



**A 21-DAY DEVOTIONAL**  
FROM VICTORY CHURCH



## PRAYER & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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### In-Person:

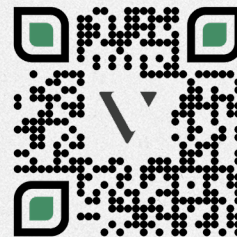
Oklahoma City:  
Monday-Thursday | 12p-1p  
Saturday | 8a-9a

Edmond:  
Monday-Thursday | 12p-1p

### Online:

Monday-Friday | 12p-1p  
Saturday | 8a-9a

To watch online, visit [victory.church/live](https://victory.church/live)





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## A WORD FROM PASTOR JON

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Welcome to 2024. You are a leader. You might lead people, but you certainly lead your own day. You lead your finances, your kids, your schedule, and you even lead your thoughts.

You're not just a leader, you are a ReLeader.

What does it mean to ReLead? ReLeading is taking a fresh look at areas of your life that feel stagnant or broken, and intentionally guiding them in a new, positive direction. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

ReLeading allows God to bring this kind of newness into every part of our lives. It requires assessing why something is off course, letting go of what hasn't worked, and creating a strategic plan to get it back on track according to God's vision.

ReLeading can happen in many contexts - our jobs, finances, health, thoughts, relationships, and most importantly, our spiritual walk. When we ReLead, we rely on God's wisdom and strength to turn things around. It may not be easy, but it is so fulfilling to rebuild on proper foundations.

Over the next 21 days, I encourage you to pray about what God wants to "ReLead" in your life. What needs to be refreshed and given new vision? This is an opportunity to draw closer to God and let Him reveal blind spots you weren't aware of before.

As we ReLead together, be willing to abandon comfortable ruts. Be open to new ideas the Holy Spirit brings. Know that God desires the very best for you and has endless power to recreate and restore what is in you.

The fasting and focused prayer will help deepen this process - keeping us in tune with God's voice and giving us renewed spiritual strength. I'm believing God will do immeasurably more than we can imagine as we devote ourselves to Him over the next 21 days.

Let's approach this season with bold faith, trusting that breakthrough and blessing await! God is ready to ReLead us into greater things.

In His Grip,

Jon  
Chasteen



## RELEAD YOUR PRIORITIES

*Jon Chasteen, Lead Pastor*

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*Take a moment to still your mind. Ask God to open your heart and guide your thoughts.*

### Scripture:

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

### Devotion:

Have you ever stopped to realize how powerful prioritization is? Even today, what you prioritize will determine what you get done. We make these kinds of choices every day that shape our lives. Perhaps even reading this devotional is bringing some of those priority decisions to mind.

The question God confronts us with in Matthew 6:33 is this: What will you prioritize first?

It's so easy to get absorbed by our career, family responsibilities, hobbies, and more. But in the busyness of life, we can lose sight of what should be our number one priority - seeking the Kingdom of God.

Seeking God's Kingdom means dedicating our lives to growing His rule and reign on earth. It means pursuing His purposes above our own plans and desires. When Jesus talks about righteousness, He is referring to living in right relationship with God, trusting in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Reordering our priorities starts with honest evaluation. What needs to change so we can spend more time praying, reading scripture, and worshiping? What habits or activities could we scale back on so that we can fully participate in building God's Kingdom?

As we realign our priorities around seeking God first and foremost, we honor Him and experience the abundant life He promises. The things we previously strived after will naturally fall into place when we trust God to provide, while we focus on His eternal purposes.

### Next Steps:

Reflect on one area of your priorities you could restructure to put God's Kingdom first. Write down concrete steps you will take this week to implement this renewed focus.

### Prayer:

Father God, I recognize my priorities have often been misaligned with Your desires for my life. Thank You for Your patience and grace. Please reveal any areas where I need to ReLead my priorities to seek You first. Give me wisdom and courage to make the changes needed to pursue Your Kingdom wholeheartedly. My life is Yours. Transform my priorities so I may live fully for You each day. Amen.



**RELEAD YOUR PRIORITIES**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## RECHARGING THROUGH REMAINING

*John Phipps, Connections Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

John 15:4-5 ESV: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

### Devotion:

Every January people make resolutions to better their lives. We start new routines, sharpen disciplines, and discard what isn't working. Whether it's a book to read, gym membership, or some sort of accountability group, we have done it all at some point!

However, if you are like me, you're probably running on empty by the end of December. Adding one more thing almost seems counter-productive and if I'm not careful, I end up making half-hearted commitments to something that should be life giving. So, what gives?

What my biggest problem is, is me. Too many times I look to add more time with something instead of time with Someone. Routines and disciplines add value and are important, but I must be as intentional with my time with Jesus as I am with my time at the gym.

This January I want to have a revelation and not a resolution. A revelation that my health and wellbeing starts and ends with remaining

in Jesus. Through this, may our hearts be filled with joy, our bodies be energized, and abiding in Jesus be our starting point and the source for everything we do.

Let's deepen our relationship with Jesus. Recharge through His power, love, and grace. Then, let's add the things that add value to our lives. Remaining leads to recharging. This year let's prioritize recharging through remaining in the One person who gives life abundantly!

### Next Steps:

1. Reflect on the clutter in your life. Where and what do you need to remove in order to have better vision and pursuit for Jesus?
2. Quit living in your past brokenness. When we remain in Him, He provides new life and has taken our hurts. Paul writes in Colossians 2:13-14: "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."
3. Find a Circle. Accountability and fellowship is part of growing and remaining in Jesus. We believe we grow best in Circles. Life in Circles is where pain is divided and joy is multiplied!

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we pray for self to be poured out and for our posture to be humbled. We pray that our perspective is that of Your will. Where we are sick, weak, and broken, You have the solution. May we grow stronger in our faith and with remaining in You, especially when we feel lost and broken. We trust Your plan. We pray for the right path and seek Your love and counsel through everything we do. Give us the courage to fight the good fight of faith when we don't feel strong and may we honor and glorify You in all that we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## RECHARGING THROUGH REMAINING

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## A LIFE OF PURPOSE

Andrew Morris, Worship Pastor, Grapevine

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*Think of a time when you were able to make a difference in someone's life in a powerful way. How did that make you feel?*

### Scripture:

1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

### Devotion:

Mark Twain once said, "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you discover the reason why."

As God's children, we were created with great purpose. Once you realize what that purpose is, it will change your life forever. In a self-centered world that tells us, "Live your truth," and "You deserve to be happy," it's easy to believe the lie that this life is all about us. But true fullness of life happens when we come into agreement with God's purpose for our lives – that we are a representation of God's love and light in the world to "declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light." We exist to love God and love people (Matthew 22:37) and when we walk in that glorious calling, our lives take on new meaning. There is no joy that compares to living a life of purpose in Christ.

### Next Steps:

1. Take some time and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and to help you re-think what you believe to be true about your purpose.
2. Ask yourself these questions and journal some of your thoughts.
  - a. What are some things that I am passionate about? Why?
  - b. How am I doing at loving God and loving people in my daily life?
  - c. How is God calling me specifically to be a representation of Him in my school? My work? Among my friends?

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I want to be the person You've created me to be. Help me to grow in my faith to walk in the calling You have for me. Holy Spirit, lead me and guide me to live a life full of kingdom purpose – the kind of purpose that will have ripple effects for eternity. Help me to love You well and to love others well and help me to be a light for You in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## A LIFE OF PURPOSE

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## RE-LEADING OUR INTIMACY WITH GOD

Wade Smith, Edmond & Grapevine Campus Pastor

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*Life is busy! Many of you right now are reading this between meetings, during your kiddo's soccer practice, or just before your child's drama performance. The old saying is so true, "The days are long but the years are short." In the hustle of life, we often find ourselves drifting from the core of our faith. Yet, the beauty of our spiritual journey lies in the opportunity to re-lead our hearts back to God's embrace.*

### Scripture:

We're reminded in James 4:8 to, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." This verse echoes the promise that as we take intentional steps toward God, He meets us with open arms. It's a call to re-lead, refocus, and redirect our attention from the distractions that pull us away.

### Devotion:

Consider the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:17-20. Like him, we may have strayed, but our Heavenly Father eagerly awaits our return. The thing that stands out most to me in the story is the posture of the father. How did he respond when he saw his son in the distance? He ran to him! This is how our Heavenly Father responds to us... as we draw near, He draws near to us. He's eager and ready. All He is looking for is initiative. It's a reminder that no matter how far we've wandered, God's love remains steadfast, ready to welcome us back into a renewed relationship with Him.

The question is: will we initiate? Are we ready to re-lead our intimacy with our Father? Will we take the time to get away from the distractions? You may have not wandered far. It may just be a subtle

drifting with the wind, but if you're honest, there is likely something that you know needs re-leading. What's most comforting in this parable is that the father wasn't angry with his son. In fact, he was quite the opposite; he was ready to throw his son a party. The truth is, that in our wandering, God is waiting. Waiting for us to turn, waiting for us to come back. Waiting with open arms, ready to celebrate the fullness we have in intimacy with Him.

### Next Steps:

1. Take the time to examine your life. Where are you too busy? What is getting in the way of your intimacy with your Heavenly Father? Is it simple distractions that need slight redirection? Or have you wandered farther and need a complete turning back? The Father's response will always be the same; He's ready to meet you!
2. What help do you need to walk this out? Is it as simple as setting some new disciplines? Do you need help in accountability; would a Circle help you stay focused? Determine the steps that will help you stay connected.

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You that no matter the distance, You're always there, eager and waiting for us to turn to You. Today, show us where we need to turn. Show us how to turn and reveal to us how ready You are to meet us with open arms.



## RE-LEADING OUR INTIMACY WITH GOD

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## LEADING YOURSELF IN RENEWING TRUST

*Hannah Puentes, Connections Pastor, Grapevine*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV): "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

### Devotion:

A scripture known very well, yet we take the meaning for granted so often. Leading ourselves to keep trusting in what God is up to in our lives can be hard but needed. Truly leaning into trust, as these verses declare, means to fully trust with every part of your heart, or the very nature of who you are, the inner man, and to not put confidence in selfish wisdom or "your own understanding." Your focus and attention is on the Father.

In our journey to renewing trust in God for whatever we need – finances, family, the future, we must first recognize the importance that the journey we are on is ultimately not about us. The Bible, in Proverbs 3:5, compels us to not trust in our own ways of making things happen as we so often do. It teaches us to trust in the One who makes our paths straight. The word "trust" in Hebrew is *batah* which means to throw oneself down as in surrender. Renewing our trust looks like surrender, vulnerability, and a shifting of our mindset that everything is His. When we posture ourselves before the Lord in complete surrender, we can renew our trust in Him and what He is doing in everything.

### Next Steps:

1. Reflect on the areas that need to be renewed in trusting God. Where does your trust lie? Ask yourself if you fully depend on the Lord in that area.
2. Repent and ask forgiveness. Renew your mind and heart and ask the Lord to forgive you where you thought you could be God and not completely trust in Him in your life.
3. Acknowledgment: Just as Proverbs 3:6 states, declare and acknowledge that He is Lord over your family, your finances, and your future. Declare and remind yourself that you trust Him and He will continue to lead you as the Good Shepherd that He is.

By leading yourself in the renewing of trust in all the facets of your life as Proverbs states, you will be continuing to relearn and rebuild your heart to trust in the Lord. Then, it will become second nature to trust. Just as a child who fully depends and leans on their earthly father or mother, you will trust, lean on, and go to your Heavenly Father in knowing He has you.

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I ask that You renew my heart to completely trust in You in every area of my life. I know I cannot do anything without You. I surrender my mind, my will, and my emotions and ask that You continue to guide me as I walk in trusting You completely. I know I cannot do this on my own and that I need You more and more. Holy Spirit, teach me Your ways so that I may walk in them. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



## LEADING YOURSELF IN RENEWING TRUST

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## RENEWING YOUR THINKING

*Jonathan Phillips, Youth & Young Adult Pastor, Grapevine*

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*Take a moment and allow the Holy Spirit to point out the negative thoughts that are keeping you bound.*

### Scripture:

Philippians 4:8 (ESV): Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

### Devotion:

As we take a step in the direction of changing the way we think, we have to remember we can't continue moving forward in the same ways of thinking and mindsets like everyone around us. We have to remember that as a believer we are set apart and that means in the way we live, act, and think. Let your thoughts be set on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and anything that is excellent or worthy of praise. Think on those things and then you will be set on the path of your ways of thinking being renewed.

### Next Steps:

1. Reflect on your current thoughts: Take some time and write your thoughts down and think about how that way of thinking could be affecting you.
2. Decide that you will set your mind on things worthwhile: Think on Philippians 4:8. Write it on a post-it note and put it on your mirror in your bathroom. Put it on the dash in your car. Make it your screen saver. Do whatever it takes to remind yourself to think on things that are good.

Taking the step to change your thinking will improve your well-being. God intricately created us so He knows exactly what we need. Philippians 4:8 is not a coincidence. God has given us everything we need to fight the battles set before us. Combat negative ways of thinking with the Word and let the Holy Spirit do a work in you.

### Prayer:

Father, help us to always remember to think on things that are honoring. Renew my mind and renew my thought processes. Help to keep my mind and gaze set on You. In Your name we pray. Amen.



**RENEWING YOUR THINKING**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## RE-VIEW

*Adam Frederick, Children's Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Ephesians 5:15-16 (ESV): "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise making the best use of time because the days are evil."

Ephesians chapter 5 makes a clear statement culminating at verses 15 and 16 with this one idea, personal accountability. The author describes how to behave, what to do, what to watch out for, and who to be around. What we do matters, and the sooner we realize that the better it will be. We see the importance of following Christ and allowing Him to be seen through us; we cannot do anything without Him. There is not an autopilot in this life. If we want to follow Jesus, we need to pay attention and be intentional.

### Devotion:

The beginning of the year is the time for change. Commonly, we like to set goals and make resolutions. This is a process that makes us feel good and hopeful, refreshed, if you will. Here is the question: Are there goals and/or resolutions that have been on your list for years? Mine too. So many times, we start out so strong and focused and then life happens, and before we know it, we are back to the old ways. How do we break the cycle? I believe the key is in the RE-view. Here is the thing; we cannot wait until the end of the year to review our behavior and choices. We must do this process on daily basis. This is the true focus that we need. Paying attention to the small things and RE-viewing our lives daily will keep us on track for the big picture and the ultimate goal to be like Christ. We have to quit

worrying about making all the right choices and just make the next choice right. Let the light of Christ shine through you today and at the end of today, RE-view. What did you do well? Where did you fail? What do you need to be aware of? What do you need to avoid? Praise God for the victories, ask for forgiveness for the failures, and learn. Rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any blind spots and listen to Him.

### Next Steps:

1. Start the day worshiping God, spending time in the Word, and committing your day to Him. Pray that He leads you throughout the day and commit to honor Him.
2. RE-view your day. RE-view your words and emotions. Pay attention to how your interactions played out. Ask yourself these questions:
  - a. Did I honor God?
  - b. Why did I respond that way?
  - c. What did I learn?
3. Praise God for the wins! Ask forgiveness for the misses.
4. RE-peat

### Prayer:

Father, today I give it all to You. Thank You for loving me and always being with me. I praise You today because You are worthy. Help me today to live in a manner pleasing unto You. Forgive me for the areas of my life that are not honoring to You. I love You, Lord. Amen.



**RE-VIEW**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## DEVELOPING SENSITIVITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Jenni Gunter, Connections Pastor, Edmond*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Psalm 25:4-5 (NKJV): "Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day."

### Devotion:

In our everyday lives, our decisions, big and small, need to be led by the Holy Spirit. We strive to be in a continual posture of seeking God's wisdom and guidance, but we also need to increase, refine, and even develop our sensitivity to His voice, His leading, and His prompting.

### Next Steps:

1. Examine yourself. Are you spending enough time seeking God in every aspect of your life, all throughout your day, asking Him about the small, seemingly mundane concerns that every day brings as they come along, but also about the larger, more critical, and important decisions in life? Purpose yourself to commune with Him, talk with Him more often throughout the day about all your daily activities... nothing is too small or too large for Him. He cares for you and every aspect of your life and He desires a relationship with you.

2. Elevate your prayer life. Set aside purposeful time to pray in your understanding but also purposeful time to pray in the Spirit. This will help you build and develop a closer relationship with Him, a deeper sensitivity to His voice, His promptings, His wisdom, and leading, so that when you need answers you're accustomed and able to hear from Him more clearly. He brightens your path and is able to lead you. You become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit because you have developed a deeper relationship with Him.

By meditating and praying this scripture, Psalm 25:4-5, you are yielding to Him by asking for His counsel, teaching, seeking His guidance, and following His truth.

