

Prayers for a Mission Minded Christian



Truth in Love
MINISTRY

A Month Long Prayer
Adventure for
Sharing Jesus Christ
with the World

By Dave and Lori Malnes

DAY 1

Sharing God's Word with others is a daunting task. Competing truths, busyness, and distractions add up to what seemingly is a disinterested public towards spiritual matters. When including our own fear and weaknesses, we must acknowledge our need to rely on God for His power and strength. Like the great Christian missionaries of old, we must rely on prayer to embolden us to be his witnesses.

Through prayer, we take the focus off ourselves and place it entirely on God. As a result, our hearts respond with thanksgiving for all God has done and continues to do for us.



"Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done." (Psalm 9:11)

This outpouring of a thankful heart is like spring water falling over a rocky ledge. The law of gravity is a force beyond our control. A thankful heart is like spring water -- it can not help but pour into our daily lives. This natural flow of words and actions becomes our witness as we communicate to all people the good news of God's salvation through Christ Jesus. It's an attitude of praise as we confidently make known to all people God's great victory on behalf of us.

PRAYER: "Lord, You are God Almighty! We love You and thank You for Your many blessings. We thank You most for Your love and salvation. May our thankfulness overflow from our hearts with songs of praise. Remove any obstacles that might hinder this flow, and may we share these songs with others through our lives and through our words. Thank you, Jesus! Amen."

DAY 2

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." (2 Cor. 5:20)

A Christian believer is considered an ambassador. A government appointed ambassador are sent to communicate with foreign governments and called upon to represent the opinion and authority of the country who has sent them.

The spiritual citizenship of a Christian is the kingdom of heaven. As a result, Christians are called to deliver a message of reconciliation. It is the desire of the King to be right with all people who live in a foreign world. God delivers an appeal through us that He has done everything to

remove any barriers to a complete fellowship with Him. As Christ's ambassadors, Christians are appointed or commissioned to share this all-important message to a world living in rebellion. They have barricaded themselves in self-righteousness believing they can save themselves from the enemy. A Christian's message of reconciliation requires a surrendering from those who are in rebellion. That's a difficult message to give, especially to those who feel safe and secure in their own tower. Christians need prayer in asking God to give us the courage to share this message of salvation with others.

PRAYER: "Lord God, What a privilege it is to be Your ambassador! Too often I forget this role or don't want the responsibility that comes with it. Help me to be Your representative in the positions and circumstances You have placed me in. I am Your ambassador. Use me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

DAY 3

Back in ancient times, people relied on traveling messengers to hear the latest news. A messenger who brought good news was considered to have beautiful feet. Great joy and relief greeted any good news from the battlefield, especially regarding the safety of loved ones.



In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, he quotes a well-known verse from Isaiah which says, "**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.**" (Romans 10:15) God wants us to be his messengers and share the good news of peace and reconciliation through Jesus Christ. He has accomplished a great victory over death and sin—man's greatest enemies. However, the only way to receive the good news is to hear the bad news that people are sinners in need of a Savior. It's a message that most people don't want to hear.

Heaven rejoices when Christians make the effort of traversing the difficult path of unrepentant hearts. God looks upon the dirty and dusty feet of a well-traveled messenger and sees them as beautiful. With a heart rejoicing over God's approval of us as his messengers, we accept this privilege and responsibility with thankful hearts.

PRAYER: "Lord Jesus, I want to have beautiful feet like Yours. You brought and shared your good news while here on earth. Now you desire me to go out and continue sharing until you come again. As I dirty my feet, make them beautiful, and strong, and willing. I know You are always at my side. Thank you, Jesus! Amen."

DAY 4

A good farmer knows that when he plants seeds, he can't expect a harvest the next day. There are elements beyond his control – like rain, drought, hail, wind and flood. Despite any circumstances, he must not give up in his work trusting that the Lord will provide.

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

Busy Christians will often become tired in doing works for the Lord, but they ought not become weary. To be tired describes a physical condition, but to be weary describes a spiritual attitude. To be weary means to give up the fight, to retreat in battle – sometimes leaving a field before it is planted with the Word of God.

When we sow God's Word in people's hearts there is usually a time between sowing and reaping. For some, the time is short. For others, it could be years. In either case, we trust the Lord will cause faith to grow in its proper time. Meanwhile, we do not give up or lose hope, but continue doing the good work of praying for lost souls and sharing Christ with those whom the Lord has placed in our lives.

PRAYER: “Lord, You know how easy it is for me to grow weary in praying for others or become impatient waiting for opportunities to share Your love – and when they do come, I too often feel like I've blown it or want results NOW. Lord, give me a heart that stays connected with Your strength and patience. Help me to trust in Your good timing, knowing that it's not up to me, but You. Help me to persevere! Amen.”

