

Walking in the Spirit
Prayer and Fasting Journal
Bishop Kevin K. Dickerson



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Prayer & Fasting Journal 2024

Bishop Kevin K. Dickerson

Prayer and Fasting

Bible Study

Fasting with Sincerity

Matthew 6:16-18

Matthew 6:16-18 ¹⁶Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Understanding Fasting

Fasting is a spiritual discipline that holds a significant place in the lives of Christians. Fasting, in its essence is a deliberate abstention from food, and seeking spiritual communion with God. It is a voluntary act of denying oneself *physical nourishment* for spiritual *nourishment*. Fasting is taking your focus off of the things of this world in order to focus more on the things of God. Fasting can thus be a means of growing closer to God. A good example of fasting is Esther's fast (Esther 4:16) which shows fasting as an act of dependence on God in times of challenge and distress. Fasting is seeking God's direction, power, and presence in our lives. Fasting is not about trying to make God do something, God cannot be manipulated. God will never do anything outside of His will. The goal of fasting is drawing closer to God to come into agreement with His plan for your life. The results of fasting may be repentance of sin or a mindset that needs to change, spiritual growth, spiritual direction, a call to greater service, etc.

Fasting in Practical Terms

Fasting is abstaining from food for a certain amount of time during a day. Typically, a person may fast a *whole day* (i.e., 6am-6pm) and have a meal in the evening, or a person may fast a *half-day* (i.e. 6am-noon or noon-6pm) and have a meal in the evening. Use the time frame that works best for you. It is okay to drink water or juice while you're fasting. If you cannot fast because of medical or other reasons, you can fast an activity (i.e., TV, social media, movies, etc.). If you have a health condition, it is always wise to consult your doctor before going on a fast. While you are fasting, you are devoting yourself to prayer, Bible study, meditating on the Word, and reading and writing entries in your prayer and fasting journal.

Understanding the Heart of Fasting

Matthew 6:16 "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast...."

Jesus exposes the hypocrisy of those who fast to be seen by others, highlighting the importance of the heart's condition in fasting. Fasting is more than abstaining from food; it's a spiritual discipline that involves genuine devotion and seeking God. When Daniel fasted in Daniel 10:2-3, he fasted as an act of complete surrender and seeking God's guidance. When you fast it's important to examine your motives in fasting, to seek intimacy with God, and to align your heart with His will.

Fasting with Authenticity

Matthew 6:16-18 "...for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast ..."

Jesus advises maintaining a normal appearance while fasting, avoiding displays of piety for recognition or "applause" from people. When David's child was ill (2 Samuel 12:16-23), his fast showed his authenticity as he fasted seeking God's mercy. David's fast displayed genuine repentance and trust in God's grace. Authentic fasting calls for sincerity, humility, and a desire to grow closer to God. To fast in a way that is genuine and honors God, we must exercise humility, seek God's grace, and avoid putting on a religious show for the benefit of people.

Fasting in Secret

Matthew 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Jesus encourages us to fast in secret, seeking God's approval instead of human applause. Elijah's 40-day fast (1 Kings 19:8) illustrates a private encounter with God, emphasizing divine sustenance and strength during challenging times. Fasting in secret cultivates intimacy with God, allowing Him to see our hearts and reward us openly. God is calling us to develop intimacy with Him through privately fasting, seeking His approval above all else, and trusting in His provision.

The Call to Fasting and Deeper Discipleship

Fasting is a call to deeper discipleship; a radical commitment to seek God wholeheartedly. Jesus invites His disciples to fast, not for show, but as a means to draw closer to Him. Just as Jesus fasted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-2), discipleship involves spiritual disciplines like fasting for spiritual growth and intimacy with God. Fasting aligns our desires with God's will and deepens our dependence on him. We must develop a lifestyle of fasting, seeking spiritual growth and allowing fasting to deepen our discipleship journey. When fasting is approached with sincerity and authenticity, it becomes a powerful tool for spiritual growth and intimacy with God. Let's heed Jesus' teachings of fasting in secret, seeking God's approval, and deepening our discipleship journey through this life-changing spiritual practice.

Prayer and Fasting

Daily Lessons

Day 1

Walk in the Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Reflection: *Walking in the Spirit* means to be led by the Holy Spirit. Walking in the Spirit involves a readiness to obey God's Word, growing in godliness, and the sensitivity to discern between guidance by the Holy Spirit and your personal feelings. This is key because our feelings are not always godly or rooted in His Word.

My Response: What are some practical ways to discern between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit in everyday life? Share a personal experience where following the Spirit's leading brought about a significant change in your life.

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 2

The Spirit Helps Control the Flesh

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16 (KJV) 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Reflection: Galatians 5:16 underscores the pivotal role of the Holy Spirit in steering believers away from succumbing to their sinful nature's desires. By allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your life, you invite a transformative influence that redirects your focus from "self-indulgence" to *spiritual alignment*. The Spirit empowers believers with discernment, wisdom, and a heightened awareness that helps you resist the temptations of your fleshly desires. This guidance fosters a mindset and strength to overcome impulses that conflict with living a life reflective of God's will and character.

My Response: How does actively inviting the Holy Spirit's guidance to change the way you approach and handle temptations? Share an instance of relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance to help you resist a desire or impulse that would have otherwise led to wrongdoing. In what ways does the Holy Spirit's guidance impact your understanding of self-control and personal transformation in your life?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 3

By My Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 4:6 (KJV) “Then he answered and Spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Reflection: The world believes to achieve success in life, one must pull themselves up “by their own bootstraps”. That suggests that we do not need any other people to accomplish anything. In fact, we “celebrate” people with power and strength, be it financial, political, academic, etc. But with God, it is completely the opposite. It is not about our power, force, or strength, it is by His Spirit. Zechariah 4:6 emphasizes the critical role of relying on God's Spirit in our endeavors. It invites us to recognize that human effort, while important, is *incomplete* without the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. This verse calls for a shift from “self-reliance” to a *partnership* with God's Spirit in our pursuits.

My Response: How does understanding that accomplishments come through God's Spirit affect our approach to challenges or goals in life? What steps can we take to cultivate a greater reliance on God's Spirit in our daily decision-making and actions? What practices or habits can help us cultivate a greater sensitivity to the leading of God's Spirit in our lives?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 4

Brand New!

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Reflection: We live in a world where almost anything is called new even when they are not new. Many things today are called new when they should be called “updated”, “remodeled”, or “improved”. When something is truly new, it has never been seen or done before, it is unprecedented. Salvation made us new from the inside/out. Old thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors are gone. This is not a superficial change; it is a complete transformation of the heart, mind, and soul. The Spirit brings about a spiritual rebirth, freeing individuals from the chains of their past sins, behaviors, and mindsets. The Holy Spirit empowers you to embrace a new identity rooted in Christ, enabling you to live a life characterized by righteousness, love, and a renewed purpose. You are BRAND NEW in Christ!

My Response: How does the idea of becoming a "new creation" in Christ through the Holy Spirit impact the way we view your past mistakes or shortcomings? Share an experience where you tangibly felt the Holy Spirit's work bringing about a change or renewal in your life based on this verse.

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 5

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: John 3:6 (NLT) 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

Reflection: God is three persons in one; the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often referred to as the *Comforter*, *Advocate*, or *Counselor*. The Holy Spirit is not merely an impersonal force but *a person*, possessing consciousness, will, and attributes that are in unity with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit's role encompasses various facets, including empowering believers, guiding them into truth, convicting of sin, and fostering spiritual growth. As illustrated in this verse, the Spirit brings about a spiritual rebirth, birthing and nurturing a new, spiritual life within individuals who embrace faith in Christ.

My Response: How does understanding the Holy Spirit as a *distinct person* within the Trinity affect our relationship with God? In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance or presence in your spiritual journey? What practices or habits have you adopted to cultivate a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit in your daily life?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 6

Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:5 (NLT) 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Reflection: Jesus is preparing His disciples for the forthcoming arrival of the Holy Spirit. He draws a distinction between John the Baptist baptism, which utilized water as a symbol of repentance, and the imminent baptism with the Holy Spirit. This upcoming baptism is not physical but spiritual and transformative. Jesus is promising an immersive experience in the Holy Spirit, where believers would be *enveloped*, *empowered*, and filled by the Holy Spirit's presence, leading to a profound change, and enabling them to fulfill their mission in spreading the Gospel.