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You, thanking You for Your lovingkindness toward us, that You care for us and desire to lead us into all truth. We ask You to help us develop a deeper relationship with You by seeking You, talking to You, both in prayer and communion with the Holy Spirit. We know that there are times in our lives when we've not sought You for guidance, but have followed our own path, our own plan, and therefore we've gotten into trouble. But we ask You to help us recognize those times in the future, and we purpose ourselves to go to You with all our concerns, big and small. And when we do this, You are so very faithful, trustworthy, and loving toward us to meet us and guide us into all truth. We thank You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



**DEVELOPING SENSITIVITY  
TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## FIXING YOUR FOCUS IN THE FIGHT

*Garry Palmer, Associate Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Acts 16:22-25 ESV: The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

### Devotion:

Envision yourself as the Apostle Paul. Recently stoned and left for dead, your wounds are healing, but you still endure immense pain as you continue your ministry travels in faithful pursuit of Jesus. Despite facing adversity, you remain steadfast in sharing the message of Christ. Then, another blow, more hardship, and further disappointment strike. How should you react? How do you lead yourself in such challenging times?

Analyzing this passage, it becomes evident that even when we are firmly within God's will, we can still suffer for doing what's right. Crisis and hardship can befall us, and we must remember that it all occurs within God's providence. Is this encouraging? (It's important to note that we may also experience hardship due to our own mistakes, but that's a discussion for another time.)

Paul and Silas endured significant adversity, and this was not Paul's first, nor his last, encounter with physical harm. Nevertheless, he pressed on. How did he maintain his unwavering determination to know Christ and make Him known to others? He focused his attention on God. In verse 25, we see Paul and Silas' response to their difficulties: "Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God..." Paul understood that he was not the central figure in the narrative; God was. He recognized his inability to save himself and realized that confession wouldn't alleviate his suffering. Instead, he submitted his will and worship to the true hero in the battle—God alone.

### Next Steps:

1. Endure hardship through prayer and worship to stay committed to your faith in Christ. Suffering is a part of life, and it's not always a result of our mistakes. Allow Paul's ability to maintain his focus on God and worship during adversity inspire you to surrender control to God in challenging times.
2. What specific situations in your life can benefit from a greater focus on prayer and worship when facing adversity, and how can you put this into practice?

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ asking You to help me fix my focus in times of adversity. Help me to focus on You and the good that You will bring out of my suffering. May I turn to You, just as Paul did, when facing hardship. You, my God, are in the middle of this fight. You have given me new mercy today. Help me to walk in the grace, the empowerment, that You have supplied me with. Help me to trust in You when I don't understand what's going on around me. I need You, Father. I submit to You and commit myself to following You no matter the cost and no matter the pain. You are worth it all. In the name of my Savior and King, Jesus. Amen.



## FIXING YOUR FOCUS IN THE FIGHT

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## I'M NOT HERE BY CHANCE... GOD HAS A PLAN

*Moises Pichardo, Victory Iglesia Campus Pastor*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

### Devotion:

If possible, tonight, approach a window from which you can contemplate the sky. Just meditate on the fact that everything you are seeing is part of a whole constellation... I think that at that moment, you can recognize that the way you analyze your circumstances tends to reach an extreme degree. Like many things in life, you need a fresh start, and honestly, it can't be your way, but the way of the One who created that entire universe you can see from that window.

Just as it is awe-inspiring to observe the perfection of the universe, so is the perfection of God's plan in creating us. Each of us is a key piece, an essential element in what God wants to produce through us. We are part of something much larger and more complex than we can imagine, and the fact that we are in this world is not mere chance. Although it may seem paradoxical or incomprehensible, each of us was born to live in this exact moment, and God orchestrated it that way.

In Psalm 139:16 (NIV), we are told, "Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Because we believe in His Word and have faith that He does not lie, we are clear that God knew our "today" from before we were born, and all our days are planned by Him. We are part of His divine plan.

You can argue and plead with God, starting from the platform of the things that frustrate you, or you can reaffirm your faith that God placed you in this precise moment of history for a specific reason. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) tells us, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We are here to do good works; works that God already had in mind for us.

Every challenge, success, relationship, and situation in our lives is part of God's plan. He calls us to trust Him and seek His guidance, knowing that we are here with an eternal purpose. No matter how difficult the trials we face, God equips us and guides us.

When we look at the vastness of the universe created by God, we can see that we are a fundamental part of His masterpiece. Every day, every moment, every year is an opportunity to fulfill His plan.

We were born for this time, and by embracing this truth, we find a divine purpose that fills us with hope and determination. The part that belongs to us is to trust in God and embrace our role in His eternal story.



## **I'M NOT HERE BY CHANCE... GOD HAS A PLAN**

*Moises Pichardo, Victory Iglesia Campus Pastor*

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### **Next Steps:**

1. Reflect on your identity: Understand your inner value as a divine creation.
2. Recognize what is not right in you: Accept human imperfection and the need to reaffirm yourself in God's plan.
3. Live according to this truth: Practice love and compassion toward others, recognizing their dignity as well.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, I ask for forgiveness because I have doubted and sometimes questioned the reason for my existence. Today, I commit to believe and trust in what You desire from me and through me. Today, I embrace Your purpose and will walk in faith toward what You so eagerly want to see in my life, in Jesus' name, amen.



**I'M NOT HERE BY CHANCE...  
GOD HAS A PLAN**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

*Barb Swanson, Global Missions Director*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Proverbs 3:13, 17-18 (NASB): 13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. 17 Her ways (wisdom) are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.

### Devotion:

In life we all choose to follow something, someone, or ourselves. God wants us to follow His path, because He has the wisdom to know how to make our journey pleasant and give us peace. There may be many twists and turns along the way, but trusting in your Maker is the only way to have a truly blessed life.

Psalm 119:105 (KJV): "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Many times, we want to avoid the hard things. It's just human nature, but to get the results we desire, we will have to do the hard work that brings change. We have to be honest with ourselves and others. Following "The Yellow Brick Road," (God's Path) works best while using a structured plan and helpful tools of skilled people who have

who have overcome or have been down the same path. It will take humbling ourselves, obedience, and grit. But remember, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

### Next Steps:

1. Think about the areas in your life or relationships that you struggle with. Maybe God has given you guidance, or people you know who might be able to help you, and you haven't pursued them or honored His voice? Psalm 3:8 (NIV) says, "From the Lord comes deliverance."

2. Make that phone call to a friend, pastor, or professional. Pursue that workout partner or accountability person in whatever area you wish to gain wisdom and victory.

The years can slip by and the desires of your heart aren't met just because you didn't get the help you needed, or you might have decided it was too hard to change.

### Prayer:

God, I know all Your paths are worth searching out. Your plan for me is good and I desire to follow hard after You. Show me what to do and help me to be willing and obedient. Help me not to be afraid of doing the hard work it will take to find freedom. I know Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light. I will delight myself in You and You will give me the desires of my heart because You love me and have a great plan for my life. Thank You Jesus!



**FOLLOW THE YELLOW  
BRICK ROAD**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## REMEMBER TO BE THANKFUL

*Philip Pine, Next-Gen Pastor, Edmond*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Colossians 3:17 (ESV): "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

This scripture is a good reminder that we have a purpose in everything we do. Many of us tend to ignore the things in our lives that are going well. Instead, we focus on the areas that need improvement. This scripture reminds us to give thanks to God, both in words and in actions. The first step in giving thanks is usually recognizing we have something to be thankful for.

### Devotion:

Lately you may have learned you have some ReLeading to do in your life. I want to remind you that you may also need to do some routine maintenance. Maintenance isn't a bad thing; it's a necessary thing that keeps you from breaking down. My encouragement for you today is to look at the areas of your life where you are healthy. Look at the parts that are firing on all cylinders. When you think about these things, thank God that they are going well. Don't forget what it took for you to become healthy in those areas and keep up the good work. Just like our cars need an oil change so they don't break down, you and I need to ReLead our lives around thanksgiving, so we don't grow weary in doing good.

### Next Steps:

1. Reflect on the areas you are doing well in: Take time to evaluate your life. Are there any areas that you feel are going great? Can you think of some blessings you have received lately? Seek out God for understanding and wisdom in this. Thank Him for keeping you healthy in those areas.
2. Write it down and share it: After you determine the areas that are going well, write them down. This could be in a journal, or simply on your phone's notes app. Keep a running tab of things you are thankful for. Take a few minutes to thank God for blessing you in these areas of your life. Ask Him to help you maintain health in these areas, and to help guide those who are struggling in the same areas in which you are doing well.

Colossians 3:17 reminds us to be thankful. My prayer is that God continues to lead us into thankfulness. God has gifted us with many things we can be thankful for. We need to remember to take time to thank Him and keep up the good work by maintaining health in those areas.

### Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You. We recognize who You are and what You have done for us. Help us to remember to be thankful for the many blessings we have. Keep our minds and hearts centered on Christ, not neglecting the good works You have put in front of us. Help us to set up routines that can develop hearts full of thanksgiving. Take away our focus on the negative things and center our focus on Jesus. It is with hearts full of thanksgiving, and in Your Son's name, we pray. Amen.



**REMEMBER TO BE  
THANKFUL**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## RELEADING WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT

*Cameron Haubrick, Associate Campus Pastor, Edmond*

*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NLT): "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

### Devotion:

This probably wasn't the encouraging scripture you were expecting to read, was it? Ecclesiastes is one of the more difficult reads in scripture. It is full of the hard truths about the unpredictability that this life is full of. Funny enough, the writer of Ecclesiastes is also the writer of most of Proverbs, which in a lot of ways aims to reveal the predictability of the patterns God has laced throughout this life. Patterns like wisdom, respect, and honor which are often met with blessings. So how can we live out this life knowing what to expect or what to care about when Solomon (the speaker and/or writer of these two books) makes it clear that life is often predictable and unpredictable at the same time?

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT) says this: "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."

Giving your cares to God does not mean you no longer care. It means that you allow Him to have a say in what you are caring about. The truth is a lot of what we care about doesn't matter as much as we

think it does. What people think, what cars we drive, what clothes we wear... none of these things are inherently bad, but the amount of space we let them take up in our minds is very important. Because the reality is, if it doesn't affect yours or someone else's eternity, Solomon would tell you it is meaningless. I'm not telling you not to care, but I am telling you to allow God to have a say in how much you care about whatever it is that is taking space in your mind.

### Next Steps:

1. Reflect on whatever is taking up space in your mind.
2. Ask yourself, "Is what I am currently caring about going to still be affecting me in 5 seconds, 5 minutes, 5 hours, 5 days, or 5 years?"
3. Let God speak into how much He cares about what you are caring about. Then let Him speak into how much He cares about you. When you realize how much He cares about you, you can better cast your cares upon Him.

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, Your word tells us to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Your word. Our minds are really good at caring about a lot of things, but they are not good at letting those things go. We need Your help. Help our minds to be set on things above. Help us to seek Your kingdom first and trust that You will take care of all of the rest. Thank You for caring about me more than I care about myself. I give my cares and my worries over to You because I know I can trust You with them. Thank You Lord. Amen!



# RELEADING WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## CHRIST OUR RE-LEADER

*Oscar Ortiz, OKC Campus Pastor*

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*Take two minutes and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to the truth of God's word.*

### Scripture:

Ephesians 4:20-24 (NASB): But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

### Devotion:

I hope we never forget what it's like to be without Jesus. I'm not just referring to our lives before we believed in Him and followed His path, but also those fleeting moments or seasons when we willingly veered off the path He marked for us. I hope we never forget what it feels like to be without Jesus. Paul's invitation to the Ephesian Christians echoes Christ's call to us today: Will we allow Him to re-lead us? Jesus is The Word (John 1:1-14). When Christ reigns in our hearts and souls, Truth reigns there too, for that is who Jesus is. Our truest, most accurate identity is found only in Him, not in our titles, not in our performance, not in our pursuit of recognition, but solely in Him.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians during a time when the city exalted the pagan temple of the Roman goddess Diana. Encircled by a culture that glorified "the lust of self," Paul encouraged them to discard their old identities born from a culture of lies that glorified self-exaltation. Similarly, in today's world, how will we respond to Christ's call to

go against not only our culture, but also our nature? The renewal of our mind is pivotal to our transformation. It begins by allowing the Truth of Christ to re-lead us and take root in our hearts, and by shedding the old ways that distanced us from Him.

Set aside a dedicated time and place each day for reflection, reconsideration, and relearning.

Let Jesus re-lead you with His truth and transform you into the person He can empower you to become.

### Next Steps:

1. RE-move your old identity: Transformation doesn't come through religious practices. We will always fall and default to our highest level of knowledge. If we rely on the same wisdom as before accepting Christ, we'll likely encounter similar struggles. We can do this by thinking about the way that we think. Instead of trying to change ourselves, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal areas needing adjustment or change. Analyze your behavior and feelings. Are they based on truth or fear?
2. RE-new your thinking: A mentor once said to me, "Don't spend so much time pulling weeds that you forget to plant flowers." What are the nagging thoughts that you know aren't healthy or not from the Father? Identify unhealthy thoughts or those not aligned with God's truth. Replace them with new, godly truths. Capture old thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5) and replace them repeatedly with God's words until they create a new path for your mind to follow.
3. RE-lead your life. Communication pathologist and cognitive neuroscientist, Dr. Caroline Leaf says, "Our brain does not control us; we control our brain." We must let Christ back in the driver's seat and let His Truth lead our thoughts. Our thoughts are seeds; where we plant them will determine if those thoughts become weeds or flowers. To re-lead our life we must let Christ re-lead it; we must let Him lead our thoughts over and over again.



## CHRIST OUR RE-LEADER

*Oscar Ortiz, OKC Campus Pastor*

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### **Prayer:**

Father, I thank You that You have saved me through Your Son, Jesus Christ, and that You desire to renew my mind and re-lead my life. You are in control, I am not. Help me die to my natural desire to be in control and to let my old self lead me. Help me die to the culture around me that wants to make my desires and dreams the center of my attention. Give me the strength to let go and let Your Spirit lead me. Let Your Word plant new ways of thinking that will re-lead my actions and my life to become the son and daughter You are transforming me into. I ask because I know it is possible through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.



## CHRIST OUR RE-LEADER

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## HEALING OUR BROKEN HEARTS

*Mary Lou Coppin, VIP Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Psalm 147:3 (NKJV): He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Mark 12:30 (NKJV): And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.

### Devotion:

Scripture is clear that the heart is hugely important as far as one's wellbeing and health are concerned. God's greatest command to us is to, "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Many Bible verses about the heart are related to our personal health and wellness.

Our hearts are so tender and venerable that many people go through life with broken hearts, both spiritually and physically. These could have been caused by many things: a spouse that has rejected them, a parent that constantly belittled them, a business failure, a child going astray. Sadly, some of the worst hurts have happened within the church environment.

God has told us in His Word that if we come to Him, He will heal us. Psalm 147:3 says, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

### Next Steps:

1. As we, in our everyday lives, schedule appointments with our doctors for checkups, we need to set regular appointments with our "Doctor Jesus" for checkups. He has given us many scriptures for the perfect medicine for healing every kind of hurting heart.
2. We need to set healthy boundaries for ourselves in many areas. Perhaps limit phone time, or TV, or movies, or our hobby time.
3. By following Mark 12:30 and Psalm 147:3, and prayer, we can stay closer to God's plan for our lives.

### Prayer:

Our wonderful "Papa God," our "Daddy God," we come before You today with open hearts, seeking healing for our many wounds, especially our broken hearts. You are our Jehovah Rapha, our "Healing God" who never leaves us nor forsakes us. Help us to use Your wisdom and instructions in our everyday affairs. Forgive us the many times we have failed You. Strengthen us more and more each day and give us Your wisdom as we take this journey together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# HEALING OUR BROKEN HEARTS

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## LEADING YOURSELF AWAY FROM SELF-FOCUS

*Yolanda Caro, CARE and Freedom Ministry Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV): "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

### Devotion:

There is no doubt God has called us to a radical way of living. He has called us away from self-focused living, as it is our tendency to be concerned for our own wellbeing, status, gratification, and happiness. In Philippians 2:3-5, God defines how He has called us to live; in humility and selflessness. God urges us to live with humble regard for others, considering others as greater than ourselves. It's hard because the lie that we should care for "self" first feels right, and even makes sense to our natural mind and way of the world we live in. The truth is, pleasure is one thing, but true joy and fulfillment are found in the genuine care and consideration for the wellbeing of others. God has asked us to embrace unity, empathy, and a servant's heart by following the example of Jesus. He humbly released His divine privileges to serve us.

### Next Steps:

1. Acknowledge the natural tendency to be self-focused. Reflect on moments when you may have placed your desires and concerns above those of others. Take time in prayer to ask God for forgiveness and for the humility to see yourself with clear judgment, recognizing your dependence on Him.
2. Make a list of things you are thankful for. Gratitude shifts our focus from ourselves to the blessings around us. Spend time in prayer thanking God for His goodness. As you stir up gratitude, you will become more aware of the needs and joys of others.
3. Jesus showed humility through serving others. Consider ways you can serve those around you today. It might be a small act of kindness or something more sacrificial for you. Ask God to help you develop a servant's heart, following the example and attitude of Jesus.
4. Take time in prayer to surrender your plans and desires to God. Seek His will above your own. As you focus on God's will, it will become more natural to be "kingdom minded" rather than self-focused.

### Prayer:

Lord, I ask You to help me begin to turn away from focusing on myself and begin to see and care for the wellbeing of those around me. Give me the courage to trust my wellbeing to You while I choose to put the needs of others first. Help me to feel and experience the fulfillment of living my life according to the way of Your kingdom and not the way of this world. Teach me to humble myself. Teach me to see and think like You. Forgive me for the times I have demanded my own way and my own happiness at the expense of others. Thank You for Your love and patience. Amen.



## LEADING YOURSELF AWAY FROM SELF-FOCUS

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## LEADING YOUR MARRIAGE WITH LOVE AND GRACE

*Kevin Daniels, Worship Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Colossians 3:13 (NIV): "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

### Devotion:

Marriage is a beautiful gift from God, a sacred union that reflects the depth of His love and the power of unity. In a world that often challenges the sanctity of marriage, godly marriage requires intentionality, selflessness, and a commitment to love and grace.

When my wife and I first got married, so many people came and gave so much advice, and honestly, it all was eye-opening, but it wasn't all good. People would say, "The first year is the worst," or "It only gets good after you make it to seven years." The list goes on and on. In fact, we realized that most people struggled because of unmet expectations and lack of grace.

Genesis 2:24 reminds us of the divine purpose behind marriage. It is a bond that goes beyond physical and emotional connection; it is a spiritual merging of two souls into one. As husband and wife, we are called to leave behind our individual identities and become united in heart, mind, and purpose. This unity is a testament to God's design for marriage and the strength that can be found in the union.

Colossians 3:13 reminds us of the importance of forgiveness in leading our marriage. We are imperfect beings, prone to mistakes and shortcomings. However, as leaders, we have the opportunity to extend the same forgiveness that the Lord has shown us. By bearing with one another's faults and choosing to forgive, we create an environment of grace and reconciliation. Leading with forgiveness allows our marriage to grow stronger as we learn to let go of past hurts and move forward in love.

### Next Steps:

Take time to think about your marriage, your relationship, your friendship. Are there areas of unspoken expectation that have led to discontentment; have you mistaken your partner for your competitor? If so, take it to the Lord and ask for God's guidance to the place of grace. Identify the true enemy; your partner is for you and you're on the same team.

### Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for relationships and spouses and community that You have placed around us for a purpose; to love, support, and uplift one another. In times of joy, let us celebrate together, and in times of difficulty, let us lean on each other and seek God's wisdom. May our relationships be a testament to the power of unity, reflecting God's love and grace to the world around us. As we embrace these principles of love, gentle words, and forgiveness, may our lives be transformed into a reflection of God's grace and mercy. Let us live and lead and love with humility, seeking God's guidance and relying on His strength to navigate the joys and challenges of life. May we be drawn closer to You as we continue to grow in You. Amen.



**LEADING YOUR MARRIAGE  
WITH LOVE AND GRACE**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



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## THE PATH TO CONTENTMENT - PSALM 16

*Michael McNair, Youth Pastor, Edmond*

*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

Psalm 16: 1-11 (ESV): Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after[c] another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### Devotion:

In our journey of faith, we often encounter seasons of turmoil and uncertainty, much like David did in Psalm 16. These passages provide profound insights into the path of contentment and finding joy in God's presence, regardless of our circumstances. At the time of Psalm 16, we see David fleeing from Saul, who is seeking to end his life. David flees to the land of the Philistines to escape Saul. What

we could argue as a time of distress, uncertainty, and turmoil, we see a psalm produce a path to contentment amidst this difficult season David is facing.

#### To Be Full is To Be Content (V.1-3)

David's steps toward contentment are a roadmap for us. He placed his utmost trust in God, declaring, "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge." This plea reflects a profound truth: "To trust God is the highest honor we can do him; it is to set the crown upon his head."  
– John Trapp

#### Rejecting False Gods (V.4)

David recognized the futility of pursuing false gods and the sorrows that come with it. In a world filled with distractions and empty promises, we must follow David's example by choosing to serve the one true God. Just as Peter said in John 6, "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

#### Security in God (V.5-6)

David found his security in God. He acknowledged that the Lord was his chosen portion and inheritance. Even when our earthly circumstances might leave us wanting, we can take comfort in the knowledge that eternity with God is our ultimate inheritance. Contentment comes when we recognize that He is all we need.

#### Seeking Divine Counsel (V.7-8)

David sought divine counsel in times of need, making God his primary advisor. We, too, should approach our problems with a similar mindset, seeking God's guidance and instruction, trusting in His wisdom.

#### Life to the Full (V.9-11)

Finally, David's commitment to God led him to a life of fullness, a life marked by contentment and joy amidst difficulties. David's experience reminds us that true fulfillment comes from a deep and unwavering relationship with our Creator.



## THE PATH TO CONTENTMENT - PSALM 16

*Michael McNair, Youth Pastor, Edmond*

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### Next Steps:

Reflect on David's journey: Contentment isn't tied to external circumstances but is found in trust and devotion to God. In times of trial, echo David's words: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy."

1. Are you in a season where you're struggling to be content?
2. Are you finding yourself feeling as if you're lacking?
3. Have you been trying to find contentment in things of this world rather than in God?

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, seeking wisdom and guidance. If there are areas of our lives that we've been seeking contentment outside of You, would You make it known to us. Would You remind us that the only thing that can satisfy us is a life aligned with You and Your word? The areas of our lives that we're clinging to trying to find contentment, we choose to surrender these areas and lay them at Your feet, declaring You are all we want and need.



