



HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 29th - SUNDAY, APRIL 5th



My aim is to know Him.

~ Philippians 3:10



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Praise the Lord, ACOG Family!

We have so much to be thankful for. God has blessed us through His abundant grace, making us recipients of His exceeding great and precious promises. His faithfulness in our lives has proven His commitment to our spiritual and social well-being. He loves us, not because we deserve it, but because He has chosen to be in a relationship with us.

I often say that the Scriptures teach us everything we need to know about our relationship with God. That relationship is rooted in one word: intimacy. It speaks to His desire to be close to us. When the Lord created humanity, He formed Adam from the dust of the earth, and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. When He delivered the children of Israel from slavery, His presence lived in the midst of their camp as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. And when it was unquestionably evident that we would never be able to achieve His righteousness by our own efforts, He became human in the person of Jesus and lived among His own creation. Now that's intimacy!

It is the final week of Jesus, which is commemorated each year in the Christian faith. We call it "Holy Week." Christians all over the world reflect on the final week of Jesus's life, from His royal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to His resurrection from the dead on Resurrection Sunday. It is when we intentionally reflect on the final days of His life before He voluntarily died in our place and for our sins.

For the past several years, we have chosen Holy Week to draw closer to God as a congregation by intensifying our spiritual pursuit of His presence. ACOG Holy Week is a time of churchwide consecration, when we have a singular focus on the highest pursuit of experiencing the journey from Jesus's cross to His crown in our everyday lives. It is also a time of spiritual renewal as a church family, strengthening our congregation's unity, deepening our intimacy with Jesus, and increasing our appreciation for Him as the High Priest who offered Himself in our place.

This year's theme is "Seeking a Deeper Intimacy with Jesus." I ask that you prayerfully join us in consecrating yourself to Him during this sacred time. We have provided spiritual content and programming, along with fasting options, to help you pursue a closer relationship with the Lord.

In Christ,
Dr. Byron T. Brazier
Pastor

PURPOSE & PLAN

This week, we are being intentional about seeking the Lord through prayer and fasting to grow deeper in our walk with Christ. As you consecrate, be inspired, knowing that you are not on this journey alone, because your church family is fasting with you. In this guide, you will find an overview of the spiritual discipline of fasting, suggested guidelines for fasting, and devotional readings to meditate on each day. Be inspired and encouraged as you join with your church family in seeking God's face during Holy Week.

WHY DO WE FAST?

Throughout time, fasting has been a means of turning away from self, sin, and selfish indulgence to turn toward God. It has been used as a means of mourning over sin, bringing one's flesh or attitude under subjection, and seeking answers to prayer and revelation from God. In the Old Testament, Moses fasted before he received the Ten Commandments (*Deuteronomy 9:9-18*); Elijah fasted after his triumph over the prophets of Baal (*1 Kings 19:4-8*); Esther fasted to save the Jews (*Esther 4:15-17*); and Daniel fasted in order to get understanding from God regarding a vision (*Daniel 10:1-3*). In the New Testament, Jesus fasted in the wilderness (*Matthew 4:1-4*); He taught on fasting in the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 6:16-18*); and Paul spoke of going without food on several occasions (*2 Corinthians 6:4-10; 11:23-28*).

- **WE FAST** to remind ourselves of our dependence on God in a world that is rooted in deception and disinformation.
- **WE FAST** as an act of obedience to God.
- **WE FAST** as an intentional interruption of our normal rhythm of life.
- **WE FAST** to disrupt the ordinary to pursue something extraordinary, that is, the presence of God.
- **WE FAST** to draw near to God knowing He will draw near to us.

WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is the deliberate abstinence from physical gratification—usually food and drink—for a period of time. This spiritual discipline was exhibited by our Savior when He fasted for forty days, consecrating Himself to the Father before beginning His earthly ministry (*Luke 4:1-2*). Like Christ, fasting is vital to our spiritual growth to learn how to quiet the noises and disturbances in life and to take the time to consecrate ourselves and seek the presence of God.

