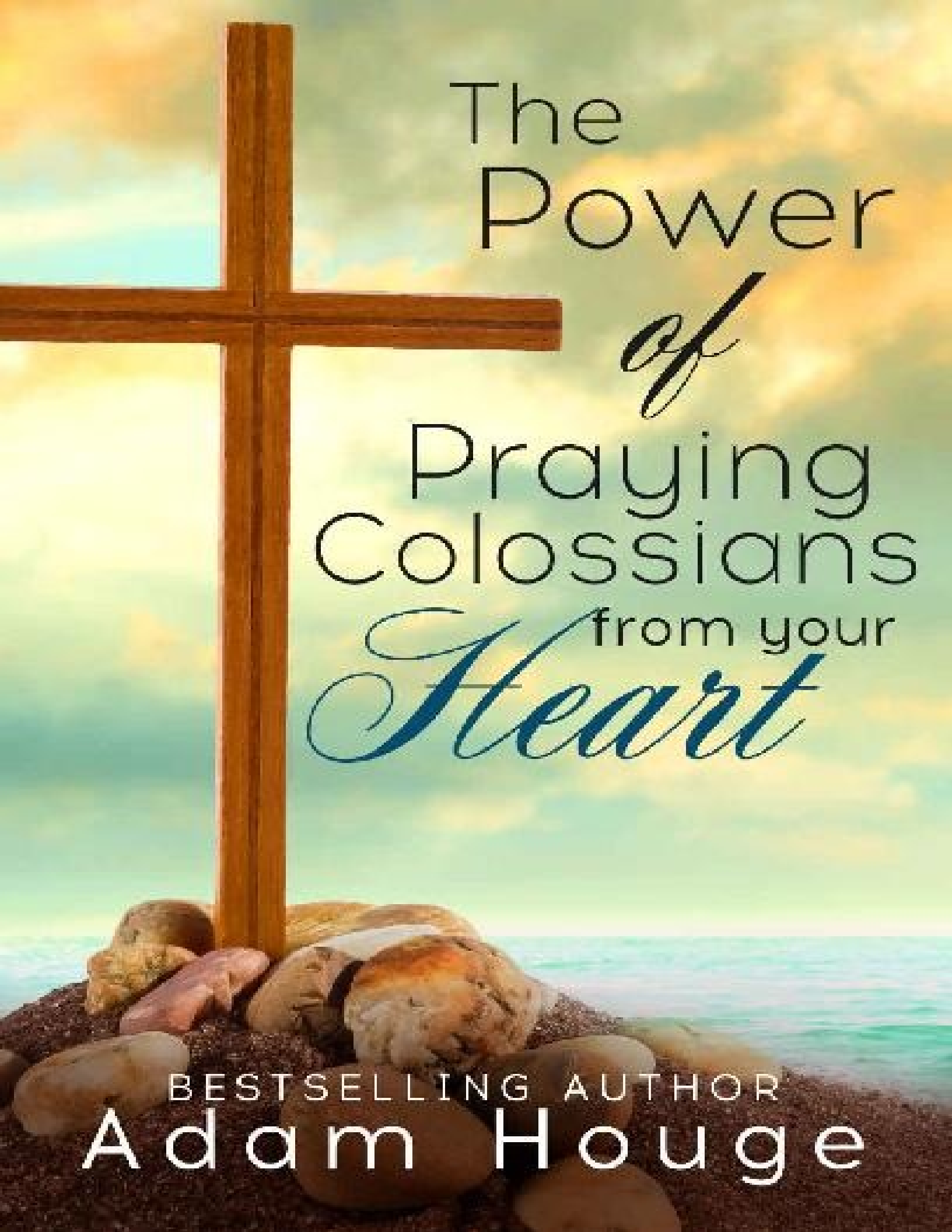

The
Power
of
Praying
Colossians
from your
Heart
BESTSELLING AUTHOR
Adam Houge

Praying Colossians from Your Heart™

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# Introduction

We know that God answers our prayers when we pray according to His will. If you pray according to His word and absorb its meaning, He will answer each of your prayers and transform you through them.

