

CONSECRATION CONSECRATION CONSECRATION
14
DAYS
OF CONFERENCE
PRAYER & FASTING
CONSECRATION CONSECRATION CONSECRATION



DEVOTIONALS

JOSHUA TOLD THE PEOPLE,
“CONSECRATE YOURSELVES,
FOR TOMORROW THE LORD WILL DO
AMAZING THINGS AMONG YOU.”

JOSHUA 3:5

Biblical fasting is an intentional decision to be generous with our personal time prayerfully seeking the Lord. It helps us hit the reset button of our soul and refocus our attention amidst the busyness of life. In Scripture, we see that fasting was a common spiritual practice and while the reason for fasting varied, the focus was clearly on the heart of the person(s) fasting. *The primary goal was always to draw nearer to God.*

In August 2024, we are entering a season of consecration as a church family, as we prepare for Horizon Conference. We invite you to consider being part of the journey. There are many ways you can participate.

The most common type of 'fast' is reducing your food intake. Sometimes the word "fast" is also used to describe abstaining from pleasures besides food, like TV, internet or other things. You might know people who have gone on a "social media fast" or a "screen fast" for spiritual reasons. It is a way of eliminating for a time things that can compete your relationship with God. Whatever you choose to fast, the idea is you redirect that time and energy towards prayer.

Fasting doesn't make your prayers more powerful or force God's attention to your prayers. Rather fasting does something in us that changes how we approach God in prayer. We are reminded of our total need of God beyond anything else, our focus shifts, our attitudes and priorities are challenged and our lives are realigned with HIS purpose and priorities. Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened.

To help you prepare for this season of prayer and fasting, we have provided some helpful resources on selecting and planning your fast as well as a full devotional and resources about fasting. In addition, please feel free to reach out to our Horizon Team for further information.

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TYPES OF FAST

There are a number of types of 'fasts' that you could consider:

COMPLETE FAST

In this type of fast, you drink only liquids, typically water and light juices or soups. Most healthy adults can engage in a complete food fast for 3 days with relative ease.

However, any complete fast for more than 3 days should be preceded by a consultation with your doctor to ensure it is safe to commence. Please note that complete fasting is NOT recommended for children under the age of 18, or for people who are pregnant, elderly or have any underlying medical or psychological condition.



SELECTIVE FAST

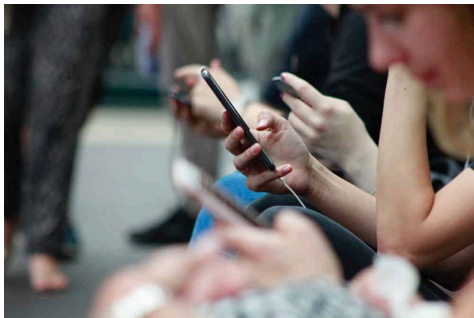
This type of fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example is the Daniel Fast, during which you consume water and juice, plus fruits and vegetables for food. You fast from all other foods including meat, sweets, bread and cereals.





PARTIAL FAST

This fast involves abstaining from eating any type of food for a portion of the day. This can either correlate to specific times of the day, (eg. 6:00 am to 3:00 pm or from sun-up to sundown) or perhaps forgoing a specific meal each day.



SOUL FAST

This fast is a great option if you are new to fasting food, have health issues that prevent you from fasting food, or if you wish to refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance. For example, you might choose to stop using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast and then carefully bring that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast.

HOW TO PLAN FOR YOUR FAST

HEALTH CHECK

If you intend to engage in a full food fast of more than 3 days or have any underlying medical condition please consult with your doctor BEFORE commencing.

RECORD YOUR PLAN

What type of fast will you engage in? How long will you fast for? Your personal fast should present a level of challenge, but it is very important to know your body, your options, and most importantly make wise decisions regarding your level of participation. If you have never fasted from food before then start with an achievable goal for you. It is best to write out a brief plan that covers the areas below;

TYPE AND DURATION OF FAST

Record your chosen type of fast and the length of the fast.

MANAGE YOUR ROUTINE

Include in your plan how you intend to manage key times in your daily routine that could be challenging (eg. meal times, work commitments or social events).

PREPARE FOR EXTENDED 'GOD TIME'

Plan how will you reinvest your time in prayer and God's Word. How will this fit in your day? How can you prepare? Worship music, a good journal and planning a private space or daily prayer walk are great options.

REDUCE TEMPTATION

Consider how you might reduce temptation to break your fast. Eg. Food fast – packing away certain grocery supplies that won't be needed; Fasting TV or social media – switch these facilities off for the duration.

ORGANIZE SUPPLIES

What supplies might you need to prepare in preparation for your fast? Plenty of water is a must. Do you need to stock up on juices or soups?

ACCOUNTABILITY & SUPPORT

Consider who you might share your plan to fast with. Chat with someone who has completed a fast before to know what challenges you may encounter along the way and how to plan for them. Similarly, it is great to have someone to 'check-in' with as you fast to encourage you. While fasting can be a very private matter, it is also a great help to fast along with other members of your Life group so you can be a support to each other and share testimonies of how your extended times with God are going.