DAY 5

The prospect of sharing God's Word with others does cause fear and panic for many Christians. The thoughts of “What do I say?” or “What if I say something wrong?” plants the seeds of inactivity in our fertile minds.

The words of Jesus confronts our fears with a simple statement, “Don't worry!”

When the disciples gathered around Jesus they, too, were filled with fear by the prospect of sharing that Jesus is the Christ. Knowing His disciples will be placed in difficult situations, Jesus tells them... ***“make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom...” (Luke 21:14-15)***

It is true that we need to prepare ourselves to give an answer to the hope we have in Christ, but we forget about the unique partnership we have by being “in Christ.” It was the power of the



Holy Spirit that emboldened the disciples and it's the same power Christians can have to be willing and able messengers -- even in the most uncomfortable of settings. By sharing God's Word, it really isn't us speaking, but the Holy Spirit through us. We are the speaker, but it's Christ who holds the microphone in his hand.

PRAYER: "Oh, Lord! Help me get it through my head and heart that I don't need to know everything to share what I do know with others. When I am stumped, drive me back to Your Word for answers, either by myself or together with the other person. Help me to trust in Your Word and Your love to do the work. Help me take the focus off me and my inadequacies and on to You and Your Spirit. Thanks for being there for me! Amen."

DAY 6

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

Being prepared to share God's Word is only part of our witness, because being prepared to do so in love can be just as important.

Faith, hope and love are the essential elements of Christianity. A genuine hope is not just wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about what is unseen and lies ahead in the future. For a world seeking peace for their soul, we can share our certainty of our salvation because of what Christ has already done for us.

Another important part of preparation includes building a bridge of trust with words and actions filled with gentleness and respect. In that teachable moment of the soul, when sincere hearts are looking for answers, we are provided that unique opportunity to share the love of Christ with those who feel comfortable to cross that bridge with you. Even during those times when we are impatient or hurt by an unloving remark, we can still consistently respond well by conveying a spirit of love.

While we share the reasons of our hope found in Christ, we can also respond with a relentless hope for those lost souls placed in our midst.

PRAYER: "Lord Jesus, just as I prepare for a trip, or a class, or for my day, help me prepare to give an answer for the reason for my faith in You. Fill me with Your love so I will always see others through Your eyes, thus speaking with the gentleness and respect that comes with Your love. I am Your vessel – prepare and use me. Amen."

DAY 7

When Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations, he's not merely making a suggestion, nor is it just an order. It is something far greater.

The great commission given by Jesus is a pronouncement of victory by our Risen Savior. Now, we have the opportunity to share this message with others.



When Jesus tells us to “go”, the original Greek used for this word literally means “as you are going.” In other words, there is a definite assumption being made that the disciples are indeed going. It’s a foregone conclusion. In a sense, Jesus is telling them, “as you are going to make disciples, baptize and teach, remember this very important point. I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

The beauty of the Great Commission is that it’s not just a command, but a reminder. Our Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, is the one who dwells in us, empowers us, teaches, and gives us the message of victory. It is His authority and the promise that He will be with us wherever we go that emboldens us to share the message of the cross.

So, with Christ’s promise and a renewed confidence, we make ourselves available to go where God leads us.

PRAYER: “Dear Jesus, You promise to be with me always, no matter what. You also command me to go and make disciples for You. Open my eyes to the opportunities You give me to share about You. Quiet any fears with Your promise of Your presence. Then help me grab hold of Your promise and share Your love with others. Let’s go together, Jesus! Amen.”

DAY 8

What is it that defines our Christian faith? What is that one truth that we place our rest and hope on?

The Apostle Paul reminds us that God has given us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the reality of Christ’s resurrection that defines our faith, our life, and our message.

In First Corinthians, it reads, ***“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)***

The truth of Christ’s finished work on the cross and his resurrection is what gives us assurance, the motivation and the ability to stand firm. When we are called to live out our lives for Christ

and share the message of salvation, we can count on having difficulties. We need a strong, immovable foundation to be better equipped to respond well even when our work for the Lord seems unfruitful or insignificant. It is this hope of Christ's finished work that allows us to endure or persevere in our labors.

Renewed and refreshed by God's Word, we continue our work for the Lord, recognizing that our efforts will never be rendered useless.

PRAYER: "Lord, You know how often I stumble and mess up. Help me to stand firm, knowing that You can use even my worst mistakes for Your glory. Help me persevere and keep my eyes on You and off self. You are an awesome God! Let nothing deter me from sharing Your truth, trusting always in You. I am Your servant, Lord. Amen."

DAY 9

God has done all the work necessary for our salvation. For those who have placed their trust and faith in Christ have been provided with both the message and the means to share the message of salvation with others.

In an age with conflicting messages, it is paramount to communicate the truth of the real gospel of Jesus Christ. Without hearing the truth of God's Word, people cannot come to faith. Salvation begins with a sending process. God is the one who sends, and we are the ones who are sent.



In the tenth chapter of Romans it reads, ***"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15)***

It is only by the Word of God that people can come to faith. In God's amazing wisdom, it's hard to believe that He uses humans to declare his message of truth to the whole world. Our responsibility is simply to get the message out.

It's important to be reminded that we are not responsible for how people will respond to our message. If a person rejects God's message, it's not the messenger's fault. So, we should not lose heart in our efforts.

PRAYER: "Lord Jesus! This world sends all sorts of messages to hide, distract, or water down Your truth. Help me to be bold in speaking out and standing by Your truth. Give me Your confidence to speak out and not sit back and wait for someone else to say what needs to be

said. Help me get Your truth out to a world that desperately needs to hear it. By your power, Amen.”

DAY 10

Rain and snow comes down from the heavens and brings life. There is a purpose behind each raindrop and every snowflake. Rain is often used as a symbol of abundance in the Bible and gives us a unique description of how God uses His Word in this world.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Only God’s Word produces life in the hearts of sinners. When rain falls to the ground, there does not seem to be an intended target for every drop. In the same way, God’s Word showers upon the hearts of all people. Like a spring rain falling on a parched land where life would seem impossible, God’s Word falls onto a barren heart, restoring or giving life to a soul aching for thirst.

How a seed blossoms into faith or not goes well beyond our comprehension. We simply trust the promise that His Word never fails to achieve its aim. With this confidence, we continue to share God’s Word, whether we see its effect or not.

PRAYER: “O Lord, Your Word is not only rich and powerful, but nourishing and refreshing. I need Your Word and others need to hear it too. You promise that Your Word will not return to You empty. May Your Word be sprinkled in my conversations with others so that it may achieve Your good purposes. Use me, Lord, as a vessel to provide your Living Water. Amen.”

DAY 11

It seems that people today are more interested in how a Christian walks rather than what they talk. This means that those who profess a faith in Christ are being carefully observed by the world. Sinful words and actions can built a major roadblock to unbelieving souls. Hypocrisy is a leading cause for people to turn away from the truth of God's Word.



A servant's heart is willing to be used by God to transmit the message of reconciliation found only in the gospels. They are open to opportunities the Lord provides uniquely for them. For this reason, Christians are encouraged by the following words,

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:6)

This verse says to "make the most" or better translated, to "redeem our time" while interacting with outsiders. This thought seems to imply a cost associated with sharing God's Word with others.

For many of us, the most valuable commodity we own is our time. We can redeem our time wisely by conversing with outsiders, building a bridge of trust and using words seasoned with salt. We can be agents of influence by being careful in what we say and how we say it. Through speaking the truth in love in association with lives and attitudes reflecting the love of Christ, we can make the most of every opportunity.

And many times, we are not even aware of those opportunities.

PRAYER: "Lord, I know others are closely watching me as Your child. Help me live my life in a way that reflects You. That way, when I share You with others in conversations, they will trust what I say to be true. Lord, I want to be salt and light in this world – I want my words to be full of grace for You. Let others see You in me. Thank you, Jesus! Amen."

DAY 12

When witnesses are called upon in a courtroom, they take an oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. To lie would be a crime.

God calls Christians to the stand to be his witnesses. All we need to do is tell the truth of God's Word.

It seems that Christians today are distracted. There seems to be a growing infatuation within Christian circles regarding the end times.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples just before he ascended into heaven, he told them not to be so concerned with dates and times the Father has set, but to focus their attention elsewhere. In the first chapter of Acts, Jesus says, ***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."*** (Acts 1:8)

Instead of focusing on waiting for Christ's return, Jesus wanted his disciples to be his witnesses -- to go out and tell the truth about Christ's death and resurrection throughout the world. In doing so, notice the connection between being witnesses and receiving power. The disciples need not be afraid to take the witness stand in the world, for they would not be alone.

God empowers his people to be faithful witnesses. That same power promised to the disciples is still available for us today.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ stands with us. He holds us by his right hand and grants us comfort, strength and peace to give key testimony of God's love for mankind and His plan of salvation. Without spiritual power, we are ineffective witnesses.

PRAYER: "Dear Holy Spirit, Thank You for living in me and giving me Your power. Help me reach out and grab hold of that power each day of my life. Because of You, I have nothing to fear as I speak the Truth as Your witness. It is Your power, not mine, that I rely on. Thanks for always being there for me. Amen."

DAY 13

Coming to a saving faith in Christ Jesus usually involves a process. There is so much going on behind the scenes of one's heart and soul that we don't know or see. Someone could be praying for a friend or a loved one over a long period of time. In what seems like a random encounter of sharing the gospel, becomes a divine appointment. The Lord uses a soul to answer a question, provide an example, or simply offers words of encouragement from God's Word. That could be the moment where faith springs up from a dormant seed planted years ago.



In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, ***"I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."*** (John 4:38)

God can use many people to open hearts to the message of the gospel. There is a process of sowing and there is a process of reaping. We are not the only instrument of God's work. Like a full orchestra, there are a variety of instruments needed to play the sweet song of grace. So, we should not exalt ourselves in our particular role, nor feel discouraged in our lack of reaping. We just need to be humbly open and willing to play any part of the process.

PRAYER: "Lord Jesus, as part of Your body, I work together with other Christians everywhere for Your good purposes and for Your glory. We each have different functions or roles, but it is through Your Spirit's lifeblood working through believers that people come to faith in You. Remind me that I don't work alone as You have made me part of Your body. Help me live

this truth as I work together with all Christians towards Your common goal – bringing others to a life with You. Amen.”

DAY 14

The host was tired of excuses. His desire was to have a room full of people enjoying a delicious and festive banquet. Instead, the people he invited chose not to come. The excuses were both lame and hurtful. In haste, he told his servants to ***"Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."*** (Luke 14:23)

When so many people in our world reject God’s invitation to receive his grace, a tear may come to the corner of our eye. We know what they are missing and the consequences of rejection. Yet, our Lord is merciful, patient and persistent.

God uses Christian believers as instruments to extend an invitation to all people. Notice how the host told his servants to go and ***"make*** them come in, so that my house will be full.” To make people come does not mean Christian believers go out and force people, but to lovingly persuade them. The day of the banquet is coming soon. With a sense of urgency, we go out and compel people to accept God’s invitation because there will be a time when the doors of opportunity will be closed forever.

PRAYER: “Dear God, help me sense the urgency in sharing Your love and truth to others. Time is short – I don’t know when Judgment Day is coming. Help me live out today to the fullest – making use of every opportunity You send my way. Help me not pre-judge people or to be selfish with Your love, but share it freely so that Heaven will be overflowing. Guide and strengthen me to compel people now to come and receive salvation! Amen.

DAY 15

Only eleven disciples remained. Fearful, doubtful, perhaps still in awe over witnessing the resurrected Christ standing before them. Yet, with perhaps a knowing glint in his eyes, Jesus is going to challenge them far beyond their capabilities. He is going bring them on an amazing adventure.



Will this be a task too great? Absolutely! But not when God goes with you.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says to his disciples, ***“Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)*** Jesus is commissioning them to carry out the adventure of spreading the news that He is the Christ to an unbelieving world. It is the same commission He gives to Christians.

A task too great? Definitely. But, Jesus promises us He will never give us anything beyond what we can bear or carry out.

So, what does He do?

First, he gives us the credentials of being saints in Christ Jesus. Next, he gives us the message to proclaim and the ministry to advance. Finally, He gives us the power. Salvation is only from God, and so is the message and the power to deliver it.

Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? Accept Christ’s call to carry his message to the world.

PRAYER: “Dear Jesus. Just as you commissioned Your disciples You have also commissioned me. Empower me with Your Spirit to share Your message of love and life. How awesome to think that You created me – yes, me – just for this purpose! I’m ready to go!! Amen.

DAY 16

In ancient times, whenever a Roman general and his soldiers returned from a great victory, they would be greeted by roaring and celebrative crowds. The parade would be led by priests carrying burning incense symbolizing the fragrance of victory. With this image in mind, the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, ***“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)***

No matter the difficult circumstances before us or the obstacles placed in our way, the ministry of the gospel is always powerful and victorious. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, our victory is assured. With renewed peace and confidence, our journey through life does not have to be a burden, but a triumphal procession.

With joyful hearts rooted in Christ Jesus, we are able to spread the knowledge of our victory in Christ. With lives reflecting our thanksgiving and love for God, we can’t help but to spread the inviting fragrance of the gospel with all people whom God has placed on our path.

PRAYER: “Just as a person can walk into a home and be overpowered by the aroma of freshly baking bread, Oh Lord, may a person enter my presence and be overpowered by the fragrance of you living in me. May the joy and confident victory that I have in You, attract others to receive the fragrance of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. Thank you for Your life. Amen.”