WHEN WILL WE FAST?

Although we will be in consecration from Sunday, March 29th through Sunday, April 5th, our fast will start Monday, March 30th and continue through Friday, April 3rd. We will fast together as the Lord ministers to us personally. While there are several types of fasts and time periods that are undertaken during a fast, we will fast from sunrise to sunset or in the tradition of time, from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

WHAT TYPE OF FAST ARE WE DOING?

While there are several types of fasts, we are asking that you fast as the Spirit leads you to select one of the following options or a combination of them. The three choices are:

- **The Daniel Fast** – The Daniel Fast is a plant-based diet that includes foods such as fruit, vegetables, oats, nuts, etc. As with any dietary changes, please consult your doctor before beginning the fast.
- **The Elimination Fast** – The Elimination Fast is removing or excluding our daily delights and appetites, such as:
 - Sweets and junk food
 - Meat and fried food
 - Carbonated drinks, candy, and sugars
 - Caffeinated drinks and bread
- **The Media Fast** – The Media Fast is abstaining from social media, secular television (including sports), and secular music—only Christian TV and music content.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING THE FAST & CONSECRATION?

During this week of fasting and consecration, where we are focusing on the power of the cross of Christ, our prayer is that God will inspire us to submit our lives that much more to His will, to walk in greater love toward each other, and to experience the fullness of the Spirit's power at work within us to guide, heal and deliver. Thus, we will gather as a community each weekday morning for Courageous Prayer with our pastor on our social media platforms at 7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., or 8:30 a.m. to spiritually prepare ourselves for the things we encounter throughout the day.

Through this time of fasting, we will intentionally focus on communing with God, giving full attention to our obedience to and dependence on Him while emptying ourselves of the daily weights, sins, and distractions of the world. Therefore, we will set aside time each day to ...

- Pray, study the Scriptures, and reflect on Christ's death on the cross.
- Gather as a community each weekday morning for Courageous Prayer with our pastor on our social media platforms at 7:30AM, 8:00AM, or 8:30AM.
- Participate in our daily spiritual programming, in-house and/or online, based upon the schedule below:
 - **SUNDAY:** Palm Sunday & Holy Communion (hybrid), 10:15AM
 - **MONDAY – FRIDAY:** Midday Check-in (live-streaming only), 12:30PM
 - **TUESDAY:** Empowered by the Word (hybrid), 11:00AM (rebroadcast 7:00PM)
 - **WEDNESDAY:** Wednesday Night Bible Class (hybrid), 7:00PM
 - **THURSDAY:** YAM Takeover, 7:00PM
 - **FRIDAY:** Good Friday Service (hybrid), 7:00PM
 - **SUNDAY:** Joy of Easter (hybrid), 10:15AM

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING THE FAST & CONSECRATION? (cont.)

- Engage in intercessory prayer for the various areas of the church's ministry identified in the schedule below:

EVERY DAY: The body of Christ

- **SUNDAY:** Pastor, First Lady, First Family, Ministers, Church Leaders, and Church Staff
- **MONDAY:** Marriages, Singles, and Families
- **TUESDAY:** Seasoned Saints (our seniors)
- **WEDNESDAY:** Youth and Young Adults
- **THURSDAY:** Worship Arts Ministries (choirs, praise teams, bands, Liturgical Dance Ministry, Mime Ministry, and orchestra)
- **FRIDAY:** Personal Care (sick and shut-in, bereavement ministry and the bereaved, hospitalized, caregivers, and first responders)
- **SATURDAY:** Outreach Ministries (Evangelism of Grace and our communities, Nursing Home Ministry and residents, Prison Ministry and the incarcerated, Feeding the Homeless Ministry and the homeless, and public officials)

Lastly, as the body of Christ and members of the Apostolic Church of God faith community, we encourage everyone to join us in this spiritual discipline of unified consecration as we walk in the spirit and power of Acts 2:42-47 (NLT):

