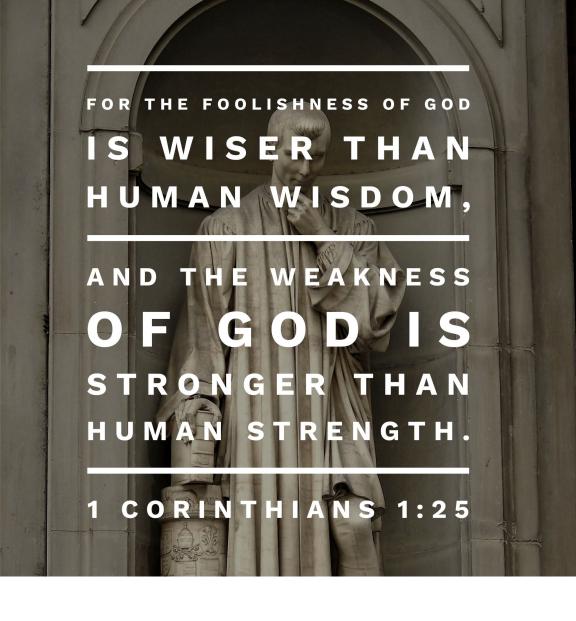


READ: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

THINK: Early Christians begin to consider themselves followers of Christian leaders instead of followers of Christ. The modern Christian Church isn't always too different.

We are divided by peripheral interpretations, desired worship style, and favorite preachers, but Christ is not divided nor is His body. There is only one Church, we just can't fit in the same building. Do not lose sight of the fact that what unites us is always greater than what divides us.

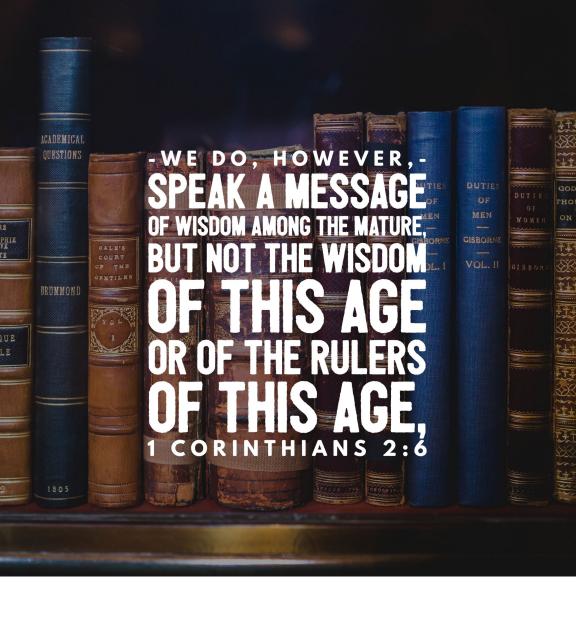
PRAY: for God to act across denominations.



READ: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

THINK: This is not saying that God is so smart that even when He is being dumb He is still smarter than us. It is saying that people call God's wisdom and strength foolishness and weakness. The "foolishness" of God and the "weakness" of God is this: God chose to be killed on the cross. To all the world, this is a bad choice and a sign of weakness. To the Christian, it is a wisdom to save and strength to submit.

PRAY: that your attitude could be the same as Christ Jesus.



READ: 1 Corinthians 2

THINK: If you are honest, sometimes things
Christians say feel like they make so sense.
The wisdom of preachers is to submit.
Christian teachers tell us to think of others
interests. Christian friends remind us to
consider trials and troubles as joy because
they draw us closer to God. When your goal
is a happy and pleasant life, Christian wisdom
seems foolish. When your goal is to draw
close to God and serve Him, it starts to make
sense.

PRAY: through your hopes and goals and if you want them more than you want God.



READ: 1 Corinthians 3

THINK: God grows faith because that job is too big for you. We are called to share our faith with people (sow) and to encourage others in their faith (water), but it is always God who makes faith grow. When we play a role in people's faith stories, it's easy to become prideful. Especially if you play a major role in lots of people's faith stories. Don't fool yourself. God makes faith grow. Share your faith, encourage others, but remember that it is God who is in control.

PRAY: for a friend or family member who is far from God.





READ: 1 Corinthians 4

THINK: Often, Christian gatherings feel like they center around talking. Especially in the protestant church, the lesson tends to take the central role in church or Youth Group. The Christian life though is not about talk, it's about the power or God. God is at work in this world to heal and remake it. His power is evident in the transformation of lives, the shaping of events, and the reconciliation of cultures. In processes that seem perfectly natural and one's which seem supernatural, God is at work in power.

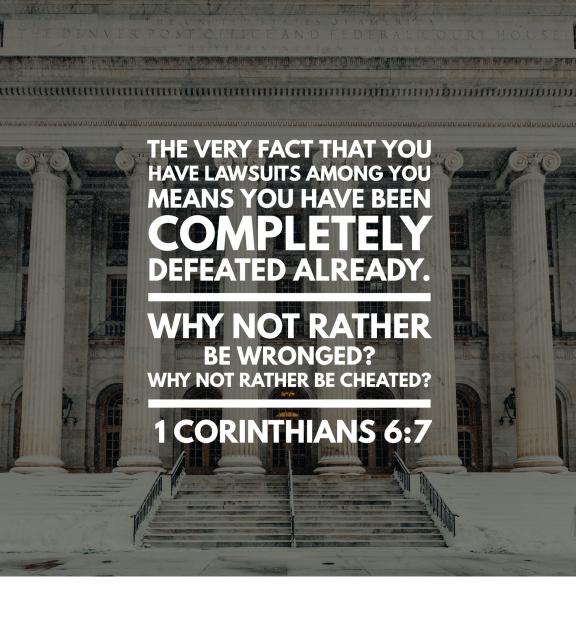
PRAY: for God to work in power in a specific area our world or culture.



READ: 1 Corinthians 5

THINK: People think Christians are judgemental. Often that is because we are judgemental. Don't let people outside the church feel judged, help them feel loved. But for those inside the church, we are given the responsibility to hold each other accountable. Give other the Christians the right to help you follow God closely. Don't take correction as criticism, but allow their perspective to shape your heart and actions to be more righteous.

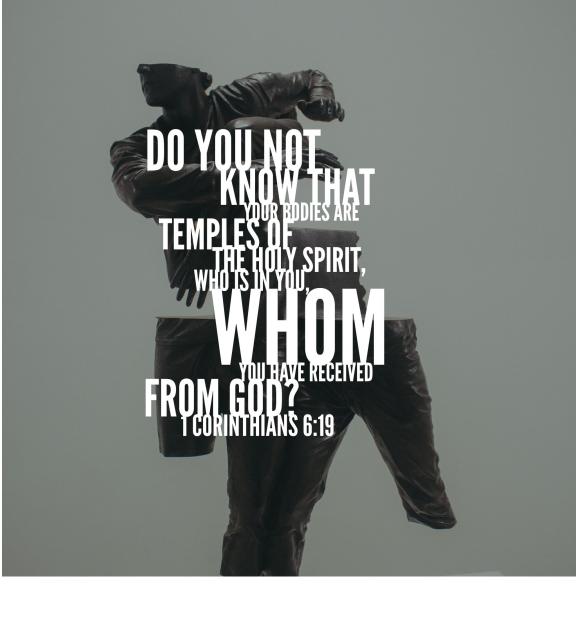
PRAY: for Christian friends who can see your actions as God does.



READ: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

THINK: Here is a reality you probably already know: Christians hurt each other sometimes. This is true of all families and communities. Paul is not saying, "Let people hurt you and pretend everything is ok." When we hurt each other with our words and actions, we need to address it directly to one another. And when we address issues together, people outside the church won't see us fighting or hear us venting. They will see a family of imperfect people who still loves one another.

PRAY: for how your friends see the Church.



READ: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

THINK: You are the place that God chooses to live. We act like we need to be on our best behavior in church because it is God's house. It isn't. You are God's house. Wherever you go, God goes. Whatever you do, you do with God. That is a great encouragement as we look at overwhelming events and know God is with us. It becomes shameful as consider the wicked and hurtful actions we have dragged God through.

PRAY: and confess some of the things you have dragged God through.