DURING YOUR FAST

GRADUAL START & GRADUAL FINISH

If fasting food, plan to gradually reduce your food intake as you begin and then gradually increase it again as you conclude. Be aware that a return to solid foods needs to be done slowly. Cravings and short-lived headaches can be common in the beginning especially for those reducing caffeine intake.

HYDRATE

Keeping well hydrated is essential throughout a food fast. Prepare by reducing your intake of caffeinated drinks and increasing your water intake.

KEEP GOD THE FOCUS

Make your fast more about spending extra time with God in Prayer and reading the Bible, rather than about forgoing food or other activity. If you struggle or break your fast prematurely, don't beat yourself up. Refocus and restart as long as it is medically safe for you to do so.

RECORD YOUR JOURNEY

Keep a journal handy to record your insights and experiences of God during your Fast. There may be highs and lows, track the journey and encourage yourself to persevere. Share your testimony of what God did in you after the fast has concluded.

APPLY WISDOM

If you become unwell during the fast or experience symptoms of medical concern, please pause your fast and seek professional medical guidance before continuing.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Your Personal Guide to Prayer and Fasting by Dr Bill Bright

<https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/guide>

7 Basic Steps to effective Fasting and Prayer by Dr Bill Bright

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/7-steps-to-fasting.html>

PREPARING FOR THE FAST

1ST – 4TH AUGUST

DAY ONE

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 4:1-11, Isaiah 58:6-7 + Joel 2:12-13

WHAT IS FASTING?

by Ps Tim Biassetto

Fasting is a powerful Christian discipline in which a person abstains from some, or all, food for a period of time while intentionally making space to hunger and thirst after God in prayer and contemplation.

Spiritual disciplines are not the end in and of themselves, they are a means to an end. The end is increased intimacy and communion with God.

Spiritual disciplines help us create the spaces in which His presence brings about transformation in our lives.

Fasting is powerful because it creates a heightened state of awareness to God's presence in our daily life. It also helps you realise that you are not at the mercy of your natural urges, but you have the capacity for self-control.

During a time of fasting, we become acutely aware of our physical body's wants and desires. Fasting is a conscious decision to deny our flesh and instead choose to focus on our spiritual hunger. We turn to prayer rather than open the fridge, we remind ourselves of His presence rather than distract ourselves with a meal. Each hunger pain is a reminder and an opportunity to turn again to Jesus and receive from Him.

Fasting is not a hunger strike in which we make demands of God, or a form of penance for our sins, or a means to gain favour in His eyes. It is an opportunity to humble ourselves, prioritise His presence and consciously walk in step with the Spirit each day.

Jesus is our example in all things, He exhibits what perfect human unity and communion with God looks like. In Matthew 4, prior to Jesus' test from the enemy, we see the Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness. The Spirit knew Jesus needed to be spiritually sharp, strong and sure of who He was in God if He was to pass the test which man has failed since Adam. By the time the devil comes

to tempt Jesus 40 days later, Jesus was ready. While He may have been physically hungry, He was spiritually sharp, strong and sure of His identity in God. He walks perfectly in the will of God and the enemy fails to subjugate Him.

Fasting, when partnered with prayer and contemplation, will sharpen and strengthen you spiritually. It will prepare you for what is to come and it will bring you closer to the one who loves you and desires to walk intimately with you in your life.

There are a few ways you can approach fasting and there are many fasts referred to in the Bible that can be used as guides. While a fast is generally abstaining from food, a fast can extend to other areas of your life such as social media, TV, etc.

Our team have put together some helpful information and guidance about fasting which you can find at hz.church/prayerandfasting

We strongly advise that you consult your doctor before embarking on a food fast, and seek medical advice if you have any concerns while fasting.

I'm excited to see all that God does in you and through you as you engage in this exciting time of prayer and fasting.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focussing your attention on Jesus and committing the next 14 days to Him.
- Ask God for direction and clarity in how you will participate.
- Seek His will and purpose for your fast.

DAY TWO

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 9:14-15, Ezra 8:21 + Acts 14:2-3

WHY DO WE FAST **by Ps Kon Tsardoulis**

This is perhaps one of the most important questions we need to ask ourselves before entering into a fast, in order that our motives are in alignment with the Word of God. In Acts 13:2, the early church leaders were in a time of worship towards God and were fasting. The Greek word for worship in this verse is the word '*leitourgounton*' which describes priestly service. For the believer, worship in this context refers to the priestly ministering they give to God, which is directly related to their true identity. As born again believers, we are a royal priesthood and as official priests to God, it is our profound privilege to offer up worship to the Lord with fasting. Fasting does not bring us any closer to God than what we already are, but it does help us focus on the closeness that is already ours by removing distractions that, at times, clutter our perspective and cloud our worship.

So why fast?