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

JOURNALING THE JOURNEY

How do we turn our attention away from the outer life and its distractions toward our life in Christ? It is our inner life, Jesus Christ the hope of glory, that we are after. In the modern world, there are many things to distract us, competing for both our attention and affection. Our intent is to recognize and guard against any pride that may attempt to attach itself because we fast. We fast as an act of obedience and submission to God. We enter it together, that is as a church body, to come into agreement with the pastor, Dr. Brazier, under the direction of the Holy Spirit to move us together spiritually. For our five days of fasting, each day provides a daily Scripture, a devotional reading, and a space for journaling (capturing our thoughts and what the Lord may be bringing to our heart and mind). We will fast from sunrise to sunset, or in the tradition of time, from 6:00AM to 6:00PM, so that as the Apostolic Church of God family, we fast together, move together, and grow together.

Day 1: Monday, March 30 **“Seeking Deeper Intimacy With Jesus”** **Terrance Seaphus**

Yes, I gave it all up in order to know him, that is, to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings as I am being conformed to his death, so that somehow I might arrive at being resurrected from the dead.

– *Philippians 3:10-11 CJB*

Too often, we are swayed by credentials, degrees, and titles. In Philippians 3:4, the Apostle Paul puts no confidence in these things, saying, “If anyone else thinks he has grounds for putting confidence in human qualifications, I have better grounds” (See Philippians 3:5). Like the Apostle, we should count our background as a disadvantage. There is no comparison to Christ.

We are called to “Surrender to know” (Philippians 3:10). We believe in knowing Jesus intimately through an experiential knowledge of His resurrection.” Paul is talking about his future state, the resurrection of the dead. Knowing Jesus in the fellowship of His sufferings is to share, participate through intimate association, in His afflictions and the hardships He endured (Philippians 3:11).

PRAYER

Father, let us remember the chief end of your people is to worship You and enjoy You forever. Our fellowship, worship, the Holy Spirit, the Word, the Name of Jesus, and our transformed lives are part of our covenant. The fellowship of His suffering means that “we don’t have a high priest who has not been touched with the feeling of our infirmities.” We remember His perfect sacrifice on the cross, death for our sins, burial, and resurrection in Jesus’ Name.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT



Day 2: Tuesday, March 31
“The Decision That Changes Everything”
Crystal Wilson

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

– *Matthew 16:24 NET*

Yesterday, we were reminded that our aim is to know Christ deeply. But intimacy with Jesus is not built on desire alone; it is sealed by decision. When Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow Me,” He was not speaking to spectators. He was speaking to hearts willing to come closer.

Holy Week confronts us with this truth: before the crown, there is a cross. Before Resurrection power, there is surrender.

Let’s be honest: denying ourselves isn’t comfortable. It means laying down pride, control, offense, and distraction. It means choosing obedience when emotions argue otherwise. For some of us, that cross may look like forgiveness. For others, it is trusting God in the face of uncertainty. For all of us, it means yielding fully. Here is the hope: Jesus never calls us to carry what He has not already carried. He walks ahead of us. And when we choose to follow, truly follow, something shifts, unity deepens, worship intensifies, and the life of Christ begins to be revealed in us.

As one body, worshipping and praying together, our collective surrender becomes a testimony of His transforming power. This is our moment, not just to admire His sacrifice, but to align with it. Before this week unfolds any further, we decide, together, to follow Him wherever

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I choose surrender over comfort and obedience over hesitation. Draw me closer as I follow You from the cross to the crown. Unite us as we walk this sacred journey together.

Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT

Day 3: Wednesday, April 1

“Do You Know?”

Elder Tony Briscoe

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

– 2 Corinthians 4:11 KJV

Do you know God the Father? Do you know His laws? Not just the Ten Commandments, not just the Sabbath, but the entirety of The Law? Do you know His penalties for disobedience, that to violate one is to violate them all? Do you understand the recompense required and the sacrifices appointed for redemption? Oh, children of YHWH (the Lord), rest not in the assurance of keeping one day only. The foods you refuse, festivals you celebrate, or traditions you observe cannot place you in right standing before His throne. Who has made atonement for you? Who can stand in His Holy Temple and plead on your behalf?

