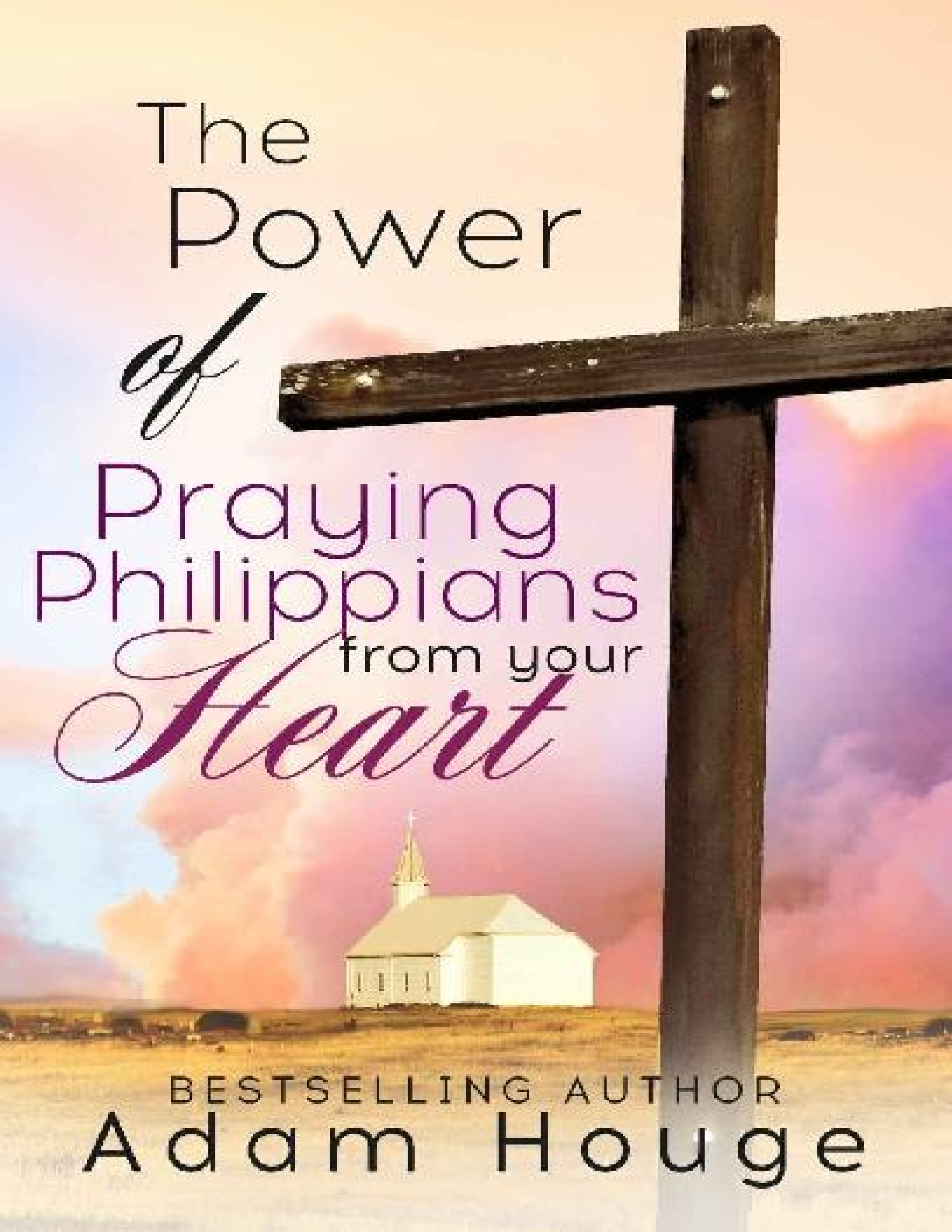
The
Power
of
Praying
Philippians
from your
Heart
BESTSELLING AUTHOR
Adam Houge

The Power of Praying Philippians from Your Heart™

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Introduction

Every believer must take diligent study of the word seriously. But when we pray through the scriptures while we study them they take on a whole new meaning for us. As we prayerfully reflect on each verse it helps us to both discover and absorb its true meaning, as well as understand how it applies to our lives. How can you practice the word unless you reflect on its meaning and let it sink into your heart?

Therefore, consider taking the next 14 days to reflect on Philippians. Take the time to absorb God’s words that they can change your life.

Day One

Abound in the Affection of Jesus

“For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment…” Philippians 1:8–9

Lord, teach me to love my brethren with the affection of Jesus. I commit myself to abound more and more in Your love, that I may be the example of who You are. Yet Lord, I pray that You would teach me above all how to love with knowledge and discernment.

*****

I once met a group of Christians who enjoyed portraying the heart of Jesus. As a church they gave to the poor, helped each member, and formed a deeply knit community to a slightly greater extent than most other churches do. While they did all these things right, they had one fatal flaw. They did not love with discernment. They thought that love was showing kindness, so they gave cheerfully at all times without question.

This later became an issue because there a few people in the church had need but were in deep sin. Rather than rebuking these people, the other church members tried to help them financially and wanted to move on.

True love doesn’t hide sincerity. While God calls us not to judge, He does call us to come shoulder to shoulder with one another to convict and lovingly rebuke.

As it is written,

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:1–2 ESV

And what is the law of Christ? What did Jesus say?

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ‘By this all men will know that you

are My disciples, if you have love for one another.’” John 13:34–35 NASB

The law of Christ is love. True love suggests that we should bear one another’s burdens through gentle rebukes and turn each other back to the Lord. As the proverb says,

“Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed.” Proverbs 27:5 NASB

Convicting others of sin isn’t condemning them, and you don’t have to nip every transgression in the bottom. However, if anyone is overtaken in a transgression, then restore him or her lovingly as Galatians exhorts you. Be willing to serve your brethren in everything. If their feet get dirty with sin, then wash them lovingly. If they have need, then alleviate it. Love with discernment, determining through the Holy Spirit, and not through your own wisdom, what is best for a person’s walk. Led God show you what you should do and when. Stay your attention on His voice, and His words will show you how to apply love wisely.

Put on a servant’s heart.

As Jesus also said,

“So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.’” John 13:12–17 NASB

If your brother’s or sister’s feet have become a little soiled with sin in their walk, then wash his or her feet through conviction. But if others’ walks are clean, be willing to put the towel of a servant around your waist and serve them in other ways as well. Be led by God in all things because He knows what will be most impactful and what will bless a brother or sister in the greatest way.

Remember that Jesus told us the least will be called the greatest. So the question is this: How have you been making yourself the least, lately, through bearing a servant’s heart? Have you had a servant’s heart lately? A servant’s heart does not serve just one or two people, but in lowliness such a heart puts all others first before himself or herself and heals, blesses, and serves them.

Examine yourself in this. Commit yourself from this day forward to serving your

brethren in the affection of Jesus. With that said, do not merely scratch the surface of a person's need. Be willing to enter into their trials as God may lead you to do.

Do not say in your heart, "They have God to help them." Instead, be willing to be used as the tool of God to deliver others from their seasons of need.

Day Two

How to Have Conduct Which is Worthy of the Gospel

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel…" Philippians 1:27

From this day forward, I commit myself to having all my conduct worthy of you Lord. Show me how to do this because I know that You have works planned for me. I know that I must be obedient to Your voice if I want to walk worthily of You. So please teach me how to be more sensitive to the Spirit. Help me through Your Spirit to unify with the brethren, that we can have the same mind and doctrine in You.

*****

There is only one way to salvation. Yet we all believe different things. We interpret the word and try to apply it to our lives the way we see fit. But God teaches us to be unified with the same mind. How can we do this if we all have differing opinions? God's opinion is all that matters. He knows what He meant when He wrote the word. Therefore, the only way to be unified with the same mind, doctrine, and judgment is to be submissive to the Holy Spirit.

He will teach you what He meant when He wrote the Scriptures. These things He will teach to your brethren who submit likewise to the Spirit. This is why this Scripture says that we must "Stand fast in one spirit"— that is to say, be unified together in your spirit through the Holy Spirit.