READ: 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

THINK: We can overly emphasized the life we want. The goal of your life is not to build a pleasant life, get a good job, build a loving marriage, and raise healthy and well behaved children. The goal of your life is to serve God. Being single, not having kids, not owning a home, not having a job; these are like Christian superpowers. The energy you would commit to your spouse, kids, house, or work you can use to serve God in new and creative ways.

PRAY: for how you can serve God better.

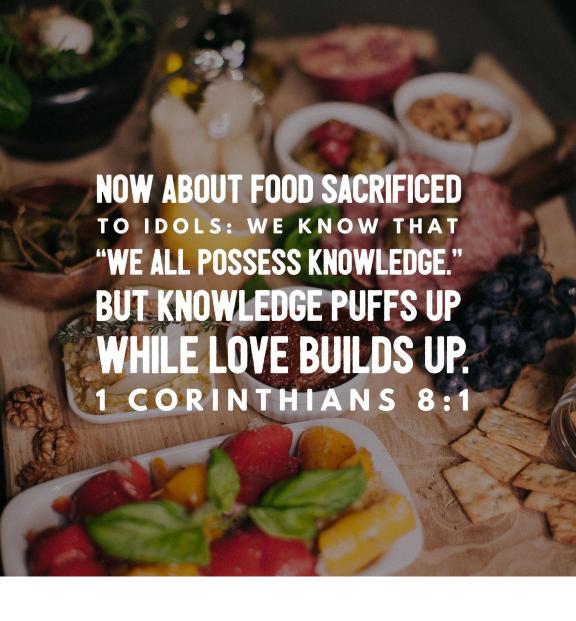


READ: 7:17-40

THINK: Paul thinks that the world is going to end soon. He advises that people don't get married, most likely because he thinks the world is going to end before the current generation dies out. 2000 years later, the world is still going. Paul was wrong in terms of timeframe, but his attitude was right. When you think time is limitless, you amble through it chasing after pleasures and achievements. When you live as if time is short, you leverage everything you have for God.

PRAY: for Jesus to come back.

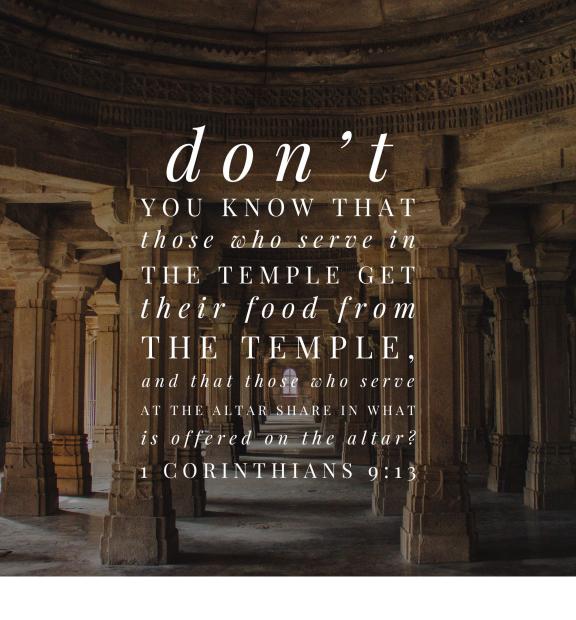




READ: 1 Corinthians 8

right, we seek to prove others wrong. When our primary focus is people, we seek to build others up. Sometimes we disagree over interpretations in church but your interpretation is almost always less important than the person you disagree with. When you disagree, don't lose sight of the needs and faith of the other person. Don't let being right be more important than being love.

PRAY: for a person you tend to disagree with.