Do you know The Son? Do you know Yeshua (Jesus)? Do you know His sacrifice and that He put on our transgressions? He is the fulfillment of The Law. Not just the Sabbath; He has become our Sabbath. Not just the Passover; He became our Passover. He is our sin offering once and forever. All our salvation rests in His death, burial, resurrection, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

For, as 2 Corinthians 4:11 declares, the life of Jesus is to be made manifest in our mortal bodies. If you truly know Him, seek not another way, but His way. We are not our own, but have been bought with a price.

PRAYER

Lord, may we forever remember your sacrifice, its finality in death, its infinite impact in your resurrection, and its amazing power through your Holy Spirit. May we always remember.
Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT



Day 4: Thursday, April 2
“A Change Is Coming”
Minister Renee Felker

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

– James 1:12 NIV

In 2024, I suffered a massive stroke that almost took my life. I was quiet, feeling alone and helpless. At one point, I even walked away from God. But for some reason, I continued going to church.

One Sunday, I felt led to re-dedicate my life to the Lord. Slowly, the suffering, loss, and pain that I endured began to change from suffering to indescribable joy! I learned to accept my new normal, which began my first step. Piece by piece, my life began to be put back together, and healing took place.

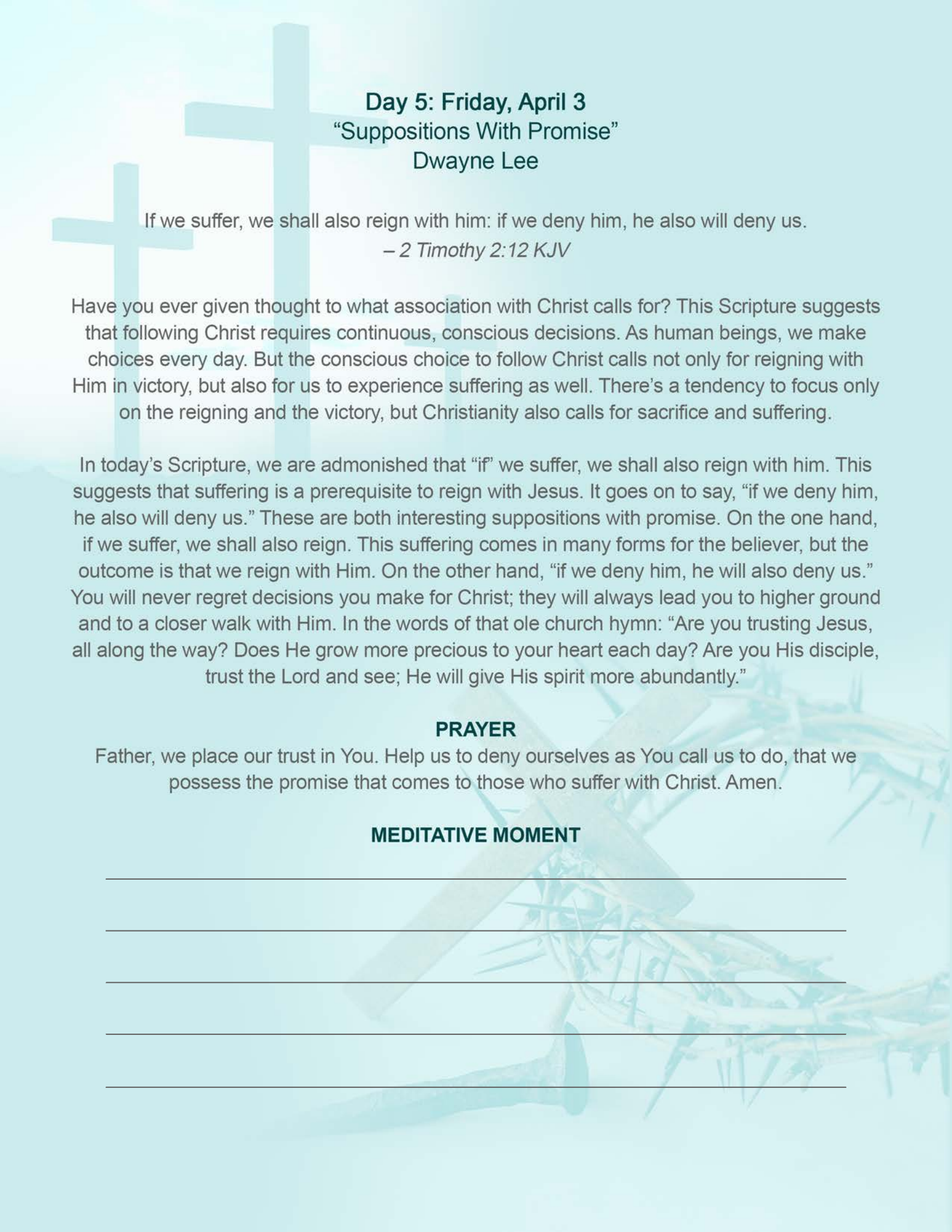
Now I proudly wear the crown of glory bestowed upon me and share my testimony every chance I get. I encourage all believers to be encouraged through your test because God will give you beauty for ashes and joy for sorrow.

