



Day 36 — April 16

Faithful Through The Cross

Key Scripture

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Supporting Scripture

Isaiah 53:4–5

“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Devotional Thought

If you want to know whether God is truly faithful, do not look first at your circumstances. Look at the cross. Everything we could ever need to know about the faithfulness of God is written into that single event. The cross is not merely a historical moment or a religious symbol. It is the fullest, most costly, most irreversible demonstration of faithful love the universe has ever witnessed. At Calvary, God did not simply speak of His commitment to His people—He bled for it.

Romans 5:8 is staggering in its simplicity: “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Not while we were trying harder. Not after we had cleaned ourselves up. Not when we had finally earned a measure of His approval. While we were sinners—rebellious, undeserving, spiritually dead—God demonstrated His love. The timing is everything. His faithfulness moved toward us at our worst, not our best. That is not the pattern of human love. That is the pattern of a God whose faithfulness flows from His own character, not from our merit.

Isaiah wrote of the suffering servant seven centuries before it happened—pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows. What God promised through the prophet, He fulfilled through His Son. Not approximately. Not symbolically.

Literally and completely. Jesus bore what we deserved so that we could receive what He earned. Every syllable of Isaiah 53 is a testament to a God who keeps His word at the highest possible cost.

The cross also reveals the faithfulness of Jesus Himself. In Gethsemane, He prayed with sweat like drops of blood, asking if there were another way. There was not. And so He went—not reluctantly dragged, but willingly surrendered. He was faithful to the Father's mission. He was faithful to the covenant He had made before the foundation of the world. He was faithful to every soul whose name was written in the Lamb's book of life. He did not quit. He did not turn back. He endured the cross and despised its shame, because the joy set before Him included you.

For one hundred years, the cross has stood at the center of this church's life and message. Every baptism, every Lord's Supper, every sermon, every song of redemption has pointed back to what God did at Calvary. The cross is not one theme among many—it is the foundation beneath everything. Every story of transformation in this congregation traces its roots to the faithful love of a God who gave His Son. That is what we are celebrating. That is what we are standing on.

Whatever you face today, the cross tells you this: God has already proven His faithfulness at the point of greatest cost. He did not spare His own Son. Having given that, will He withhold anything you truly need? The cross is not just the basis of your salvation—it is the guarantee of every promise God has made to you. It is the seal on His faithfulness, written not in ink but in the blood of His Son.

Illustration

In the world of contract law, the most binding agreements are not simply signed—they are sealed. In ancient times, covenants were often ratified by the shedding of blood. Animals were sacrificed, and the parties walked between the pieces as a solemn declaration: may what happened to these animals happen to me if I break this covenant. It was the most serious oath a person could make. The blood was the seal.

When Jesus went to the cross, He sealed the new covenant with His own blood. Every promise God has made to His people—forgiveness, adoption, resurrection, eternal life, the indwelling Spirit, the hope of glory—was ratified and guaranteed by the death of His Son. God did not sign the covenant from a safe distance. He entered into it fully, paying its price Himself. The cross is the seal on every promise you have ever been given in Scripture.

This is the message this church has proclaimed for one hundred years, and it is the only message worth proclaiming. People in every generation have come through these doors carrying the weight of

sin, grief, failure, and fear. And the answer has always been the same—not a program, not a philosophy, not a self-improvement plan, but a cross. A faithful God who loved the world enough to bleed for it. That message has never grown old. It never will.

Reflection

- How does the timing of Romans 5:8—that Christ died for us “while we were yet sinners”—speak to any sense you have that you must earn or maintain God’s faithfulness?
 - In what ways does the cross serve as the ultimate anchor for your faith when circumstances make it hard to trust God’s faithfulness?
 - How does the reality that Jesus “loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20) shape the way you live out your faith today?
-

Prayer

Faithful and Redeeming God,

We stand before the cross with nothing to offer but our need and our gratitude. You did not wait for us to deserve Your faithfulness. You loved us while we were sinners, sent Your Son while we were enemies, and redeemed us at the highest cost. There is no greater proof of Your faithfulness than Calvary, and we do not take it lightly.

Thank You that the cross is not just history but foundation. Every promise You have made is sealed in the blood of Your Son. When we are tempted to doubt whether You will come through, remind us of what You have already done. You did not spare Your own Son—You will not abandon Your people. The cross will not let us doubt Your love.

As we reflect on one hundred years of this church proclaiming the message of the cross, renew in us a fresh wonder at what You have done. Keep the cross central—in our worship, our witness, our discipleship, and our daily lives. May every generation that passes through this place encounter the same faithful, crucified, risen Savior. And may we never recover from the astonishing truth that He loved us and gave Himself for us.

Amen.

Day 37 — April 17

Faithful In The Resurrection Power

Key Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:20

“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”

Supporting Scripture

Ephesians 1:19–20

“And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Devotional Thought

The cross is not the end of the story. If it were, we would have the most tragic religion in the world—a God who loved us enough to die but not enough, or not powerfully enough, to rise. But the tomb is empty. The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out but to let witnesses in. What God began at Calvary, He completed on the third day, and the resurrection is His final, unassailable declaration that death itself does not have the last word. Faithful through the cross, God proved His faithfulness beyond the cross as well.

Paul’s declaration in 1 Corinthians 15 is the hinge on which all of Christian faith turns: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead.” Those six words change everything. If Christ has not been raised, Paul argues, then our faith is worthless, our sins are unforgiven, and those who have died in Christ have simply perished. But He has been raised. And because He has, everything changes—not just for Him, but for everyone who belongs to Him. His resurrection is the firstfruits, the down payment, the guaranteed preview of what God intends for all His people.

The prayer of Ephesians 1 is one of the most breathtaking in all of Scripture. Paul prays that believers would know “the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”—and then describes what that power looks like: it is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the

right hand of the Father. Think about that carefully. The power available to the believer today is resurrection power. Not a lesser version. Not a diminished echo. The same power that conquered death is at work in and for those who trust in Christ.

This means the faithfulness of God is not passive or merely historical. It is active and present. The risen Christ is not a memory to be honored—He is a living Lord who intercedes, who indwells His people by the Spirit, and who is still at work in the world. When God is faithful to His church, He is not faithfully maintaining a monument to something that happened long ago. He is faithfully unleashing the same resurrection power that shook the ground outside Jerusalem and folded the burial cloths in an empty tomb.

Romans 6:4 draws the personal application: we who have been united with Christ in His death have also been united with Him in His resurrection, so that we “might walk in newness of life.” The resurrection is not only a future hope—it is a present reality that reshapes how we live. Every believer in this congregation carries resurrection life. Every act of forgiveness, every victory over sin, every renewed marriage, every transformed heart is a small resurrection—evidence that the God who raised Jesus is still faithfully at work.

For one hundred years, this church has proclaimed a risen Savior. That message has not lost its power because the resurrection has not lost its power. The same God who was faithful enough to raise His Son from the dead is faithful enough to bring the dead things in your life back to life. Whatever feels buried, whatever seems beyond recovery, whatever has been laid in the tomb of grief or failure or hopelessness—the God of resurrection is not finished with it yet.

Illustration

In the dead of winter, a forest can look utterly lifeless. The trees stand bare, the ground is frozen, and there is no visible sign that anything green will ever return. A traveler who had never seen a spring might be forgiven for concluding that the forest was simply dead—that what was once living had permanently ceased. But beneath the surface, something is happening. Root systems are alive. Sap is waiting. Seeds are holding their breath. And when the warmth comes, the forest erupts back into life with a force that surprises no one who has seen it before.

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate springtime—the moment when the long winter of sin and death was broken by the irresistible power of God. What looked like permanent defeat on Good Friday was, by Easter morning, the doorway to unstoppable life. And just as spring does not arrive

only once, the resurrection power of God keeps coming—renewing, restoring, and bringing life to places that looked beyond hope.

This church has seen its own winters—seasons of grief, loss, spiritual dryness, and uncertainty. But it has also seen God's resurrection faithfulness bring life back again and again. New generations have come to faith. Broken people have been made whole. What seemed like endings became beginnings. One hundred years of this congregation's story is, at its heart, a story of resurrection power working in ordinary people through a faithful and risen God.

Reflection

- How does the bodily resurrection of Jesus—a real, historical, empty tomb—serve as the foundation for your confidence in God's faithfulness in every other area of life?
 - Paul prays in Ephesians 1 that you would know the greatness of resurrection power available to you as a believer. In what area of your life do you most need to lay hold of that power right now?
 - Where have you seen God's resurrection faithfulness bring life out of what seemed dead or beyond recovery—in your own story or in the life of this church?
-

Prayer

Risen and Faithful Lord, the tomb is empty and You are alive—and that changes everything. We do not worship a memory or follow a philosophy. We follow a risen Savior who conquered death, who is seated at the right hand of the Father, and who is still actively at work in His people and His church. Thank You that Your faithfulness did not end at the cross but was vindicated and unleashed in the resurrection.