If you submit to the Spirit's voice, your conduct will always be worthy of the Lord. However, sometimes you have to open your eyes to see the works He may be calling you to do around you. Sometimes He subtly points them out to you, and if you aren't paying attention to surrounding circumstances, you'll miss out on His plans for you. It's easy to be distracted by the affairs of life when you work a job, go to school, take care of a family, or any combination of those. But force your heart and your thoughts back on the Spirit and listen eagerly to His voice.

Look for ways to practice love, and pray for opportunities. In time God will give

them to you, and by your obedience He will be glorified. Commit yourself from this day forward to listening more intently to the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit works through you, how will you be wrong for what you do? Hence, you will be worthy. Exhort others, especially your family, to do likewise. In time, God's unity will come naturally as you seek God together and obey the Spirit.

Day Three

Suffering for Jesus

“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake…” Philippians 1:29

Help me through my heartaches, Jesus. But help me also to remember that when I suffer a trial, I do so because I follow You and not my own heart or wisdom. Be my strength in my weakness during my hardships. Teach me through them, that I may walk away a wiser person. Above all, I pray that You would comfort me during, and deliver me from, every hard moment of life.

*****

Sometimes we think that we will experience victory when God leads us. When God speaks, we step out in faith; but then, sometimes, something seems to go wrong. After everything falls apart, we question whether we really heard God or why God would tell us to step out in faith only to allow us to be struck down.

However, we will not experience comfort and blessings every time we step out. Remember that Jesus was led to the cross. If God tells you to do something and everything falls apart, worship Him for the opportunity to suffer for being obedient. For great is your reward! But do not be angry in your heart, nor question the Lord. Carry your cross for God, even as your Lord and savior Jesus Christ did for you.

When trials happen after stepping out, however, it isn’t wrong to test yourself to see if you really heard God. For if you didn’t, the moment you get back on track with Him, all the broken pieces will start coming back together again.

Yet if God confirms that you took the right steps, then prepare to learn something from your experiences. For God said,

“He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3 NASB

Notice that it says to “live by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.” This doesn’t just mean trying to apply your Bible how you think is right.

Rather, it means to follow God through the voice of the Spirit. If you have followed him and suffered, He is both testing you and teaching you obedience. As it is also written,

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.” Hebrews 5:8 NASB

Take this time to examine yourself. Have you been following the voice of God as you ought? Commit yourself to doing it from this day forward. Do not be afraid of bearing your cross if God leads you to it, for you know that the resurrection is on the other side of the cross. God will lift you up to strengthen and establish you in due and proper time, after you have learned from your experiences. As it is written,

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” 1 Peter 5:10

God will establish you, and when you have learned from your trials, He may deliver you from them all and settle you.

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:10–12

Day Four

Becoming Likeminded Through Love

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.” Philippians 2:1–2

Lord, I choose today to be likeminded with my brethren and those of my household who love You. Build us together in the same mind through Your Spirit. Grow us in Your love, that we may be a real family in You. Help me to remember that those who are not my physical family are more than friends; they are a real family in you.

*****

Be bonded in kinship with your brethren. If you have believing members in your family, then be more diligent to be unified with them in love and in the Spirit. Look for ways to serve one another as Jesus would call you to do. Fellowship, too, by reading, praying, and worshipping frequently. Where two or more are gathered in His name, He will be as well. So treat your family like a mini-church every day, and the Lord will infinitely tighten the bonds of love with them.

Regarding those who are your family in Christ but not in the flesh, remember that they are not friends but family. Treat them as family. Love them as family and take care of them as family. If they have need, show them mercy and save them from it as God leads you. Unify with them daily by keeping your tongue seasoned with salt. Turn everyone you know to the Lord with the things you say. If your conversations derail into idleness, know that a sinful spirit is right around the corner. As it is written,

“When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.” Proverbs 10:19 ESV

And the Scriptures also admonish,

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

So turn your words back to the Lord. Edify your brethren and be unified in the

Holy Spirit through constant fellowship with them. Remember that every moment spent with a brother or sister is time for fellowship, not only during Bible study nights. Therefore, deepen those bonds of kinship by practicing love through a servant's heart and by fellowship. Be attentive to the Spirit's voice, as we mentioned yesterday, and exhort your brethren to do likewise so that you can be unified together in the Spirit, with the same mind.