DAY 17

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he writes, ***“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)***

The Greek word Paul uses for the power of God is “dynamis”—from which we receive the English word “dynamite.” The power of the gospel not only blows away human reasoning and pride, but also our hesitancy to share the “foolishness” of the gospel to an unbelieving world.

When Paul writes that he is not ashamed of the gospel, this verse comes right after expressing eagerness to preach. This means that Paul wasn’t hesitant to share, but exhibited trust that all of God’s claims and promises he was preaching are true.

We do not need to be reluctant in sharing the message of the gospel, because a believer’s confidence is in the all-important message of our salvation and the power behind it, not in ourselves. For the message we share comes from God and is centered on the fulfilled promise of His Son, Jesus Christ. It’s not about ourselves, so we need not be reluctant or ashamed.



PRAYER: “Oh, Lord! How often do I focus on my weaknesses and not on the power of Your Gospel! Please forgive me. Help me to not only focus on that power but rely on it as I boldly step out and share your salvation and love with others. With you Lord, I am not ashamed, but utilize the dynamite of Your Word to bring others to You! Amen.”

DAY 18

When we share the message of the gospel, we hope and pray for an immediate conversion. We conjure up in our minds a wonderful scenario of a person, perhaps a loved one, joyfully receiving salvation and life everlasting. When those golden opportunities to share God's Word

are rejected, we go away disheartened and disappointed. Perhaps we even blame ourselves that may lead us to be reluctant to ever share again.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

The fruit of patience is seen in a person who has the power to exercise revenge or retaliation, but instead uses restraint. Affirming His desire to extend a time of grace to make room for all people to come and receive salvation by faith, our Lord is patient.

We, too, can be patient, trusting in God’s Word to work in hearts according to His timetable. Coming to faith is typically a process. God uses our words and actions to further the process along. In the meantime, we exercise patience – recognizing that ultimately, coming to faith is the Lord’s work, not our own.

PRAYER: “God, what love and patience You have – wanting everyone to come to repentance! Help me stay grafted into You so that Your love and patience may flow through me also. As I bank on Your promises, let Your fruit be evident in me as I share You with others. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.”

DAY 19

The psalms in the Bible expresses our soul. It sings both during the good times when our spirits soar and during difficult times when we look for God in the depths of our uncertainty. Our faith is an ongoing song that longs to be heard.

“Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ... proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (Psalm 96:1-3)



Faith is singing our song even though we may not feel like it. There are days when the melody just doesn’t seem right. Yet, we are to proclaim His message, declare His glory, and share about His marvelous deeds to the world day after day. How do we keep our faith fresh and strong, and not be redundant or mechanical? How do we consistently proclaim His marvelous deeds?

Notice the verse says we are to sing a new song. A song based on the good news of the gospel, the all-important message of salvation, is renewed every day. It is not a song based on feelings, but one that rests on God’s promises and his completed work on the cross. It is the only song that can completely refresh us, flowing from a thankful heart basking in God’s grace and mercy.

PRAYER: “Lord, I thank You for music and songs. I thank You especially for the song of faith You have placed in my heart. As I sing this song in my daily life, may it not only be pleasing to You, but may it reach the ears of many people. Amen.”

DAY 20

A soldier going into battle recognizes the importance of having an effective weapon. In confronting the enemy, a poorly equipped soldier will have little chance of victory.

For Christians, what weapon are you using to confront the world?

A Christian goes into battle every time an opportunity comes to share the message of the gospel. The weapon we choose will make all the difference.

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God....” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Christians must understand that when placed in a position to share God's Word against stubborn unbelief, it is not entirely a battle of reason. It is an assault to demolish a stronghold of the devil. We must enter the battle with the right weapon to be effective – and that is the Word of God. Our own strength or ability will not be enough.

Equipped with the sword of the Holy Spirit, we are able to effectively slice consciences mired in prideful attitudes opposing itself to Christ. In doing so, we also unleash ourselves from the strands of our own inadequacies that restrain us from sharing the truth.

PRAYER: “Jesus, what an encouragement it is to know that as I share my faith with others, I have such a powerful weapon in Your Word. Sometimes it feels like I’m going up against a mighty stronghold. Help me to persevere and to remember the weapons that I have on my side. Thank You for Your encouragement. Amen.”

DAY 21

When opportunities come knocking on our door it always seems to be the wrong place and the wrong time to share God's Word. Timing is important, but maybe we analyze and discern the receptivity of one’s heart too much before sharing the message of the gospel.

In the gospel of John, Jesus says, ***“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35)*** Jesus seems to be using a familiar parable among the disciples regarding the message of urgency and applying it to witnessing opportunities.