As priests of God if our motive is purely to worship Him, then our motives are pure and we use fasting as an opportunity to turn our attention and our affection towards the Lord. Let me encourage you to approach this season of prayer and fasting with no other motive other than to offer worship up to God. Keeping your focus fixed on Jesus will not only help you persevere when fasting becomes difficult, but will also keep you in perfect peace.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Bring your motives for fasting before God and align them with His heart and will.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of your life that you may need to deepen your surrender in over this fast.

DAY THREE

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 6:16-18, Isaiah 58:3-5 + Nehemiah 1:4

HOW DO WE FAST ***by Ps Deb Lenzo***

Fasting in Scripture is abstaining from food for a spiritual purpose. Whether you choose to fast food (or something else), the idea is you redirect that time and energy towards prayer. Fasting doesn't make your prayers more powerful or force God's attention to your prayers. Rather, fasting does something in us that changes how we approach God.

How do we fast? The Psalmist declares, "I humbled my soul with fasting" (Psalm 69:10). Humility is, in essence, a posture towards God that recognises our total need of Him beyond anything else. In Matt 6:16-17 we are reminded that it is more than an external behaviour. It is a willing submission of heart and mind that gives the Lord permission to speak into our lives. Hear the frustration in Isaiah 58 when God's people fasted but were really only interested in having their prayers answered, rather than pursuing God or reflecting His character. When our hearts are humble and responsive, fasting will shift our focus, and we permit our attitudes and priorities to be challenged. Our lives can be realigned with HIS purpose and priorities. Fasting is a tool that God can use to change us from the inside out if we keep Him the focus.

How do we fast? While you might have many concerns you want to bring to the Father, fasting is an act of personal love and devotion towards our Heavenly Dad, where we choose to surrender our agenda and engage with His.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Express to God your need for Him. Continue to pursue complete dependence on, and surrender to, His will.
- Confirm with God how it is that He would have you participate in this fast.

DAY FOUR

SCRIPTURES | JOSHUA 3:5

Scripture is God-breathed and true. When we memorise it, we carry the Word of God with us wherever we go. Over the course of this Bible study, we'll memorise Joshua 3:5. Save the image below so you can read these words throughout the day.

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

If you've never memorised Scripture before, it can be good to read it aloud several times, breaking it down into smaller chunks. Write it down and carry it with you, repeating it throughout the day. Visualise the words, attaching meaning to them. Incorporate the verse into your prayers, letting it resonate in your spirit. Over time, these words will become buried in your heart, guiding and reminding you of His truth in moments of need.

FAST BEGINS

5TH – 18TH AUGUST

**WHEN YOU SAID
SEEK MY FACE,
MY HEART SAID TO YOU,
YOUR FACE, LORD,
I WILL SEEK.”**

PSALM 27:8

DAY FIVE

SCRIPTURES | Psalm 51:10-12, Psalm 85:6 + 2 Chronicles 7:14

PERSONAL REVIVAL **by Ps Alex Peters**

Revival begins within each of us—a deep, personal awakening to God's presence and power. It is a time to rekindle our passion **for** Him, to repent of anything that hinders our relationship **with** Him, and to surrender fully **to** Him.

Over these 14 days, we are setting aside distractions and busyness, carving out moments of intimacy with God. Let us open our hearts to His conviction, His healing and His direction for our lives. May we echo the Psalmist's plea:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" Psalm 51:10.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, we find a powerful invitation from God, **"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face..."** Humbling ourselves before God means recognizing our dependence on Him and our need for His grace. It is an acknowledgment that we cannot navigate life on our own and that we need His guidance and strength. Prayer is our way of connecting with God, releasing to Him our heart's desires, and seeking His will over our own. When we seek His face, we prioritise His presence above all else, longing for a deeper relationship with Him.

As we individually experience revival, our gatherings become all the more powerful. Personal revival not only deepens our walk with God but also ignites a collective passion that permeates our church, our community, and beyond.

Revival starts with each one of us seeking and encountering Jesus personally. Set time aside this week, daily, to seek Him in a fresh way and to stir something deep inside of you for what He wants to do in your life, and your family's life, over conference.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of your heart that have become hardened, burdened or wounded, and allow His presence and His word to minister to you.
- Ask God what personal revival looks like for you and your loved ones.

DAY SIX

SCRIPTURES | Matthew 6:33, James 4:8 + Isaiah 43:18-19

CREATING SPACE FOR GOD TO MOVE **by Ps Aziza Green**

My husband, Mat and I were married at the tender age of 23. Both recent graduates, we came together with next to nothing; a nice set of linen, some fancy cutlery and around 10 boxes of old books. Our entertainment, naturally, involved a lot of reading—me: *Norton's Anthology of English Literature Vol 2* (getting my money's worth from that hefty English Lit 1001 collection), and Mat: Milton's *Paradise Lost* (not kidding, a little-known fact is that Mat wrote an honours thesis on the epic poem).

Life was simple, unencumbered and light.

Since then, our lives and our home have been filled to the brim with activity, small humans, responsibilities, all manner of objects and more love than we ever thought it possible to contain.

I know I'm not the only one navigating a life that is full—be it with work, family, social commitments, serving, kids, study, et cetera. We are all bursting at the seams, and for the most part it is glorious and fun and fulfilling. At times it can also be a stressful juggling act. We worry about the details, about our clashing schedules and competing deadlines, about provision and all the to-dos that never seem ta-done.

We may find ourselves yearning for more simplicity, more space, maybe just a little *hushhhh*.

When life is (delightfully, chaotically, terrifyingly) full it can be hard to know the order of things. Jesus provides clarity by teaching us, in no uncertain terms, what comes first.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus instructs, "seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." To seek first His kingdom is not only a practical imperative, but also an exercise in trust. God's promise to us is that if we value His reign and diligently pursue righteous (good,

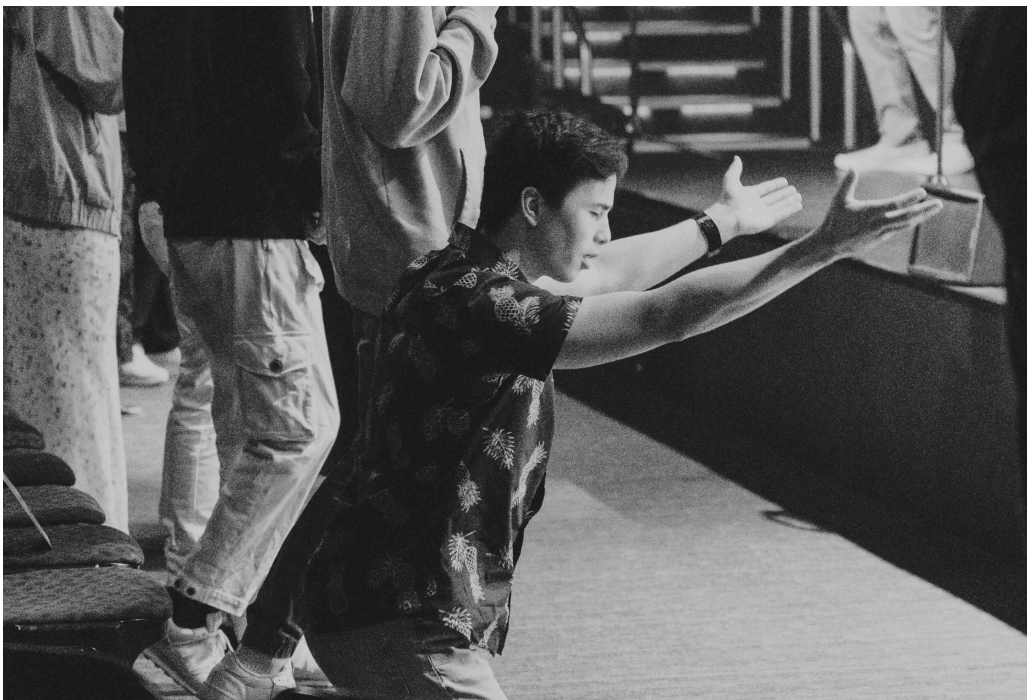
excellent, right) living, we can trust Him to satisfy our needs.

Do you trust that when you put aside time and space for God, when you prioritise His presence, Kingdom and agenda that you still have enough? In fact, that you will have more than enough!

In our frenetic days, in all the rushing to and fro, God invites us into His easy rhythm. Even when—perhaps especially when—life is at its busiest, seek God first and all the rest will fall in line.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Seek His kingdom and will for you and your loved ones.
- Bring your needs, concerns and requests to the Lord and allow His peace to minister to you as you trust Him to work on your behalf.



DAY SEVEN

SCRIPTURES | John 4:1-26, Hebrews 12:28-29 + Acts 1:8

DUNAMIS POWER **by Ps Keren Batson**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Acts 1:8

In the Greek, this power we will receive is called 'dunamis' – translated to mean 'dynamite' or 'dynamic'. Dunamis power intersects profoundly with the act of worship. Worship is not merely singing songs or attending church services; it's a lifestyle of honouring and glorifying God with our whole being. When we grasp the concept of dunamis power in the context of worship, we discover a deeper dimension of intimacy and transformation.

In worship, we encounter the presence of God, where His dunamis power is dynamically at work. It's a place where the supernatural intersects with the natural, where healing, restoration, and breakthroughs happen. As we lift our voices and hearts in adoration, we open ourselves to God's power to change us from the inside out. Worship becomes a conduit through which God's transformative power flows into our lives, renewing our spirits and aligning our hearts with His.

As we worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24), we become vessels through which God's dunamis power can flow into the world around us. Our worship extends beyond the church walls into our everyday lives, influencing how we treat others, how we respond to challenges and how we steward the gifts and talents God has entrusted to us. Through worship, God equips and empowers us to be His ambassadors, carrying His love and power wherever we go.

This conference, may our hearts be steadfast in worship, drawing near to God and allowing His dunamis power to manifest His glory in and through us. Let us worship Him in awe and wonder, knowing that He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be dependent on His dunamis power daily.
- Ask God how you should pray for our worship team, those serving both on and off platform, as they prepare for conference.