Day Five

Esteem Others More Highly Than Yourself

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:3–4

Teach me, Jesus, to have a gentle and humble heart, putting others above myself. I choose from this day forward to look for others' needs, no matter how great or how small, and to fill them. I choose to look out for their best interests and not only mine.

*****

How have you been serving and esteeming others higher than yourself lately? Remember, Jesus said that those who make themselves the least shall be the greatest. Therefore, humble yourself, that God may be glorified through everything you do.

Time and again, Philippians makes clear that we must serve one another, so use this day to remind yourself to keep a servant's heart. Look at everyone around you and determine how you can be a better servant. Listen to the Spirit and let Him guide you to the best things to do. He won't always tell you what to do, however, until you have first taken the proper steps in that direction. So step out to serve others. If you put on kindness and humility, you'll be putting on Christ.

As it is written,

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering…" Colossians 3:12

Day Six

Put on the Humility of Christ

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:5–8

Jesus, teach me to have true humility as You did. If I need a lesson in humility, then please give it to me. I don’t ask for harsh or harmful circumstances to happen in order for me to gain this humility. Rather, I pray that You would sustain me by providing me with what I need as I learn to rely on You—both for earthly things and heavenly. Therefore, I ask that You would help me to abide in Your Spirit, that I may be humble through the Spirit and not only learn due to trials. I desire real humility whether I abase or abound. May I not always have to be abased financially, in my health, or in any other way to have this humility.

*****

Real humility doesn’t come from humble circumstances. There are some believers who rarely struggle financially or in any other way. God has blessed them with what He has given them. How, then, shall they find humility? Through putting on Jesus by abiding in the Spirit. When you abide in the Spirit and are attentive to His work in your heart, you will become humble like God without suffering. Sometimes that lesson we need is only found through suffering a trial. However, it is better to pray against having trials, saying, “May I not have them if they are not necessary.” By this you are recognizing in your heart that, if they are necessary, you will be willing to receive them to grow through them and glorify God in the process.

But in all things be humble. Live humbly as God leads you, doing all things for Christ. Furthermore, show humility to your brethren, serving them always with kindness. Be kind always! Kindness gives you a reputation.

There are some people whom I have only met once in my life even though, due to their exceeding kindness, I have never forgotten them. Instead, I am still encouraged by them to this day to go and do as they did. Can you think of

anyone like that in your life? Let their conduct remind you to be the image of Jesus always.

If you lower yourself, God will raise you. If you take the lowest seat, God will say, “Come higher!” And if you humble yourself, the Lord will say, “Well done, my faithful servant! Come and enter your Master’s happiness.” For Jesus was first humbled to the point of death, and then He received the promise of the resurrection. The promises were made to Abraham and his “seed,” which is not plural because that seed is Christ. But when we put on Christ by abiding in the Spirit, and humble ourselves to bear our crosses and lovingly serve others, we become partakers of that promise.

As it is written,

“And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.” 2 Corinthians 1:7

And as it is further written,

“…and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:17

Partake in the humility and you’ll receive a great blessing. For Jesus was exalted because He was the worthy Lord and served as the example for us so that we, likewise, will obtain a blessing if we remain obedient. As we read in the Scriptures,

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9–11

Reflect on the promises today. You will be praised if you humble yourself.

Day Seven

Allowing God to Work in You and Through You

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12–13

Lord, I surrender to Your Spirit. Work in me and through me as I submit to Your Will. I choose to obey Your voice always, taking my salvation seriously with fear, trembling, and thanksgiving—thanksgiving that I am named a child of God. Yet I have fear and trembling lest I try to work my own works and believe I am justified by them. Yes, Lord, I know that You want an obedient servant, not one who tries to honor You in the way they think best. Let me not be one who works religiously, but one who obeys faithfully.

*****

Let your works be works of faith through obedience. For these are the works James was talking about when he said,

"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." James 2:24

Legalistic and religious work that we try to perform to make God happy are worthless. We cannot earn brownie points. There is no extra credit with God's homework. Instead, we simply need to do the homework assigned, listening to the Holy Spirit, who is telling us all the answers. You will have straight A's if you obey the Spirit.

So work out your own salvation through submission to the Holy Spirit's guiding hand. Look for ways to honor God through love with the people He has given you. However, do not do it of yourself; let Him guide you through the process of giving, serving, and showing mercy. Being the Lord, He gives the best gifts and serves us in a way no one else can—through mercy on our sin. So if you want to be like Christ, then let Christ work through you. Even as it is written,

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." Colossians 1:29

Day Eight

Be Confident in the Holy Spirit

"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh…" Philippians 3:3

Lord, give me Your wisdom today. Lead me by Your Spirit, that I may worship You in Him through my conduct and my words. Today I commit myself to rejoicing in You. I choose also to reject fleshly knowledge and the works of the flesh to honor You in all things.

*****

There is a difference between works of the Spirit and works of the flesh. The works of the flesh are always sin, but not every work of the flesh is obvious. Some are subtler than others—such as trying to honor God our own way rather than praying and being led by the Spirit. Pray your way through every decision in life and let God lead you. A work of the Spirit is obedience to the Spirit. When He speaks and you obey, you have done a work of the Spirit.

So choose today to be more sensitive to His voice and to obey always. Operate in the Spirit in all you do. Let your words be spoken with love through Him. Let your conduct take place in Him, with regard to His conviction.

Listen to His conviction always, and no matter how subtle it may be, obey it. Be confident in Him and reject your own wisdom. He will tell you to do things that don't make sense. However, just remember that the Lord invented the laws of nature and life. So if it doesn't make sense, He may intend to invent a new thing through a miracle.

Day Nine

Do Not Live for This Present Life

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” Philippians 3:8

Lord, I lay aside this life to pick up Your purpose for me. Show me Your daily will, that I may live by it always. Remind me that I’m a pilgrim, lest I cling to this life. There are many things that would like to distract me from You. Please save me from each of these as I chose to chase after You, lay this life behind, and pick up Your love.

*****

It is written,

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.” Hebrews 11:13–14

Remember that you are a pilgrim. It is easy to be distracted from this mindset through the affairs of life. But keep a steady eye fixed on the prize, counting this life as rubbish.

Now the question is this: Do you really count this current life as rubbish? How have you been doing this? Your life with Christ is not about this place. What you do and what you have mean nothing when you die. The only thing that means anything is that you can go home to the Lord. If, then, this is the field you work in, and the Lord’s side is your home where you will rest, then keep your mind focused on these things.

When you’re at work, do you think about going home to be with your family? Everyone does, and you should keep that mindset about this present life. Your home is with the Lord. Keep your heart fixed on Him through constant prayer and worship. Abide in the Spirit and follow the Lord. Do not live for this life but, rather, seek direction from God always because He’s leading you to your real life. Yes. He will give you a life with an enduring hope.

Reflect on that today. Commit yourself to pilgrimage from this day forward, for

as it is written,

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

Day Ten

Having True Righteousness

"…and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith…" Philippians 3:9

Lord, save me from having my own righteousness. Deliver me from my works, which I commit to You to honor You, and give to me Your word through Your Spirit so that I may live according to it through obedience. Help me to hear You more clearly, that I may embrace Your word and live by it daily.

*****

Everyone knows that we can't be saved through practicing the law. However, not everyone understands how Christians accidentally apply legalism today. They look for good works and try to get involved with them. They read their Bibles and try to apply them how they believe they should be applied. They show kindness and do the good "Christian thing" but do not seek the direction of the Holy Spirit in all they do. Any who act in such ways are likely unaware that they need to do each of these things through the leading of the Spirit. They may not even know how to apply God's leading to each of these situations.

For those who do not know: Be sensitive to God's voice in everything. One way to grow in understanding His voice is to listen to the Spirit while you read your Bible. When you read and the pages come alive, God is speaking to you through them. Pay attention to these scriptures and meditate on them. They will pertain to your life and the lessons the Spirit is currently teaching you.

Every time the Scriptures pop out and the Spirit speaks to you while you read, write down the words He said in your Bible. Always take notes in your Bible. It is a study guide, so there should be much written in it. However, do not write your own thoughts. Write only what the Spirit says to you, and this will train your ears to listen to God only. By this method you'll be able to discern your own heart from God's with greater clarity. This clarity will carry over into every other area of life as well.

When the pages of the word come alive, then the Spirit is teaching you and building upon other lessons you've learned. So stick to the lesson at hand, and remember that God, not you, is your teacher. Don't memorize what you think

you should but, rather, what the Holy Spirit is teaching you from the word. It will be immediately practical for everyday use. Whatever you use, you remember, but whatever is not used tends to be forgotten. If the Spirit is teaching that lesson to you, He will build more upon it each day, giving you a chance to remember each verse.

He will bring the verses you memorized to mind and compare them with scriptures you are currently reading. By this method of memorization and comparison, He will give you a broader understanding of the word of God and how each verse fits together to create a bigger picture.

Not everyone takes memorizing the word as seriously as they should. While we may be excited to memorize and to learn new techniques, the need for memorizing tends to fall to the wayside as priorities of life and work rise to the top. However, if you set aside time every day for memorizing, it will become a force of habit to sit down, go over what you read earlier that day, and memorize it.

When you memorize through the Spirit, He will bring to mind the Scriptures when it is time to apply them. You won't have to do it how you think is best, but God will tell you when and show you how when it is time.

Also, regarding memorizing, if you do it in the flesh it will be hard to retain more than a few verses. But if you pray and ask the Lord to help you retain the word, and then have faith while memorizing that He will, you will memorize more than you ever thought possible. As it is written,

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26

And it is also written,

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:5–8

Notice that the key here is to have all faith that God will provide, for if you don't have faith, He won't. I have learned that the more faith I have, the more I can memorize. Some teach that you can memorize a book in three months by memorizing a verse a day and brushing up on old verses each day. However, I

have found that through the power of the Holy Spirit, I have been able to go from remembering a handful of verses to memorizing entire books of the Bible in a single day.

If you would like to know more about the simple method I use to do this, I discuss it in greater detail in my bestselling book *How to Memorize the Bible Fast and Easy*.

When it comes time to apply these concepts, the Spirit will show you everything you need to do. Let God guide your heart through conviction to every act of kindness you should do. Don't just show kindness for a reward or to be a good Christian but, instead, love others with sincerity.

For true righteousness is found only through practicing love with sincerity and obeying the Holy Spirit as He convicts and leads you.

Day Eleven

Rejoice!

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4

How can I keep from singing Your praise? Lord You’re wonderful in all you do! Today I commit myself to worship you continually.

*****

It is written,

“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm 34:1 ESV

Can you do this? Can you worship and rejoice in the Lord always? What about in heartache and hardship? Take to heart to worship God always, in every situation and in every circumstance. More than this, try to worship God all day, every day. In addition to ongoing and continuous prayer, worship without ceasing.

However, when you worship, aim your praises directly at God. Don’t merely sing about Him but, rather, worship Him to His face. Let Your praise be as intimate and relational as your prayers.

When you worship continuously, it sensitizes you to the Spirit because you’re focusing on the presence of God. By nature you abide in the Spirit through worship, for when you worship from your heart, you do it through the Spirit.

In order to walk in the Spirit, you must abide in the Spirit. Constant prayer and worship help to make continuous abiding and walking possible. So take to heart to practice this today.

Commit yourself to worship continuously in every moment and in every situation in life.

When at work, if you can’t worship out loud, then do it quietly, inwardly. When we’re stuck in the middle of the crudeness of the world because of the workplace, it is good to reflect on the inward purity of the Spirit through prayer and worship. This will also help you to reflect Jesus rightly to everyone around you as you ought to do.

Day Twelve

Put on a Gentle Heart

“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.” Philippians 4:5

Today I commit myself to putting on Your gentleness toward everyone around me. I especially choose to be gentle with those who aren’t gentle with me. I know that being Your image isn’t always convenient. So please help me to portray Your gentleness even during the hardest of times.

*****

How have you been practicing the gentleness of Christ lately? Reflect on all the ways He’s been gentle with you and apply the same toward others. Is He short-tempered with you when you offend Him? Certainly not. Go and do likewise with your enemies.

Does the Lord revile? If others revile you, do not revile them in return, for true love is gentle by nature. Therefore, be a naturally gentle person by abiding in and reflecting the love of Jesus today.

It is easy to be gentle with those who are gentle with you. However, be diligent to practice the gentleness of Christ toward those who offend you, annoy you, or bother you in any way.

Do not reflect on what bothers you but, rather, let love blot that out as you act and speak with conviction through your gentleness. In this way an offender may repent and become a brother.

Day Thirteen

Do All Things Through Jesus and Be Content with His Supply

“I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” Philippians 4:12

Lord, teach me how to abase properly with contentment when I suffer need. I do not ask for need, but when or if that time should come, help me to be content with the things You have given me. I pray also that You would teach me how to abound properly, reminding me not to trust in what the bank account says but in You.

*****

Be content with the supply of God and do not lust for the things that He hasn’t given you. For your Lord knows your needs, and in due and proper time He will take care of each of them. Simply bear patiently with God as you wait. What sin has He committed, that you should not be patient? If every way of God is right, then follow Him even when it doesn’t feel right. As we said on an earlier day, God teaches us through the things we suffer. Therefore, be glad that God is teaching you eternal wisdom to prepare you for eternal life.

In your sufferings, God has testified this: that if you partake in the cross, you will partake in the resurrection. So rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for the reward of eternal life is yours.

Until that time comes, learn to live a godly life in contentment. If God wants to bless you with more than you need, then be grateful, willing to give and share with those who have need. If Jesus were rich, would He have given to you if you were poor? If you needed a home, would he have given it to you? If you were hungry, would He have fed you for a day, or would He have fed you while He helped you find the food you needed to suffer hunger no longer?

If you really want to do as Jesus would do, then fill others’ needs as Jesus would do for you.

Day Fourteen

Faith Makes Everything Possible

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Lord, I believe! Strengthen me to do the things I can’t today. Give me the humility to accept that I can do nothing without You and the peace I need while I wait for Your victories to unfold in my life.

*****

Having the faith to do all things through Christ requires you to remember that you can do nothing without Him. Faith begins with humility because by having faith you are declaring that God can do above anything you could ask or think. For faith must always be blind. If a situation requires possibility before you will trust God, then you must examine your heart. Nothing is impossible for God, and if you really believe this, then let it show through your conduct and your walk.

Learn to depend on God in everything. Commit yourself to this today. For it is written,

“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 your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5–6 NASB

Be content with the Lord’s supply and live every step of life according to His Spirit’s lead. Doesn’t He know what’s best? Let Him choose it for you! He know the best career you should have and the best person for you to marry. He knows everything. While He may allow you to choose these things, if you allow Him to choose for you, you’ll receive what is perfect. And aren’t God’s gifts and blessings greater than the things we can contrive?

So are His paths and plans. Therefore, submit to them.

Do not seek to fill your own needs but, rather, allow God to lead you to providence. If you worry about money and choose your careers, then you’ll be living according to your own wisdom. You are a child of God, and don’t parents take care of their children so that they can be carefree? So be carefree in Christ since the Father intends to take care of you.

The world would call you a fool for not planning for the future. But how can one

plan for what one does not know? Yet God knows your future, so let Him plan for you. Even men of the world go to financial planners to plan their retirement for them. Why would they then consider you a fool for going to the Master of spirits to have your fate planned?

Take no confidence in your excess, nor seek abundance. For God knows you have needs and will provide for you according to them. As it is written,

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:24–34 NASB

God has always intended for you to take one day at a time. Don’t plan for the future unless God tells you to do so—for it doesn’t matter what your future holds if you know that God holds your future.

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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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