So I challenge you to take the next twenty-one days to pray the Scriptures from your heart. If you take the next three weeks seriously, practicing the Scriptures diligently, you will not even be able to walk away without being changed.

# Day One

## *Growing in Gratitude and Prayer*

"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you…" Colossians 1:3

Lord, I choose to have a heart of gratitude, giving thanks always. Help me to see the things I should be thankful for during the hardest moments of life, for I know that there is always reason to praise You. I also choose from this day forward to remember to lift up in prayer constantly those You've put in my life. There are many forces that would like to pull them down, so please help me to keep my head in prayer as a true prayer warrior.

*****

Remember to have gratitude today. It's something in which we should always be growing. So take this time to remember all the ways God has been faithful to you. Reflect on His faithfulness and the hope He's laid up for you. Praise Him for these things and share them with someone else today. As it is written,

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!" Psalm 105:1–3

Glorify God with the things you say. Speak of His works in your life, being careful not to toss your pearls to swine. You don't need to share spiritual or heady matters with an unbeliever; those are for the brethren. However, if you should speak to an unbeliever today, share your testimony and the works God has done in regard to your salvation. Be a faithful witness, remembering to pray always.

Pray for the unbelievers in your life, that God would open their hearts to receive Him and so that He would give them whatever they need to receive Him as Lord. Pray for the brethren in your life, knowing that Satan is lurking around every corner to tear down and beat up those who love the Lord. So stand fast in the faith and continue steadfastly in your prayers for your brethren.

If you have any family members who are saved, then test yourself right now:

How often do you honestly pray for them? Commit yourself right now to praying constantly as God leads your heart. Because if we forget to pray for those nearest to us, how much more will we forget to pray for others as the Scriptures exhort us?

Maintain a faithful heart. Keep your head in prayer today.

# Day Two

## Reflect on Your Hope and Pursue His Truth Daily

"…because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel…" Colossians 1:5

Thank You for the hope I have! Help me to keep my heart set on pilgrimage, for there are many things in life that pull at me and would like me to forget that fact. I know life isn't about this world and that this world isn't my home. Yet please help me to keep this truth in my heart always so that I can have a free heart in You. Help me also to reflect on Your truths always. Grow me in Your good doctrine and reveal it to me daily.

*****

It is written,

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage." Psalm 84:5

Remember the hope that is laid up for you, and that your life is not about this world. Keep your heart on pilgrimage. Let God lead you in each of your decisions so that you can live for His will. If you continue to follow Him, you'll remain founded in the truth of the gospel.

The enemy subtly adds twists to our doctrine, for which reason there are ten thousand different beliefs about any one point regarding Scripture. How can we claim there is only one way to heaven yet have so many different variations of how the truth should look? The only way to be rooted and grounded in the truth is through the Holy Spirit. Sensitize yourself to His voice, and continually abide and reflect on His presence. By so doing, you'll hear Him more clearly, which is necessary to be led to the truth. For we are led by the Spirit when we hear His voice and obey. Therefore, commit yourself to being more intimate with the Spirit today through prayer and worship. He will guide you to pure doctrine and truth and establish you in it. As it written,

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth…" John 16:13 ESV

So focus on the Spirit, that you may be perfect in your doctrine. Now, one may ask, "Why is doctrine important, anyway?" We are saved by grace through faith.

Faith saves us, and doctrine dictates how faith must be applied. If it is not applied accurately, it has no effect.

You can have all the faith in the world that a nickel will turn into gold, but will it? Will your faith make a difference? Not in this case because God did not say the nickel would turn. All faith must be in the exact words of God, or else it has no power. The power of our faith is the word of God—not an inaccurate depiction of that word, but the word of God in truth. Thus, doctrine is important in every way. It's necessary for salvation and an effective walk in Christ. So commit yourself to knowing your doctrine better from this day forward. Commit to studying your Bible today and every day. When you study, allow the Spirit to speak to you and show you the hidden meaning behind the Scripture. Do not meditate on your own thoughts while you read. Instead, pray that God would read His word to you and make it come alive. Then, when it does come alive for you, the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and wants you to mediate on that scripture. Listen to His voice and stick to the lesson at hand. Write down anything He says to you. This will help train your heart to be more sensitive to God's voice, thus helping you to understand Him with greater clarity in the long run.