My Response: How does the promise of being baptized with the Holy Spirit impact your understanding of the Spirit's role in your life compared to John's baptism of repentance? How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to serve others and your church?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 7

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: John 16:8-11 (KJV) 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit's work is multifaceted: firstly, convicting the world of sin, highlighting the rejection of Christ as the *ultimate sin*, and calling it to repentance. Secondly, the Spirit convicts of righteousness, showing the standard of God's righteousness to anyone who believes because Christ would no longer be physically present. Christ's ascension to the Father validates His righteousness and serves as a model for believers. Lastly, the Spirit convicts of judgment, revealing that the ruler of this world (the devil) stands condemned through Christ's victory.

My Response: In what ways does the Spirit's conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment influence your understanding of personal faith and accountability? In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit working in your life?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 8

Holy Spirit, Our Comforter

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: John 14:15-16 (KJV) 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Reflection: Jesus links love for Him with obedience to His commandments. He promises to ask the Father to send another Comforter, referring to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter in a profound and enduring way. He consoles, supports, and strengthens believers in their walk of faith. This Comforter is not only a source of consolation, but also an empowering presence, guiding, teaching, and enabling believers to live out Christ's teachings.

My Response: How does your love for Jesus manifest in your obedience to His commandments in daily life? Where might there be areas for growth in this aspect? Consider specific commandments of Jesus that you find challenging to follow. How might relying on the Holy Spirit as the Comforter aid you in obeying and embracing these teachings more fully?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 9

Tested by the Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-2 (NLT) ¹ Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Reflection: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led into the wilderness where He faced temptation for forty days. This account highlights how the Holy Spirit can lead believers into situations or seasons of testing. The purpose of these tests is not to induce failure or harm but to *strengthen* our faith, *deepen* our dependence on God, and *refine* our character. Just as Jesus faced temptation but remained faithful, the Holy Spirit might allow tests to strengthen believers' *spiritual resilience* and deepen their *reliance* on God. Reflect on a time when you felt tested or challenged in your faith.

My Response: How did the experience impact your relationship with God and your understanding of the Holy Spirit's involvement? In what ways might a perspective shift regarding testing, seeing it as an opportunity for growth and deepening faith, impact the way you approach challenging situations?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 10

Guided by the Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:7-9 (NLT) 7Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. 8 So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. 9 That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”

Reflection: We see the Holy Spirit actively guiding Paul and his companions during their missionary journey. The Spirit directed them by preventing them from going to certain places and then revealing the specific direction they should take. The Holy Spirit steers believers along paths aligned with God's purposes, sometimes redirecting, or closing doors for a greater plan. The Spirit communicates and guides through *visions, promptings, or inner convictions*, as seen in Paul's vision of the Macedonian man. The Spirit grants wisdom and discernment, enabling believers to discern the leading and prompting of God amidst various choices and circumstances.

My Response: Reflect on a time when you felt guided by the Holy Spirit in deciding or choosing a direction in your life. How did you recognize that guidance? How open are you to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your daily decisions and plans? How can cultivating a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit enhance your ability to discern His leading and promptings in your life?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 11

The Spirit is Working in You

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:6 (NLT) ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Reflection: Philippians 1:6 assures believers that the work initiated by God within them will persist and reach completion until Christ's return. The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in this ongoing work. The Holy Spirit initiates the transformative work within believers, leading to their salvation and spiritual growth. This work continues as the Spirit sustains and matures them throughout their journey of faith. The Spirit works within believers, transforming their hearts and minds, conforming them to the image of Christ. This process, called sanctification, involves continuous growth, refining character, and empowering believers to live out their faith. The Spirit's work provides believers with the assurance that God's work in them will be completed. It instills confidence and perseverance in their journey of faith, knowing that God is faithful to fulfill His promises.

My Response: Reflect on the ways you have experienced the Holy Spirit's work in your life—how has it impacted your faith journey and personal growth? In what areas do you sense the Holy Spirit is *currently* at work within you, prompting change or growth?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 12

Holy Spirit, Our Intercessor

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-27 (NLT) ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit helps believers in prayer, particularly in moments of weakness or uncertainty. The Spirit assists by interceding on behalf of believers when they struggle to articulate their prayers or comprehend God's will. The Spirit's assistance goes beyond words; it encompasses a deep, heartfelt connection with God that transcends human expression. The Holy Spirit steps in when believers feel inadequate or uncertain in their prayers, interceding on their behalf with groanings that surpass verbal communication. The Spirit's intercession aligns with God's will, ensuring that even when believers are unsure, their prayers are in harmony with what God desires for them. The Father understands the Spirit's intercession and comprehends the Spirit's plea on behalf of believers, acknowledging their hearts' true intentions.

