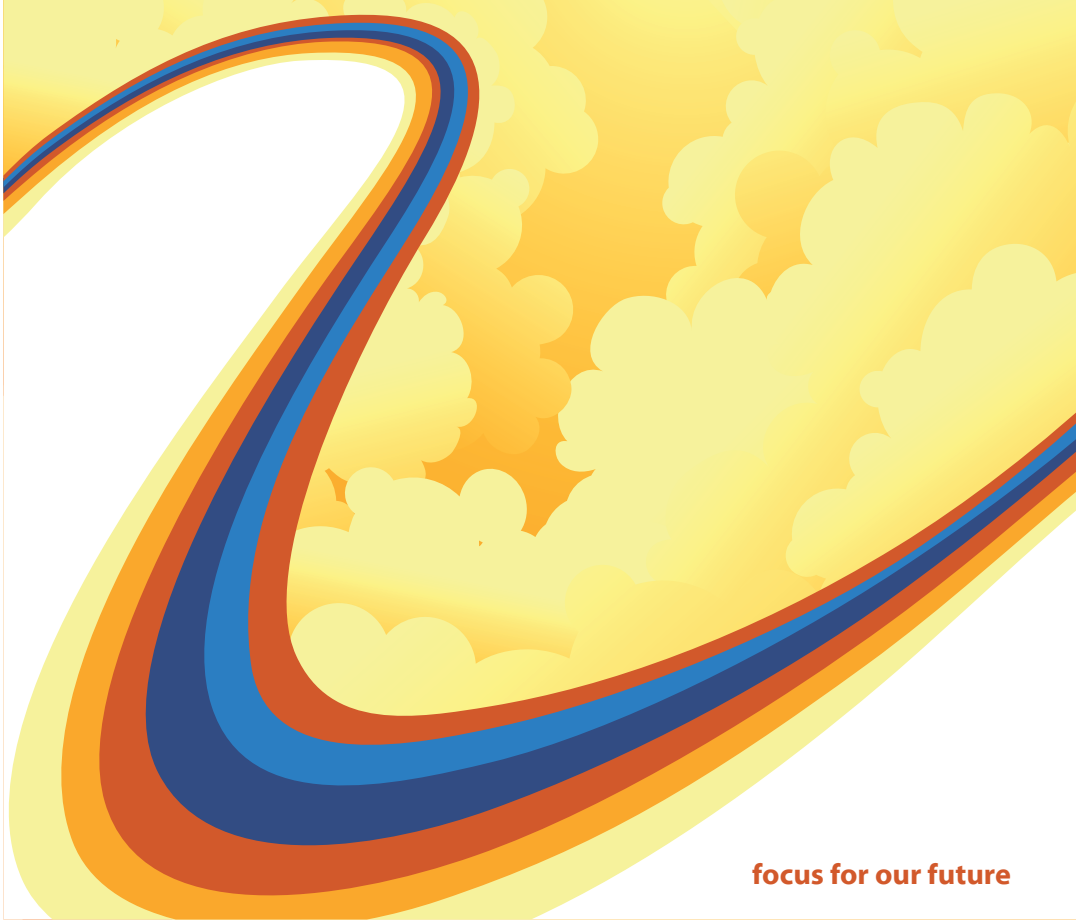


**fast**

**forward**

**2010**



**focus for our future**

## **Fast Forward 2010.**

Welcome to Fast Forward 2010.

As a community of God's people we are committed to pursuing Him. We desire to live our lives following His directions and His vision for us, both corporately and personally.

The 21 days of fasting and prayer during February is a great opportunity to seek God and to focus your attention on being directed and empowered by God as you move into the new year.

This is a time to be intentional in bringing your plans and desires before God, to identify those areas where you will be believing God and trusting in Him for change, progress and abundance.

This is a journey we go on together as a company of friends. We are able to bring encouragement, faith and inspiration to each other as we pursue those dreams that God has put in our hearts.

The 'Fast Forward' journal has been prepared to help you as you spend time with God in prayer. Expect God to speak to you as you read the Scriptures and spend time with Him. Write down the thoughts that you have and be prepared to have encounters with God that will be life transforming and life giving.

For many people, fasting isn't fun. Be encouraged!! The results and outcomes of fasting make it worthwhile. (If you are new to fasting, please make sure you pick up the information booklet we have available.)

Enter into this time with joy and anticipation, knowing that as we seek after God with all of our hearts, He will hear us and answer us.

## Day 1

## Journal Page

### *Psalm 63 (NASB)*

- 1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;  
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,  
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*
- 2 Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.*
- 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips will praise You.*
- 4 So I will bless You as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands in Your name.*
- 5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,  
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.*
- 6 When I remember You on my bed,  
I meditate on You in the night watches,*
- 7 For You have been my help,  
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.*

As we begin this time of prayer and fasting, we need to declare our love for God and that our heart's desire is for Him. As we do this and praise Him, we position ourselves to come into His presence and to receive from Him.

Take time to bless God through your praises.

*Psalm 145:1-12 (NASB)*

- 1 I will extol You, my God, O King,  
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.*
- 2 Every day I will bless You,  
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.*
- 3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised,  
And His greatness is unsearchable.*
- 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
And shall declare Your mighty acts.*
- 5 On the glorious splendour of Your majesty  
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.*
- 6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,  
And I will tell of Your greatness.*
- 7 They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant  
goodness  
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.*
- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful;  
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.*
- 9 The LORD is good to all,  
And His mercies are over all His works.*
- 10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,  
And Your godly ones shall bless You.*
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom  
And talk of Your power;*
- 12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts  
And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.*

This Psalm of David has a number of “I will” statements. These statements all involve choices- choices to praise God, to tell of His greatness, to meditate on His works.

Consider your choices in these areas and whether there is a need for change. The choices we make naturally flow from our first choice to desire Him and His presence.

### Day 3

### Journal Page

*Psalm 145:12-21 (NASB)*

- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And Your dominion endures throughout all  
generations*
- 14 The LORD sustains all who fall  
And raises up all who are bowed down.*
- 15 The eyes of all look to You,  
And You give them their food in due time.*
- 16 You open Your hand  
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.*
- 17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways  
And kind in all His deeds.*
- 18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him in truth.*
- 19 He will fulfil the desire of those who fear Him;  
He will also hear their cry and will save them.*
- 20 The LORD keeps all who love Him,  
But all the wicked He will destroy.*
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and  
ever.*

This great Psalm of David continues on to declare the goodness and lovingkindness of God.

The most important thing you have is your knowledge of God and His character, who He has been for you in the past and is for you now.

God is near to all who call upon Him and He will fulfil the desire of those who fear Him. The character of God is such that He wants to hear and answer your prayers.

What are the desires of your heart that you will bring to God in prayer?

## Day 4

## Journal Page

*Psalm 23 - Psalm of David (The Message)*

*1-3 GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.*

*You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.*

*True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.*

*4 Even when the way goes through*

*Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid*

*when you walk at my side.*

*Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.*

*5 You serve me a six-course dinner*

*right in front of my enemies.*

*You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.*

*6 Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.*

*I'm back home in the house of GOD  
for the rest of my life.*

The reality that God is our shepherd is a comfort in difficult and challenging times. David recognises that God will lead him even through 'Death Valley' and that enemies of his life do exist. Don't imagine God as a shepherd in the English countryside- all greenery and rolling hills.

A shepherd in Israel had to protect the flock against wild animals, find places of food for the sheep in arid areas, and lead the sheep to safety. In times of hardship, God leads, comforts, nourishes and protects. His beauty and love, (goodness and mercy) are with us each and every day.

## Day 5

## Journal Page

*Psalm 77:10-14 (NKJV)*

*10 But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."*

*11 I will remember the works of the LORD;  
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.*

*12 I will also meditate on all Your work,  
And talk of Your deeds.*

*13 Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary;  
Who is so great a God as our God?*

*14 You are the God who does wonders;  
You have declared Your strength among the peoples.*

*Colossians 1:13-15 (NKJV)*

*13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

Our memory is a very powerful part of how we think. We can easily forget or dismiss those things we should remember, yet often recall or bring to mind past experiences that we should put aside.

Today take time to remember and focus on the wonder of your salvation. Remember the work of Jesus on the Cross and what it means for your life and for the lives of those around you.

## Day 6

*Psalm 78:2-7 (NIV)*

*2 I will open my mouth in parables,*

*I will utter hidden things, things from of old-*

*3 what we have heard and known,*

*what our fathers have told us.*

*4 We will not hide them from their children;*

*we will tell the next generation*

*the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,*

*his power, and the wonders he has done.*

*5 He decreed statutes for Jacob*

*and established the law in Israel,*

*which he commanded our forefathers*

*to teach their children,*

*6 so the next generation would know them,*

*even the children yet to be born,*

*and they in turn would tell their children.*

*7 Then they would put their trust in God*

*and would not forget his deeds*

*but would keep his commands.*

In days past, great accounts of events were passed down from generation to generation. Time pressures and our current lifestyles mean we often miss the opportunity to tell of the wonderful things that God has done in our lives.

Take time to testify of God's goodness and the stories of how he has changed your life. Tell your stories to friends and family. If you have children, tell them your God stories and set up a heritage for them to draw from in the future.