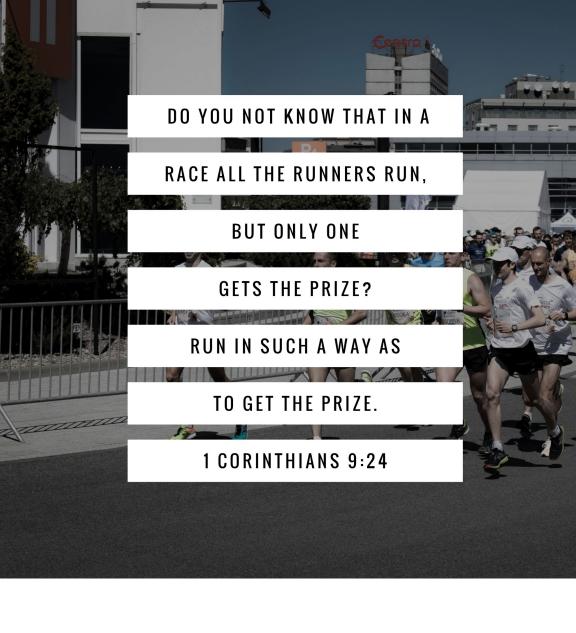


READ: 1 Corinthians 9:1-12

THINK: We don't always like to think about it, but it takes money to run a church and to preach. Power bills, salaries, and supplies all cost money. Even Paul was only able to avoid asking for money from some communities because other churches supported him.

Through tithes and gifts, churches could be a part of Paul's work and mission. When we support our local church or non-profits, we become a part of the work God is doing, even if we can't do it ourselves.

PRAY: through your finances and how you can support God's work.



READ: 1 Corinthians 9:13-27

THINK: One of the greatest temptations in the Christian life is to stagnate in our faith. It is easy to think we are prayerful enough, committed enough, or loving enough. Paul reminds us that instead of stagnating we should run to win. We should strive to be more in touch with God, more obedient to His will, and more caring to those around us. Run to win. Look for every chance to grow more faithful and more loving.

PRAY: for endurance to grow faith even when you're drained or distracted.



READ: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

THINK: Paul makes a list of sins: idolatry, sexual immorality, testing God, and grumbling. Idolatry seems bad. Sexual immorality seems bad. Testing God seems bad. Grumbling seems ok. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Grumbling creates a negative undercurrent that erodes faith. It infects others with our negative attitude and distracts them from God's goodness and promises. Don't let grumbling, venting, or complaining draw us away from God.

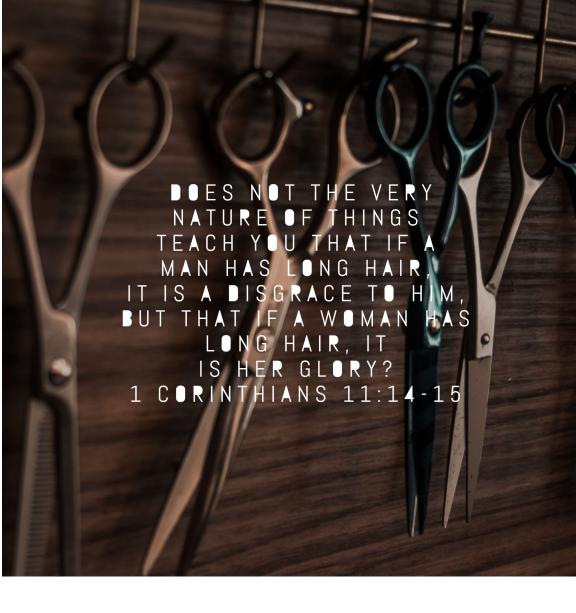
PRAY: through relationships where you tend to grumble and ask the Spirit for help.



READ: 1 Corinthians 10:14-33

THINK: Eating and drinking don't seem like actions that bring God glory. They seem insignificant and mundane, and that is the point. God is not just glorified when we feed the homeless or evangelize. He can be glorified in everything you do. Eating, drinking, texting, working, playing... everything we do can bring glory to God. When we take joy in God's good gifts we show that He is a caring and creative Father.

PRAY: through some of the things you like to do in your day asking God to be glorified in each of them.