DAY EIGHT

SCRIPTURES | Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ephesians 3:14-21 + Mark 11:23

WHAT AM I EXPECTING FROM CONFERENCE?

by Ps Tony & Ps Michelle Peak

Sometimes we can look at our situations and they may seem impossible. Maybe you have invested time and energy but it seems like nothing is happening. Maybe you're feeling dry spiritually and you don't know what to do. God is the God of the breakthrough! He can take what looks like dry, scattered bones, bring them together and turn them into a mighty army, carrying the breath of His spirit, full of life and energy.

The prophet Ezekiel finds himself in the middle of a valley full of dry bones and it's here that God speaks to Ezekiel and challenges his perspective by asking him if the bones can live. Ezekiel's response is simply, 'O Lord, only you know'. But God sees things differently than we do. When all the prophet could see was dry bones, God saw something else, and He tells Ezekiel to prophesy the breath of life over the scattered bones. Sure enough, there was the sound of rattling and of bones coming together and there stood up a mighty army, full of the Spirit of God.

Can you imagine what it would look like for hundreds of people coming together for one purpose, to pursue Jesus, hear His voice, and worship Him together? This to us looks like revival. It looks like an environment where the Spirit of God would come and breathe new life upon His people, fill them afresh and prepare them to be released into their world as the mighty army of God. Just imagine the breakthroughs that could happen in you, your family, your friends and your community, when you position yourself for God's Spirit to move powerfully!

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your faith and expectation for conference
- Write down your expectations so that you can pray over them and add to them as we continue in our prayer and fasting season. This may also include scriptures or prophetic words that God gives you.

DAY NINE

SCRIPTURES | Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46:10 + Psalm 23

SEEKING STILLNESS

by Ps Keren Batson

"Quiet! Be still!" Mark 4:39

Mark 4:35-41 teaches us profound lessons about stillness. The disciples' initial reaction in the storm was fear and panic. Like them, we often face storms in our lives—moments of uncertainty and fear. Yet, Jesus shows us that even in the midst of chaos, we can find peace and security when we trust in God's sovereignty. He is in control of the storm and can bring calm to any situation.

While the disciples were frantic, Jesus was at peace, asleep in the boat. His calm posture amidst the storm demonstrates the power of resting in God's presence. In our own lives, cultivating stillness involves surrendering our anxieties and fears to God, trusting that He will provide comfort and guidance.

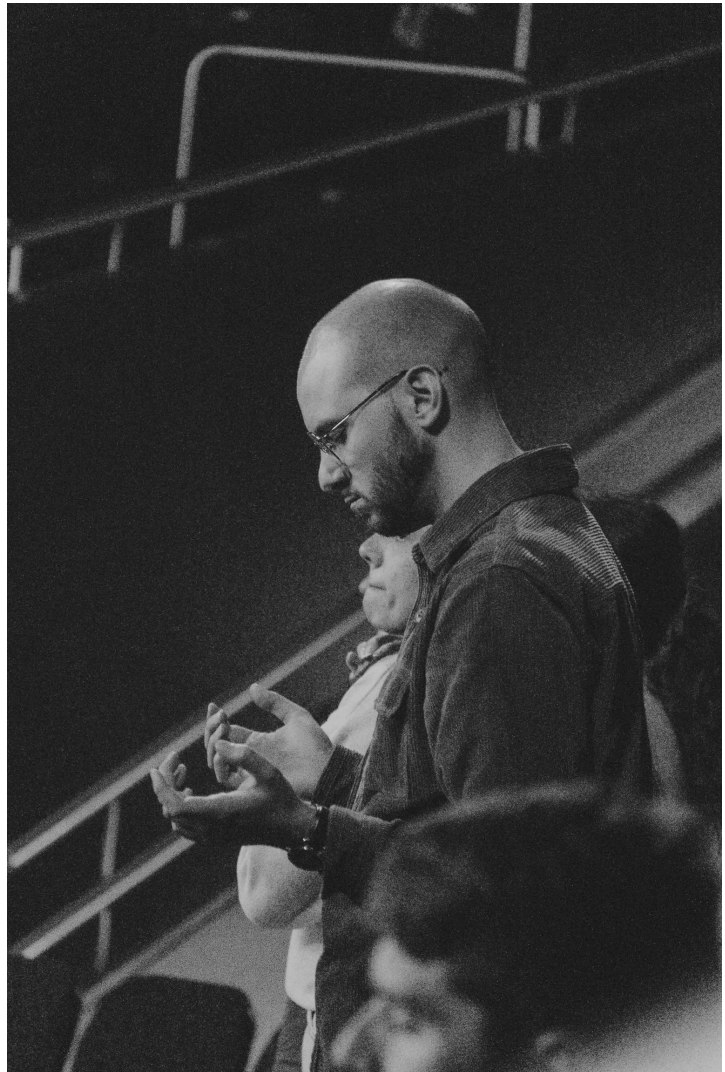
Jesus' command over the elements—rebuking the wind and waves—reveals His divine authority. He has power over nature, over our circumstances, and over the storms of life. When we acknowledge His authority and submit to His will, we can experience His peace that surpasses all understanding.