# THE PATH TO CONTENTMENT

## - PSALM 16

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## RELEASING CONTROL SO I CAN REST

*Jerron Archer, Global Creative Pastor*

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*Take a moment, take a deep breath, and clear your mind from the worries of the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you in these few moments with Him.*

### Scripture:

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG): “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Romans 15:13 (NIV): “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

### Devotion:

It’s often been said that the most reassuring part of life is that we are not in control nearly as much as we think we are. Ironically, what’s the scariest part of life? We are not in control nearly as much as we think we are.

The challenges we face can often be attributed to the fact that we try to accomplish things as a product of our own willpower and strength. Our natural, human inclination is to take control of our lives — and this inclination is only fueled by a culture that prides itself on being “self-made.” However, Jesus calls us to a different way. We were never meant to walk through life in our own strength, and when we try, we don’t get very far.

In Matthew 11, Jesus invites us into this new way; a life of releasing control, taking a breath, and trusting Him to guide us and take care of us:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.” Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

### Next Steps:

1. Take inventory: What areas of my life am I trying to accomplish things in my own strength and willpower? Write them down. How often do I experience anxiety, stress, and worry as a result?
2. Release control so you can rest: Living in the “unforced rhythms of grace” requires us to release our grip on the things we try to control. This is often the hardest part of the journey, but when we do, the weight of the world comes off our shoulders and we can discover what Jesus calls, “a real rest.” The anxiety, stress, and worry we feel suddenly transform into “joy, peace, and overflowing with hope.” (Romans 15:13)
3. Follow His lead: Jesus invites us to, “Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.” Accepting this invitation always produces more fruit than we could ever produce on our own. Listen for His voice; when you hear it, follow His lead. You’ll find, every time, He helps you “recover your life.”

### Prayer:

God, thank You that I don’t have to go through life on my own. Your plans for me are far better than anything I can do in my own strength, and I receive Your invitation to find rest for my soul in You. In this moment, I release control and trust You fully with every part of my life. Thank You that You are trustworthy, You are always good to me, and You will never let me down. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



## RELEASING CONTROL SO I CAN REST

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

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## RE-LEAD YOUR GRATITUDE THROUGH ROUTINE

*Dale Swanson, Global Executive Pastor*

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*Take a moment, settle your thoughts, and when you are ready, open your hands into a receiving position and say, "Welcome Holy Spirit."*

### Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV): "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

This reminds me that if I want to follow God's will, I must give thanks in all circumstances. Sounds easy, but it really brings peace in the storm.

### Devotion:

We all have things that we do every day that we really don't have to think about. They are so routine that we often forget that we did them: turn off the coffee pot, lock the front door, etc.

In our humanity, we can be so set in our habits, that we have a habit of complaining or minimizing our status in life instead of realizing that everything we have is a gift from God.

We shrink the comparative of optimism and pessimism into the "glass half full/glass half empty" ideology. But what about those real-life events that are truly "glass half empty"? What do we do then?

A hymn from long ago said, "When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." This was not written from a position of "everything is perfect" – quite the opposite.

### Next Steps:

Develop a routine of starting your day expressing gratitude. Accept the reality of life's challenges without giving them the power to control your thoughts and outlook. Realize that "the tongue has the power of life and death." (Proverbs 18:21)

### Prayer:

Dear Father, we acknowledge that every good and perfect gift is from You. We thank You for the blessings in our lives, and we thank You that You strengthen us in the difficult times. Help us to remember to be grateful in all things.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34



**RE-LEAD YOUR GRATITUDE  
THROUGH ROUTINE**

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*



15 horizontal lines for writing.

15 horizontal lines for writing.



## LEADING YOURSELF TOWARD HUMILITY

*Abdiel Pagan, Youth & Young Adult Pastor, OKC*

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*Take a moment, take a deep breath, and clear your mind from the worries of the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you in these few moments with Him.*

### Scripture:

Luke 14:10-11 (NIV): “But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Take a few moments to reflect on these three key words: Friend. Honored. Humble. Write out how each word makes you feel and what comes to mind.

### Devotion:

Jesus shares this parable as a picture of what it looks like to live humbly. We find some key truths in this parable. One truth is that He desires to honor His friends. Which begs the question, who is considered His friends? Another truth we see is that Jesus, who is represented by the host in the parable, is attracted to those who choose the lowest place; in other words, He is attracted to those who humble themselves, and He wants to elevate those who humble themselves. Jesus loves true and genuine humility. According to Him, my role in all of this is simple: to humble myself. The question that I need to ask myself every day is, “What does it look like to humble myself?”

### Next Steps:

1. Set aside time every day to practice gratitude by keeping a gratitude journal. Write down 2-3 things that you are grateful for every day. Practicing intentional gratitude helps you overcome things like pride and entitlement and helps you stay grounded in humility.
2. Do one intentional thing every day to serve someone else. For example, you can make your spouse's coffee in the morning. Setting out to do one thing every day for someone else will help you establish a trajectory of servanthood for the rest of your day.

It is far better to humble yourself than to be humbled. Humility is intentional; you don't become a humble person by accident. Do something today that positions you in a low place and allow Jesus to elevate you to whatever position He chooses.

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to live a life of humility. I want to honor You and look like You in all that I do. Teach me to trust in Your timing and Your understanding. Help me to desire friendship with You more than anything else. Amen.



## LEADING YOURSELF TOWARD HUMILITY

*Use this space to write notes, reflections, or your own prayer*

[illegible]This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



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Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins  
of your cities. Then you will be known as a  
rebuilder of walls and a restorer of homes.

*Isaiah 58:12 (NLT)*

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**MOVE, & BE IN THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST.**

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