# Day Three

## *Keeping in Constant Prayer*

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God…" Colossians 1:9–10

Today I commit myself again to praying continuously for the needs of those around me—both their physical and their spiritual needs. In my prayers I ask, now and continuously, that you would fill me with the knowledge of Your will in wisdom and spiritual understanding, that I may live by it daily. For I know that I must walk in Your will as Your Holy Spirit leads me in order to be fruitful in every good work and in order to grow in my relationship with you.

*****

Again Colossians brings a sober reminder to pray unceasingly for those around us. So remember to commit to doing so today, meanwhile praying also that you would understand the Lord's will. Being led By Him requires us to understand His will both daily and seasonally. The Lord has tasks He wants you doing each day. Sometimes it may be as simple as praying continually, worshipping without ceasing, and abiding. Other times it may be an actual work of love, whether simple or great. However, if you are not attentive to His voice, you'll never hear those subtle convictions you should be listening to and obeying. Without them you'll never know His daily will. Moreover, if you aren't obedient in the little steps, you won't be able to walk with God rightly from season to season.

So commit yourself to growing in understanding God's will from this day forward.

# Day Four

## *The Freedom of Forgiveness*

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13–14

Thank You for Your forgiveness, Lord! Thank You that I don’t have to worry about being condemned for my stumbles but that You wait with open arms for me to run to you. Help me to be the same toward those around me so that I can love and forgive them even as You do for me.

*****

Consider everyone around you. Is there anyone who offends you? Be patient with him or her even as God is patient with you. Can you do this? Can you commit yourself to having the true and honest heart of Christ? Do any of your brethren in the Lord offend you? Go to them and make peace immediately. Even if they are the ones at fault, do not wait for them to come to you but, rather, go to them. Did God wait for you to come? No, but He has been reaching for you since before you were born.

So do not hold a grudge against anyone. If an offender is an unbeliever, then love him or her as God does, by leading him or her to the mercy of Christ through conviction.

Reflect on all the ways you’ve transgressed and offended the Lord lately. Confess them, repent, and be grateful for His forgiveness. Then, in that gratitude and in memory of His great mercy toward you, be affected by His kindness to go and do the same for others, bearing patiently with them in love.

# Day Five

## *You Were Created by God for God*

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:15–16

Lord, thank You for reminding me today that I was not made to live for myself but that I was created for You and for Your purpose. Help me to live this out daily as I commit myself wholeheartedly to it.

*****

Jesus made all things. Before time began He was seated on heaven’s throne, and now He remains seated, having also mastered death and corruption, as we wait for the redemption. Let God also reign in your heart as the master of your life. He authored it. He’s the reason you’re here and the reason you’re saved. So submit to His purpose and live for the One who created you for Himself. Let Him be glorified in your conduct as you humbly submit to His Holy Spirit’s voice daily.

Your Lord and Master deserves an obedient servant. Therefore, be well-pleasing to Him in this by surrendering to the One who has had a purpose for you since before time began. And that purpose is to love Him and to be loved by Him.

# Day Six

## *Carry Your Cross*

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church…” Colossians 1:24

Lord, teach me how to rejoice in my suffering. Show me how to have joy when joy seems impossible. Lift me up in Your Spirit and strengthen me to love others even when it isn’t convenient for me. I know that true love doesn’t wait for the perfect moment and isn’t afraid to sacrifice. Instead, real love is worked out immediately when another needs it. Help me to be mindful of this, not reflecting on my needs or wants but having a sober and willing heart to carry my cross for You. Because I know that if I have loved the least of these and borne my cross for them, then I have loved You and carried my cross for You.

*****

How have you been carrying your cross for others lately? When we think of carrying a cross, sometimes we imagine laying our own desires down to honor the Lord. But God also calls us to bear our crosses for one another as we bear each other’s burdens. If any are hurting, comfort them; if any are sick, visit them and help them heal. If any are poor, provide for their needs until the needs are completely filled. Show compassion to each of these and prepare to bear your cross for them. For when you love another, you put on Christ.

Learn also to rejoice in these things because the Lord has given you an opportunity to love with sincerity and receive a reward.

# Day Seven

## *Know Your Bible*

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8

I commit myself to the doctrine of Your word Lord. Save me from the empty principles of the world that enter the church by the deceitfulness of our own hearts. Cleanse me of this. I chose to cleanse my faith, and my relationship with you from the foolishness of the American dream.

*****

This world is a deceitful place, but our own hearts can be equally deceitful. As it is written,

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9 ESV

Knowing this, be careful not to fall into the trap of the American dream. Don’t live for your own purpose and don’t build up your life here. Rather, build your treasures in heaven. For where your wealth and pleasure are, there your heart will be also. As Jesus said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19–21 ESV

And as He further said,

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:32–34 ESV

Therefore, take pleasure in Christ. Keep your eyes fixed on the prize. Press

forward. Learn the Father’s doctrine through constant study. How have you been reading Your Bible lately?

# Day Eight

## *Embracing the New Creation*

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Colossians 2:11–12

Lord, I choose to put off the fleshly desires of my heart to live for Your will. Work in my heart and increase my desire to walk in Your Holy Spirit. Save me from day-to-day struggles that distract me from needful prayer and abiding.

*****

It is written,

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 ESV

The works of the flesh do not always appear as obvious sins. They can be as simple as acting on impulsive desire or fear. Out of fear for loss, sometimes we guard our bank accounts and prepare a future and retirement for ourselves and our families. But then we neglect to give to the hurting brethren around us while attempting to justify ourselves by saying, “I put in the tithe basket every week.”

Do not live any longer for this present life but, rather, live for Christ and the prize to come. This requires you to do more than “the Christian thing.” It mandates that you be much more than religious. For God commands that you must walk according to His Spirit. Therefore, listen carefully to His voice and obey it since without the Spirit, you have no salvation at all. The Holy Spirit is your deposit for eternal life. He is your eternal security. So cling to Him and obey Him and you will be very secure indeed.

You’ll experience the peace His security brings and His comfort in every moment of trouble. You will move briskly in power as the Lord paves the way of salvation for you. He will prepare every work for you and give you all the strength you need to accomplish it. He will also give you all the strength you require to overcome sin.

If you have ever felt a battle in attempting to overcome sin, know that the battle could have been overflowed with infinite power and victory if you had chosen to run into the arms of Jesus through prayer and worship in order to abide. By abiding you'll have the strength to overcome all things, for it is the Spirit who works through you when you walk in Him through faith and obedience.

# Day Nine

## *Grace Is Better*

"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Colossians 2:13–14

Lord, I dedicate myself from this day forward to growing in a deeper and more intimate relationship with You. I choose to flee from the emptiness of vain religion and hollow legalism. Fill me with more of You. Yes, Jesus, I pray You'll give me more of You and less of me. Thank You for saving me from such a difficult burden and nailing it to your cross.

****

We all know the need to forsake legalism. However, we aren't all aware of how sneakily it enters our lives. It doesn't always take the form of trying needlessly to apply the statutes and laws of the Scriptures. Sometime it comes through trying to apply the Scriptures how we see fit rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us when to apply them. When we try to apply the word, we memorize a verse and then, for as long as we remember it, we try to apply it. After a long time, though, we forget the verse, having moved on to a different one. So we learn but never come to the knowledge of how to apply the truth.

But if you learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, He will show you how and when to apply the passage. If for any reason you feel inclined to apply what you have read, then by all means do so, while keeping your ears open to the Lord's leading. Sometimes we need to step out to do what we know is right before God guides us and shows us how to apply it. We can't always wait on the sidelines.

