story: "Transformation Through Prayer and Fasting"

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jeremy Story has a history of starting great collegiate ministry movements across America. A self-proclaimed "systems man," he seeks to hear from God on how to more effectively reach college students for Christ. Contact Jeremy at (512) 331-5991 or info@campusrenewal.org. Also see Facebook.com/campusrenewal or www.campusrenewal.org.

A Practical Action Point: Apply These Elements to Pray for College Campuses

The Awakening America Alliance is working to build a prayer accord of people praying together in a common rhythm for revival and awakening. Campus Renewal is working with the Awakening America Alliance to mobilize people as part of this rhythm to pray targeted prayers for revival and awakening on college campuses. Colleges are a key place of culture transformation because most of the world's future leader's lifelong worldviews are shaped there.

Join the Campus Renewal Movement prayer accord. Go to: www.campusrenewal. org/awakeningamerica.

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OSCAR THOMPSON

Excerpt from: **Concentric Circles of Concern: Seven Stages for Making Disciples** with Carolyn Thompson Ritzman Copyright © 1999 by Claude V. King and Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann Publisher: B & H Publishers ISBN: 978-0-8054-1959-7 Default Bible translation: NASB

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

W. Oscar Thompson Jr. was a pastor for twenty years and then took a position as an evangelism instructor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. During his time at the seminary, he launched the Oscar Thompson Evangelistic Association and was a consultant for pastors working with the Cancer Counseling and Research Foundation. His life-threatening illness took his life in 1980, and *Concentric Circles of Concern* was released after his death.

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DALLAS WILLARD

Excerpt from: The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship

Copyright © 2006 by Dallas Willard Publisher: HarperOne; first edition ISBN: 13: 978-0060882433 Default Bible translation: NIV

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dallas Willard was a Professor in the School of Philosophy at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He was Director of the School of Philosophy and taught at the University of Wisconsin. Dallas also lectured and published significant works on the topic of religion. *The Great Omission* received a *Christianity Today* annual Book Award in the Christian Living category in 2007. Another of Dallas' books, *The Divine Conspiracy*, was released in 1998 and selected as *Christianity Today*'s "Book of the Year" for 1999.

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MARK WILLIAMS

Excerpt from: **The Praying Church Handbook**, **Volume II** with P. Douglas Small Copyright © 2013 Publisher: Alive Publications www.alivepublications.org ISBN: 13: 978-0989652520

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mark L. Williams serves as General Overseer for the Church of God, the highest leadership role in the denomination. Elected to the post in 2012, Williams previously served as second assistant general overseer from 2008-2012. Prior to leading the Church of God on the Executive Committee, Williams was state overseer for California-Nevada and was a member of the International Executive Council. He began his ministerial career as an evangelist, traveling on the weekends while earning a degree from Lee University.



ORESET MY WALK WITH GOD

A SPECIAL PRAYER GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

With humility and repentance, we seek His forgiveness and restoration and commit to re-engage in His divine purpose.

I. Prayers of Humility—I Choose to Humble Myself and Seek His Face

O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love...Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings (Psalm 17: 1, 6–8).

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you (2 Chronicles 20:12b).

Oh, that we might seek His face...not His hand.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

II. Prayers of Repentance—I Will Turn from My Sin and Self-Effort

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared" (Psalm 130: 1–4).

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3–5).

Against you, you only, have I sinned (Psalm 51:4a).

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy (Psalm 28:13). Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).



III. Prayers of Yielding—I Yield to His Lordship and the Spirit's Fullness

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:1–2).

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

IV. Prayers of Intercession—Enter Boldly into Believing Prayer

"With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him" (Psalm 17:1, 6, 8).

- "... THEN will I hear from heaven and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- Restore Our Biblical Foundations
- Restore Our Marriages and Families
- Restore Our Campuses
- Restore Our Communities
- Restore Our Nation

V. Prayers of Recommittment—Recommissioned for the Great Commission

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph (Psalm 77 :1, 14–15).