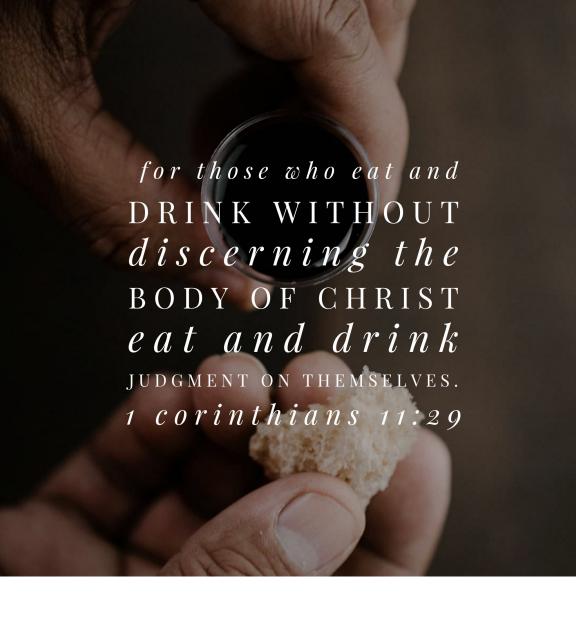


READ: 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

THINK: The Bible is both fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and fully embedded in human communities. We don't hand out hats to women as they walk into church or cut guys' hair when it gets too long. Why? Because while those might have been disgraceful then, they aren't now. Just like we translated the language of the Bible, sometimes we need to translate the culture. To know what the command is today, we must ask "What styles are seen as disgraceful in our culture?"

PRAY: for the Spirit to help you understand as you read Scripture.

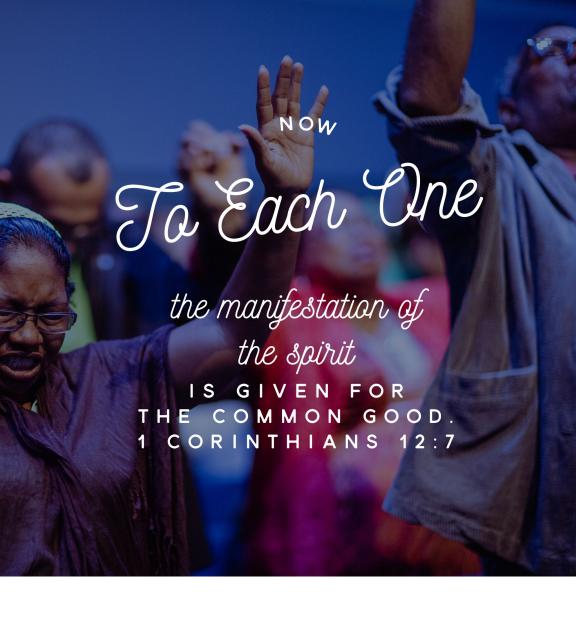




READ: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

THINK: Communion is not a small cracker and some juice to wash it down. It is a moment when God shows up in your life and a moment when you unite yourself with Jesus and with His church. Paul holds it in such high regard that he shares that some Corinthians have become sick or died because they misused the Lord's Supper. Clearly, there is power in Communion that we do not always consider and that we cannot fully comprehend.

PRAY: and thank God for the gift of Communion.



READ: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

THINK: The Spirit is not reserved for people who seem extra faithful. The Holy Spirit is present in each and every person who trusts in Jesus as their Lord. If you follow Jesus, the Spirit's power can embolden you and enable you to accomplish great things. It is only by the presence and power of the Spirit that we can live the life that God calls us to. God has set up good works for you to do in your life, the Spirit makes you able.

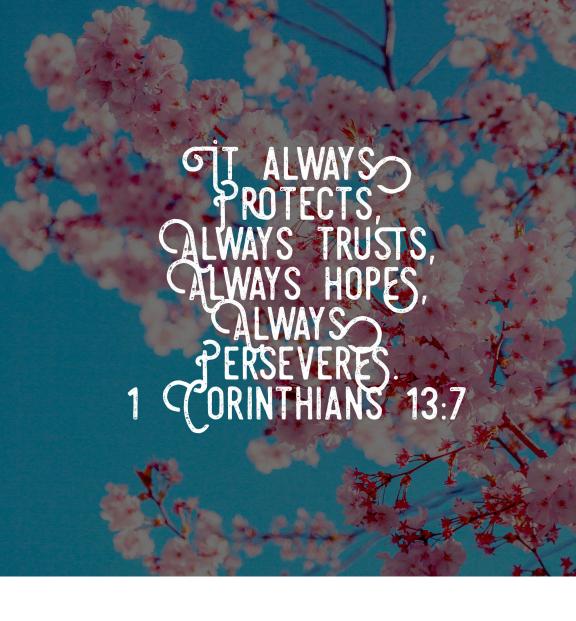
PRAY: for the Spirit to show the Spirit's power in your life.