Yet do not fall into the trap of trying to apply something while waiting for God's voice, only to accomplish it before He speaks. If you step out to apply something and God hasn't spoken to you, then you have operated in the flesh and not in the leading of the Spirit. All operations of the flesh are sin, no matter how noble their intentions can appear.

Die to your former self and your former wisdom. Commit to walking by the

leading and wisdom of God from this point forward.

# Day Ten

## *A More Excellent Way*

“If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ‘Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!’ (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?” Colossians 2:20–22 NASB

Teach me Your Doctrine. I choose to abstain from worthless teachings and practices that won’t help my walk or increase my relationship with You. I commit myself today to growing closer to You through your word.

*****

Read Your Bible today. Embrace it and grow in it. Let the Spirit teach you from it. There are many teachings in the church today that don’t profit our walks or our relationship with the Lord. They seem wise and make sense logically, as well as biblically, by those who try to fit them into the word. However, these teachings are not the truth of Christ. No measure of fasting, self-imposed restrictions, or religious behavior can grow you. All things you do, whether fasting or refraining, must be done through the Holy Spirit. He will guide you into every proper step you must take and every work that pleases God. So submit to Him today!

# Day Eleven

## *Stopping the Indulgences of the Flesh*

“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.” Colossians 2:23 ESV

Lord, teach me to walk soberly in the Spirit. I know that sobering myself by restraining my flesh isn’t the answer to a godly walk; rather, resisting the will of the flesh to submit to Your will is. Knowing this, I choose to commit to Your guiding hand, fleeing fleshly desire and embracing the Holy Spirit through abiding.

*****

It is written,

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

No measure of self-made religion or refraining from bodily desires can save you from sin. Could you refrain from desire and be holy before you had Jesus? No. But it is certain that, as you have needed Christ, so you will always need Christ. So rely on His Spirit for strength in times of temptation.

Now, some do not take sin as seriously as they ought. They do not have bondage, nor do they commit any of the serious sins. However, they do not take to heart to cleanse the little ones properly. “God has grace. It’s not a big deal,” they’ll say. And yet they testify against themselves by saying to an unbeliever, “Even the smallest sin could separate you from God. You need Him as Savior!”

You have always needed Jesus, and self-imposed restrictions can never help you. Learn to be holy without the restrictions, and then you will be holy always. But refusing to have restrictions doesn’t mean that you have no boundaries when it comes to sin. It’s just that some people do not know how to place those boundaries properly. They place restrictions on the flesh to keep themselves from temptation, rather than placing them on their heart to keep from idleness so that they can walk in the Spirit continually.

When temptation comes, you are called to refrain. Yet your refraining should not

be a fight or battle against the flesh or Satan. Some think that they need to resist the temptation by force, while forgetting that God, the greatest force of all has given you victory through the Holy Spirit. If only they would walk in Him, they would know this. We only sin when we stray idly off-course from abiding. If, however, we continue in the Spirit as we ought, then temptation will be less severe and easier to walk away from.

So when You're tempted to speak those choice words, or engage in that wrongful activity, what should you do to secure victory? First we read,

"Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22 NASB

When you're tempted, therefore, you must flee the tempting situation. While you may need to flee physically, this is also a call to flee spiritually. Merely running away from the temptation isn't enough. Rather, it's the destination to which you run that matters. And to where do you run? The farthest possible place from sin —which is the Lord.

Run straight into God's arms. Literally walk away from the situation if you must, but once you have fled, seek the Lord. You have become tempted because you were not abiding in that moment. So now, go and pray, for this is how Jesus told us to conquer sin:

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one..." Matthew 6:13

Some translations say "deliver us from evil" rather than "the evil one," which is Satan. You cannot pray to be saved merely from evil. Instead, you need to pinpoint where that evil is coming from and repel it through meaningful prayer. Pray against the working of Satan, and the Lord will tear down his stronghold in a flash. But above all, you must have faith.

Your temptations are not just the work of Satan, however. You can't pray against Satan and expect sudden victory over your sin. You must emphasize, "Lead me not into temptation." For you, not Satan, are the cause of your own sins. Your sins are your fault. Although he may entice you, you are the one who makes the choice to fall into them or not. As it is written,

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." James 1:14

How do you rightly resist sin? Through reflecting on the Holy Spirit rather than

on the desires of the flesh. For the flesh sins through its desires once enticed, yet if instead you abide in the Spirit by meditating on His presence through constant prayer and worship, temptations will be significantly reduced in your life and, certainly, they will be easier to resist.

But when you are tempted, you can overcome by walking away from the situation. Force yourself to hate the sin, because unless you hate it, you cannot commit to the right thing. Then force yourself to pray and ask for Jesus to intervene for you. As you pray, you must have faith that He will intervene. If you don’t, then your prayer will do nothing, no matter how earnest it may be, and you will succumb to sin. But if you pray in faith, Jesus will strengthen you through His Spirit.

When you feel strengthened, praying about the temptation could remind you of it, causing you to reflect on it and fall. If prayer seems no longer necessary, therefore, worship God instead. Let your mind forget about the tempting situation. Flee from the thoughts of youthful lusts; then you will have true and honest victory. Then, from that point forward, commit yourself to abiding in the Spirit, and you’ll be strengthened to brush off sin in the future.

This is the method outlined in the word to overcome sin. There is no other way to experience victory and have it always than through connecting with the Holy Spirit, abiding in Him, and walking with Him.

# Day Twelve

## *Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Jesus*

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1 ESV

Lord, I set my face toward You, to seek You and all that You are. Save me from the cares of this life so that I can be free to live for You always. For I know that my life and my home are at Your side and not here. Yet having family and living life can make it feel otherwise. So help me to retain a sober heart through all life’s demands.

*****

Set your mind on God’s plan for you. Seek the Lord and live for His purpose. You have died to this life and have been made alive in Christ. So dwell on this fact through keeping a steady eye fixed on the prize and your heart set on pilgrimage.

# Day Thirteen

## *Keep Your Mind Fixed on Jesus*

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:2–3 ESV

Again I devote myself to Your purpose. I refuse to life for this life, and with all my heart I dedicate my life to embracing You and chasing after You, Jesus. You’re all that matters to me! You’re my life, my love, and my peace. So give me more of You now, Lord, and less of me.

*****

Time and again Colossians reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on God’s goal for us. While it may seem repetitive, God wants to beat it into our heads that the only way out of this life is up. So keep your hands raised in praise and your eyes fixed on your prize. If truly you are Christ’s, then you have been crucified with Him and this life is no longer yours to life. You have been paid for with a price, so live for and obey your Master.

# Day Fourteen

## *Appearing with Jesus in Glory*

“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:4 ESV

How can I keep from praising You in this, God? Thank You for the awesome gift and hope You give me. I choose to reflect on this today: that my home is at Your side. From You my new nature came, and to You I shall return. Praise You, God!

*****

While they may tarry for now, before long heaven and earth will pass away in a moment. Then your Savior will come riding on the wind and clouds of heaven, bringing your reward with Him. This is literal: If you are alive and remain, you will be taken up and transformed and meet your loved ones who have passed away.

Isn’t this incredible? Reflect on it today and praise God for His faithfulness.

# Day Fifteen

## *Put to Death the Old Nature*

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.” Colossians 3:5–6 ESV

Lord, I know the reward of sin, and I choose to glorify You in all my conduct. I love You! So I’ll allow my love for You to compel me into holiness and into following You. I choose to be sanctified, set apart from the desires and will of the flesh, to live for Your will and Holy Spirit.

*****

Once more Colossians reminds us to abstain from fleshly desire and sin, while giving us a sober warning that those who live in sin abide in wrath. Instead, through love we shed the stain of sin in the blood of Christ. Through that same love, moreover, we shed the fear of judgment because Christ has suffered the punishment for us and we choose to live holy, godly lives according to the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit.

So praise God for freedom while being careful not to be ensnared again—especially not by the desires of this life, lest you bear no fruit to maturity. As Jesus said.