Forgive us for living as though the resurrection were merely a doctrine to be affirmed rather than a power to be experienced. Stir in us a fresh awareness of the life that is available to us in Christ. Where we have grown spiritually dry, bring resurrection freshness. Where we have accepted defeat, remind us that we serve the God who raised the dead. Where grief has made the future look dark, shine the light of Easter morning into our hearts.

Thank You for one hundred years of resurrection life in this congregation—for every soul saved, every life renewed, every winter season that gave way to spring under Your faithful hand. As we move forward, may we carry the message of a risen Christ with boldness and joy. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us. May we live like we believe it. Amen.

Day 38 — April 18

Faithful To Send The Holy Spirit

Key Scripture

John 14:16–17

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

Supporting Scripture

Acts 2:1–4

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

Romans 8:11

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Devotional Thought

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus made a promise that must have seemed almost impossible to the disciples in that moment. He told them He was going away—but that He would not leave them as orphans. He would ask the Father, and the Father would send another Helper, one who would not merely walk beside them as Jesus had, but would take up residence within them. The Spirit of truth would be in them. Forever. It was a promise of a presence more intimate than anything they had yet known, and God was faithful to keep it.

Fifty days after the resurrection, the promise became reality. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered in one place when suddenly the sound of a rushing wind filled the room, tongues of fire rested on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. God did exactly what He said He would do. The same Father who sent His Son into the world now sent His Spirit into His

people. The church was born not as a human institution but as a Spirit-filled community—animated, empowered, and directed by the very presence of God dwelling within.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is one of the most staggering expressions of God's faithfulness in all of Scripture. Think about what it means. The God of the universe, the Creator of all things, the Holy One before whom the seraphim cover their faces—that God chose to make the human heart His dwelling place. He did not send a representative or a symbol. He sent Himself, in the person of the Spirit, to live within every believer. That is not a small thing. It is the fulfillment of the ancient longing for God to be with His people in the most personal way possible.

And the Spirit is not a dormant resident. Romans 8:11 reminds us that the Spirit who dwells in the believer is the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead—and that this Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies even now. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and produces repentance. He illuminates Scripture and produces understanding. He intercedes when we do not know how to pray. He produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in the hearts of those who yield to Him. He is not passive. He is actively at work in every believer, every day.

For one hundred years, the Holy Spirit has been the quiet power behind everything that has happened in this congregation. Every sermon that landed with conviction, every song that broke open a hardened heart, every moment of genuine worship, every soul that crossed from death to life—none of it happened by human effort or institutional strength. It happened because the faithful God sent His Spirit, just as He promised, and the Spirit has been faithfully at work ever since. The history of this church is, at its deepest level, a history of the Holy Spirit's presence and activity.

As we look ahead, the same Spirit who was present at Pentecost is present today. He has not been withdrawn. He has not grown weary. He is still the Helper Jesus promised—still guiding, still comforting, still empowering, still making the people of God into the image of Christ. The faithfulness of God to send His Spirit is not a past event to be celebrated. It is a present reality to be lived in, leaned on, and yielded to every single day.

Illustration

A sailboat sitting in a harbor is a beautiful thing—well-crafted, carefully maintained, full of potential. But it cannot go anywhere on its own. The sails are raised, the rudder is set, the hull is seaworthy—and yet without wind, it simply sits. It is only when the wind fills those sails that the boat becomes what it was designed to be. The wind does not belong to the sailors. They cannot manufacture it or control it. They can only position themselves to receive it and then respond to it.

The church is something like that sailboat. We can organize, plan, preach, and serve—and all of those things matter. But it is the wind of the Holy Spirit that moves the church forward into what God designed it to be. Every genuine revival in church history has been, at its core, a fresh filling of the Spirit—God breathing new life and momentum into His people. We do not produce that wind. We position ourselves to receive it through prayer, surrender, and faith.

This congregation has known seasons when the wind seemed to blow with particular force—when the Spirit moved in ways that surprised everyone and reminded the church that its life does not come from its own efforts. And it has known quieter seasons of steady sailing. But in every season, the faithful God has kept His promise: the Helper is here. The Spirit has not departed. And as this church sets its sails toward the next hundred years, the wind that has carried it this far is still blowing.