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. THEN will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you (Psalm 51:12–13).

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses (Acts 1:8).

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest that He might send out laborers into His harvest (Luke 10:2).



ABOUT THE GREAT COMMANDMENT NETWORK

The Great Commandment Network is an international collaborative network of strategic kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:19-20).

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT NETWORK IS SERVED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

Relationship Press – This team collaborates, supports, and joins together with churches, denominational partners, and professional associates to develop, print, and produce resources that facilitate ongoing Great Commandment ministry.

The Center for Relational Leadership – Their mission is to teach, train, and mentor both ministry and corporate leaders in Great Commandment principles, seeking to equip leaders with relational skills so they might lead as Jesus led.

The Galatians 6:6 Retreat Ministry – This ministry offers a unique two-day retreat for ministers and their spouses for personal renewal and for reestablishing and affirming ministry and family priorities.

The Center for Relational Care (CRC) – The CRC provides therapy and support to relationships in crisis through an accelerated process of growth and healing, including Relational Care Intensives for couples, families, and singles. www. relationalcare.org



For more information on how you, your church, ministry, denomination, or movement can be served by the Great Commandment Network write or call: Great Commandment Network 2511 South Lakeline Blvd. Cedar Park, Texas 78613 #800-881-8008 Or visit our website: www.GreatCommandment.net

A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED FAITH Expresses Itself in Great Commission Living Empowered by Great Commandment Love



begins with the end in mind: The Great Commission calls us to make disciples.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The ultimate goal of our faith journey is to relate to the person of Jesus, because it is our relational connection to Jesus that will produce Christlikeness and spiritual growth. This relational perspective of discipleship is required if we hope to have a faith that is marked by the Spirit's power.

Models of discipleship that are based solely upon what we *know* and what we *do* are incomplete, lacking the empowerment of a life of loving and living intimately with Jesus. A Spirit-empowered faith is relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit. For example, the Spirit-empowered outcome of "listening to and hearing God" implies relationship—it is both relational in focus and requires the Holy Spirit's power to live.



begins at the right place: The Great Commandment calls us to start with loving God and loving others.

"'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)





Relevant discipleship does not begin with doctrines or teaching, parables or stewardship—but with loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and then loving the people closest to you. Since Matthew 22:37-40 gives us the first and greatest commandment, *a Spirit-empowered faith starts where the Great Commandment tells us to start: A disciple must first learn to deeply love the Lord and to express His love to the "nearest ones"—his or her family, church, and community (and in that order).¹*



embraces a relational process of Christlikeness.

Scripture reminds us that there are three sources of light for our journey: Jesus, His Word, and His people. The process of discipleship (or becoming more like Jesus) occurs as we relate intimately with each source of light.²

"Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you." (John 12:35)

Spirit-empowered discipleship will require a lifestyle of:

- Fresh encounters with Jesus (John 8:12)
- Frequent experiences of Scripture (Psalm 119:105)
- Faithful engagement with God's people (Matthew 5:14)



can be defined with observable outcomes using a biblical framework.

The metrics for measuring Spirit-empowered faith or the growth of a disciple comes from Scripture and are organized/framed around four distinct dimensions of a disciple who serves.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11–12)



A relational framework for organizing Spirit-Empowered Discipleship Outcomes draws from a cluster analysis of several Greek (*diakoneo*, *leitourgeo*, *dou-leuo*) and Hebrew words ('*abad*, *Sharat*) which elaborate on the Ephesians 4:12 declaration that Christ's followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service.³ Therefore, the 40 Spirit-Empowered Faith Outcomes have been identified and organized around:

- Serving/loving the Lord While they were **ministering** to the Lord and *fasting*... (Acts 13:2 NASB).¹
- Serving/loving the Word But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4 NASB).²
- Serving/loving people ...through love **serve** one another (Galatians 5:13 NASB).³
- Serving/loving His mission Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry** of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB).⁴

¹ Ferguson, David L. Great Commandment Principle. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2013.

² Ferguson, David L. Relational Foundations. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2004.

³ Ferguson, David L. Relational Discipleship. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2005.

^{4 &}quot;Spirit Empowered Outcomes," www.empowered21.com, Empowered 21 Global Council, http://empowered21.com/discipleship-materials/.



A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED DISCIPLE LOVES THE LORD THROUGH

L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things

Enter the gates with thanksgiving (Ps. 100:4). In everything give thanks (I Th. 5:18). As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing (II Cor. 6:10).

L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment

Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening (I Sam. 3:8–9). Mary...listening to the Lord's word, seated at his feet (Lk.10:38–42). Shall I not share with Abraham what I am about to do? (Gen. 18:17). His anointing teaches you all things (I Jn. 2:27).

L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:4, 5). Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice (Is. 30:18). See also John 14:9.

L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved"

And His banner over me is love (Song of Sol. 2:4). To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved (Eph. 1:6). For the Lord gives to His beloved even in their sleep (Ps. 127:2).

L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord—he who has clean hands and a pure heart (Ps. 24:3, 4). Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (II Cor. 7:1). I always do the things that are pleasing to Him (Jn. 8:29). Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him (Job 13:15).

L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Matt. 16:23). "But you when you fast..." (Mt. 6:17). "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship

Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me... (Ps. 103:1). Worship the Lord with reverence (Ps. 2:11). I praise Thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth... (Mt. 11:25).

L8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer

Pray at all times in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18). Call unto me and I will answer... (Jer. 33:3). If you ask according to His will—He hears—and you will have... (I Jn. 5:14–15).

L9. Yielding to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manisfestation of divine gifts, and witness of the fruit of the Spirit

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit (I Cor. 12:13). You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8). But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (I Cor. 12:7). See also, I Pet. 4:10, and Rom. 12:6.

L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit's work of Christlikeness

And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness from glory to glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). As the deer pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God (Ps. 42:1).



W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word

"Love the Lord thy God—love thy neighbor; upon these two commandments deepens all the law and prophets" (Mt. 22:37-40). "I delight in Your commands because I love them." (Ps. 119:47). "The ordinances of the Lord are pure—they are more precious than gold—sweeter than honey" (Ps. 19:9-10).

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W2. Being a "living epistle" in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation, and calling

You yourselves are our letter—known and read by all men (II Cor. 3:2). And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14). Husbands love your wives—cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word (Eph. 5:26). See also Tit. 2:5. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord... (Col. 3:23).

W3. Yielding to the scripture's protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me

I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path (Ps. 119:104). Be it done unto me according to Your word (Lk. 1:38). How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word (Ps. 119:9). See also Col. 3:16–17.

W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit's transforming work through the Word

I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame (Ps. 119:46). *Preach the word; be ready in season and out to shame* (II Tim. 4:2).

W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart

I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You (Ps. 119:12). May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (Ps. 19:14).

W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christ-likeness

All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit (II Cor. 3:18). If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (Jn. 15:7). See also Lk. 24:32, Ps. 119:136, and II Cor. 1:20.

W7. A life explained as one of "experiencing Scripture"

This is that spoken of by the prophets (Acts 2:16). My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life (Ps. 119:50). My soul is consumed with longing for Your laws at all times (Ps. 119:20).

W8. Living "naturally supernatural" in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (*logos*) the living Word (*rhema*)

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word (rhema) *of Christ* (Rom. 10:17). *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path* (Ps. 119:105).

W9. Living abundantly "in the present" as His Word brings healing to hurt and anger, guilt, fear, and condemnation—which are *heart hindrances* to life abundant

"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy..." (Jn 10:10). I run in the path of Your commands for You have set my heart free (Ps. 119:32). And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (Jn. 8:32). For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery (Gal. 5:1).

W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail

"The grass withers and the flower fades but the word of God abides forever (Is. 40:8). So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth, it will not return to me empty" (Is. 55:11).



P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling

... He went about doing good... (Acts 10:38). Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Mt. 5:16). But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men (Lk. 6:35). See also Rom. 15:2.

P2. "Startling people" with loving initiatives to "give first"

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return" (Lk. 6:38). But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Lk. 23:34). See also Lk. 23:43 and Jn. 19:27.

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P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of His love

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear (Eph. 4:29). And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). See also Lk. 6:30.

P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallen-ness and aloneness

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Lk. 19:5). See also Mk. 8:24 and Gen. 2:18.

P5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His body, the church

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered (I Pet. 3:7). See also I Pet. 3:1 and Ps. 127:3.

P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... (Gal. 5:22-23). With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips (Prov. 18:20).

P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as His spiritual gifts are made manifest and His grace is at work by His Spirit

In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:19). Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also... (Jn. 14:12). See also I Cor. 14:1.

P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey

...Live in peace with one another (I Th. 5:13). For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall (Eph. 2:14). Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16).

P9. Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of "others" as He continues to challenge us to love "beyond our comfort"

The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (I Jn. 2:4). If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen (I Jn. 4:20).

P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:29). "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED Faith Coves HIS MISSION THROUGH

M1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community

Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us (ITh. 2:8-9). See also Eph. 6:19.

M2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared

"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose" (Lk. 4:43). "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (Jn. 17:18). Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to you (Ps. 51:12–13). See also Mic. 6:8.

M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living

"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12). "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). See also Acts 4:12, Jn. 10:10, and Jn. 14:6.

M4. Yielding to the Spirit's role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..." (Jn. 16:8). Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us (Rom. 8:34). See also Rom. 8:1.

M5. Ministering His life and love to the "least of these"

"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me" (Mt. 25:45). Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world (Jas. 1:27).

M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God's lordship in all things

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all! (II Thess. 3:16). Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:15). See also Rom. 8:28 and Ps. 146:5.

M7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering His mission

Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God (Col. 1:25). "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Lk. 12:48). See also I Cor. 4:1–2.

M8. Attentive listening to others' *story*, vulnerably sharing of our story, and a sensitive witness of Jesus' story as life's ultimate hope; developing your story of prodigal, pre-occupied and pain-filled living; listening for other's story and sharing Jesus' story

"...But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (I Pet. 3:15). "...Because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again" (Luke 15:24). See also Mark 5:21–42 and Jn. 9:1–35.



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M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Mt. 28:19–20). See also II Tim. 2:2.

M10. Living submissively within His body, the Church as instruction and encouragement, reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples

...And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ (Eph. 5:21). Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted (Gal. 6:1). See also Gal. 6:2.





Listen carefully and you will hear it...the heart-cry for fathers.

Your own heart may be longing for a spiritual father or a mentor. Your children might be missing the loving protection and consistent presence of a dad. You may be burdened by the epidemic of fatherlessness in our generation and your heart aches because of the painful suffering it has produced. What's the answer to these cries of the heart?

Honor your father: when lived out, it's a command that can change the trajectory of

May 2016

generations. It's a command that comes with a promise: honor our fathers (and mothers) and things will go well for us!

Honor Your Father: Reset My Family Legacy tackles challenging topics like:

- How to honor "imperfect fathers."
- Restoring sexual integrity.
- How spiritual fathers (and mothers) can reset a family legacy...in spite of others' failures.
- Becoming a father who is worthy of honor.
- Bringing honor to your children's mother.

Including 80 different exercises designed to help you honor your heavenly Father, pray for your family's legacy, develop a tribute to your Father, and pass on a generational blessing to your children, this resource will equip you to honor your father and reset your family legacy!





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Why pray with Jesus? Because as you pray with Jesus, God can supernaturally provide a divine solution for you and divine solution for you and the world He loves. Praying with Jesus will reset your prayer life.