“And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.” Luke 8:14 ESV

Do not allow the cares of this life to choke you. Do not let them choke your doctrine or the voice of the Spirit because you live for your own heart. Rather, abstain from these things. Flee! Let Christ be the One to whom you run, and rest your head on Him—for His arms are open wide.

# Day Sixteen

## *Purify Your Words*

“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.” Colossians 3:8 ESV

Lord, I commit myself to acting with a pure heart. I choose to have a clean mouth that only brings You glory. From this day forward, I will turn every conversation back to You to edify and encourage everyone who hears me.

*****

Every word you speak begins with your heart. As Jesus said,

“…out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Matthew 12:34 ESV

If anger, wrath, or malice is bottled up in your heart, hurtful and regrettable words will follow. If any manner of evil is in your heart, your mouth will speak it. The world teaches, “If you don’t have anything good to say, then don’t say anything at all.” However, the Lord teaches us not to hold back wicked words and retain them in our heart. Instead, He commands that we purify out hearts so that wickedness will not even come to mind. We must cleanse the inside of the vessel for it to hold clean water.

If you abide in the Spirit constantly, then His loving and edifying words will bubble up from your heart, giving you godly speech. Therefore, dedicate yourself to having a holy mouth today. Turn everyone you know back to the Lord. If your mouth isn’t guided by God’s love, then by what is it guided? Consider this and be the image of His love.

# Day Seventeen

## *Let the Word Dwell in Your Richly*

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16 ESV

Meet with me in Your word. Read me Your book and make the pages come alive. Teach me from it. I choose to listen carefully to Your voice so that I can submit to it. Show me the intended meaning of the word, that I may both live it out and encourage my brethren through it. Help me Lord also to have a more thankful heart for all You do.

*****

If you want the word of Christ to dwell in you, then you need to dwell upon His word. So the question is this: How have you been dwelling upon the word of God lately? This scripture is also informing us to meditate on the voice of God so that we can be led thereby. Therefore, take today to read and study the word as well as to listen intently to the voice of God.

Reading should be something you do every day. However, there is a difference between reading the Bible and studying it. Do not merely read the stories. Once you are familiar with them, then dedicate yourself to needful study so that you may know how to apply the Scriptures in your life. Look for the scriptures that speak out to you and start with those. Then, as the Spirit leads you, find every relevant scripture so that you can expand your knowledge of the doctrine. This is where a concordance and Greek and Hebrew lexicon come in handy. If any word or concept is in question, refer back to the original Greek. Compare the scriptures to the Textus Receptus and the Majority Greek Text, which are the most reliable and longest-used forms of Greek text. The Alexandrian Greek is not as reliable in that it has been translated into the Westcott and Hort Greek, from which the Jehovah Witnesses translate their Bibles.

Remember that a tree becomes tall and fruitful by digging its roots deep in the soil. I would therefore like to encourage you to dig deep into the word, that you may be transformed by it.

Then, when you have been influenced by the word, you can turn around and

encourage others also through the word. Look for someone today who needs encouragement and pray for words. If the Lord supplies you words, then share them diligently in the joy of fellowship.

# Day Eighteen

## *Integrity in the Workplace*

“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.” Colossians 3:22 ESV

Give me a heart of integrity at my workplace. I choose to be the image of You toward my boss and coworkers. Save me from the temptation of working hard for better pay, for I know that I should work hard only to win the people over for the gospel’s sake. There is so much more to my field of work than a paycheck. Please remind me of this, that I may continue in the mission—the reason why You put me at my job in the first place.

*****

Have you been the example of Christ at your workplace lately? Be the image of Jesus in everything you do. Share Christ with those who will listen, and be Christ toward those who will not. Then, when your kind actions have opened their hearts, maybe they will hear you.

Your workplace is a field, and the gospel is the seed. Everywhere you go, you should be evangelizing as God leads you. Now, I have heard some say, “I don’t think God is leading me to witness at my job.” Yet they have never laid it before the Lord and sensitized their hearts to His direction. It’s almost as if some people are afraid to share the gospel as they ought to do.