My Response: Reflect on instances where you have felt unable to express your prayers adequately. How might the Holy Spirit's intercession, as described in Romans 8:26-27, bring comfort and assurance in such moments?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 13

Holy Spirit Discerns the Truth

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:26-27 (NLT) ²⁶ I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. ²⁷ But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit is presented as the *ultimate guide* for believers in discerning truth and avoiding deception. The Holy Spirit resides within believers, providing them with an internal compass for discerning truth. This guidance is not reliant solely on external sources but is rooted in the Spirit's indwelling presence. The Spirit enlightens believers, imparting true understanding and wisdom. Through this internal teaching, the Spirit enables believers to discern truth from falsehood, ensuring they remain grounded in authentic, God-given knowledge. John urges believers to remain in fellowship with Christ, indicating that the Holy Spirit's guidance is not just for knowledge but for cultivating an ongoing, intimate relationship with Jesus.

My Response: Reflect on moments when you have felt guided by the Holy Spirit's discernment in recognizing truth or deception. How did this impact your decisions or beliefs? Consider instances where you have encountered conflicting messages or beliefs. How might deepening your connection with the Holy Spirit aid in discerning and adhering to truth?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 14
The Holy Spirit Helps Us Understand the Word

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:45 (NKJV) 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit assists believers in understanding the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit opens the minds of believers, granting them insight and comprehension into the Scriptures. This divine illumination goes beyond mere intellectual understanding, allowing for spiritual discernment and application of biblical truths. The Spirit reveals the deeper meanings and significance of the Scriptures, unveiling spiritual truths that might otherwise remain veiled or misunderstood. The Spirit's work is not confined to comprehension alone but extends to the application of Scripture in believers' lives, guiding them in how to live out the truths revealed in the Word.

My Response: How intentional are you in seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and illumination when reading or studying the scriptures? Are there specific practices or habits you can adopt to enhance this aspect of your spiritual life? Consider a passage of Scripture that has been challenging to grasp or apply in your life. How might inviting the Holy Spirit's help and guidance aid in understanding and living out the truths found in that passage?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 15

Peace through the Holy Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: John 14:27 (KJV) ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit is a source of peace. Jesus promises believers a *unique peace*, distinct from the world's offerings. This peace and deliverance from fear are facilitated by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comforts and brings a profound peace that transcends worldly understanding, calming troubled hearts and minds. Through the Spirit's presence, believers find deliverance from fear, enabling them to face uncertainties with courage and trust in God's sovereignty. The Spirit's indwelling assures believers of God's nearness, fostering a sense of security and peace during life's challenges.

My Response: Reflect on moments when you have experienced the Holy Spirit's peace amidst challenging circumstances. How did this peace have an impact you? How intentional are you in seeking the Holy Spirit's comfort and peace when troubled or fearful? What practices or habits could help you cultivate a deeper connection with the Spirit in these moments? Consider areas in your life where fear or anxiety prevails. How might relying on the Holy Spirit's presence and promises, as expressed in John 14:27, bring about a transformation in your approach to these areas?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 16

Spiritual Insight

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 (NLT) ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. ¹⁶ For, “Who can know the LORD’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

Reflection: Spiritual discernment and understanding of God's thoughts come from having the mind of Christ and is made possible by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit grants believers the ability to evaluate and discern spiritual matters, enabling them to comprehend truths that transcend human wisdom or reasoning. Through the Spirit, believers gain insight into the mind of God, understanding His thoughts and purposes in ways that go beyond human comprehension. Believers, having received the Holy Spirit, possess the mind of Christ, which enables them to perceive and align with God's perspectives and values.