Jesus gently rebukes His disciples for their lack of faith, asking, *"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* Their fear overshadowed their faith in Jesus' ability to protect and save them. Similarly, our fears often diminish our faith in God's promises. Yet, as we nurture our faith through prayer, scripture, and stillness in His presence, we can overcome fear and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

Ultimately, the story in Mark 4:35-41 invites us to embrace stillness—not just the absence of noise, but a state of inner peace and trust in God's providence. In the midst of life's storms, let us remember that Jesus is with us in the boat. He invites us to come to Him, to find rest and peace, and to trust in His power and love. As we anchor ourselves in Him, may we experience the profound stillness that transforms fear into faith and chaos into calmness.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Remain quiet before God, even turning off any worship music you may be playing and sit in silence. As you make stillness a habit, you'll find that the things that overwhelm you can come under submission to the peace of God, and regardless of the storm around you, there can be peace within you.
- Continue this practice, even for a few minutes throughout your day as you need.



DAY TEN

SCRIPTURES | Acts 16:25-34, Joshua 24:15 + Proverbs 22:6

FOR MY FAMILY **by Ps Deb Lenzo**

Sometimes we can look at our situations and they may seem impossible. Maybe you have invested time and energy but it seems like nothing is happening. Maybe you're feeling dry spiritually and you don't know what to do. God is the God of the breakthrough! He can take what looks like dry, scattered bones, bring them together and turn them into a mighty army, carrying the breath of His spirit, full of life and energy.

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DAY ELEVEN

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DAY TWELVE

SCRIPTURES | Psalm 24, Matthew 18:20 + Acts 2:17

CORPORATE REVIVAL **by Ps Alex Peters**

"Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Who is this King of Glory?" Psalm 24:7-8

The revival we are praying for is more than just individual renewal; it is about the collective awakening of God's people. It involves a deep, communal longing for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in our midst, bringing about healing and a renewed commitment to God's great commission. It is a time when the barriers that divide us are torn down, and we come together in unity, seeking God's will and purpose with one heart and one mind.

Scripture shows us that when believers come together with a unified purpose, seeking God's face, He promises to respond. The early church in the book of Acts experienced such a revival. As they gathered together in prayer and worship, the Holy Spirit descended upon them, empowering all people to spread the gospel with boldness and to live out their faith in radical ways, where visions and dreams become reality. This kind of revival is not just a historical event; it is something we can experience today if we earnestly seek God and align ourselves with His desires.

Over the next seven days, as we earnestly seek God, we are praying for various aspects of our conference. Our heart's desire is not only for personal revival but also to witness revival sweeping across Horizon Church—touching every age group, every campus, and every part of the conference.

We pray for the King of Glory to manifest His presence in such a powerful way that it transforms hearts, heals wounds, and ignites a passion for His kingdom. Let us approach this time with expectant hearts, unified in our desire to see God's glory revealed among us. May this revival bring a profound and lasting impact, drawing us closer to Him and to each other, and seeing many won to Jesus.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Pray for our people. That every heart would be open and aligned to receive what God has for them and that we would see the miraculous hand of God at work in people's lives.
- Pray for the atmosphere of our sessions (including Kids Conference). That there would be a hunger to see God's glory revealed without hindrance



DAY THIRTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Psalm 133, Acts 2:1-4 + 1 Corinthians 1:10

UNITY AS ALL OUR CAMPUSES GATHER TOGETHER

by Ps Shane Martin

A few years ago I owned a Cruiser motorcycle. A 2053cc engine of pure joy and grunt that was larger than most small car engines, any day of the week. Along with polishing chrome and many washes, for me to look after the bike well, oil, air and care was involved on a weekly basis.

Oil was an extremely important part of the care process. As many of you would know, any engine without enough oil would run hot, have unnecessary friction and eventually burn out, leaving you broken down and travelling the road to nowhere fast.

In Psalm 133 the Bible visualises God's people dwelling together in unity as "precious oil". Not too dissimilar to our modern day engines, unity makes life pleasant. It helps things run smoother, it reduces friction and it allows function to flow.

Unity is so deeply attractive and valuable to the heart of God that when the people of God come together in unity, it releases a corporate anointing that accelerates and builds momentum in the purposes of God, in and through His people, to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In September, not long from now, all our Horizon Campuses will be coming from near and far to dwell together in unity, at a specific time and place, to worship and come under the Word. This pleases the heart of the Father, and the anointing will be poured out. There is fresh oil to come under that will make things easier, lighter and more pleasant both for you personally, and for our church corporately.

It's coming, Horizon! Get ready and prepare your heart, as God is moving us forward so that even more can experience the love, kindness, healing and hope of our heavenly Father that loves His church so dearly.

Sounds like revival to me... *Don't you think?*

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Pray that love for God and each other would bind us together in perfect unity as we gather together
- Pray for each of our campuses as God leads you: Sutherland Shire, Sydney South West, Perth, Busselton, Stellenbosch, Rote Island, Online and those yet to come.



DAY FOURTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Mark 10:14, Proverbs 22:6 + Matthew 18:5

FOR THE GENERATIONS - KIDS CONFERENCE ***by Ps Jess Pedlow***

There have been countless times when I have wept as I worshipped with the children in our programs on Sunday mornings. Maybe it's how sweet their little voices sound, or how precious and peaceful they are when they close their eyes and raise their hands. But I've witnessed it long enough now to know that the faith of a child is powerful. There is something about their faith that is uninhibited and pure, and as a result, Jesus used this very faith as an example to the disciples on many occasions.

We read in Mark 10:14 that we are not to hinder the little ones, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. We also read in Matthew 18:5 that whoever welcomes a child, welcomes Jesus. Children hold the key to accessing the presence of God like no other. Their innocence, purity and ability to trust help them enter God's courts freely.

As someone who grew up attending church conferences and camps as a child and teenager, I recall many moments spent in God's presence where I heard Him speak to me. Moments that were significant in my faith journey and formation, moments that shaped me as a young girl and moments that comforted me and guided me as a young woman. It's these very moments that fill me with so much anticipation for what God will do in the hearts of your children at conference.

Conference is an opportunity for us collectively to return to a child-like faith. It's a time when we can practise being uninhibited as we set time aside to seek His face. Unabandoned, undistracted, undisturbed, conference allows us the chance to reset our faith in Him purely based on who He is and who we are in Him.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Pray for Ps Jess and Jake Pedlow, our Campus Kids leaders and our Kids team as they prepare the programs, activities and worship for Kids Conference. Pray for protection, health and strength over them and their families.
- Pray for the children of our church. That they will have their own, personal experience with the love of God, and like Samuel, will hear the call to faith for themselves.
- Pray for great friendships to be formed and lifelong memories to be made.



DAY FIFTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Luke 8:40-48, Luke 14:15-24 + 2 Peter 3:9

WHO NEEDS TO BE AT CONFERENCE ***by Chris Breen***

This is a trick question, right? I mean the answer seems so obvious, it's staring us right in the face...

YOU need to be at conference! 🙌

One thing I have clung to about our church's identity is that we are the church of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Symbolically; the old, the middle aged, and the young if you will. I'll leave it to you to sort yourselves accordingly.

I believe that we worship a UNIVERSAL God, whose plans for us are not limited to an age group, culture, race, standard of conduct, or socioeconomic background. The Bible depicts the church in the book of Revelation as ALL people worshipping our God.

This is the purpose and call of ALL people - to be in the presence of God, witnesses to the GLORY that follows.

Let me remind you of a very brave woman in the Bible who I admire very much. In Luke 8, a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years, watched as Jesus was practically mobbed by people who wanted to catch a glimpse of Him. Though she had suffered for over a decade with no cure, no hope and no chance at a life different from the one she knew, she took one look at Jesus and was compelled by a nagging thought at the back of her mind, "maybe Jesus..?"

Spurred by sheer faith, not letting excuses or feelings of disqualification stop her, she saw her opportunity to encounter Jesus and she took it, crawling her way through the crowds to touch His garment. On the other side of her small moment of faith was a paradigm-shaking healing that would change her life. In Jesus' own words, "your faith has healed you". Let's follow the example of this hero of the faith, this unknown, anonymous, incredible woman.

A few chapters later in Luke 14 we read about a 'Great Banquet'. The first round of invites go out and people make excuses as to why they can't come. The master then tells his servant, "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full." Just as the master of the banquet sent his servant to everyone, so too should we extend our invitation to everyone in our world offering them an invitation to sit at the banquet and experience revival.

Who in your world needs to experience revival? This I know for sure, there are people in your world that need to be in the presence of God, that need a touch of God, if only they were invited

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Pray for those that have not yet registered for conference. Pray for any obstacle to be removed and for God to provide a way for them to attend.
- Ask God who in your world would He like you to invite to conference.



DAY SIXTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Ephesians 6:18-20, James 5:16 + Hebrews 13:17

FOR OUR SENIOR PASTORS & TEAM ***by Ps Alex Peters***

As we approach conference, it is crucial to cover our Senior Pastors, Pastors Brad and Alison, and our entire Horizon team in prayer. Scripture highlights the significance of praying for our leaders, emphasising the profound impact it can have on their ministry and the church as a whole. Our pastors are on the front lines of spiritual warfare, often bearing the weight of the congregation's burdens while also seeking God's vision and guidance for the church.

In Ephesians 6:19, the Apostle Paul urges believers to, "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." Paul, a seasoned leader, recognized his dependence on the prayers of the saints. He understood that their intercession was crucial for his boldness, clarity, and effectiveness in proclaiming the gospel.