Reflection

- How often do you consciously depend on the Holy Spirit in your daily life—in your decisions, your prayers, your relationships, and your walk with God? What would it look like to lean on Him more deliberately?
- Jesus called the Spirit “another Helper” who would be with us forever. In what area of your life do you most need the help, comfort, or guidance of the Holy Spirit right now?
- How does recognizing the Holy Spirit’s role in this church’s history over one hundred years shape the way you pray for and think about its future?

Prayer

Faithful Father, Risen Son, and Ever-Present Spirit,

You kept Your promise. You sent the Helper, and He has never left. Every good thing that has happened in and through this congregation over one hundred years has been the work of Your Spirit moving in the hearts of ordinary people. We do not take that for granted. Without You, we are a sailboat in a harbor—well-intentioned but going nowhere. With You, we can go wherever You lead.

Forgive us for the times we have tried to do Your work in our own strength, relying on programs and plans while neglecting to ask for the wind of Your Spirit. Teach us to be a people of prayer—genuinely dependent, sincerely yielded, and expectantly waiting on Your movement. Fill us afresh today. Convict where we need convicting. Comfort where we need comforting. Empower where we need empowering. And produce in us the fruit that only You can grow.

100 DAYS | GOD'S UNENDING FAITHFULNESS

Faithful Through Every Generation

As this church moves into its next season, we ask for a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit. Not for our own glory, but so that the name of Jesus would be lifted high, the lost would be found, and the next generation would come to know the same faithful God who has led this congregation from the very beginning. You are the same Spirit who moved at Pentecost. Move again among us, Lord. We are listening. We are waiting. We are yours.

Amen.

Day 39 — April 19

Faithful In Growing His Church

Key Scripture

Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Supporting Scripture

Acts 2:47

“Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

1 Corinthians 3:6–7

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.”

Devotional Thought

When Jesus declared that He would build His church, He did not say it as a wish or a hope. He said it as a promise—and He said it in the future tense with the full weight of divine intention behind it. “I will build My church.” Not might build. Not hope to build. Will build. The construction of the church is not a human project that God occasionally assists. It is a divine mission that God executes through human instruments. And because the Builder is God Himself, the building will not fail.

The early chapters of Acts read like a record of a God who could not be stopped. Opposition came—from religious authorities, from prison cells, from beatings and threats and scatterings—and with every wave of opposition, the church grew larger. Acts 2:47 captures the pattern that would repeat itself throughout the book and throughout church history: “The Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” The Lord was adding. Not the apostles, not the programs, not the strategy. The Lord. Growth was His work, and He was faithful to do it.

Paul understood this clearly. Writing to the Corinthians about the various leaders and teachers they had elevated, he brought the whole conversation back to its proper foundation: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.” Human faithfulness matters—planting and watering are

real and necessary work. But the growth itself belongs to God. We are not the source of life. We are stewards of the seed. The harvest is always, ultimately, His.

This is profoundly liberating for the church. It means we do not have to manufacture growth or conjure results through cleverness or effort alone. Our calling is faithfulness—to preach the Word, to love one another, to make disciples, to pray, to serve, to go. And as we are faithful to our calling, the God who promised to build His church is faithful to do the building. The pressure of producing belongs to Him. The privilege of participating belongs to us.

One hundred years of this congregation's life is evidence of exactly this. There were seasons of rapid growth and seasons of slow, patient faithfulness. There were years when the harvest was visible and years when the planting and watering seemed to go unrewarded. But across every decade, God was faithful to add to His church those who were being saved. Families were changed. Children grew up in the faith and carried it forward. Prodigals came home. Skeptics became believers. Every one of those stories is a testimony not to the church's success but to the faithfulness of the One who said He would build it.

And the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Jesus did not promise His church a comfortable or uncontested journey. He promised it an unconquerable one. Whatever comes against the church—cultural hostility, internal conflict, spiritual opposition, the passage of time—it will not prevail. The Builder has guaranteed the outcome. The church belongs to Him, and He does not abandon what He has promised to complete.

Illustration

A farmer who has worked the same land for generations understands something that a first-year gardener does not—that growth cannot be forced. You can prepare the soil, plant the seed at the right time, pull the weeds, irrigate when conditions are dry, and protect the young plants from frost. All of that work matters enormously. But the farmer does not make the seed germinate. He does not cause the rain to fall or the sun to shine. The life that produces the harvest comes from somewhere beyond him, and the experienced farmer knows it. His job is faithfulness to the work. The harvest belongs to a power greater than his own.

Every pastor, teacher, musician, children's worker, greeter, prayer warrior, and faithful member of this congregation over the past one hundred years has been a farmer in that sense. They did the work. They planted and watered and pulled weeds and showed up season after season. But the growth

—the souls saved, the lives changed, the families transformed—that was God’s doing. He was the One causing it. They were the ones privileged to participate.

As this church steps into its next century, the same principle holds. The work of ministry still requires faithful hands and willing hearts. But the outcome is still in God’s hands. He has been faithful to grow His church for two thousand years through every conceivable obstacle and in every conceivable culture. He will be faithful here. He will be faithful now. The Builder has not retired from His work.

Reflection

- How does understanding that Jesus is the Builder of His church—and not you—free you from the pressure of feeling solely responsible for spiritual results in your ministry or relationships?
- In what specific ways are you currently “planting” or “watering” in someone’s life, trusting God to cause the growth in His timing?
- How does Jesus’s promise that “the gates of Hades will not overpower” His church give you courage and confidence for the challenges the church faces today?

Prayer

Lord and Builder of Your Church, You said You would build Your church, and You have been faithful to that promise for two thousand years. You have built it through fishermen and scholars, through the bold and the timid, through seasons of great harvest and seasons of patient sowing. You have built it here, in this place, through one hundred years of ordinary people who showed up and did the work—and through Your extraordinary faithfulness to bring the growth. All the glory belongs to You.

Forgive us for the times we have taken credit for what only You can do, or grown discouraged when the growth was not visible on our timeline. Teach us to be faithful farmers—diligent in the planting and watering, trusting in Your power to cause the growth. Help us to hold loosely to our strategies and tightly to our calling, remembering that the harvest has always been Yours to give.

As we celebrate one hundred years and look ahead, we ask You to keep building. Add to our number those who are being saved. Send workers into the harvest. Soften hard hearts. Draw the next generation into a living faith. And may this congregation remain a place where the Builder is honored, the seed is faithfully planted, and the growth is received with gratitude and wonder. You promised to build Your church. We trust You to keep building. Amen.

Day 40 — April 20

Faithful In Building His Kingdom

Key Scripture

Daniel 2:44

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

Supporting Scripture

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Luke 17:20–21

“Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or, “There it is!” For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.’”

Devotional Thought

Every human kingdom in history has had an expiration date. The empires of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome each rose with apparent invincibility and fell with eventual certainty. Dynasties that seemed permanent crumbled. Nations that appeared unassailable were undone. Power, no matter how consolidated, is always temporary in human hands. But Daniel’s vision pointed to something entirely different—a kingdom set up not by human ambition but by the God of heaven, a kingdom that would not be destroyed, would not be handed off, and would not end. Ever.

That kingdom arrived in the person of Jesus Christ. When He began His public ministry, His first announcement was: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He was not speaking of a political revolution or a geographical territory. He was declaring that the reign of God—the rule of His righteousness, mercy, and truth over human hearts and human history—had broken into the present world in a new and decisive way through Him. Every healing, every exorcism, every parable, every act of grace was a demonstration that the kingdom had come and the King was among His people.

The kingdom of God is both present and coming. It is here now, advancing quietly but relentlessly as the gospel goes forth and people surrender their lives to the King. And it is not yet fully here—there is a day coming when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, when all things will be made new and the kingdom will be consummated in its full and final glory. We live in the tension of that—citizens of a kingdom already established but not yet complete, called to seek it first and participate in its advance.

Matthew 6:33 gives us our marching orders as kingdom citizens: “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” This is not a suggestion for the especially spiritual. It is the organizing principle for every believer’s life. Before career, before comfort, before security, before reputation—the kingdom of God comes first. When we order our lives this way, Jesus promises that everything we truly need will be provided. Kingdom-first living is not a sacrifice of blessing. It is the pathway to it.

This congregation has been a kingdom outpost for one hundred years—a place where the reign of God has been proclaimed, demonstrated, and extended into the surrounding community and beyond. Every act of service, every dollar given to missions, every neighbor loved, every injustice confronted, every broken person welcomed has been an act of kingdom building. Not the construction of a human institution, but the advance of an eternal reign. The work done faithfully here has mattered far beyond what can be seen or measured, because kingdom work always does.

And the faithfulness of God in building His kingdom means that none of that work has been wasted. In the economy of God’s kingdom, faithful obedience is never lost. The seeds planted in quiet faithfulness, the prayers offered without visible result, the acts of love that no one noticed—all of it is known to the King, and none of it will fail to bear fruit in His time and in His way. The kingdom He is building endures forever, and every stone laid in faithfulness is a permanent part of it.

Illustration

In the medieval era, the construction of a great cathedral could span multiple generations. A master builder might lay the foundation and frame the walls knowing he would never see the finished structure. His children might continue the work, and his grandchildren after them. Entire generations gave their labor to a building they would never see completed. And yet they built—carefully, faithfully, according to the architect’s design—trusting that the vision was worth the investment of their lives even if the completion was beyond their horizon.

The kingdom of God is something like that cathedral—except infinitely grander and guaranteed to be completed. We are not the architect. We did not design the kingdom, and we will not determine

when it is finished. But we are called to be faithful builders in our generation, laying stones according to the Master's plan, trusting that what we contribute will be part of something far larger and more glorious than anything we can currently see.

The generations who built this congregation before us were cathedral builders. They laid stones they never saw finished. They planted seeds they never saw harvested. They prayed prayers whose answers came after they were gone. And the work they did—faithfully, quietly, in obedience to the King—is still standing. We are the beneficiaries of their faithfulness. And the generation that comes after us will be the beneficiaries of ours. We build for a kingdom that endures forever.

Reflection

- In what practical ways does “seeking first the kingdom” shape or challenge the priorities and decisions of your daily life right now?
- How does knowing that God's kingdom is eternal—and that no faithful work done in His name is ever wasted—encourage you in seasons when the fruit of your labor is not visible?
- What specific stone are you laying in the kingdom right now? How are you participating in the advance of God's reign in your home, your workplace, your community, or your church?

Prayer

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Your kingdom is the only kingdom that will last. Every other power and authority will one day bow before You, and what You have set in motion from before the foundation of the world will be completed in glory. We are humbled and honored to be citizens of that kingdom—not because we earned our place, but because the King paid for it with His own life. Thank You that we do not serve a kingdom in decline. We serve the King whose reign will never end.

Forgive us for the times we have shrunk our vision down to the size of our own comfort, our own plans, and our own lifetimes. Expand our hearts to seek Your kingdom first—before our preferences, before our security, before the approval of the world around us. Help us to be faithful builders in our generation, laying stones we may never see completed, planting seeds we may never see harvested, trusting that You are faithful to bring the full harvest in Your time.

As this congregation marks one hundred years of kingdom work, we give You thanks for every stone laid in faithfulness by those who came before us. And we recommit ourselves to the same work—to seek Your kingdom first, to advance Your reign in this community and beyond, and to build for a glory that outlasts us all. Amen.

Day 41 — April 21

Faithful Through The Witness Of The Saints

Key Scripture

Hebrews 12:1

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Supporting Scripture

Hebrews 11:1–2

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.”

Psalms 145:4

“One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.”

Devotional Thought

Hebrews 11 is often called the Hall of Faith—a breathtaking gallery of men and women who trusted God when trust was costly, who believed His promises when circumstances argued against them, and who kept moving forward when the finish line was not in sight. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Rahab, and a host of others too numerous to name—each one a witness. Not merely a spectator, but a living testimony to the faithfulness of a God who can be trusted even in the dark.

And then the author of Hebrews turns the corner into chapter 12 and says: therefore. Because of all those witnesses. Because of their testimony. Because they ran their race and proved that God is faithful—therefore, you run yours. The cloud of witnesses is not passive. It is a surrounding, pressing, encouraging reality. The saints who have gone before us are not simply memories to be honored. They are voices in the stands, lives already lived as proof that the God we serve does not fail those who trust Him.

The witness of the saints is one of the primary ways God has always transmitted His faithfulness from one generation to the next. It is not accidental or incidental. Psalm 145:4 speaks of it as an intentional, generational calling: “One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.” The declaration is the inheritance. When one generation faithfully testifies to

what God has done, the next generation receives something more than information—they receive faith-fuel. They see that the God being preached about is the same God who showed up in real lives in real ways.

This congregation has its own cloud of witnesses. The men and women who founded this church, who prayed it through its early years, who gave sacrificially when resources were scarce, who preached and served and loved faithfully when no one was keeping score—they are part of that cloud. Their lives are a testimony. They ran their race. They passed the baton. And the fact that we are here today—still gathered, still worshiping, still proclaiming the same gospel they proclaimed—is evidence that their witness was not in vain and that the God they trusted was faithful to them.

But the witness of the saints is not only backward-looking. Every believer in this room today is becoming part of someone else's cloud of witnesses. The children watching how we handle hardship, the young believers observing how we love one another, the skeptical neighbors who are watching whether our faith is real—they are forming impressions of God based in part on the witness of our lives. How we run our race matters. Not just for us, but for those who will run theirs because of what they saw in ours.

The call of Hebrews 12:1 is urgent and personal: lay aside every encumbrance, strip off the sin that entangles, and run with endurance. The race is set before us—not chosen by us, but appointed by God. It will require patience. It will require perseverance. There will be stretches that are hard and stretches that seem to go on too long. But we do not run alone, and we do not run without a precedent. A great cloud of witnesses who trusted the same faithful God surrounds us, and their lives declare: He is worth it. Keep running.

Illustration

In long-distance relay racing, the baton is everything. A team of gifted runners can lose a race not because anyone ran poorly, but because the baton was dropped in the exchange. The handoff is the most critical moment—the place where the effort of one runner is either successfully transferred to the next or lost entirely. Teams practice the exchange hundreds of times. They know that the race is won or lost not just in the running but in the passing.

The witness of the saints is a baton handoff. Every generation of faithful believers has the responsibility not only to run well but to pass well—to transfer the testimony of God's faithfulness into the hands of the generation coming behind them with enough clarity and conviction that the next runner can take it and go. A faith that is lived visibly, spoken of freely, and demonstrated under

pressure is a baton that can be passed. A faith that is private, silent, and untested is a baton that is difficult to hand off.

One hundred years of this congregation's history is a relay race. Many runners have already finished their leg and passed the baton on. Some ran long stretches; some ran shorter ones. All of them contributed to the race still in progress. The baton is in our hands now. The question before this generation is not whether the race has been worth running—the cloud of witnesses answers that with a unanimous yes. The question is whether we will run our leg with the same faithfulness, and pass the baton with the same care, that was shown to us.

Reflection

- Who are the specific people in your own life—a grandparent, a mentor, a pastor, a friend—whose faithful witness has shaped your faith and helped you keep running? Take a moment to give thanks for them.
- Hebrews 12:1 calls us to lay aside every encumbrance and entangling sin. What is the thing most slowing down your race right now, and what would it look like to lay it aside?
- Who is watching your race? Who in your circle of influence is forming their understanding of God's faithfulness in part by watching how you live and trust Him?

Prayer

Faithful God of Every Generation,

We are grateful for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us—the men and women of Scripture, and the men and women of this congregation's history, who ran their race with faith and proved by their lives that You are worthy of trust. Their testimony is a gift we did not earn. The faith we have inherited was purchased at great cost by those who came before us, and You were faithful to them in every step of the way. Thank You for their witness. Thank You for the baton in our hands.

Lord, help us to run well. Show us the encumbrances we have been carrying that slow us down and the sins that have been tripping us up. Give us the courage to lay them aside and the endurance to press forward when the race grows long or hard. Remind us on the difficult days that a great cloud of witnesses has already proven that You do not abandon those who trust You. Their finish lines are our encouragement.

And make us faithful witnesses to those who are watching. May our lives be a clear and compelling testimony to Your faithfulness—not because we are extraordinary, but because You are. May the

100 DAYS | GOD'S UNENDING FAITHFULNESS

Faithful Through Every Generation

generation coming behind us inherit from us not just a church building and a tradition, but a living, breathing, costly, joyful faith in a God who has never once failed His people. Help us pass the baton well. The race is still in progress, and it is worth every step.

Amen.

Day 42 — April 22

Faithful In Times Of Revival

Key Scripture

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Supporting Scripture

Psalm 85:6

“Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?”

Acts 3:19

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Devotional Thought

Revival is one of the most misunderstood words in the Christian vocabulary. It is sometimes used to describe a scheduled series of services, or a season of emotional intensity, or a moment of cultural excitement around religion. But in its truest and most biblical sense, revival is something far more profound. It is God breathing new life into His people—awakening what has grown cold, restoring what has grown distant, and setting ablaze what has faded to embers. Revival does not originate with people. It originates with God. And the history of the church is a history of a faithful God who revives His people again and again.

Second Chronicles 7:14 is one of the most quoted promises in Scripture, and for good reason. It lays out with remarkable clarity both the human posture and the divine response that characterize genuine revival. The posture is fourfold: humble yourselves, pray, seek My face, and turn from wicked ways. These are not passive activities. They are deliberate, costly acts of surrender—the turning of a heart away from self-sufficiency and toward the living God. And when that turning happens, God responds with equal clarity: He hears, He forgives, He heals. Revival is always initiated from above, but it arrives through people who are genuinely, desperately seeking.

The psalmist’s prayer in Psalm 85:6 is one of the most honest prayers in all of Scripture: “Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” There is an acknowledgment

embedded in that prayer that cuts to the heart of every believer who has lived long enough in the faith to know what spiritual dryness feels like. We know what it is to have known the joy of the Lord and then to feel it grow distant. We know what it is to go through the motions of faith without the fire. And the psalmist's prayer teaches us that the right response to that dryness is not shame or performance, but honest, expectant asking.

Peter's call in Acts 3:19 connects repentance to refreshing in a way that is both sobering and deeply hopeful. The Greek word translated "times of refreshing" carries the image of a cool breeze on a sweltering day—a relief that is felt in the whole person, not just the mind. Repentance is not a grim religious duty. It is the doorway to refreshing. When we genuinely turn—from sin, from self, from the substitutes we have been trusting in place of God—the presence of the Lord brings a renewal that cannot be manufactured by any human effort or program.

Across one hundred years, this congregation has almost certainly known seasons of fresh wind and seasons of dry stillness. That is not a failure—it is the normal rhythm of the life of God's people throughout history. What matters is not that we avoid the dry seasons but that in them we know where to turn. The faithful God who has revived His church in every generation is the same God who stands ready to revive this one. He has not grown reluctant to move. He has not become stingy with His Spirit. The conditions He described in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are still in effect, and His promise attached to them has not expired.

Revival is not a nostalgic wish for the past. It is a present-tense prayer for a faithful God to do again what He has always done—to show up among His seeking, surrendered, praying people with the kind of power and presence that changes everything. The church that prays for revival with that kind of humble desperation is positioning itself to receive exactly what God has always been faithful to give.

Illustration

In the arid regions of the American Southwest, there are desert wildflowers that lie dormant for years—sometimes decades—without a trace of color or bloom. The ground looks barren and lifeless, and a traveler passing through might reasonably conclude that nothing grows there. But the seeds are present, waiting beneath the surface. When the rains finally come—sometimes after years of absence—the desert erupts into an astonishing display of color. Thousands of flowers bloom simultaneously, transforming a landscape that looked dead into something breathtaking. The life was always there. It was waiting for the water.

Genuine revival is something like that desert bloom. In the dry seasons of a church's life, it can appear that nothing is happening, that the ground is barren, that the fire has gone out entirely. But the Spirit of God does not abandon His people in the dry seasons. He is present, sustaining what is there, waiting for the conditions that allow life to break through with fresh force. When the rain of God's presence falls on a humble, praying, repentant people, the result is always the same—life breaking out where there seemed to be none, color returning to what looked like desert.

Every great awakening in church history has followed this pattern. Ordinary people, burdened for the glory of God and the lostness of those around them, humbled themselves and prayed with a desperation that would not be satisfied with anything less than God Himself. And God, who is faithful to His promise, came. He came in Wales and in Northampton, in the fields of Kentucky and the prayer meetings of New York City. He came because He is faithful—and because His people asked. He is no less ready to come today.

Reflection

- How would you honestly describe the current spiritual temperature of your own heart—alive and burning, steady and warm, or dry and in need of renewal? What has contributed to that condition?
- The conditions in 2 Chronicles 7:14—humility, prayer, seeking God's face, and turning from sin—are personal before they are corporate. Which of these four postures most needs attention in your own life right now?
- What would it look like for you to pray for revival—not as a scheduled event but as a genuine, desperate, expectant cry for God to move among His people in fresh power?

Prayer

Reviving and Faithful God,

You are the God who breathes life into dry bones. You are the God who sends rain on the parched ground of seeking hearts. You are the God who has awakened sleeping churches, restored wandering people, and set ablaze what had faded to embers throughout all of church history. You have never once grown unwilling to revive Your people. The question has never been Your readiness—it has always been ours.

We come to You today with honest hearts. There are places in us that are dry. There are areas of our corporate life that need Your fresh breath. Forgive us for the self-sufficiency that has substituted activity for intimacy, programs for prayer, and the appearance of life for the reality of it. We humble ourselves before You. We turn from what has come between us and You. We seek Your face, not Your

100 DAYS | GOD'S UNENDING FAITHFULNESS

Faithful Through Every Generation

hand alone. Come and revive us, Lord—not for our own comfort, but for Your glory and for the sake of a world that desperately needs to see a people who are truly alive in You.

As this church marks one hundred years and looks to the future, we cry out with the psalmist: Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? You have been faithful to revive Your church in every generation that has sincerely sought You. We are seeking You now. Send the rain. Bring the bloom. Let the next chapter of this congregation's story be marked by the kind of life that only You can give.

Amen.

