



Elevate

**A 21 DAY JOURNEY
TO EXCELLENCE**



We are in this together; let's keep pressing on, not looking back at our mistakes and dwelling on them but going forward until we reach the goal. We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us [Phil 4:13].

THE ASCENT: A CALL TO ELEVATE

Beloved Church Family,

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart.” – Psalm 24:3-4

Stand at the base of any great mountain and you will feel it—that pull. That whisper in your spirit declaring, “There is more up there.” While the safety of base camp offers comfort, it cannot provide the clarity, the perspective, or the glory found at the summit. The air is thinner at the top, but the view changes everything.

What is your summit? For some, it is a spiritual breakthrough—finally breaking a cycle of defeat. For others, it is relational restoration, professional elevation, or the launch of a long-held ministry dream. Your mountain is specific, but the invitation is universal: God is calling you upward. This is not a year for lingering in the lowlands of mediocrity; it is a year for the ascent.

The Mandate: The Cost of the Climb

Every great leader of old found God on the heights. Moses encountered the Law on Sinai; Elijah called down fire on Carmel; and Jesus revealed His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Daniel did not climb a physical peak, but he ascended spiritually, elevating through every trial until kingdoms recognized the God he served.

But we must be honest: mountain climbing is arduous labor. The path is narrow and the pressure intensifies as you rise. Elevation requires divine divestment. You cannot carry the baggage of bitterness, the weight of complacency, or the distractions of compromise to the peak. As the Apostle Paul exhorted, we must forget what lies behind and strain toward what is ahead. To reach the top, we must trade our temporary comfort for a permanent Spirit of Excellence.



The Commission: Roped Together for Impact

You are not climbing alone. For these 21 days, we are roped together in a sacred covenant of prayer, fasting, and the Word. When the path becomes steep, we shall support one another. When the wind of opposition howls, we shall stand firm in our collective faith. We climb because the summit promises what the valley cannot:

Clarity: A divine perspective that turns obstacles into opportunities.

Influence: A life that speaks louder from the peak, serving as a beacon for those still below.

Intimacy: A proximity to the Father that transforms the very nature of your soul.

Legacy: A path cleared so that your children can climb even higher than you.

The Charge: Leave Base Camp

By the authority of the Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit, I commission you to start the climb. Lace up your boots of peace, gird yourselves with the belt of truth, and fix your eyes on the Author and Finisher of your faith.

The Lord declares, "See, I am doing a

new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). God is making a way for your ascent. The path is marked. The Guide is ready. The summit is calling. It is time to leave the valley. It is time to Elevate!

Prayer for the Journey

Gracious Father, we thank You for the strength to begin this ascent. We ask that You fortify our spirits for the steep places and sharpen our focus when distractions arise. Give us, like Daniel, an excellent spirit that cannot be compromised. May every step bring us closer to Your heart and higher into the calling You have for us. Sustain us by Your grace until we stand together at the summit, beholding Your glory. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen. The mountain does not move, but the climber is transformed. We will see you at the top!

Love Pastor C



THE CLIMBER'S COMMITMENT

"I press on toward the goal..." – Philippians 3:14

I, _____, commit to the 21-Day Ascent.

By God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, I set my heart on leaving base camp and pursuing the summit of Excellence. During these 21 days, I pledge to:

Prioritize the Secret Place: I will seek the Lord daily in prayer and in the Word.

Steward the Fast: I will abstain from _____ to sharpen my spiritual focus.

Pursue Excellence: I will invite God to examine my attitude and refine my character.

Remain Roped In: I will encourage my fellow climbers and remain faithful until we reach the summit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Stage	Day	Milestone / Focus Area
I. THE FOUNDATION	1-7	Internal Alignment: Establishing an excellent spirit and a renewed mindset.
II. THE ASCENT	8-14	Testing & Integrity: Proving faithfulness under pressure and in the small things.
III. THE SUMMIT	15-21	Impact & Influence: Stepping into your testimony and kingdom legacy.

The Daily Checklist

- The Word: Read the assigned Day's Scripture.
- The Devotional: Reflect on the pastoral teaching.
- The SOAP: Journal your Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer.
- The Check-In: Reach out to one "climbing partner" to encourage them.

Using the SOAP Method:

- S - Scripture: Write the verse out by hand.
- O - Observation: What is the Holy Spirit highlighting to you?
- A - Application: How will you live this out today?
- P - Prayer: Write a short, honest response to God.



DAY ONE

An Excellent Spirit



Daniel 6:3 (NKJV)

“Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.”

Devotional

Excellence isn't an act; it's an atmosphere you carry. Daniel's promotion didn't start with a title; it started with his character in a secret place. God is looking for people He can trust at the top. True elevation begins internally—it's reflecting God's nature so clearly that people notice you're different.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:3 in your journal.

O - Observation: What does it mean that Daniel had an “excellent spirit in him” What made him different from the other leaders?

A - Application: Where in your life do you need to shift from doing excellent things to being a person of excellence? What internal shift does God want to make in you?

P - Prayer: Talk to God about the condition of your spirit. Ask Him to cultivate excellence in you from the inside out.

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DAY TWO

Excellence Begins in God's Nature



Psalm 8:1 (NIV)

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.”

Devotional

Excellence is a divine attribute, not a human standard. God never cuts corners; everything He touches is marked by order and intentionality. Since you are made in His image, excellence is in your DNA. Mediocrity is exhausting because it's a misalignment with your Creator.

S - Scripture: Write out Psalm 8:1.

O - Observation: What does this verse reveal about God's character? How does His excellence show up in creation?

A - Application: How can I reflect God's excellent nature in my daily life? Where have I settled for “good enough” when God is calling me to His standard?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you see excellence as worship, not work.



DAY THREE

Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude



Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

Devotional

To go higher, think differently. Your attitude determines your altitude. Talent, opportunity, and resources matter, but a wrong mindset keeps you grounded. Paul urges us to have the mind of Christ—serving, trusting, and humility. Humility leads to honor; service to leadership; obedience to authority. Check your attitude today—are you surrendered or entitled? Trust God’s timing and stay faithful.

S - Scripture: Write out Philippians 2:5.

O - Observation: What was Jesus’ attitude? How did His mindset lead to His exaltation (see vv. 6-11)?

A - Application: What attitudes in my life need to change? Where am I holding onto pride, entitlement, or bitterness instead of humility and trust?

P - Prayer: Ask God to give you the mind of Christ today.

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DAY FOUR

Distinguished, Not Duplicated



Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

“Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.”

Devotional

God didn't create you to blend in. Daniel “distinguished himself”—he was set apart by the quality of his character, not the volume of his self-promotion. Excellence doesn't need a microphone; it just needs consistency. When you walk in your unique identity, opportunity will chase you

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:3 (NIV).

O - Observation: What qualities made Daniel stand out? How did his excellence attract the attention of leadership?

A - Application: Where in my life am I trying to blend in instead of walking boldly in who God made me to be? How can I let my work and character speak louder than my words?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you embrace your unique calling and walk in it with confidence and humility.

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DAY FIVE

God Won't Elevate What He Can't Trust



Daniel 6:4 (NIV)

“At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.”

Devotional

Integrity is the foundation of elevation, and God tests you in private before publicly promoting you. Daniel was trusted not because he was perfect, but because he was faithful and trustworthy in both his private and public life. God values people who do the right thing when no one is watching, handling small matters with the same integrity as big ones. If you want to be elevated by God, you must be trustworthy with secrets, money, time, and your word.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:4.

O - Observation: What did Daniel's enemies find when they investigated him? What does that say about his character?

A - Application: If someone investigated my life today—my finances, my relationships, my work ethic—what would they find? Where do I need to grow in trustworthiness?

P - Prayer: Ask God to expose any areas of compromise and help you walk in integrity.

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DAY SIX

Your Gift Makes Room, Excellence Keeps You There

Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)

“Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.”

Devotional

Raw talent is wasted potential without stewardship. Skill—honed, sharpened, and mastered—positions you before kings. Excellence is the spiritual discipline of becoming the best version of what God called you to be. Don't just rely on your gift; cultivate it.

S - Scripture: Write out Proverbs 22:29.

O - Observation: What's the connection between skill and opportunity? What does this verse say about the importance of developing your gifts?

A - Application: What gifts has God given me? How am I stewarding and sharpening them? Where do I need to grow?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you develop your gifts with diligence and excellence.

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DAY SEVEN

Small Faithfulness, Big Elevation



Luke 16:10 (NIV)

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

Devotional

God promotes based on proven faithfulness, not potential. We want the stage, but God is watching the “hidden” tasks. How you handle “little” reveals if you are ready for “much.” Elevation isn’t about skipping steps; it’s about taking every step with integrity.

S - Scripture: Write out Luke 16:10.

O - Observation: What’s the connection between faithfulness in small things and trustworthiness in big things? What is Jesus teaching us about character?

A - Application: Where am I being tested in the small things right now? How can I show God that I’m ready for more by being faithful in what He’s already given me?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you be faithful in the little things, trusting that He’s preparing you for more.

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DAY EIGHT

Pressure Reveals What You're Made Of

Daniel 6:4-5 (NIV)

“At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so... Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

Devotional

Excellence invites scrutiny. Pressure doesn't create character; it reveals it. Daniel's foundation was so pure that pressure only proved his faithfulness. If you are built on pretense, you'll crack. If you are built on integrity, you'll stand.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:4-5.

O - Observation: Why couldn't Daniel's enemies find anything against him? What does that say about how he lived?

A - Application: If someone investigated my life today, what would they find? Am I living in a way that can withstand scrutiny?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you live with integrity so that when pressure comes, your character will hold.

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DAY TEN

Private Discipline, Public Power



Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”

Devotional

Daniel’s public victory was won in his private prayer room. His rhythm of seeking God wasn’t a reaction to a crisis; it was his lifestyle. If you want to stand strong in public storms, you must be rooted in the secret place.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:10.

O - Observation: What did Daniel do when the law threatened his life? What does “just as he had done before” tell us about his consistency?

A - Application: What private disciplines do I need to establish or strengthen? How can I build rhythms of prayer, worship, and the Word into my daily life?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you cultivate private habits that will produce public power.

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DAY ELEVEN

Excellence in Work: As Unto the Lord



Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Devotional

Your workplace is your mission field, and your work is your worship. When God is your audience, you don't cut corners or perform only when the boss is watching. Bring your best because you represent the One who gave you the assignment.

S - Scripture: Write out Colossians 3:23.

O - Observation: What does it mean to work “as unto the Lord”? How does that shift your perspective on everyday tasks?

A - Application: Where am I working for people's approval instead of God's? How can I elevate my work by making God my audience?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you see your work as worship.

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DAY TWELVE

Let Your Light Speak



Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Devotional

People notice your fruit before they hear your faith. Your lifestyle is your loudest sermon. Excellence is evangelism. When your integrity is undeniable, people are forced to look at the God you serve. Don't just talk about Jesus—show them Jesus.

S - Scripture: Write out Matthew 5:16.

O - Observation: What's the purpose of letting your light shine? Who gets the glory?

A - Application: What does my life say about God? Is my lifestyle drawing people to Him or pushing them away?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you live in such a way that your life points people to Him.

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DAY THIRTEEN

Consistency Over Intensity



Luke 16:10 (ESV)

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

Devotional

Excellence is a habit, not an event. Anyone can be great for a day, but elevation belongs to the consistent. Daniel's faithfulness was predictable. Small, daily acts of obedience build a foundation that can hold the weight of your future.

S - Scripture: Write out Luke 16:10 (ESV).

O - Observation: What's the connection between faithfulness in small things and trustworthiness in big things?

A - Application: Where do I need to move from intensity to consistency? What rhythms do I need to build into my life?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you be faithful in the small, everyday moments.

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DAY FOURTEEN

Excellence When It Costs You



Daniel 6:16 (NIV)

“So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

Devotional

Eventually, excellence will lead you to a “lion’s den.” There will be a moment when doing the right thing puts you at risk. Daniel didn’t flinch because he knew God was greater than the threat. True excellence is staying faithful even when it’s costly.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:16.

O - Observation: What did the king say to Daniel? What does that reveal about Daniel’s reputation?

A - Application: Where is God calling me to stay faithful even when it costs me something? What lions’ den am I facing, and how can I trust God in it?

P - Prayer: Ask God for the courage to walk in excellence even when it’s costly.



DAY FIFTEEN

God Meets You in the Den



Daniel 6:22 (NIV)

“My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

Devotional

God doesn't always keep you out of the den; sometimes He shuts the mouths of the lions while you're in it. A trial isn't a sign of God's absence—it's an opportunity for His presence to be proven. Don't focus on the lions; focus on the Lion of Judah.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:22.

O - Observation: How did God protect Daniel in the den? What does this reveal about God's faithfulness?

A - Application: What “lions” am I facing right now? How can I trust that God is with me in the midst of them?

P - Prayer: Thank God for His presence in your trial and ask Him to help you rest in His protection.



DAY SIXTEEN

Elevation After Confrontation



Daniel 6:23 (NIV)

“The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.”

Devotional

Elevation often follows vindication. The very trial meant to destroy Daniel became the platform for his promotion. When you come out of the den, you won't just survive; you'll thrive. Your confrontation is a setup for your step up.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:23.

O - Observation: What was Daniel's condition when he came out of the den? What does that reveal about God's protection?

A - Application: What trial am I in that I need to trust God through? How can I believe that God is preparing me for elevation on the other side?

P - Prayer: Ask God to strengthen your faith as you wait for your elevation.



DAY SEVENTEEN

Your Testimony Is Your Weapon



Daniel 6:25-27 (NIV)

“Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Devotional

Daniel’s excellence forced a pagan king to declare the power of God. Your testimony—how you handle the fire and the den—points people to the Father. Your elevation isn’t just for you; it’s a kingdom-wide signal that God is alive and powerful.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:25-27.

O - Observation: What did King Darius declare after seeing God rescue Daniel? What does this reveal about the power of a faithful witness?

A - Application: How can my faithfulness in trials become a testimony that points others to God? What story is my life telling?

P - Prayer: Ask God to use your testimony for His glory and kingdom impact.

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DAY EIGHTEEN

Elevated to Influence



Daniel 6:28 (NIV)

“So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Devotional

Daniel prospered through multiple administrations because his foundation was in God, not politics. Elevation is for influence, not ego. God positions you in high places to shift the atmosphere and advance His agenda.

S - Scripture: Write out Daniel 6:28.

O - Observation: Why did Daniel prosper under multiple kings? What does this reveal about the source of his success?

A - Application: How am I stewarding the influence God has given me? Am I using it for His kingdom or my comfort?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you steward influence with humility and purpose.

A grayscale photograph of a rugged mountain range with snow-capped peaks and rocky slopes. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent red geometric pattern consisting of overlapping triangles and lines.

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DAY NINETEEN

Excellence That Outlasts You



Hebrews 11:4 (NIV)

“By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.”

Devotional

Excellence leaves a legacy. Your title will fade, but your character will echo. Like Abel and Daniel, your faithfulness should speak long after you're gone. Build something that points to eternity.

S - Scripture: Write out Hebrews 11:4.

O - Observation: How does Abel's faith still speak? What does this teach us about legacy?

A - Application: What legacy am I building? What do I want my life to say when I'm gone?

P - Prayer: Ask God to help you live with eternity in mind.

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DAY TWENTY

The Summit Is Not the End



Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Devotional

Excellence is a direction, not a destination. Paul reached many summits but kept pressing for the “upward call.” When you reach a goal, celebrate it—but don’t camp there. There are more mountains to climb and more territory to take.

S - Scripture: Write out Philippians 3:13-14.

O - Observation: What was Paul’s posture toward his spiritual journey? What does it mean to “press on toward the goal”?

A - Application: Where have I been tempted to coast rather than continue to grow? What does it look like for me to keep pressing forward?

P - Prayer: Ask God to give you a heart that never stops pursuing Him.

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DAY TWENTY ONE

Your Elevation Points to God



1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Devotional

The purpose of elevation is to magnify God’s name, not yours. When Daniel walked out of the den, he didn’t take a bow; he gave God the credit. True excellence is a life fully surrendered so others can see Him clearly.

S - Scripture: Write out 1 Corinthians 10:31.

O - Observation: What does it mean to do everything for the glory of God? How does that change your perspective on excellence?

A - Application: How can I make sure my life, my work, and my elevation point people to God and not to myself?

P - Prayer: Commit your life, your gifts, and your future to God’s glory.

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Grace Church of God
A Gateway to Heaven

VISION:

Grace Church of God is heavens gateway for Christ-centered ministry that transforms lives (Gen 28).

MISSION:

Grace Church of God is an intergenerational and multi-national church seeking to transform lives to Christ-like maturity.

Lead Pastor: Rev. Carlos W. Bannister

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