My Response: Reflect on instances where you have sensed the Holy Spirit's guidance or understanding in spiritual matters. How did this influence your perception of God's thoughts or intentions? Are there areas where you could rely more on the Spirit's guidance? Consider moments when you have struggled to understand God's ways or thoughts. How might inviting the Holy Spirit to grant you insight and wisdom help in these situations?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 17

Unity through the Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:3 (NLT) ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Reflection: The call to maintain unity through the Spirit underscores the Holy Spirit's role in fostering harmony among believers. The Holy Spirit unites believers spiritually, creating a shared bond through their common faith and relationship with God. The Spirit works to cultivate peace among believers, encouraging reconciliation, understanding, and harmony within the community of faith. Through the Spirit's guidance, believers are directed towards a unified purpose—serving God and fulfilling His mission, which binds them together in shared goals and values.

My Response: Reflect on a time when you experienced a sense of unity and peace within a community of believers. How did the Holy Spirit contribute to this atmosphere? In what ways do you actively contribute to maintaining unity among believers in your community or church? Are there conflicts or divisions within your circles that need reconciliation or unity? How might relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance aid in fostering peace and understanding in these situations?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 18

The Spirit Battles for You

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 59:19 (KJV) 19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Reflection: The Holy Spirit is the defender and protector of believers in their spiritual battles. The Spirit acts as a defense against the assaults of the enemy. When faced with overwhelming challenges or attacks, the Spirit raises a standard, offering protection and refuge. The Spirit engages in spiritual battles on behalf of believers, intervening against the onslaughts of the adversary, providing strength and assistance in times of need. When the enemy comes like a flood—swift and overwhelming—the Spirit raises a standard, confronting and overcoming the adversary's tactics and schemes.

My Response: Reflect on a time when you felt the Holy Spirit's intervention or defense during a spiritual battle or challenging situation. How did this experience impact your faith? In what ways do you rely on the Holy Spirit's strength and protection in times of spiritual warfare or adversity? Are there areas in which you could seek the Spirit's guidance more intentionally? Consider moments when you have felt overwhelmed by spiritual attacks or difficulties. How might inviting the Holy Spirit to lift a standard against these challenges strengthen your resolve and faith?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 19

Watching Your Words

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: James 3:7-12 (NLT) 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! 11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

Reflection: We can tame *all types* of animals, but *no man* can tame the tongue. The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in helping believers control their tongue and use their speech in line with God's will. The Holy Spirit convicts and guides believers, helping them become more aware of the impact and power of their words. The Spirit works within believers to transform their hearts, aligning their speech with love, grace, and truth, rather than cursing or bitterness. As believers grow in their relationship with the Holy Spirit, they develop the fruits of the Spirit, such as self-control and gentleness, which directly influence their speech patterns.

My Response: Reflect on situations where your words might have caused harm or disharmony. How might seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance impact the way you use your words in similar situations in the future? Consider the consistency of your words with your beliefs and values. How might the Holy Spirit's work in transforming your heart and character positively affect the words you speak?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 20

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: John 4:23-24 (NLT) ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Reflection: Jesus emphasizes the essence of true worship being in spirit and truth, reflecting a deep, authentic connection with God. Worship in Spirit involves a genuine, heartfelt connection with God, transcending mere external rituals or forms. Worship in Spirit engages the innermost being, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead, inspire, and guide the worshipper’s heart. Worship in Truth aligns with the reality of who God is and His revealed truths. It involves sincerity, honesty, and a genuine pursuit of God’s character and will, rooted in His Word.

My Response: In what ways does your worship reflect a deep, heartfelt connection with God? How might you invite the Holy Spirit to play a more prominent role in your worship experiences? Consider the truth aspect of worship. How aligned is your worship with the truths revealed in Scripture? How can you cultivate a more authentic and Spirit-led worship experience in your personal devotional time or in church worship settings?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

Day 21

Outpouring of the Spirit

Daily Prayer: Thank you God for clarity, revelation and understanding of your Word I will receive today.

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:28 (KJV) 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Reflection: The promise of God pouring out His Spirit signifies a widespread and abundant gift of His divine presence. God's Spirit is not limited to a select few but is made available to all people, transcending age, gender, or social status. This pouring out reflects inclusivity and accessibility to God's presence for everyone. The pouring out of the Spirit results in the manifestation of spiritual gifts and abilities—prophecy, dreams, visions—empowering believers to serve God and others in various capacities. God's pouring out of His Spirit signifies a season of spiritual renewal, revelation, and divine communication, where individuals receive insight, guidance, and inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

My Response: In what ways do you actively seek the manifestation of spiritual gifts or divine communication in your walk with God? How might a deeper awareness of God's promise to pour out His Spirit influence your openness to these experiences?