A change is coming, so hold on.

PRAYER

Father, help us persevere in You as we trust in Your faithfulness. Help us to hold on so that we may be adorned with the crown that You have assured to those who love You. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT



Day 5: Friday, April 3
“Suppositions With Promise”
Dwayne Lee

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

– 2 Timothy 2:12 KJV

Have you ever given thought to what association with Christ calls for? This Scripture suggests that following Christ requires continuous, conscious decisions. As human beings, we make choices every day. But the conscious choice to follow Christ calls not only for reigning with Him in victory, but also for us to experience suffering as well. There’s a tendency to focus only on the reigning and the victory, but Christianity also calls for sacrifice and suffering.

In today’s Scripture, we are admonished that “if” we suffer, we shall also reign with him. This suggests that suffering is a prerequisite to reign with Jesus. It goes on to say, “if we deny him, he also will deny us.” These are both interesting suppositions with promise. On the one hand, if we suffer, we shall also reign. This suffering comes in many forms for the believer, but the outcome is that we reign with Him. On the other hand, “if we deny him, he will also deny us.” You will never regret decisions you make for Christ; they will always lead you to higher ground and to a closer walk with Him. In the words of that ole church hymn: “Are you trusting Jesus, all along the way? Does He grow more precious to your heart each day? Are you His disciple, trust the Lord and see; He will give His spirit more abundantly.”

PRAYER

Father, we place our trust in You. Help us to deny ourselves as You call us to do, that we possess the promise that comes to those who suffer with Christ. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT



Day 6: Saturday, April 4
“Heirs Who Bear The Father’s Likeness”
Deacon Arbin Smith

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

– *Romans 8:16-17 NIV*

Our senses are constantly bombarded by screens, feeds, ads, billboards, and engineered soundscapes, all designed to spotlight what we lack. From the curated perfection of social media to messages promising instant ease and happiness, every platform sends the same signal: there is a gap between our present reality and our ideal self, and buying something is the quickest way to close it. Over time, these voices shape our identity and pull us into a restless pursuit of validation.

In Romans 8:16-17, Paul challenges the idea that our identity is fragile or unfinished. He reminds the believers in Rome, and us, that we are not waiting to be validated. We are already

God’s children, and what the Father gives His Son, He shares with us. This is not a status granted by culture or circumstance. The Spirit confirms it from within and seals an identity the world cannot grant or revoke. As heirs, we receive an inheritance that gives us a name and a story to continue.

PRAYER

Father, thank You that Your Spirit testifies within us, confirming that we are Your children, heirs with Christ, and members of Your eternal family. Help us to walk in unity, sharing in the hope, the suffering, and the glory of Your Son. Draw us closer to You, the One who calls us into relationship and secures our inheritance. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

MEDITATIVE MOMENT