READ: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

THINK: Notice how often Paul says one. We have one Spirit and form one Body, the Church. What unites the Church is not a common worldview, it is the Spirit of the living God. When we create divisions in the church and fight among ourselves, we seek to break apart what God is working to unite. Do not find yourself working against God. Look to be united by the Spirit instead of divided by personal conflict or peripheral interpretation.

PRAY: for the Spirit to unite us.



READ: 1 Corinthians 13

THINK: Love always hopes. It hopes the best for people, even our enemies. It hopes for the promises of God, even when they take time. It hopes for the recreation and perfection of the world and its peoples, even when it is clear how far we are from that goal. Love lives in hope. It is not easy, most people wouldn't even call it wise, but when you live in hope, you give circumstances, people, and communities the opportunity to be redeemed by a mighty God.

PRAY: through places to struggle to be hopeful.



READ: 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

THINK: What if this was how people responded when they experienced our faith community? Here Paul is talking about prophecy which reveals secrets, elsewhere Jesus says that people will know we follow Him by our love. Whether by the powerful gifts of God or by the ordinary gifts of love, our lives should be evidence of God's presence. Is it clear by how you interact, how you hope, and how you live that God is present with you?

PRAY: for someone who you wish knew God.

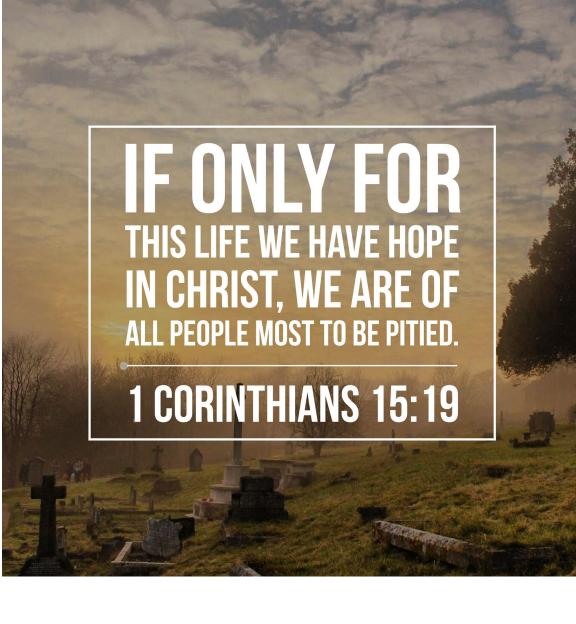


READ: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

THINK: Is Paul just talking to the Corinthians or is he speaking to us as well? When was the last time you desired to prophesy? To speak in tongues? If someone began prophesying at your next church gathering would you know what to do? Or would you find yourself being sceptical? Do not doubt what the Spirit can do, but do not demand it either. God can choose to act in power, but he can also choose not to.

PRAY: and ask God if He could use you to prophesy or speak in tongues.

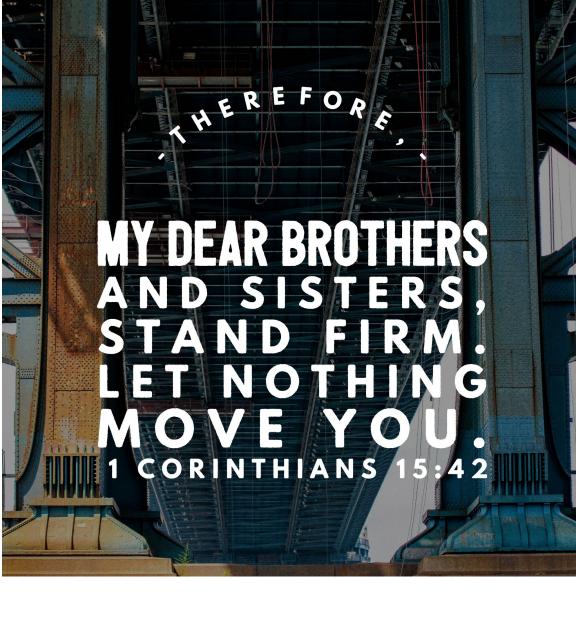




READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

THINK: Paul is pretty clear here, if there is nothing after this life, then Christians are to be pitied. If Jesus did not come back, then there is no reason to pray, no reason to go to church, and no reason to worship. The core of our faith is not following a bunch of teachings to have a better life or be better people. The core of our faith is an historical act of God to live, die, and live again. Our hope is not just this life, it is to be like Jesus and to live, (maybe) die, then live again.

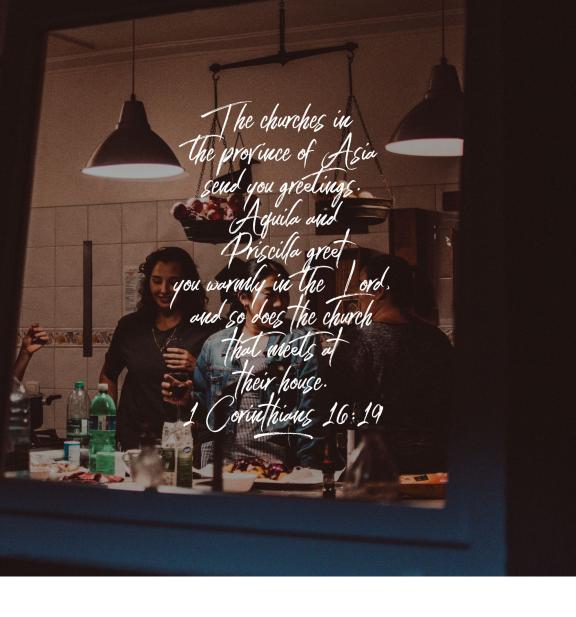
PRAY: and speak to God about where you tend to place your hope.



READ: 1 Corinthians 15:29-58

THINK: In Jesus's resurrection you have a promise that you also will be resurrected. You will receive an imperishable body which does not get injured and does not break down. This promise is assured because it has already happened to Jesus. With this promise in mind, what can move you? What can sway you? What can the world promise you that is better than a new life in a new body? Nothing. So stand firm and do not be moved.

PRAY: for the eyes to see God throughout your day.



READ: 1 Corinthians 16

THINK: Priscilla was a leader in the early church along with her husband Aquilla. They traveled with Paul as missionaries. They ran a house church. They taught another early church leader, Apollos. Priscilla and Aquila were partners in each of these endeavors. Christian history is filled with unsung faith leaders, many of whom were women. While they might not be as famous as Paul, the church is built on the faithful lives of men like Aquilla and women like Priscilla.

PRAY: thanking God for the men and women of faith who have come before you.



APPENDIX/FAQ

1. HOW DO I DEVOTE?

2. WHAT IS REST & REFLECT?

3. HOW DO I PRAY?

4. WHAT DO I DO WHEN I MISS A FEW DAYS?

5. WHAT ABOUT TRANSLATIONS?



Devote is not a word we use all the often. We use it to refer to a daily practice of reading your Bible and spending time in prayer with God. Each day we look to devote ourselves to God and align our will with His through this practice.

We devote ourselves to God because

The benefits of devoting ourselves to God are enumerable. It's though time in devotional reading and prayer that you grow closer to God, learn more about God and His plan, start to trust Him more, hear his call for your life, ingrian God's word in your mind, and write it on your heart.



1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational.

Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the Word and in prayer.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.



Rest and Reflect is how we talk about Sabbath. Sabbath is a Biblical concept for how to spend a day to enjoy the good gifts God has given you. It is a chance to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.

While it might look simple, but we understand that Sabbath is a hard practice to start and a harder one to continue. It takes planning and intentionality to take a full day of rest. If the idea of one full day is too much for you, consider starting with an eventing or a morning. Take a half a day and see how God uses it.

This should not become a legalistic practice for how to please God, but a good gift for how to enjoy the life He has given you. A good rule of thumb is for Sabbath is "If it feels like work, let it wait until tomorrow."

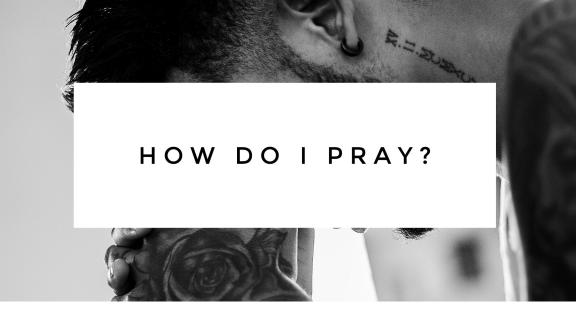


SABBATH POINTERS

- **1. Get your work done.** Sabbath starts in by preparing in the week to give a full day to rest.
- **2. Sabbath with someone**. This isn't essential, but a Sabbath is normally better together.
- **3. Start in prayer**. Sabbath is a day with God. Go to Him. Confess, give thanks, and enjoy His presence.
- **4. Enjoy the day.** Walk, play, worship, nap, hangout with friends and family. Sabbath isn't spending all day in church, it's partaking of God's good gifts with Him and His people.
 - **5. End in prayer.** Recap the day with God. Thank Him for the gift of rest, maybe pray together with someone you enjoyed the day with.

SABBATH IDEAS

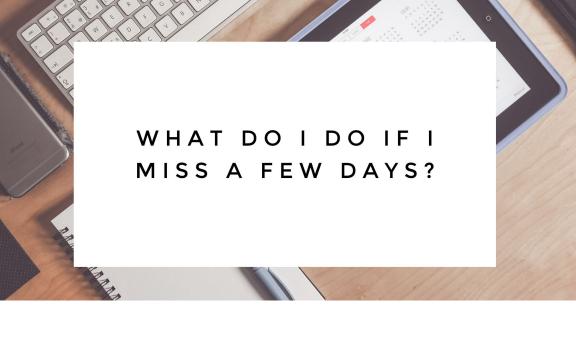
Play. Spend time with friends and family. Think through what God did this week. Nap. Listen to a favorite worship song. Catch up with an old friend. Go to church.



The first answer is "Simply." Many of us have been trained to use our grown up words when talking to God. We subconsciously want to speak eloquently and impactfully as if God is impressed by big words. He isn't. God is only impressed by your desire for Him. So use kid works. Don't feel like you need to speak good. Just talk to God.

That being said, there are some practices that we have found helpful in our prayer life. But don't feel like you have to do each of them every time.

Thank him. You are blessed, actually say thank you for what God gives you. *Confess*. Confession is not beating yourself up, it is admitting where you have fallen short and letting yourself be forgiven. *Share*. Just talk. What's going on at work? How is your best friend? You get the idea. **Ask**. we never "just pray." When you pray you call on the one who has the power to change the shape of the world. Pray boldly and ask for His work to be done. **Wait**. Don't do all the talking. Sometimes a good time in prayer, is a time spent waiting on Him and listening to Him.



DON'T TRY TO CATCH UP.

Let's be honest for a minute. Many of us have tried a reading plan in the past and 4 weeks in you realize you are like a week behind and it feels like an insurmountable task to catch up, so instead you give up.

if you miss a day, there is important stuff there, but it's more important to build the habit of spending time with God each day. This plan will continue to cycle through to this same reading in a couple years. You will have lots of opportunities in your life to read what you missed. Reading is not a homework assignment and there is no due date. Just enjoy your time reading.

JUMP BACK IN

When you get behind, or when you take a break, or when you forget for a *long* time, Just jump back in. Don't wait for a new years resolution or a new months reminder. Take any opportunity to Jump back in.



There are a LOT of translations. Like a lot. Some are not so good, but on the whole, most of them are pretty great. Below are some translations we recommend, try one out sometime, it might bring a new flavor to your reading, but at the end of the day, the most important thing is that you will actually read it.

The Message/The Voice: A different feeling Bible aimed at being translated idea for idea instead of word for word. You gain some good images, but might lose out on some word study.

NIV / CSB: A happy middle ground for most people. Balances ideas for idea and word for word translating.

NRSV / ESV: A strong study Bible aimed at translating the words and structure the same as the original language. This can create some struggles with readability, but you find how an author is using words throughout a book.

King James: Thou Mayst notst likest thist onest.