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Closing Prayer: Thank you God for the wisdom I received from studying your Word today. I commit to apply your Word to my life, starting right now! Amen.

How You Can Receive Jesus Christ As Your Savior And Lord

If you would like to welcome Jesus Christ into your life, you can do so at anytime, anywhere. Consider these important facts:

God loves you and seeks a personal relationship with you!

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

The problem is: Everyone has been born into this world spiritually dead because of sin.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Jesus will forgive us of all sin, assuring us of eternity in Heaven!

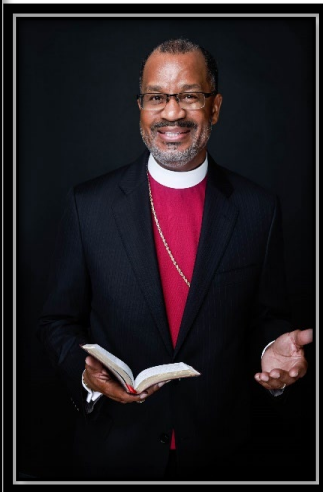
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

To receive Jesus, pray in this manner:

Lord Jesus, I'm a sinner. Please come into my life and forgive me of all sin. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Now, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and guide me from this day forward. Thank You, Lord, for loving me!

Amen.

Walking In The Spirit Daily Devotional will bless and encourage you to grow in your walk with the Lord. Read each day's entry closely listening as God speaks to you through the text. Thoughtfully consider the questions posed after each lesson and prayerfully answer them. The powerful daily entries will encourage you and strengthen you. Soon you will be Walking In The Spirit!



Bishop Kevin K. Dickerson



Bishop Kevin K. Dickerson is senior pastor and founder of the Dayspring Family Church located at 618 N. Belt Line Road in Irving, Texas. The ministry was founded in 1994 designed to cross denominational, racial, and ethnic barriers; dedicated to directing families to Jesus Christ and teaching them how to be equipped and available for service in the work of the Lord.

Bishop Dickerson serves on various boards within the metroplex and coordinates annual men conferences held here in the Irving Community. The men who have attended the conferences over the past many years experienced life-changing moments where they were inspired and empowered to conquer all that God has in store for them. Bishop is also active in the community. He serves as a board member of CLASS (Cultivating Leaders Achieving Scholastic Success), this organization provides leadership training and college scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Bishop also serves on the Citizens Review Team for Dallas County Child Protective Services.

Bishop Dickerson earned his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, from Chicago State University. In furthering his education, he attended the Calvary Cathedral Bible School, and the John Maxwell Leadership Training Institute, and also attends the Joint College of African American Bishops annually. He earned his Master's Degree in Biblical Studies and his Doctor of Ministry at Vision International University. Bishop also earned his Master of Divinity Degree at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. On April 12, 2008, Pastor Dickerson was consecrated as Bishop of the Vision Fellowship of Churches. The Vision Fellowship of Churches exists to provide leadership, guidance, and encouragement to pastors, their spouses, and the churches they pastor.

Bishop Dickerson walks under a strong apostolic mantle as he fervently pursues the will of God. The girth of his ministry encircles: worship, directing the people into the presence of the Lord, kingdom order and mentoring other Pastors in building spiritual and financially strong churches to accomplish their God given vision. He preaches a message that is relevant and applicable to everyday problems with biblical resolutions.

Bishop Dickerson is married to Pastor Sonjia Dickerson; an anointed woman of God who actively works beside him in leading Dayspring Family Church. God has blessed their marriage with three beautiful children, Kevin Keith Dickerson II who is married to Dr. Chante Dickerson, Cherese Dickerson Carter who is married to Pastor Rodney Carter Jr., and Faith Elizabeth Dickerson. God has also blessed them to become proud grandparents to three precious grandsons, Rodney L. Carter III, Kevin K. Dickerson III, Kendrix Kingston Dickerson and to a precious granddaughter, Charis Yvette Carter. Please feel free to visit www.dayspringfamilychurch.org for more information or for ministry engagement information.