

Day Thirty-three *Friday*

Scripture: Ephesians 3:7-21

Focus Text: "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more that all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory..." (vv. 20-21).

Listening to God: It grieves me that you think in such cramped terms about what I can do. I am the God of the universe, and I have promised to do whatever you ask in my name. Where is your imagination? Why do you dream so small when the needs around you are so great? And why do you settle for so little of my grace and power in your life and in your church? If you can imagine it, I can do it and more. Spend time with me getting in the flow of my will, then dream big!

My Prayer:

Day Thirty-four *Saturday*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-15

Focus Text: "The work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done" (v. 13).

Listening to God: Much is done in my name that has very little to do with me my purposes and in this world. Much energy is spent doing religious activities that will count for nothing in the end. If you are not listening to my direction, your work will not endure, no matter how successful it looks now. You are called to be my disciples. Are you asking my guidance each day about what to do and how to do it? Is what you are doing for your glory or for mine? If you work for yourself you have your reward. But if you truly work for me by walking with me, your reward will be great in heaven.

My Prayer:

Sailing Begins With Daily Prayer, Week 5

This "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer" is from Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray, WJK Press: 2014, p. 139-145. The book is available for purchase at Our Town Books.

Instructions:

Begin each day's exercise by asking God to open your mind and heart to what God wants to do in you. Read the scripture several times and think about what it says. Then read the section "Listening to God" and meditate on what God might be saying to you personally. Next, pray your response to God from your listening and meditation. Writing your prayer down will give you something to reflect on later. However you pray, make the prayer as honest and personal as you can. Trust God to meet you where you are and give you what you need. Let these readings and reflections lead you into deeper intimacy with God.

Day Twenty-eight *Sunday*

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-28

Focus Text: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (v. 18).

Listening to God: Never doubt that there is an Adversary who is eager to bring you down and many others with you. In fact, if you are about my business in this world you can expect all kinds of opposition. Don't waste too much time fighting against these things. The opposition is too powerful for you. Instead, trust in my promise that the powers of hell and death will never prevail against my church and chosen ones. Faithfully put on all the armor that I have provided for you, and the Adversary cannot touch you. Keep on being filled with my Spirit every day, and you will be saved.

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-nine *Monday*

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-6

Focus Text: "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God beside you who works for those who wait for him" (v. 4)

Listening to God: I know you hate to wait, but if you are not willing to wait on me, you cannot work with me. If you are not willing to wait, you will rush in and do things that will carry you and your church away from my will. In this dance of life, I am the one who leads. Your job is to follow my guidance as I give it to you moment by moment, day by day. I will lead you, if you are willing to be led. Walk into this day with me. Pay attention to me as I speak, act, and guide. If you do this, you will see me work in ways beyond anything you have ever imagined.

My Prayer:

Day Thirty *Tuesday*

Scripture: John 10:1-18

Focus Text: "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me" (v. 14).

Listening to God: I know you through and through, and I want you to know me. Don't think of me as a holy concept or force. I am a living person right now. Talk to me. Tell me what is on your mind. I don't want to be a stranger to you. Your sin is not a problem with me. I defeated it on the cross, and my Holy Spirit is in the process of rooting it out and destroying it. Spending time with me will help that process along. Give me ten minutes a day, and I will transform you.

My Prayer:

Day Thirty-one *Wednesday*

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-15

Focus Text: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses" (vv. 14-15).

Listening to God: When you refuse to forgive someone, you bind that person and the hurt they caused you to your soul. This blocks your spiritual growth and gives the Adversary lots to work with in your life. I cannot bless you as much as I would like if you are holding on to things you should have forgiven. Unforgiveness is poison to your spirit. If you can't bring yourself to forgive, pray to me your desire to want to forgive. I want to set you free. When you let me do that, many will be blessed through you.

My Prayer:

Day Thirty-two *Thursday*

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

Focus Text: "If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who have received the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ" (v. 17 RSV).

Listening to God: I did not create and redeem you to go through life just barely scraping by. You have received an abundance of grace. It is yours to claim by prayer whenever you want. This grace will enable you to follow my path through any difficulty. This is victory, to follow my path through life no matter where it takes you. If you try to follow a path you make, you will end up bogged down in needless problems and woes. Or you will succeed (by human standards) and become something I never meant you to be. Stay close to me, and you will find abundant life.

My Prayer: