



ENRAPTURED

**TO BE FILLED WITH DELIGHT
IN GOD AND HIS ENDURING LOVE**



INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

PRAYER & FASTING 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year IWC Family,

I hope that you and your loved ones had a joyful celebration during the holidays. I know that the year before brought us unexpected adversaries. Even so, we want to start the new year in humility and thanksgiving.

Every January, we devote a week for corporate prayer and fasting as we grow in our intimacy with Him and discover His heart and direction for us. It is exciting to know that God desires to be intimate with us and to lead us to a fulfilled life. He delights in those who put their hope in His unfailing love, and surrender to His good, pleasing, and perfect will. So even before we seek God, He has already prepared everything in order for His perfect will to be revealed and fulfilled in our time. He will not withhold any good thing from us. He will not withhold His presence from His children.

When my children were still little playful kids, I saw their greatest delight; they were ecstatic as we enjoyed spending time with them. It did not matter what we were doing. All that mattered was that we were so engrossed in the moment -- simply loving them and being delighted in them.

As we seek God's presence and will, expect to experience His presence, goodness and guidance. David describes this moment in Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; You fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasure at Your right hand."

May we be **enraptured** by His presence like never before as we seek Him with all of our heart. He will not disappoint.

In His service,
Pastor Junie Josue

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WHY FAST & PRAY

JESUS ENCOURAGES US TO DO SO

When you fast, don't look like those who pretend to be spiritual. They want everyone to know they're fasting, so they appear in public looking miserable, gloomy, and disheveled. Believe me, they've already received their reward in full. When you fast, don't let it be obvious, but instead, wash your face and groom yourself and realize that your Father in the secret place is the one who is watching all that you do in secret and will continue to reward you openly. (Matthew 6:16-18 TPT)

JESUS HIMSELF FASTED

And after fasting for forty days, Jesus was extremely weak and famished. (Matthew 4:2 TPT) Jesus knew He needed spiritual strength to fulfill His purpose.

THE EARLY CHURCH FASTED

So after they had fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:3 TPT) This was pivotal in seeking God's guidance that helped them grow and multiply.

FASTING IS A FORM OF HUMILITY & WORSHIP

Anna was an aged widow who had been married only seven years before her husband passed away. After he died she chose to worship God in the temple continually. For the past eighty-four years she had been serving God with night-and-day prayer and fasting. (Luke 2:36-37 TPT) When we humble ourselves and acknowledge that the Lord is the source of everything, He is faithful to His promises according to His perfect will.

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PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE

BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pray, not just for yourself, but for others as well.

BE IN FOCUS

Have a time of daily fellowship alone with the Lord.

MORNING:

- Praise & Worship
- Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Read your Bible
- Read the Devotions
- Pray for the Prayer Points

NOONTIME:

- Take a Break and Set Yourself Apart
- Seek for Revelation Knowledge
- Take Prayer Breaks &/or Prayer Walks

EVENING:

- Gather with your Life Group for a Time of Prayer
- Soak in Praise & Worship
- Read Psalms before your rest for the night

BE IN FAITH

Prayer and Fasting is all about seeking and hearing from God.

BE COMMITTED TO FINISH

Commit to finishing the fasting goals you have set.

BE PHYSICALLY PREPARED

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BEGINNING & BREAKING THE FAST

PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS

1. Do not stuff yourself with food the day before you begin fasting.
2. Begin to cut down your food intake.
3. Avoid coffee and soda a few days before your fast as these tend to give you headaches from caffeine withdrawal.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS

1. Set a time of reflection and allow the Holy Spirit to expose any sin that would hinder you to seek God during the fasting week.
2. Do not talk about the kind of fast you will take. This is just between you and the Lord.
3. Read the Bible with expectation: before & during the fast.
4. Journal God's personal revelations during the fast. God wants to speak to us during this season of prayer & fasting.

BREAKING THE FAST

1. GRADUALLY START TAKING SOLID FOOD

Your body needs some time to adjust before it goes back to its normal routine. Start with soup and crackers.

2. STAY IN THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER

Prayer does not end when the prayer & fasting session ends. Continue seeking the Lord every day.

3. STAY IN THE SPIRIT OF EXPECTATION

Expect God to answer your prayers. Review your prayer list or journals and record your answered prayers.

4. STAY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Continue the kind of intimacy you have started with the Lord during the fasting week and throughout the year.

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HELPFUL TIPS

Stop all strenuous activities like sports or other exercises

Sleep early. Our bodies would most likely fail when we fast and lack enough sleep or rest.

Stay alert for physical symptoms such as headaches, bad breath, body odours, etc., as our bodies release toxins. A good bath everyday will keep you fresh.

Stay focused and be committed to complete your fast. The first two days of fasting are the most difficult so be aware of hunger pangs and grumbling stomach. But don't be alarmed, that's normal.

Drink plenty of WATER throughout the fasting week to avoid dehydration.

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MY PRAYER & FASTING STRATEGY

PRAYER TIME OPTIONS:

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

OVERNIGHT

FASTING OPTIONS:

- Water Only
- Liquid Only
- One Meal Only
- Two Meals
- Others

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Life Group Prayer Meet-Ups

Day 1, Monday, January 11

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 2, Tuesday, January 12

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 3, Wednesday, January 13

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 4, Thursday, January 14

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 5, Friday, January 15

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 6, Saturday, January 16

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

Day 7, Sunday, January 17

Prayer Mtg Host: _____
Platform: Zoom _____ FB Msgr Rm _____ Video Call _____
Time: _____

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2020 Praise Reports

- 1.
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- 3.
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January 11, Monday

GOD IS MY REFUGE

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: Alarmed, Jehoshapat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord: indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. (2 Chronicles 20:3-4)

The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord: indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

King Jehoshaphat faced his greatest crisis; it threatened to exterminate the nation. The reports revealed the enemy was already nearby, and Judah was far overpowered. Jehoshaphat, the King, was panic-stricken. The nation was filled with fear and despair. But King Jehoshaphat realized he did not have the resources within himself to fight this battle. He admitted to his weakness that he and his nation did not have comparable might against this great enemy.

His fear and worries prompted him to seek the LORD and call upon Him. Jehoshaphat's prayer was the most powerful weapon that could have been employed. He trusted God alone, ending his prayer with the words, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

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January 11, Monday

This Godly king did the right thing: He called a national prayer and fasting and encouraged the people to trust God in the face of an overwhelming crisis.

We should learn from Jehoshaphat's dependence on God in times of dire situations. What we experience today should drive us to pray to the Great God, who alone can deliver us. God is the only one who has control over the world that we live in.

These key verses provide a roadmap for how we move or act in our daily lives. Our response should be to turn towards God in prayer and fasting when we encounter problems of any kind.

REFLECTION:

- What will you do this new year to be firm and constant in your faith?

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PRAYER POINTS

CONSECRATION

**(Family relationships, Salvation of loved ones,
Personal Spiritual Breakthrough in 2021, etc.)**

1. Pray for IWC families to grow closer with God even during these challenging times.
2. Pray for God's blessing on every family as well as the restoration of the family altar (ex. time of family devotion, worship and praying for one another, etc.).
3. Pray for Christ to be the center over every marriage relationship and that couples will continue to grow stronger in their commitment to each other.
4. Pray for the salvation of loved ones (parents, children, siblings, grandparents, relatives, etc.) in 2021.
5. Pray for 2021 to be a year of spiritual and supernatural breakthrough in every IWC household and that every family member will have a deeper, personal encounter with God throughout the year.
6. Pray and declare Joshua 24:15 over every IWC household, "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

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January 12, Tuesday

POWER & MIGHT

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: “Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard. Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.” (2 Chronicles 20:5-6)

How often have we encountered challenging situations in life that came to us so suddenly that we were not aware of them? During those moments, we felt overwhelmed for sure and somehow tried our best to look around for help. But how many of us step back, quiet our hearts, drop on our knees, and call on the Lord for help when those kinds of situations come our way? Or do we simply reach in for our phones to call the most available friend?

This happened to King Jehoshaphat when suddenly three invading enemy nations came together to press their attack against the Kingdom of Judah! The Bible says that this large army already crossed the borders and is already making their way further into the country! Imagine three nations combined came together and declared war to fight against you and conquer your kingdom (I remember a scene of the final battle from Lord of the Rings)!

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January 12, Tuesday

There was no denial that King Jehoshaphat was terrified of the attacking enemies coming their way. But he decided to come before the Lord, seek His face and pray for His help instead of being paralyzed by fear.

What a powerful move! At that moment, if I was in King Jehoshaphat's situation, it would be so easy to gather the army commanders, find out the number of soldiers, assess our fighting chances, immediately send envoys and call on some allies and ask for their help. But not so with King Jehoshaphat. He first and foremost called on the Lord, then assembled the people of Judah and asked everyone to go on a fast, humble themselves together before the Lord and seek His help. "Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting. So people from all the towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek the Lord's help. (2 Chron.20:3-4 NLT) Back in those days, it was customary for Hebrew kings to call the people throughout the entire Kingdom to proclaim a fast during such situations. King Jehoshaphat had a deeper understanding of the power and might of his God! He knew that no matter how overwhelming the situation may seem to be, God is high and lifted, seated on the throne, and is able to perform a mighty deliverance before their eyes.

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January 12, Tuesday

I really love verse 6 in the Contemporary English Version, “You, Lord, are the God our ancestors worshiped, and from heaven, you rule every nation in the world. You are so powerful that no one can defeat you.” True enough, as we read all the way to the end of chapter 20, the Lord showed them a powerful demonstration of His power and might! He delivered the people of Judah from the hands of the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites! Their enemies turned against each other and fought each other to their death that when Judah’s army came to the place, they saw that every soldier in the enemy’s army was lying dead on the ground! Our God is Powerful! No one can defeat Him! Let me ask you, who among the gods that people worship in this world can be compared to the power and might of our God?

REFLECTION:

- What are you going through right now that seems to be overwhelming you, causing you so much stress and fear? What do you think will change your perspective so that you will be able to see God’s ability to display His unlimited power and might over your situation?

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PRAYER POINTS

**ENDURING GRACE DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC,
PROTECTION, MENTAL HEALTH, FINANCIAL CHALLENGES, ETC.**

1. Pray for God's grace over families affected by company/business closures, work lay offs and other family routine disruptions which affected people's physical, emotional, mental health and well-being.
2. Pray for IWC families who are having financial difficulties during this crisis, especially those who were laid off to find new jobs and sources of income.
3. Pray for God to touch and heal people struggling with mental health challenges, those going through isolation, anxiety, helplessness and hopelessness brought about by the current global health crisis.
4. Pray for God to use us (God's people) to encourage those going through mental anxieties and be a channel of God's healing for them.
5. Pray for all government efforts to help people suffering with mental illness and provide every necessary support they need to cope with the current global health crisis.
6. Pray for all members of IWC to be spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally healthy till the end of this global pandemic.

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January 13, Wednesday

HEAR US & SAVE US

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: If disaster comes upon us— whether sword or judgment, plague or famine— we will stand before this temple and before You, for Your Name is in this temple. We will cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear us and save us. [Emphasis Added] (2 Chronicles 20:9)

The words “God, why haven’t you answered my prayer?” may sound familiar to many of us. We have spent countless hours asking God to heal us or our loved ones. We have asked God to completely get rid of our problems. We have gone down on our knees in hopes that God would make our lives better. And when things do not go according to our plan and timeline, we utter those words since we tend to view our life through our own lens. But this offers an incomplete and limited perspective.

God’s thoughts and ways are often different from ours. He is neither bound by time nor swayed by human perception. He does everything with purpose in His own timing. One story that speaks such truth is found in the Gospels:

Jesus’ time on earth was filled with miracles and wonders. It isn’t surprising that people had taken a liking to Him as they were amazed at what He could do. The news about a man who could heal the sick and raise the dead travelled fast and people started to gather around Jesus.

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January 13, Wednesday

When a couple of friends heard about this man, they took their chance to help their sick friend. They tried to push their way into the crowd but were unable to do so. They did not give up but instead, they went up on the roof and lowered their friend into the middle of the crowd.

Jesus heard their cry and pleas. Their desperation echoed off the walls. Jesus knew what He had to do. Jesus saw the men's faith and decided to heal their friend. But the way Jesus saved him was probably different from what the men had in mind; they might have thought that Jesus would only get rid of his sickness. But when Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Everyone knew that this man was sick and dying. But while everyone was focused on what was in front of them – a man in need of physical healing, Jesus saw what the man needed the most. He knew that the man's eternal life mattered more than anything else in his life.

There are countless stories in the Bible that recount God's faithfulness. In all of those stories, humans could only see a portion of God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. But those stories hopefully teach us that God is in full control of our situation. His answers to our prayers may be different from what we expect, His salvation may come at a different time, but He knows what we desperately need when we need it the most.

Do not worry that things may still look a little gloomy today. Instead, take heart, for Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33).

REFLECTION:

- When your prayers remain unanswered, how do you usually respond? Is there any moment in your life that God answered your prayer differently? Do you think that God is doing the same to your prayers today?

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PRAYER POINTS

**FRESH REVELATION OF GOD'S LOVE, GOD'S POWER,
SPIRITUAL HUNGER, THE CHURCH/BODY OF CHRIST**

1. Pray for churches and congregations affected by the government's decision limiting church gatherings.
2. Pray for fresh revelation of God's love and faithfulness despite the challenges the Church will go through in 2021.
3. Pray that believers will use this opportunity to pray and intercede for people, connect to those who need encouragement and be a channel of blessing to others.
4. Pray for God's divine wisdom over all Pastors and church leaders as they seek creative ways to connect with church members in order to build their faith during these challenging times.
5. Pray that the church (the Body of Christ) would be a powerful instrument in bringing encouragement, strength and peace to people in these days of anxiety, confusion, hopelessness and fear.
6. Pray that this COVID 19 pandemic will result to global spiritual revival, mass evangelism, salvation of souls, church growth, and church planting multiplication in Canada and around the world.

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January 14, Thursday

OUR EYES ARE UPON YOU

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chronicles 20:12)

Stubbornness is one of those universal traits in humanity. On one side, grit and determination can help you power through those trying times, but they can also bring a lot of trouble. It's stubbornness that teaches a child to touch a hot stove even when they were told it'll burn. It's what makes us incapable of admitting we are wrong, no matter how foolish we end up looking. It's what ends many good friendships. But it's not all bad, so what can it teach us?

Reading through this story of King Jehoshaphat, you might be inspired by his stubborn, unwavering faith in God – as you should. When he receives word that a great army is threatening his kingdom, he immediately inquires of the Lord, not trusting his own wisdom to conceive a plan. Jehoshaphat stands before his people and cries to the Lord, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (v. 12) This is a brave thing for a king to say before his people. How did this man learn to trust God? Well – just like many of us – through failure. A couple of chapters before, the Lord warns him not to go into battle but he ignores this and goes anyway. In the midst of the fight, Jehoshaphat realizes that he is losing and begs God to save him. He survives the fight, seeing for himself how things turn out when he does things his own way.

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January 14, Thursday

The year 2020 was a difficult year for many people in different ways, and no one can blame you for wanting to take control when everything seemed out of control. Yet, we have seen the result of taking matters into our own hands and they usually end up falling apart. If we're to be stubborn, let's be stubborn in this: God's love and strength never fails or falters. It endures forever. Even amidst uncertainty, we have the confidence to say, "God, I don't know what to do, but my eyes are on you."

REFLECTION:

- Do you like taking control of situations in your life, regardless of how trivial it may be? Looking back at the previous year, had there been a time when you became stubborn and chose to ignore God and rely on yourself? This year, how can you choose not to trust your own wisdom and rely on the Lord instead?

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PRAYER POINTS

**CHURCH (IWC Leadership, Vision & Mission,
Harvest of Souls, Church Growth, Great Awakening & Revival,
Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, etc.)**

1. Pray for physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wholeness of every person attending all IWC Sites during these challenging and uncertain times.
2. Pray for churchwide spiritual hunger, revival and outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all IWC Sites (St. James, Brandon, Neepawa, Northgate & Transcona).
3. Pray for all IWC members to see the importance and great value of in-person church attendance.
4. Pray for God's divine wisdom and direction for Pastor Junie & Fatty and all IWC Site Pastors and Council to lead IWC as we move into the "new normal of doing church ministry."
5. Pray for obedience, faithfulness and generosity of all IWC members in honouring the Lord through faithful giving of tithes & offering therefore continually advancing God's Kingdom here in Canada.
6. Pray for fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit for all IWC church volunteers as they continue to faithfully serve the Lord "in season or out of season."
7. Pray for all IWC members to be active in Life group gatherings, online discipleship, friendship evangelism and in leading people to Jesus.

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January 15, Friday

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: 2 Chronicles 20:15-17

And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the [d]brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." (NKJV)

The year 2020 was not what we expected. The one life we knew before; the ordinary normal life we had where we go to work everyday, go home to our families without fear, come to church every Sunday and connect with friends; all of a sudden changed due to the COVID-19 plague that is continuously devastating the whole world causing thousands of deaths and paralyzing people with fear, worry and insecurities. The dictionary defined fear as "a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., the threat can be real or imagined." It's the feeling or condition of being afraid that can paralyze or incapacitate us. Jehoshaphat and his people were threatened with a great multitude of enemies surrounding them. The Lord told Jehoshaphat not to be afraid. In the same way, we don't need to fear any virus, pestilence or plague because God is our refuge, our fortress, our deliverer and a very present help in time of trouble. He promised to protect us (Psalms 91).

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January 15, Friday

What are the antidotes for fear?

1. The battle is not ours, but God's - whatever forms of battle or challenges you are facing - whether it's fear, worry, anxiety, depression, lack or poverty, sickness or diseases, family relationships, marriage problems, addictions or anything else; know that God is fighting the battles for us. He will never leave you nor forsake you, He is always there for you. Psalm 18:39 "For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me."
2. Position yourself - if you have given your life to Christ as Lord & Saviour, you have been given the authority and dominion to rule the earth. Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Exercise your God-given authority by confessing the word of God in whatever situation you are in. Read your bible, meditate on the scriptures; worship & praise Him, fast & pray on a consistent basis. Be in a position to receive from God and be ready to give to others also.

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January 15, Friday

3. Stand still – The scriptures say, having done all to stand. We need to stand still no matter what is going on in our lives. At the darkest & deepest moments where we can't do anything about our situations, we can only rely on one person – the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His promises are always 'yes' and 'amen'. Hope in Him. Exodus 14:13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. God admonishes us to stand still and we will see His deliverance.

4. Be not afraid – Fear not for God is with us all the way and He will see us through. As long as you are trusting Him and believing that what you are praying for shall come to pass, stand your ground. His grace will enable you to walk unafraid. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

"Courage is doing what you are afraid to do.

Where there is no fear, there is no courage." --- Captain A. Riddenbacher
Be courageous. Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. God is for us at all times – trust in Him. Surrender your life to Him. He has not failed you yet and surely will stand with you. Why don't you try God starting today? Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- How are you going to prepare for any battle you may face this year?

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PRAYER POINTS

PROTECTION OF FRONTLINE MEDICAL & ESSENTIAL WORKERS, GOVERNMENT LEADERS (Federal, Provincial, City, Public Health, etc.) & CANADIAN ECONOMY

1. Pray for God's divine protection on every health professional and their families. Pray for God to grant them physical, emotional and mental strength amid the anxiety, hardship, hopelessness, fear and panic surrounding them.
2. Pray for all health professionals (doctors, nurses, researchers, hospital employees) to not give in to fear but instead be driven by God's compassion and mercy as they take care of their patients.
3. Pray that they will be a powerful reflection of Jesus' love and compassion to all their patients and co-workers. That God will grant them divine wisdom so they can be a source of encouragement, hope to patients in their care.
4. Pray for God's divine wisdom on Premier Brian Pallister, Mayor Brian Bowman, Provincial Health (ex. Dr. Brent Roussin) and other government leaders, as they continue to find effective ways to deal with the COVID 19 crisis.
5. Pray for the Manitoba government to continue to use every tool available to limit the spread of COVID-19 in all cities and municipalities and reduce the overall impact on our provincial health-care system as well as to ensure a safe and successful reopening of businesses in Manitoba in the coming months.
6. Pray for the success of the Canadian Government's efforts in containing the Coronavirus and therefore "flatten the curve." Pray for God to grant Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with divine wisdom and knowledge as he leads our government through this time of global crisis.
7. Pray for the recovery of the Canadian economy from the effects of this global pandemic. Pray for God's guidance on all efforts of the government to slowly re-open the economy in the coming months.

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January 16, Saturday

FIGHTING BIG BATTLES

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: You will not need to fight in this battle. Just stand still in your places and see the saving power of the Lord work for you, O Judah and Jerusalem. “Do not be afraid or troubled. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:17)

There are days when we wake up with an energy level we can't explain, prepared to take on any battle the day or the enemy may bring. On these days we're even prepared to persevere through some of the hardest battles and the darkest battles we've walked ourselves into.

This isn't about those battles. This is about fighting bigger battles. This is about when you're doing all you can do to maintain. It's about the days when you're hitting your knees in the morning in prayer; counting your blessings throughout the day and laying your head on your pillow at night with a heart filled with thankfulness.

And then...

Suddenly you find yourself fighting a battle you didn't see coming. A battle unlike the others because it's a battle so big, you have no idea how to face it. A battle so unexpected, you had no time to prepare. A battle so overwhelming, you may be considering surrender.

The battle that's coming against Jehoshaphat in this scripture is one of these battles. Fighting a battle against not one but two armies. Facing a battle that is less than one day away. Facing a battle with no time to prepare.

ENRAPTURED

**TO BE FILLED WITH DELIGHT
IN GOD AND HIS ENDURING LOVE**

January 16, Saturday

A friend reached out to me last week and asked if he could meet with me to discuss a battle. He shared with me that he recently reached out to his employer to discuss his level of involvement and future with the organization. He shared with me that he expressed a desire to have a deeper involvement and the ambition to become more involved with the team. He shared that what resulted was a battle he didn't see coming. A battle that shocked and surprised him. A battle that was bigger than him. A battle that chose him and he had no idea what to do.

My friend shared that after giving what he described as blood, sweat, and tears layered in countless hours of dedication and loyalty, that in his shock, he was let go from the organization. With an apprehensive laugh, he said, "it's the first disciplinary action I've ever initiated against myself." My friend and I dove into this scripture with discussion and prayer. We came full circle at the end of our visit that we often fight big battles that seem to choose us.

As in scripture, we must lean into our faith walk and trust in the promise that, in the battles that are bigger than us, we rejoice that we will not have to fight them. We are assured that when we stand with God, we get to see the deliverance that the Lord brings when he fights the battle for us.

Written by: Don Mann

REFLECTION:

- When you go through the bigger battles in life, what is your initial response? Do you simply rely on your own strength or do you trust that God will deliver you? How can you live out the Scripture's promise that God will fight the battle for us?

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PRAYER POINTS

**NEXT GENERATION, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS,
GOD'S DIVINE CALLING AND PURPOSE IN THEIR LIVES**

1. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom on students in all levels greatly affected because of the global pandemic.
2. Pray for constant protection of all students in all levels against infection and community transmission.
3. Pray for God's grace over all students in all levels as they continue to do their online assignments and exams as well as cope with other requirements needed to pass their respective classes this school year.
4. Pray for all students to see greater hope in their future academic life in the coming school year.
5. Pray for God's financial provision for all students who lost work (part-time jobs) during this crisis.
6. Pray for God to use the next generation to lead their classmates and friends to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
7. Pray for God's divine plan and purpose to be accomplished in the lives of the next generation. That our youth and young adults will continue to be on fire for God, active in serving the Lord, discipling and winning the lost and steadfast in doing God's will in their lives.

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January 17, Sunday

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

TEXT: 2 Chronicles 20

KEY VERSE: You will not need to fight in this battle. Just stand still in your places and see the saving power of the Lord work for you, O Judah and Jerusalem. “Do not be afraid or troubled. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:17)

An alliance of nations decides to march against Judah during the reign of King Jehoshaphat. The king inquires of the Lord and, through a prophet, the Lord tells Jehoshaphat that He will deliver Judah without a fight. Jehoshaphat goes out to battle with singers singing praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. The nations then turn against each other and begin to kill each other. The men of Judah spent three days collecting the spoils of war that were abandoned by their enemies.

Something miraculous happens when we give thanks and praise to God. We experience a dramatic shift within us, a strong stirring of faith, emboldening us to do things with godly confidence. We do not know exactly how the allied nations became confused. We do know that the circumstances began to change and turn in Judah’s favor the moment they began to thank the Lord. Praise and thanksgiving were the keys that unlocked God’s power and assured victory for the king’s men.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been around us for more than a year now and many of us are tired physically, emotionally, and mentally. In the blink of an eye, the entire world landscape has changed and many are struggling with their physical health, their finances, their relationships, or their emotional well-being. With the long wait and our prayers remain unanswered for a long time, we may have wondered if God is even listening or cares about us. The circumstances around us are less than ideal; it is easy to just stop believing and trusting and to give in to anxiety, despair, confusion, and helplessness instead.

30

DAY 7

DEVOTION
Prayer & Fasting 2021

ENRAPTURED

**TO BE FILLED WITH DELIGHT
IN GOD AND HIS ENDURING LOVE**

January 17, Sunday

The story of Jehoshaphat is sending a very clear message about the mindset that we should be adopting while this pandemic continues to rage. We should be in a continuous attitude of praise and thanksgiving in the midst of, and in spite of, the negative circumstances around us.

Thankfulness is a skill and an attitude that can be learned. It's just a matter of pausing and noticing the abundance with which God has filled our lives and the many evidence of his goodness over his people.

We can choose to view the pandemic and other life challenges through the lens of desperation or deprivation or through the lens of faith and victory. Rather than giving in to despair, we are to relearn how to be grateful which is central to our faith in God. Having a complaining attitude will not change the situation. To complain is to demonstrate a lack of faith and confidence in the great plans and promises of God for his people. When we approach God with thanksgiving, the light of his presence pours unto us, transforming us from the inside out, and giving us hope and strength to keep on keeping up until our prayers get answered.

REFLECTION:

- Identify 3 major good things that happened in your life as a result of coronavirus.
- How would you go about thanking God in your current situation?

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PRAYER POINTS

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

1. Thank the Lord for families spending more quality time with each other, therefore promoting a closer relationship with one another.
2. Thank the Lord for miraculous provisions for families during this crisis, especially those who were laid off from work and those given reduced hours during the pandemic.
3. Thank the Lord for daily physical, emotional, mental and spiritual protection during these challenging times.
4. Thank the Lord for God's divine protection for all Frontline health and essential workers who daily risk their lives to keep us safe throughout the pandemic and beyond.
5. Thank the Lord for the recovery and healing of all Covid 19 patients as well as the end of community transmission and therefore see a "flattening of the curve."
6. Thank the Lord for His divine grace and strength that will sustain us from the challenges throughout 2021.
7. Thank the Lord for the economic recovery, re-opening of businesses, restoration of employment in Manitoba and all over Canada.
8. Thank the Lord for nationwide spiritual awakening and revival.

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2021 PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
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- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

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PRAYER FOR OTHERS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.