So often, a person may appear to us as not being interested in going to church or hearing the message of Jesus. Easily discouraged by appearance, we withhold our invitation for others to come to visit our church or share the message of salvation. Jesus is encouraging all of us to open our eyes of faith and trust that the harvest is indeed ripe and ready to be reaped. All we need is to have the courage and sense of urgency to follow through.



PRAYER: “Lord Jesus, forgive me for the numerous excuses I come up with to procrastinate in sharing Your love and good news with those You have put in my life. When You place me in those circumstances, those windows of opportunity, help me seize the moment instead of thinking, “Next time.” Open my eyes to the harvest, Lord. Amen.”

DAY 22

A way to keep our faith vibrant and active is to remind people of all that we have in Christ. We can share our love with others in practical ways, but also take the time to refute false teaching with love and respect.

Sincere Christians mired in doubt may question their salvation by having a misunderstanding about what Christ has already done for them. For others, lost in worldly pursuits or religions glorified in self-righteousness, there is an urgency to save them from eternal death.

“Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.” (Jude 1:22-23)

We can patiently encourage and instruct Christians wrestling with doubt. Yet, like a child struggling to stay afloat in deep waters, we are inspired to take a more aggressive action in order to save those lost in sin. As we exercise discernment in each individual situation, there are times we must be more firm in expressing the severe consequences of God’s anger toward sin.

PRAYER: “Lord, when I share Your Word and Your life with others, give me discernment to know when to be gentle and when to be firm. May my words and actions always be coated with Your love. And may I humbly walk my talk so that others may trust my message of Your truth. I recognize that the best way to keep my faith active and vibrant is to remind others of all the blessing we have in You. Thank you for dwelling in me. Amen.”

DAY 23

Sometimes, words get stuck at the end of our tongue and we just can’t quite grasp a hold of it to share. It is during these times that we wish we had a spokesman to speak for us.

The beautifully crafted words found in the psalms did not come as a result of King David’s superior talents or knowledge, but were received from the Holy Spirit. During his last days on earth, David testifies, ***“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.” (2 Samuel 23:2)***

The Lord chose David to speak for God and to lead His people. Even though the words came from David’s mouth or pen, it was the Lord who was the spokesman by giving the words for David to proclaim. They were a powerful message for God’s people in ancient times and still serve us today. God has chosen us to be a spokesman and He will supply the words on our tongue. We can trust the power of God’s Word to do the work in people’s hearts and that God, in His wisdom, uses our tongues to speak the truth.



Messenger dog during World War I from National Library of Scotland

PRAYER: “Lord, Jesus. Thank you for reminding me about the power of Your Word – that it is filled with Your Spirit. So often I feel weak and inadequate – and that I am on my own. But Lord, You are with me. You are in me. I have Your Word. Where I am weak, You are strong! Let Your power speak through me! Amen.”

DAY 24

A Christian calls themselves a servant for the Lord, but what about being a slave? The Apostle Paul considered himself a slave, but not to the Lord as his Master, but a slave to everyone. He did so for one very important reason.

Paul was willing to sacrifice his freedom for the sake of others in order to bring them to faith in Christ.

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” (1 Corinthians 9:19)

A slave means a loss of freedom – meaning you are no longer your own, but the property of another. To willingly become a slave for Christ means you are ready to relinquish your rights and your liberty for a greater purpose.

With a thankful heart, we can make ourselves a slave to everyone by being sensitive to the customs, the culture and the feelings of others. This doesn't mean we compromise our beliefs and behaviors governed by God's Word, but we can be flexible and adaptable in our approach. The over-riding purpose is to bring as many people as possible to heaven – even if it means relinquishing our liberty we have in Christ.

PRAYER: “Lord, help me step out of my comfort zone and reach out to others the way they are accustomed, the way they will feel most comfortable. Help me love others by serving them and putting their needs above my comfort zones. I want others to come to know You, Jesus. Make me uncomfortable for Your glory! I don't go beyond being a servant, Lord, but a slave for You. Amen.”

DAY 25

Difficult, even tragic events will come into our lives causing us to question their purpose. A young man bold in his witness of the resurrected Christ was silenced forever by the stone-throwing religious zealots. This tragedy shook the young Christian church, but God used this event for a greater purpose.

The death of Stephen launched the first persecution of the early Christian church. The new believers had to flee Jerusalem and were scattered throughout the Gentile world. In doing so, they shared the message of Jesus' resurrection. We read in Acts, ***“The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.” (Acts 11:21)***

Despite these difficult circumstances, the Lord's hand utilized the new Christians to sow His Word and as a result, a great multitude came to faith. God's hand makes miracles possible, even in the most difficult of circumstances. Sometimes, God places us in a challenging time to sow God's Word in the hearts of all people.