Reflect on who God is calling us to be and the attitudes He asks us to value and hold. Are there areas you need to pray into, to ask God's help to be 'transformed'?

## Journal Page

## Day 7

## Journal Page

*Mark 8:13-21*

*13 Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.*

*14 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. 15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 They began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.*

*17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?"*

*18 "HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? And do you not remember, 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve."*

*20 "When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven."*

*21 And He was saying to them, "(Do you not yet understand?)"*

The disciples had witnessed the supernatural provision of bread for the multitudes on two occasions, yet here they were concerned because they did not have enough bread with them. They needed to remember these experiences of provision and the knowledge that came to them from it.

Jesus wants us to build our faith on the knowledge, experiences and revelation that we have and to take these with us into our future.

## Day 8

*Romans 4:18-21 (The Message)*

*18-21 Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"*

*19-25 Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously sceptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said.*

Abraham dared to trust God. Expressing faith is an act of courage. It will meet obstacles in our thought life, our attitudes, and places in our inner world that have anxiety and uncertainty. Yet, when we step into God's world, on the basis of His word, everything changes.

Write down two aspects of your life where you will dare to 'plunge into the promise' and trust God in 2010.

## Journal Page

## Day 9

## Journal Page

*Mark 10:23-27 (Message)*

*23-25 Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who 'have it all' to enter God's kingdom?" The disciples couldn't believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: "You can't imagine how difficult. I'd say it's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for the rich to get into God's kingdom."*

*26 That set the disciples back on their heels. "Then who has any chance at all?" they asked.*

*27 Jesus was blunt: "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you let God do it."*

To live a life of faith we need to know how to let God do things for us. Often, when we are growing up, we create apparent certainty and safety in our world by being in control. That is, we try to manage life by trying to pull it off ourselves.

Do you recognise any areas that you are holding on to but where you need to let God in?

Do you have any attitudes or behaviours of control that need to be challenged and changed?

## Day 10

## Journal Page

*Hebrews 11:6-10 (The Message)*

*5-6 By an act of faith, Enoch skipped death completely. "They looked all over and couldn't find him because God had taken him." We know on the basis of reliable testimony that before he was taken "he pleased God." It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.*

*7 By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told. The result? His family was saved. His act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world. As a result, Noah became intimate with God.*

*8-10 By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.*

The heart knowledge that God cares for us changes everything. For the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, this knowledge was at the core of all their service for God. We can be lacking in this knowledge and need to encounter God to receive an upgrade.

Do you know how to position yourself in worship, prayer, the Word and fellowship to meet with God?

If not, who can you ask or what can you do to help you learn? What actions will you take to enable this to happen?

## Day 11

## Journal Page

*James 1:2-8 (The Message)*

*2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.*

*5-8 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.*

Who you are under pressure is who you really are. When life's pressures "squeeze" you, what comes out reveals your real attitudes, beliefs and thought life. The Bible says that it is what comes out of our hearts that defiles us. The Lord's desire is to set us free from our sinful ways and for us to grow in the ways of the Spirit.

Think about how you respond under pressure. What areas are there that you believe God would want to help you with in 2010?

## Day 12

*James 2:14-18 (The Message)*

*14-17 Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?*

*18 I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department." Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.*

The followers of Jesus who are used by Him to change lives have found the balance between hard work and trusting God. We serve God and others with our gifts and with what we do. This is in response to our love for God and our faith in Him. As we love Him, trust Him and believe Him our actions will be ones that reflect His will and His ways.

What gifts and abilities do you have that you can use to put your faith into action?

## Journal Page

## Day 13

*Ephesians 2:7-10 (The Message)*

*7-10 Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.*

Salvation comes to us through God's grace. He has given us favour and a gift that we could never earn or deserve. He wants us to continue to walk in His favour.

Another meaning of the word 'grace' is 'the empowering presence of God'. God has made each one of us with unique abilities and gifts. God has also prepared work for us to do. His grace, or His empowering presence, is available as we step out in faith to do the things He has put before us.

## Journal Page

## Day 14

## Journal Page

*Ephesians 4:4-13 (The Message)*

*4-6 You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.*

*7-13 But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,*

*He climbed the high mountain,  
He captured the enemy and seized the booty,  
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.*

*Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.*

We are all unique. God has given individual gifts to each one of us yet we are called to use these gifts for each other. We are dependent on each one of us fulfilling our part and using our gifts so that we will be fully alive and mature in Christ.

What gifts could you bring to enrich our church community? What steps could you take to ensure you are using your gifts fully and fulfilling God's purposes for your life?