Instead they make friends with their worldly coworkers and hide their light. They claim to share the light in that they confess they are Christian, but they don’t take it to heart to preach the word. Beloved, no one can be saved without hearing the gospel. How have you been sharing it lately? These people are going to hell in a handbasket. Will you let this happen on your watch? For the Lord said,

“But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.” Ezekiel 33:6–9 ESV

The sword is the judgment of God, and He will slay the unbeliever in your presence in the Day of Judgment. How are you showing them the love of God by withholding words? Preach the gospel! And be Jesus to them in all you say and do. Did Jesus withhold any words? Certainly not! So have integrity at your workplace and remember to be an evangelist as God leads you.

# Day Nineteen

## *Make Disciples*

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.” Colossians 4:3–4 ESV

God, I fully dedicate myself to making disciples. Use me, Lord, as Your tool. Open my eyes to see those with whom You want me to share Your Gospel. Let me not do this in the flesh but, rather, give me words. Please send me the easy ones—the people who will receive you quickly. Yet give me the strength also to till up the soil of the hardhearted so that their hearts may be made pliable through Your love at work in me and they may receive Your word.

*****

It is written,

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” Romans 10:14 ESV

Every Christian needs to be an evangelist. How have you been evangelizing lately? Do you have any worldly family or friends? Have you been talking to them about God lately? Do you love them? You know where they will go without Jesus. Don’t be their friend, allowing them to suffer hell. Instead, show the love and mercy of God by making them aware of their need for Jesus. If they resist the Lord, then don’t be friends with them. Pray for words and let God guide your heart. Commit yourself to creating disciples from this day forward. For Jesus said,

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18–20 NASB

And He furthermore said,

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:14 ESV

So the question is this: How have you been fulfilling this command lately? If you love the Lord, you will take it to heart to evangelize. If you love the unbelievers, moreover, you will plead for their souls, knowing they will burn for eternity if you don’t. If you haven’t been sharing, then remember that your life isn’t about this present world. Therefore, don’t live complacently in it. Share the gospel and save souls!

Yet pray everything through, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you. He knows what each person needs to see and hear most. Therefore, if you remain submissive to Him, you will have the most effective witness.

# Day Twenty

## *Having Well-Seasoned Words*

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:6 ESV

Give me a holy mouth, God. Show me how to bridle my tongue with an upright heart. I choose to turn every conversation back to You, that my words may always be seasoned in the Spirit.

*****

Have your words been reflecting the love of God lately? Or have you been caught up in idle chatter? Try to keep God in your conversations a bit more consistently. For as Jesus warned,

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.” Matthew 12:36

If we allow our words to stray from godly talk, they will get sucked down in the gutter before long. As it is also written,

“But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness…” 2 Timothy 2:16 NASB

Test yourself in this. Have you engaged in worldly chatter lately? Jesus says you’ll give an account of this—so keep a pure mouth!

# Day Twenty-One

## *Fulfill Your Ministry*

“And say to Archippus, ‘See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.’” Colossians 4:17 ESV

Show me how You want me to minister You to those around me. What is my place in Your body? Please reveal it to me and prepare me for it, that I may live it out daily.

*****

God has a place for you in the body of Christ. Do you know what your place is? Do you know what your gifts are? If not, then pray earnestly that He would prepare you for the ministry He has for you. Pray also for spiritual gifts so that you can experience a deeper and more intimate walk with the Lord.

I knew a man who never really experienced spiritual gifts. Then He prayed one day for the gift of dreams, and within a month he had some of the most encouraging and prophetic dreams I’ve ever heard. If God is willing, He will broaden your gift basket as well. So pray for spiritual gifts and for God to use you as a tool to increase His kingdom.

For it is written,

“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” 1 Corinthians 14:1 NASB

How have you earnestly been desiring and praying for spiritual gifts? Grow in them, that you may be encouraged by them and encourage others through them.

# I’d Love to Hear from You!

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# About the Author

Adam is a preacher, teacher and #1 internationally bestselling author of over 100 books on the Christian faith. He is a devoted husband and father of three boys. Through his travels, he’s seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: a revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!

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