Hiking in New Zealand

PRAYER: "Dear Lord Jesus, there are times when I think that no good thing can come out of my circumstance. Thank you for reminding me that You are bigger than any circumstance in my life and that You are using everything to try and draw people to You -- that Your hand is in all things. Thank You that Your plans and purposes are above my understanding. Use me, Lord, to draw others to You. Amen."

DAY 26

Our love for Christ is often reflected in the concern we have for other people.

A person's physical well-being is important, but an even greater concern ought to be for their spiritual well-being. Jesus expresses this same concern in the parable of the lost sheep.



Shepherd by Irene Becker

Jesus gives an example of the length he will go to find one lost sheep due to the imminent danger of being away from his fold. His deep concern is expressed when he say, ***"In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."*** (Matthew 18:14)

Our faith in Christ prompts us to help young believers mature in the faith. The care and worries of the world can easily choke off necessary growth. Also, great attention is needed for those who have come to the Christian faith after being misled from false teachings of non-Christian religions.

PRAYER: "Lord, even we Christians are not immune to straying – whether it be new believers, weak believers, or even strong believers. When I see a fellow believer stray, help me be like

You, Lord – reaching out with love and care, not condemnation. Give me discernment in situations when to snatch firmly and when to gently guide back. Oh Lord, what a flock we are! May your hand always keep us in the fold as we continue to follow You as our Shepherd.” Amen.

DAY 27

In our busy and hectic lives, we easily grow weary of tending to our spiritual needs. Where do we find the energy and the time to share God's Word with others? Where do we receive the inspiration?

Perhaps the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul gives us some clues.

Paul's ministry centered on the truth that Christ is all we need. In his letter to the Colossians, we read, ***“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” (Colossians 1:28-29)***



Strength by Jim Goodwin

Spreading the all-important message of Jesus Christ to the world was a source of great struggle for Paul. We are reminded of Jesus' fervent prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and Jacob wrestling with God.

A blessing of maturing or being perfect in Christ is not only the desire to announce God's salvation, but also receiving the supernatural power to be an instrument God uses to carry out his work. This was Paul's key for ministry and the same for us as well.

PRAYER: “Lord Jesus, help me to model Paul so I may admonish and teach others with wisdom. What a peace and comfort to know that it is not by my own energy or power that I do this, but by Your energy and power. And thank You for the wisdom that is mine through Your promises and Your Word. I want to proclaim You to all people in my life.” Amen.

DAY 28

Everybody likes to read a good mystery.

Notice that several of the dramas on television are crime-related and involve a mystery. Through a process of uncovering clues and interrogating key witnesses, the truth is ultimately uncovered and the mystery solved. The truth of the gospel can also be considered a mystery – especially for those mired in unbelief.



In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, we read; ***“Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.” (Romans 16:25)***

Our Lord enables or establishes us to announce God's message of salvation to the whole world. Christians are established or upheld by the truth of God's Word. It is also the power of God's Word that provides us with the key to unlock the mystery of God's grace by faith. That key is Jesus Christ. Now that we have uncovered the mystery, we are given the key, Christ in us, to share the solution with others and open hearts to the message of reconciliation.

PRAYER: “Oh, God, You have put me in a time when the hidden mystery of Jesus has been revealed. I want to uncover and share this revelation with others. Though my sin condemns me, Jesus has taken that away and has declared me perfect in Your sight – my sins are no more! What joy and peace that brings to my life – that I would desire to share it with everyone! Thank you, Lord! Amen.”

DAY 29

A prayer for this day is to take the time to offer God praise and thanksgiving for the privilege of being His ambassadors.

Our Lord is sending a message to His people. It's an amazing message of reconciliation that is made possible by Christ's completed work on the cross. In His great wisdom, the Lord has commissioned Christians to be messengers. They are ambassadors of the King who are bringing a message of peace and reconciliation.



But God's ambassadors do not carry out this work alone.

The same Lord that equips us to do every good work for His glory is the same Lord that provides the power and the words to share with others. By being in Christ and through Christ, ambassadors become aware of opportunities the Lord provides to share God's message of reconciliation. Instead of a burden to carry out this commission, it becomes an adventure that can be filled with joy. For ambassadors know that their message from the King has an eternal bearing on every soul.

Consider these verses from the Bible:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

PRAYER: "Lord, we pray for those whom You have sent to be missionaries throughout the world. Grant them safe travels and embolden them with the sense of calling and privilege to make His appeal of reconciliation through them. At the same time, we recognize that you have called us all to be missionaries. We pray that as Christians we may grasp a hold of the truth that we are new creations in Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see all the opportunities you provide by sharing this all-important message with others. Thank you for that privilege to be your ambassador. Amen."

DAY 30

A part of being God's ambassador and by being a new creation in Christ is that we redirect our confidence away from ourselves and place it squarely in the power of God's Word.

Sharing the message of reconciliation between God and all people is really not about us, but about God. As a result, we can place our whole confidence in the power of the message, not ourselves. We withstand the temptation to judge the effectiveness of the message, by how a person responds. Some will accept God's message, most will reject it. Our job as God's ambassadors is to simply deliver the message trusting God's promises that His Word is at work.

It's like a good farmer who plants their seed in the spring. He has great confidence that those seeds he planted will turn into a crop. With that same trust and confidence, God's ambassadors know that every time we share a message of what Christ has already done for us, we plant seeds in the hearts of souls expecting a harvest according to God's timing. With eager expectation we can boldly deliver messages that rely solely on the power of God's Word -- leaving the results to God for that is His business.

Consider the following verses.

Romans 1:16-17: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Isaiah 55:10-11: "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

We can go to the Lord in prayer with praise and thanksgiving for His powerful Word and wonderful promises.

PRAYER: "Lord, as we come before you with thanksgiving for being commissioned to share your message. We give you praise that we can place our complete confidence and trust in the power of your Word. As we trust in the wonderful promise that we are 100% forgiven and fully accepted by you as your dear child, we trust that your Word alone is what creates the same faith in others. Thank you Lord, Amen."

DAY 31

Being God's ambassador means delivering a message of reconciliation to all people. The message centers on what Christ has already done for us on the cross. It's a message of victory! By faith alone, a soul receives the full benefits of the victory Christ won for us. There is great joy when the miracle of faith occurs and a soul is declared perfectly righteous in God's eyes and 100% worthy of heaven.

A soul receiving faith is described in God's Word as a harvest. Like a stalk of wheat or a tree bearing fruit, a mature plant ready to be harvested must start with the planting of a seed. The same goes for sharing God's Word. God's ambassadors sow the seeds of God's Word by delivering an all-important message. Christians take joy when those seeds take root and a person comes to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is joy in the harvest and we are reminded that joy can also be found in the act of sowing.



Consider these verses from the gospel of John:

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true." (John 4:34-37)

[Truth in Love Ministry](#) hears from so many ex-Mormons who share with us their journey of faith in the real risen Christ. It is often a long, painful process. Typically they can vividly recall brief conversations with Christians, sometimes years after the fact, where a Biblical truth was shared and they just couldn't dismiss it. The joy of sowing comes from trusting God's promises that we can be used in the process -- even when we may never know the results. We may never have the opportunity to witness the reaping while here on this earth. Yet, I believe one of the joys of heaven will be a soul thanking a Christian for taking the time to plant the seed of God's Word in their heart.

PRAYER: "Lord, grant within us the fruit of joy when we follow through with the act of sowing God's Word. So often, Lord, our eyes are closed to the fields before us. We ask you to open our eyes and see the work that is being done and the work that we could be doing -- all according to your purpose and your glory. Allow us, Lord, to see the lost as you see them. Allow us to love them as you love them. Allow the fruit of joy to grow in our spiritual life as we continue to trust your promises and the power of Your Word! In your name we pray Amen."

BONUS DAY

One of the great joys of being in the public ministry is receiving support and encouragement from others. Personal notes and emails of appreciation along with ongoing prayers for the work being done are like diamonds that glisten in the sun. They are priceless. Sometimes the Lord uses these words at a perfect time. When trials and difficulty parch the soul, words of encouragement bring much needed nourishment to revitalize the commitment, effort, and passion it takes to carry out ministry. It's both humbling and gratifying to know that there are a number of fellow Christians who are prompted by the Lord to provide the necessary resources to carry out what the Lord has laid upon the heart to do.

And you can't imagine the encouragement we receive when gifts of financial support are provided through the mail or on-line. It's amazing how gifts come at just the right time. I believe the Lord uses these times to complete our trust in him and sometimes close doors in order to open new ones.

After fifteen years in the ministry, I have come to keenly appreciate what the Lord inspired the Apostle Paul to write to the church in Philippi.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil: 1:3-6)

PRAYER: "O Lord, we offer you up our praise and thanksgiving for all Your people that you have prompted to partner with us and financially support our ministry. Doing Your work requires resources and we give you thanks for providing all that we need to carry out the work you have given us to do. We also give you thanks for the many people throughout the world who are regularly praying for our ministry. We trust that the work you have begun through [Truth in Love Ministry](#) will be carried out on to completion and we thank you for all those who are partnering with us to help make this possible. In your gracious name we pray, Amen."