## Day 15

*1 Peter 4:8-11 (NIV)*

*8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

*10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

*12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

To live and to work together in the way that God has planned requires love, grace and forgiveness. One of the obstacles that we will all face at some time, is the temptation to take offence. If we hold on to an offence, it becomes like a prison for us. Offence puts up barriers between us and others and will eventually put up barriers between us and God.

Are there any areas of offence that you need to let go of? Is there anyone that you need to forgive? Pray and ask for God's grace to help you let go of any offence, bitterness or unforgiveness so that you not only release others, but you also release yourself.

In the Old Testament we read how the Israelites were fed manna from heaven daily. They could not keep the manna from one day to the next, but they needed to take the revelation of God as Jehovah Jireh, God their provider into their future.

What building blocks of encounters, experiences, knowledge, or revelation of God can you take into the future?

## Journal Page

## Day 16

## Journal Page

*Matthew 5:1-10*

*The Beatitudes*

*1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them saying:*

*3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

*5 Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.*

*6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

*7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.*

*8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.*

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.*

*10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. In Romans 12:2 we are instructed to 'be transformed by the renewing of our mind' so that our thoughts and ways come into alignment with God's will.

The Beatitudes describe attitudes and characteristics that are not necessarily valued in our world. For example, to be 'poor in spirit' is to hold an attitude of dependency on God, acknowledging that we have nothing in and of ourselves. However, in our culture independence is often portrayed as a strength. Similarly, the Beatitudes lift up meekness whereas our society promotes demanding attitudes based on pursuing our 'rights'.

## Day 17

## Journal Page

*Ephesians 1:15-23 (The Message)*

*15-19 That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!*

*20-23 All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the centre of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.*

Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church is one that we all need to pray. Paul's heart cry was that the church would have the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Jesus fully and that they would see clearly the amazing, supernatural life that Jesus has for His followers.

Today take time to pray through this prayer for our church community and for yourself. Pray that we would all know Jesus intimately. Think of how it would change your life if you were to fully grasp "the immensity of this glorious way of life" Jesus is calling us to and the "utter extravagance of His work in us who trust Him".

## Day 18

*Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV) - A Prayer for the Ephesians*

*14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

The book of Ephesians contains another great and powerful prayer of Paul for the church. Every part of this prayer is significant, but today turn your focus to Paul's petition that the church would know the immensity of the love of Christ.

This knowledge goes beyond mere head knowledge, but is based in revelation and experience of this love.

If you are not convinced in your heart of God's unconditional love for you, ask Him for revelation and an encounter or experience so that you would know it with absolute assurance and conviction. Who does God say you are? What does His word declare about His love for you? Write these things down and make these a regular part of your self talk and confession.

How has God helped you in difficult circumstances? What aspects of His character did He reveal to you at these times?

Could you declare along with David, "God my Shepherd! I don't need a thing."

### Journal Page

## Day 19

*2 Corinthians 5:12-21 (NIV)*

*14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

*16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

Our knowledge and experience of the love of God bring a commission from Jesus himself to share that love. We are to BE His love to friends, family and the world around us.

It is the power of His love that compels us. As we have freely received of His love, we are called to freely give it. We are to put aside our own agendas so that we can take on His agenda. His plan is that we would be His body on this earth, representing Him and reconciling people to Him.

Think of the people around you that you are able to be the love of God to. Pray and ask God who He would want you to commit to pray for so that they would be reconciled to Him.

## Journal Page

## Day 20

*John 14:15-18*

*15-17" If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!*

*18 "I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back.*

*John 16:12-15 (Message)*

*12-15 "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honour me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, 'He takes from me and delivers to you.'*

As we step into our future it is a great assurance that we have been given that we are never alone. Not only is the Holy Spirit with us, but He is in us. He reveals all truth to us, leads us, guides us, comforts us and is our friend.

Do you make room for the Holy Spirit in your life? Do you recognise His voice? If you feel challenged in your relationship with Him, pray and ask for God's help. Think of someone you could speak to and learn from in this area.

## Journal Page

*John 17:20-26 - Jesus Prays for All Believers*

*20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

Jesus prayed for those who would believe in Him and give their lives to Him. Jesus' prayer indicates the importance of unity amongst His followers. The unity Jesus describes and prays for is not superficial but is the level of unity that is seen in the relationship between the Father and Jesus. This unity is such a witness to the love and life of Christ that it will cause people to believe in Jesus.

Jesus also prayed that the love with which the Father loved Him, would also be in us, His people. As we move forward to pursue the dreams and the visions that Jesus has given us both individually and corporately, let's make a commitment to do everything to preserve and build unity. Let's commit ourselves to living out of the love of God that He has poured into our lives.