Similarly, our Senior Pastors and HZ staff face immense spiritual, emotional, and physical demands, especially in the lead-up to a significant event like our conference. Our prayers can provide them with divine strength, wisdom, and protection as they prepare to lead us into a season of revival.

James 5:16 reminds us that "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." When we pray for our leaders, we are not engaging in a mere formality; we are participating in a spiritual act that can bring about real change. Our heartfelt prayers can shield them from the enemy's attacks, encourage them during times of discouragement, and empower them with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Furthermore, Hebrews 13:17 advises us to "have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." By lifting our team in prayer, we lighten their load and enhance their joy in serving. This, in turn, benefits the entire congregation, as our leaders are able to minister more effectively and joyfully.

As we unite in prayer for our Senior Pastors and our staff, we align ourselves with God's heart and purpose, paving the way for a transformative and impactful Horizon Revival Conference.

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Pray for Pastors Brad and Alison as they carry the vision and leadership of conference. That God would lead, direct and empower them. Pray for God's spiritual protection over them, including Tori and Wade.
- Pray for all our teams that are carrying conference. Pray for health and wholeness, for protection for our families and that we would be led by the Spirit to usher in revival.



DAY SEVENTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Romans 1:9-13, Ephesians 6:19-20 + Colossians 4:3-4

PRAYING FOR OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

by Tam Henry

In an article I read recently about Charles Spurgeon, it was said that he credited his success to his praying church family. He believed the reason he was able to wield the Sword of the Spirit with boldness, clarity, and accuracy was because of the constant, faithful prayer of his congregation.

He has also been quoted saying, *"No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me."*

I love this statement and I too am deeply thankful when people pray for me.

Spurgeon, like the apostle Paul, esteemed the power of prayer. They both recognised that sharing the gospel demanded a deep level of boldness, acknowledging that their courage stemmed from prayer and the support of those praying for them.

Paul makes this request in his letter to the Ephesians - ***"And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out."*** Ephesians 6:19-20 MSG

Church, as we set aside time to pray and fast leading up to Conference, may our hearts be open to receive all that God has entrusted our guest speakers, Bishop Kevin Wallace and Ps Vicki Simpson, to deliver. The Lord has opened a door and they have been appointed to us specifically for this time. I believe they will impart spiritual gifts that will greatly strengthen us for this season - something profound filled with power! We are already witnessing the beginning of revival at Horizon and it is undeniable that God is leading us into a season of awakening.

As I've been preparing and seeking God for our conference, I've felt a stirring in my heart. He has been directing my thoughts and prayers towards our pastors

and guest speakers, showing me how to pray and intercede for them.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Will you join me in lifting up Bishop Wallace and Ps Vicki in prayer:

- Pray for their physical needs: overall health, and safe travel to and from their destinations. Cover their relationships, marriage, children, family, and congregation.
- Pray for spiritual protection and covering over them.
- Ask for divine preparation and a download from heaven as they prepare to minister.
- Pray for them as they deliver the Word of the Lord, seeking clarity, boldness and grace in their message.
- Pray that their message will hit the mark and bring forth abundant spiritual fruit.
- Pray for blessing and favour upon their lives.

Finally, let's pray that God would cultivate our hearts and also those who have not yet heard the gospel, preparing us to receive all that He has in store for us.

Through prayer, we have the opportunity to both receive from and support those who will pour into us.

I am so thankful to God for Horizon and grateful that we are a church devoted to prayer!

DAY EIGHTEEN

SCRIPTURES | Joshua 3:5

WHERE TO FROM HERE ***by Ps Tim Biassetto***

Well done on making it through this Bible Reading Plan! We hope it has been a blessing to you.

You have taken the time to consecrate yourselves before God, to seek Him, to hunger and thirst after Him, now be ready to see all that the Lord WILL do!

I have found that it is often after periods of fasting, not during them that I come to really appreciate all that God has done for me, and in me, over that time. The sharpness, the intimacy with God, the sense of self-control over impulses and urges all combine to give me a spiritual strength that impacts my daily life.

Now that you have experienced the joy of fasting, I want to encourage you to make it a regular part of your life. Why not make a habit of it and factor it into your calendar weekly or monthly. With Horizon Conference coming up, you could fast one day per week to help you build faith and expectation for what God may do.

The discipline of fasting is a weapon you can utilise in your faith walk. Like Jesus who fasted in the lead up to a significant event, you can also engage in fasting to help you spiritually prepare for a big season, or an important moment where you want to be at your sharpest spiritually.

Whether you fulfilled your intentions for your fast, or just had a go and stumbled forward little by little I want to encourage you that you are loved by God, you are His child and He is proud of you. Enjoy your heightened awareness of His presence as you go about your day!

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Spend time in worship, focusing your attention on Jesus.
- Take time to reflect on the last 14 days, and thank God for all He has done in and through you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how He would like you to continue this spiritual practice of fasting.

**WHEN YOU SAID
SEEK MY FACE,
MY HEART SAID TO YOU,
YOUR FACE, LORD,
I WILL SEEK.”**

PSALM 27:8

