

Day Twenty-six *Friday*

Scripture: Isaiah 30:15-22

Focus Text: "And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way; walk in it" (v. 21).

Listening to God: You may feel that you are alone, but you are not. Do not let the clamor of the world and the raging of your own spirit drown out the voice of my Spirit within you. You need to listen for me the most when situations are tense and competing voices are loud. As you begin to feel overwhelmed, take time out and let me do my work in you. Here is my promise, and I do not lie: "in returning and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be your strength" (v. 15).

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-seven *Saturday*

Scripture: Psalm 55

Focus Text: "Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved" (v. 22).

Listening to God: Why do you try to carry these heavy burdens by yourself? The responsibilities I have placed on your shoulders are meant to be shared with me. The purpose for this sharing is to draw you and me closer together. Out of this deeper relationship you will be able to accomplish far more than you ever could alone. If you do not abide with me and allow me to provide what you need, you will become worn out and embittered. Give this burden to me, and give me yourself too!

My Prayer:

Sailing Begins With Daily Prayer, Week 4

This "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer" is from Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray, WJK Press: 2014, p. 132-138. 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-one *Sunday*

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Focus Text: "And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief" (vv. 5-6).

Listening to God: Your unbelief can block the good I want to do in this world. I have promised over and over again that whatever you ask in my name I will do. This applies to your life, to those around you, and also to your church and the wider community. If you are dedicated to doing my will, all the power of heaven is at your disposal. Does this mean you will get everything you want? No. That would not be good for you. However, I promise to give you everything you need to live in the flow of my will. Today ask for this and trust me to keep my promise! Your prayers are the channel through which my power flows into the world.

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-two *Monday*

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Focus Text: "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them" (v. 16).

Listening to God: You are never alone or outnumbered. Remember how I promised "I will be with you always?" *Always* means right now. It also means tomorrow and every day to come. No matter how powerful your Adversary seems, the armies of heaven are more powerful. I loose those armies to accompany my children on their way in this world. Nothing can defeat you while you hold my hand and rest in me. It's not about how strong you are: it's about how much you trust me. Trust in me with all your heart, and I will bring you through.

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-three *Tuesday*

Scripture: Luke 14:15-24

Focus Text: "Come; for everything is ready now. But they all alike began to make excuses" (vv. 17-18).

Listening to God: I have prepared wonderful things for you-a veritable feast of blessings and joys. Why don't you show up to claim them? You keep busy with your "to-do list" and put me last on the agenda. I, however, continue to invite. Try putting the to-do list aside for a while and spend time with me. My greatest gifts are given to those who do this. I can make it all go so much better than you ever dreamed. As you rest in my presence, I will give you everything you need.

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-four *Wednesday*

Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33

Focus Text: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest of shrubs" (vv. 31-32).

Listening to God: You tend to despise small things. This is a mistake. The idea that nothing is worth anything unless it is big is one of the Adversary's lies. This false idea keeps you discouraged and hampers my ability to work through you. When you engage faithfully in the small things I call you to do, I use them for my larger purposes. A word or two spoken at my urging can change a person's life. A small gift of time or attention can rescue someone from hopelessness. You may not always see the results, but trust me to use your small faithfulnesses to bring in my kingdom.

My Prayer:

Day Twenty-five *Thursday*

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25

Focus Text: "The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters" (v. 2).

Listening to God: In the beginning, my Spirit moved across the dark watery chaos bringing light and order. I can still do this for you today. You may think your situation is totally out of control and beyond help. Or maybe someone else's chaotic life is causing you pain. You may be so immersed in the chaos that you cannot even find words to pray. Don't worry about that. You don't need to tell me what to do. Instead, invite my Spirit to come in and move in the midst of the disorder and pain. I can do more than you could ever ask or imagine.

My Prayer: