

Prayer & Fasting Emphasis
Oct.—Nov. 2026

Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus

CALVARY 90

PRAYER & FASTING GUIDE



CALVARY
BAPTIST TUPELO

COME SERVE GO
TOGETHER

Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus

Church Family,

Thank you for taking part in this 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting. I pray that these three weeks will cause us to seek the will of the Lord, stretch our faith, and lead us down the road that is needed. May these devotions encourage our hearts as we seek the Lord together.

Our Calvary 90 project has been in the works for almost two years now. Many hours of prayer, committee work, and discussions have taken place. And now, we enter the final stages of presentation to our church family. We desperately need the Lord's direction and provision in these next few weeks. God is faithful—He has been faithful in the past, and I know He will be faithful in the future.

Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus,

Bro. John



John Boler, Senior Pastor
Calvary Baptist Tupelo

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CALVARY 90
Save-the-Dates

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

Sun., Oct. 18–Sun., Nov. 8

FINAL PRESENTATION

Sun., Nov. 1, 6PM

24-HOUR DAY OF PRAYER

Sat., Nov. 7, 7AM–Sun., Nov. 8, 7AM

Register calvarytupelo.com/calvary90 or on the poster provided at the Landing outside of the Sanctuary.

DAY OF GIVING

Worship Service – Sun., Nov. 8, 10:15AM

Sunday School – 9AM

Gratitude Luncheon to follow.

RSVP for lunch calvarytupelo.com/calvary90
or at the Connect Table.

PROJECT MOTION & DISCUSSION

Wed., Nov. 11, 6PM

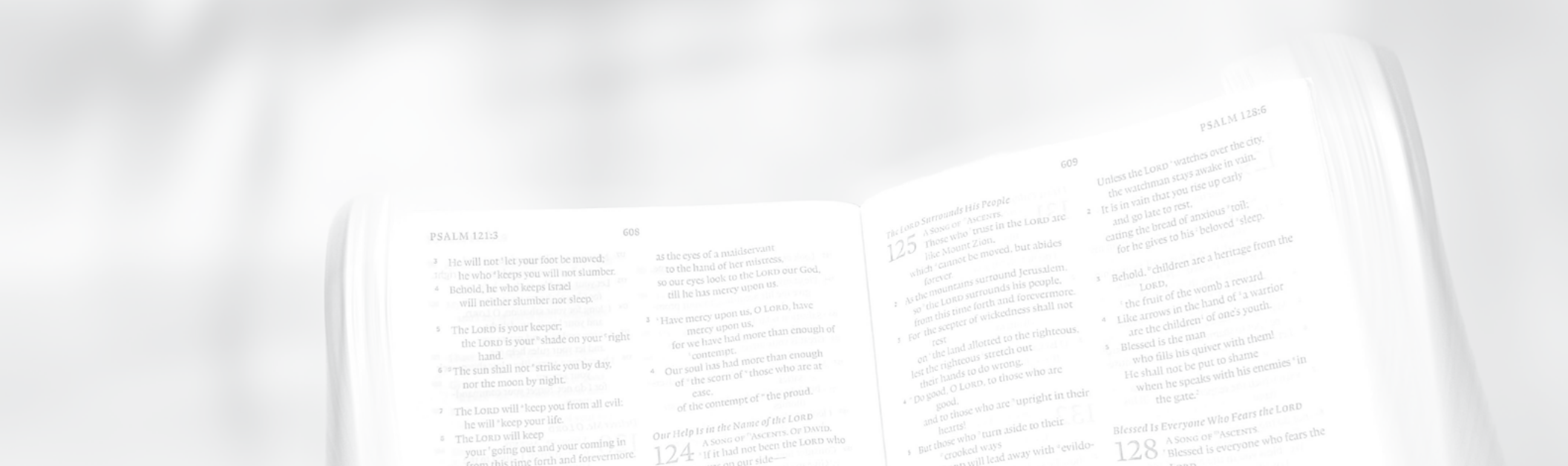
PROJECT VOTE

Worship Service – Sun., Nov. 15, 10:15AM

Vote at the conclusion of morning service.

Sunday School – 9AM

*This timeline is subject to change should our committees need more time. We will keep you updated as needed.



What Is Fasting?

Fasting is the act of refraining from food for a certain period of time in order to petition the throne room of God for a spiritual/extraordinary matter. It is when you neglect the most powerful lust within you, which is food, in order to hear from the Lord, pray to the Lord, and respond to the Lord. When we become so desperate for the Lord that we have nowhere else to turn, we should enter into a time of prayer and fasting.

As our November 8th, Calvary 90 Day of Giving, approaches, we want to prepare our hearts spiritually. This emphasis of prayer and fasting is an opportunity to seek the Lord and petition the throne of God for His provision.

Please note that although this fasting emphasis is church-wide, I ask that you seek the Lord personally, to know your role in this emphasis. Below is a list of three different types of fasting: *The Daniel Fast*, a partial fast, or a non-food fast. These are just a few examples of how to fast for 21 Days.

HOW TO FAST FOR 21 DAYS

> Choose *The Daniel Fast*:

Based on Daniel 1, the Daniel fast focuses on fruits, vegetables, and water while avoiding meat, dairy, sweets, bread, and processed foods.

> Choose a Partial Fast:

This type of fast allows individuals to only eat at certain times of the day. For example, this type of fast would eliminate certain meals like breakfast or another meal. Instead of eating three times a day, you only eat twice a day.

> Choose a Non-Food Fast:

This type of fast abstains from other things besides food. Items like social media, television, or other forms of entertainment.

*****How you fast is between you and the Lord. Fasting will always be sacrificial and lead you to an absolute dependence on Him.**

1

Day One

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

*Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways,
and how small a whisper we hear of Him!
But the thunder of His power who can understand?
Job 26:14*

Trying to listen to someone who is whispering can be difficult. When someone whispers, we are immediately drawn to them because, even though we cannot hear them, we know they have something important to say.

Our Lord spoke the entire universe into existence with the sound of His voice. Yet, oftentimes, we find Him speaking to us in a “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12). As Job says, “How small a whisper we hear of Him!” It makes us ask the question, “How do you hear the whisper of God?”

1.) Know Him.

Followers of the Lord Jesus know the voice of Jesus. John 10:27 says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” Therefore, the first step in hearing the whisper of the Lord is to know Him in a personal way. It means to come to faith in Jesus and turn from all sin.

2.) Get Close to Him.

If you want to hear someone who is whispering to you, get close to them so you can hear. In the same way, if you want to hear the whisper of the Lord, you must get close to the Lord. You will find that as you get closer to Jesus, the voices around you become more and more silent.

3.) Look at Him.

When someone is whispering to you, you usually look them in the eye to help identify what they are saying. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God..” To “know” means to “see.” It means that we slow down to see the Lord so we can hear what He is saying.

4.) Listen to Him.

You'll never hear someone whispering to you if you're talking. You must be quiet so that you can listen. You are quiet so you can give your undivided attention to the one speaking. To hear the whisper of the Lord, we come into His Presence and are quiet. While what we say in prayer is important, there are times we need to hear from the Lord. When those times come, we gather at His feet and just listen.

The Lord speaks most of the time through His Word. As you journey through these next three weeks of prayer and fasting, I encourage you to *know Him, get close to Him, look at Him, and listen to Him*. I can assure you, He will speak to you, but sometimes, it will be just a whisper.

PRAYER

Father, may the most important part of today be time sitting at Your feet just listening to You.

2

Day Two

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

*And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
He who comes to Me shall never hunger,
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'
John 6:35*

What is the difference between hunger and hungry? Besides the obvious spelling, you could say that being hungry is temporal and hunger is more long term. One who is hungry can be satisfied with one meal and one who is hungering will be satisfied with a consistent meal.

Jesus is the "bread of life." All who come to Him shall never hunger. As the "bread of life," Jesus is to be enjoyed on a consistent, daily basis. Jesus is everything we need to never live a life of spiritual hunger and spiritual thirst. So how do we know if Jesus is our "bread of life?" How do we know that He is satisfying our every need?

1.) Are you hungering for Jesus?

He is the only one who can satisfy, and He is the only one who knows exactly what you need in life. Is Jesus truly your only desire for true satisfaction? Your nourishment in life will come from some source. Only Jesus can satisfy in both the temporal and the eternal.

2.) Are you humble?

Humility causes us to look to Jesus and bow in His Presence. Humility causes us to block out any other source of spiritual satisfaction. Humility causes us to say, "Jesus, You are all that I need."

3.) Are you holy?

Pride is the root of all sin; therefore, an unholy life is a prideful life. Pride blocks our view of the Lord. Pride closes the window that provides spiritual nourishment and spiritual satisfaction. Pride says, "I don't need what the Lord can provide; I can provide on my own." A holy life recognizes the state of our heart and our desperate need for the "bread of life."

If you are spiritually starving today, the answer is Jesus. He alone is who you need, and He alone, knows *exactly* what you need.

PRAYER

Father, You are all that I need. Help me to hunger for You, help me to humble myself before You, and help me to walk in Your holiness each day.

3

Day Three

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

*For consider Him who endured such hostility
from sinners against Himself,
lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.
Hebrews 12:3*

Discouragement can come out of nowhere. At one moment you can be enjoying life, walking close with the Lord, and then, discouragement seems to fall right into your lap. No matter where you may be in your walk with Jesus, you can fall prey to discouragement. Discouragement affects all people. You never look for it, but it has no trouble finding you.

The Scripture says, “consider Him”—this means to take full note of. This verse is a reference to Jesus. It reminds us to take full note of *Him*. Be reminded daily of what *He* endured on the cross and the price that *He* paid for our sins at Calvary.

“Lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”
“Weary” means to droop. It’s like walking around with your shoulders lowered. You are discouraged and not handling life the way Jesus intended.

When those discouraging, weary, and drooping days come, remember to “consider Him.” Take your eyes off the situation and circumstance; put your eyes on Jesus! Pull your shoulders back and tilt your head towards the Lord.

It’s hard to stay discouraged when...

- you meditate on what Jesus did for you on the cross.
- you’re reminded of the pain, punishment, and price that

Jesus paid for you on the cross.

- you have the high privilege to “consider Him” who is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.
- you’re reminded that He intercedes on your behalf and that He will never leave nor forsake you.
- you’re reminded that He loves you unconditionally and provides a peace that surpasses all understanding—His mercy is new every morning.

It’s hard to stay discouraged when, His grace is sufficient for every weakness in life; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. At any moment, Jesus will come and take us home to Heaven where we will worship Him forever and forever. It’s hard to stay discouraged in this world, knowing that this world is not our home, we are just passing through.

What a privilege to “consider Him.”

What a privilege to *Keep Our Eyes on Jesus*.

What an even greater privilege to *know* that *His eyes* are watching you.

PRAYER

Father, may I take full note of You today. May I never forget the cross and the price You paid for me.

4

Day Four

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

*For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light.
Psalm 36:9*

When I was growing up one of my favorite treats was being able to go to the local 7-Eleven to get a “Slurpee.” I only remember a couple of flavors as options, with the coke flavor being my favorite. Today, you can go to many different gas stations and other places to buy a “Slurpee,” now known as an “Icee.” There are so many flavors to choose from and I have transitioned over to the piña colada flavor. It is a refreshing treat any day of the year but especially on hot summer days.

In Psalm 36, David uses two words to describe our Lord. He uses the word “life” and the word “light.” As David writes, He sees the Lord as a fountain of life, flowing into our hearts. Our Lord satisfies and He is sufficient. He sees the light of our Lord that provides vision for each of us. There is no darkness with the Lord. If we follow His light, we will have the Light needed to see which direction to go in our walk with Him.

In the New Testament, we also see a picture of “life” and “light.” The Apostle John writes about how Jesus is both our life and our light. The “You” in the Old Testament (Psalm 36) is fulfilled in Jesus in the New Testament (John 4).

In John 4:14, Jesus says, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Jesus is the fountain of life that provides spiritual satisfaction. Everything else in the world will lead us to a thirsty soul. Only Jesus can quench the thirst of a longing heart.

John 1:9 says, “That was the true Light, which gives light to every man coming into the world.” John the Baptist speaks of Jesus being the true Light that provides light for every person. David said in Psalm 36 that in the Lord’s light we see light. John said in John 1 that Jesus is the Light and provides light for all the world.

What our world needs more than anything is Life and Light—both are found in Jesus.

PRAYER

Father, You are the Light of the World and in You is Life. May I run to you for spiritual nourishment and spiritual satisfaction.

5

Day Five

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication
in the Spirit, being watchful to this end
with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.
Ephesians 6:18*

Have you ever fallen asleep in prayer? You have the best intentions of praying to the Lord and meditating in His Presence. Then, all the sudden, your eyes get heavy, and you drift off into a quiet sleep. It happened to some of the disciples in Matthew 26:40, 43. It can happen so easily to anyone.

My question is not, "Have you ever fallen asleep in prayer?" but, "Has your *prayer life* ever fallen asleep?"

"You mean your prayer life can sleep?" Yes, it sure can.

In Ephesians 6:18, the word "watchful" means "to be sleepless." It means to be sleepless unto prayer. You do not go to sleep in prayer, but you also don't let your prayer life go to sleep.

Life can be so busy that your prayer life can drift off into a quiet sleep. The context of Ephesians 6:18 speaks of the child of God putting on the full armor of God. This is required to fight spiritual warfare. As a result, we are "watchful" in prayer because of the satanic attacks that are all around us.

When your prayer life goes to sleep, this is when the enemy attacks and is often successful. One of the main offensive weapons in our walk with Christ is our prayer life.

While sleep is good and needed in our physical life, sleep is never good in our prayer life. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." While it is impossible to always be speaking a prayer, it is possible, and necessary, to always be living in the spirit of prayer. As your day unfolds, you find yourself in constant communication, fellowship, and intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, to "be watchful" means to be on constant alert of all the things around you. Be alert of the spiritual warfare that is surrounding you. Be alert of the desire of the enemy, which is to keep you from entering the presence of the Lord in prayer.

PRAYER

Father, help me to be watchful in my prayer life. May I understand the desperate need of prayer daily in my life. Protect me from the work of the enemy.

6

Day Six

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.'
Psalm 91:1-2*

These verses are powerful to read and lead us to moments of meditation. Think about the words "secret place," "shadow," "refuge and fortress," and "trust." They are constant reminders of our place in the Presence of Lord. We are safe in the arms of our Lord.

As powerful as those words are to our heart and life, there is another set of four words that bring us great comfort. In Hebrew, those words are "Elyon," "Shaddai," "Jehovah," and "Elohim." All four names are in reference to *God our Savior*.

1.) Elyon – translated "The Most High."

This means that the Lord is Possessor of Heaven and Earth. He is the owner of everything. He possesses everything. We find this name used thirty-six times in the Word of God. We have a secret place, a hiding place, with the One who is Possessor of everything.

2.) Shaddai – translated "The Almighty."

This means that He is Provider. Our Lord is not just the possessor of everything, but He is also the provider of everything. Our Lord is a giver. He provides daily for our needs. As believers, we dwell (abide) in the shadow of our Provider.

3.) Jehovah – translated "The Lord."

This was the most used name for God in the Old Testament. This was the personal name for God. In Exodus 3, God revealed Himself to Moses by saying, "I am that I am." This was God's covenant keeping name for the children of Israel. As believers, we speak to God in a personal way and say, "You are my refuge and my fortress."

4.) Elohim – translated "God the Creator."

This word occurs twenty-seven hundred times in the Bible. It means "power." This first time we see this word is in the creation account of Genesis 1. "Elohim" is God as Creator. As believers, we trust in God (Elohim), who is all-power.

In the New Testament, these four names are fulfilled in Jesus.

Colossians 1:16 says, "For by Him (Jesus/Jehovah) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth (Elyon), visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him (Elohim) and for Him (Shaddai)."

May you take refuge today in the secret place of the Almighty whose name is Jesus.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for providing a place to dwell and abide in Your Presence. You are my safe place. I am trusting You.

7

Day Seven

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

*Let the priests, who minister to the Lord,
weep between the porch and the altar...*
Joel 2:17

*So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house;
and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord,
between the porch and the altar,
were about twenty-five men with their backs
toward the temple of the Lord
and their faces toward the east,
and they were worshiping the sun toward the east."*
Ezekiel 8:16

What does it mean to "weep between the porch and the altar?" First, this phrase is an uncommon phrase in the Bible. It is only found in the two texts listed above. Second, we need to identify what the porch and the altar are. These two places were located on the Temple mount. The porch was a place where people gathered and discussed all matters of life. We find in the New Testament, Jesus teaching in this very place. The altar was a place where the priests would accept the sacrifices of the people to atone for their sins. The porch was east of the altar. In our two passages, the priests were between the porch and the altar.

While these two passages both discuss weeping between the porch and the altar, they have one noticeable difference. In Joel's passage, the priests are facing the Temple of the Lord; In Ezekiel's passage, the men are facing towards the east with their backs towards the temple of the Lord.

What a powerful connection in these two passages! When a priest faced the Temple (the Lord), his back was towards the people. When he focused on the Lord, he could not focus on anything else. When the Scripture says that the men faced the east (the Sun), their back was to the Lord. If they faced the people, they could not focus on the Lord. Joel says that the priests turned to the Lord. Ezekiel says that men turned away from the Lord.

You can only worship in one direction. You are either bowed down in the presence of the Lord, or you are bowed down with your back towards the Lord.

"To weep" means to confess sin and pray for revival among the people. It means to bow in the presence of a holy God with your back towards anything and everything else. It means you are completely surrendered to His agenda and His ways.

When is the last time you wept in the presence of God in prayer? When is the last time you wept for the lost souls of individuals? When is the last time you wept for revival to fill our churches? When is the last time you wept because of the sin of our nation? When is the last time you came to an "altar" and wept because of the holiness of God?

Today, are you facing the Lord, or do you have your back towards Him?

PRAYER

Father, turn my eyes upon You today.



Day Eight

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

*From the rising of the sun to its going down,
the Lord's name is to be praised.*

Psalms 113:3

Most people probably have a picture of a sunrise or a sunset on their phone. Maybe it was a sunrise picture over the ocean or a lake. Maybe it was a sunset picture in another country while on vacation. We marvel at the rising and setting of the sun. The rising of the sun brings freshness, newness, and the excitement of a new day. The setting of a sun brings closure, rest, and remembrance of the day.

The rising and setting of the Sun also bring with it time. There is a certain time when the Sun will rise, and there is a certain time the Sun will set. It happens every day, no matter the season, no matter the weather, no matter the temperature. The Sun will rise and set every day.

When you think of the rising and setting of the Sun, it's easy to forget how each day starts and ends. The way Earth rotates causes the Sun to be rising somewhere on Earth at every moment of every day. Also, the way Earth rotates, causes the Sun to be setting somewhere on Earth at every moment of every day. Think about that. Every moment of every day, the Sun is rising and setting somewhere on Earth.

With that thought in mind, the Scripture says, "From the rising of the sun to its going down, the Lord's name is to be praised."

If we put that verse in our own personal context, we are to

praise the Lord when we get out of bed, and we are to praise the Lord until we go to bed. We praise the Lord when the Sun gets up and we praise the Lord until the sun goes down.

But when we think of the context from the overall rising and setting of the Sun, and the fact that it occurs somewhere every moment of every day, we are reminded that the Lord's name is to be praised every moment of every day. He who knows not time, yet created time, is to be worshipped *all* the time. Every moment of every day, while we are up and while we are sleeping, may the name of the Lord be praised.

PRAYER

Father, may every sunrise and sunset draw me closer to You. May they be reminders of my constant desire to praise Your precious name.

9

Day Nine

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

*And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19*

What does it mean to “be content”? Contentment is the state of being satisfied with what one is or has; not wanting more or anything else. This verse in Philippians provides great encouragement to practical situations in life. It is worth breaking down and looking at a few words at a time.

“My God” – Believers live a “My God” lifestyle. The God who created all things and sustains all things. The God who is Almighty, All-powerful, and All-knowing. The God who is Omnipresent. The One who is faithful, merciful, compassionate, and patient. This is our God. This is our Personal Savior. This is the God who dwells in our hearts, leads and guides each day of our lives.

Our God can do anything that brings Him glory and honor. As believers, we do not avoid situations where only God can work. God can do more in one second than we could do in a lifetime.

“Shall supply” – The context of Philippians 4 speaks of generosity and contentment. God shall supply to those who are generous and content in their personal walk with the Lord.

“All your need” – God will meet your need, not your greed.

“According to His riches in glory” – How rich is God? God owns

everything. The riches of our Savior are limitless. You cannot put a figure or an amount on His riches. God has promised to fill the need of the believer in Jesus out of his infinite wealth and resources. It's safe to say, God will not run out of resources.

Our God will supply everything we need as we walk in generosity and contentment. Walking in contentment means knowing that you have everything that you will ever need as long as you walk with Jesus. He has given us eternal life. How could one ask for more? But He gives us this promise that *He will supply*.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for this wonderful promise that You will supply everything I need.

10

Day Ten

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

*Now there were certain Greeks among those
who came up to worship at the feast.*

*Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee,
and asked him saying, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'
John 12:20–21*

During the week of the crucifixion of Jesus, the religious leaders were quite hostile towards Jesus. He did not fit their agenda, so they began to make arrangements to crucify Him. But an often-overlooked passage found in John 12 reminds us of the mission of Jesus. The “Greeks” were Gentiles who were searching for knowledge. They had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When they found Philip, they asked if they could see Jesus. It is obvious they had heard about Jesus. The text never says if they ever had the opportunity to meet Jesus. We will never know this side of Heaven. However, the next two verses are startling.

John 12:22–23 says, “Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.’” Instead of Jesus telling Philip and Andrew to bring the men to Him, Jesus instead says that His hour has now come. This is interesting because in previous passages, Jesus had said that His hour had not yet come.

When they ran out of wine at a wedding, Mary, the mother of Jesus told Jesus that they had no wine. In John 2:4, Jesus responded to her saying, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

In John 7, a group rose up to try to kill Jesus. John 7:30 says, “Therefore they sought to take Him, but no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come.”

John 8:20 says, “These words Jesus spoke in the treasury as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.”

Now, in John 12:22–23, the hour has come. Just two verses after some Greek Gentiles had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus, the Savior of the entire world—not just the Jews—says, “The hour has come.”

Jesus came to bring life to all people. Whether Jew or Gentile, none are worthy to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. The death of Jesus was the payment for all sin. His free gift of salvation is available to all people.

Today, we wish to see Jesus!!

PRAYER

Father, may I be bold today to seek to see You at work in my life today.

11

Day Eleven

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

Matthew 17:20

So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea," and it would obey you.'

Luke 17:6

Have you ever held a mustard seed? It is very small and will slip out of your hands if you are not careful. Jesus said in Matthew 13:31-32 that the mustard seed was the least of all the seeds. In other words, the mustard seed was a tiny speck. But a mustard seed does not stay small. It starts small and grows into a large tree. Jesus said in Matthew 17:20 that if you have faith as a mustard seed, you can move mountains.

Mustard seed faith starts out small. As a believer, the temptation is to try to begin our walk with Jesus with a large, exuberant faith. This never works and often leads to disappointment. At the same time, if you are a seasoned believer, you should have a growing faith, yet for some, it remains a mustard seed in size. As a result, many seasoned believers, never see the power of God in their life because they are still carrying around a small faith.

Faith works when faith grows. It starts out small but continues over time to develop into a large, growing faith.

Walking by faith can be challenging because it removes you from your comfort zone. At the same time, walking by faith leads to a joy-filled life because you see the hand of God work in your life with only one explanation: *That's God!*

The question is not, "How big is your faith?" or "How small is your faith?" The question is, "Is your faith growing?"

Faith grows by walking *daily* in the Word of God and *trusting* the Lord with *everything* in your life. Faith grows when you pray for the Lord to do the impossible. Faith grows when you are challenged by the Lord to step out in faith and trust Him. Faith grows when you are obedient to His leadership in your life.

Is your faith growing?

PRAYER

Father, may You stretch my faith as I walk daily with You.

12

Day Twelve

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

*Honor the Lord with your possessions, and
with the firstfruits of all your increase.
Proverbs 3:9*

Giving back to the One who has given us everything we need is a tremendous privilege. Because of the Lord's gracious provision in the gifting of His Son, Jesus, as the remedy for sin, we will spend all of eternity saying, "Thank You."

One of the ways we say, "Thank You," is by honoring the Lord with our possessions. Our gifts to the Lord are in no way a comparison to what He has given to us. HE has given to us so much more. However, our gifts to the Lord are an act of obedience to the One that we trust as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. While giving to the Lord is an act of obedience, it is also a source of joy and contentment.

"Honor the Lord" – means to treat the Lord as weighty. The root of the verb means "to be heavy." We want to put as much honor and glory on the Lord as we can. We don't want to keep any of the weight ourselves, but send it all to the Lord. One way we can make this possible is by giving of our wealth.

The opposite of "honor" means "to make light of." It means to not give honor and glory. It's keeping the weight of honor for ourselves and not giving it to the Lord. Think about it this way: Giving involves a weight of honor. Either the weight of honor stays with you, or you give that weight of honor to the Lord. As the Lord looks at your financial priorities, should He consider Himself honored or taken lightly? When it comes to your finances, someone is getting the honor. It will be you

or the Lord. Who is in that first place of honor? Is there anyone or anything that carries more financial weight than the Lord?

"Firstfruits" – the word is defined as the best of your harvest. Exodus 23:19 says, "The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God." We give our first and our best to the Lord. The Lord comes first in our budgets, before anything else.

"All your increase" – We do not give God what is left but what is first and best. To give the Lord our leftovers, is to take the Lord lightly, and this dishonors Him.

A good place to start when it comes to giving to the Lord is with a tithe. Tithing is a practice that we see all through the Old Testament. A tithe simply means "one tenth" or 10%. In the Old Testament, there were several different types of tithes. Today, under the New Covenant, we are to give from our hearts. We are to give generously. We have been given so much more in the New Covenant. The mystery of the Messiah, Jesus, has been revealed. As a result, a tithe ought to be a starting place in giving and not an end. When it comes to tithes and offerings, who is receiving the most honor, you or the Lord?

PRAYER

Father, help me to honor You with the first and best of all that I have.

13

Day Thirteen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper
in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers.
3 John 2*

We are nearing the end of our second week of prayer and fasting. I trust that this has been an opportunity to do some physical and spiritual inventory in your life. In 3 John 2, we see the Apostle John praying words of encouragement that our health and soul would prosper.

When it comes to our physical and spiritual health, we need to look externally. There are forces all around that can keep us from remaining healthy. If not managed well, these factors can poke a hole in our spiritual bucket and leave us feeling empty.

Look around your life. Is there anything you can see that is affecting your physical and spiritual health?

When it comes to our physical and spiritual health, we also need to look internally. Many times, the problem is our own doing. We have our own insecurities, broken places, and secret sins. Our soul is the most valuable possession that we have. We must provide great care.

So, how do you take care of our physical and spiritual health? Here are three practical ways:

1.) You need to Realize.

Realize that there is a need. Needs will never be taken care

of if they are not recognized. The psalmist said it best in Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting."

2.) You need to Repair.

Take the steps needed to repair those things that are unhealthy in your life. This could involve lifestyle changes or maybe the changing of eating habits. Repair could include friendship changes or social media changes.

3.) You need to Refill.

The Scripture says in Ephesians 5:18, "...be filled with the Spirit." To remain healthy spiritually, you are to be filled with the Spirit. To remain healthy physically, you are to be filled with the things that will make your life healthy and not hinder you.

May this time of prayer and fasting lead both your physical life and your spiritual life to prosper in the Lord.

PRAYER

Father, may I prosper in all things for Your honor and glory only.

14

Day Fourteen

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

*But Jesus looked at them and said to them,
'With men this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.'
Matthew 19:26*

We have had this day circled on our calendars for several weeks and months now. This is the day that we receive the final presentation of our Calvary 90 project, along with all the financial numbers. With this day comes a lot of excitement, but also probably some fear. This is a big step for our church, and one that we must look to the Lord for His direction.

As I write this article, I do not have knowledge of the final numbers. I do not have knowledge of what the final presentation will look like. But as you read this article, all of those questions have now been answered. So, as I write, I write with a vision of faith in mind. Here are a few things that are on my heart based on our text from Matthew 19:26.

1.) God Can Do Anything.

This is often such a simple statement that we may forget. Our fears, worries, and doubt can cloud the fact that our God is bigger than anything around us. When it comes to churches making important decisions, faith never takes a back seat. Walking by *faith* is what we do—it is who we are. Decisions should never be made because of a lack of faith. Decisions are made after seeking the Lord in prayer for wisdom and direction.

2.) God Can Use Us to Do Anything.

The Lord works in miraculous ways! The widow's oil in 1 Kings

17 continued to flow. The little boy's lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish, fed over 5,000 in John 6. The widow's two mites in Mark 12 were a testimony of faithfulness. God can do *anything* and will often work *through us* to accomplish His purpose.

3.) God's Work and Will Often Require a Step of Faith.

Things would be so different if we knew the end from the beginning. Some may say that it would be much easier to trust the Lord if we knew everything on the front end. If we knew the end from the beginning, there would be no need to trust the Lord because we already know everything. Our Lord will give us the knowledge and wisdom that we need to walk daily by faith. Walking by faith daily is difficult because it takes us out of our comfort zone, but it is so rewarding to see the hand of the Lord work in our lives and in our church.

4.) God Gives a Peace Concerning His Will and Work.

As you hear the final Calvary 90 presentation tonight, ask the Lord to give you peace concerning this project. Pray for an open heart and an open mind to hear clearly from our committees. Ask the Lord what He wants you to do to see that His Work continues.

PRAYER

Father, this is a big day for Your church. I look to You for wisdom, direction, and provision.

15

Day Fifteen

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

He counts the number of the stars;

He calls them all by name.

Psalm 147:4

NASA science tells us that there are around two trillion galaxies in our observable universe. This is the part that we can see with lights and telescopes. Our Milky Way Galaxy holds 100–400 billion stars. If you took the number of stars in our galaxy and multiplied it by the number of other observable galaxies, you would discover that, in the known galaxies, there are 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars. That is 10 to the 24th power, which gives you a septillion.

Another interesting fact is that, for roughly every 100,000 grains of sand on Earth, there are one million stars. Our closest star to Earth is the Sun at 93 million miles away. The next closest star is Proxima Centauri. If we left today in a spacecraft to go to this star, it would take us 50,000–70,000 years to get there. In fact, if Proxima Centauri stopped shining today, we on Earth would not know it for 4.2 years.

And yet, the Lord knows the number of all the stars. Even more mind-boggling is the fact that He knows them all by name. The majesty, power, and greatness of our God are beyond any form of thought or imagination.

I think the hymn writer said it best when he penned these words:

*Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made*

*I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

The majesty and awesomeness of our God are without question! And to think that God Almighty chooses to reveal Himself through His Son, Jesus, and to be active in our everyday lives is beyond words!

PRAYER

Father, how great You are, Lord!!

16

Day Sixteen

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

*Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty.
Neither do I concern myself with great matters,
nor with things too profound for me.
Psalm 131:1*

Living a stress-free life is a goal of many people, if not everyone. Even though it is a goal and desire of many people, making it a reality can be a different story. Psalm 131 helps us put some thoughts to our desire to live stress-free.

“Haughty” – means to be exalted. It means that arrogance has been set in the heart. The Scripture says, “Lord, my heart is not haughty.” It is not exalted or arrogant.

“Lofty” – means to be lifted up. It is to be puffed up with pride and arrogance. The Scripture says, “nor my eyes lofty.”

“Concern” – means to go, walk, or to go along with. The Scripture says, “Neither do I concern myself with great matters.” Great matters, or matters that are too profound for me to understand, are not the direction where my mind walks. Matters that you don’t understand can cause your mind to walk with worry and stress.

So, how do you live stress free? Here are three simple truths:

1.) Step Down – The words *haughty* and *lofty* both carry the idea of arrogance and pride. You could say they cause you to get the big head. Pride leads to worry, which leads to stress. A stress-free life is a life of humility, where you step

down from self and humble yourself before the Lord.

2.) Step Back – Stepping back causes you to look at the big picture. It means seeing things that are too profound for you or things that you don’t understand. It means taking it all in so you can have the wisdom to know what to do. A stressful life will lead you at times to step back and take a deep breath.

3.) Step Away – A stress-free life will sometimes require you to walk away from things. Some situations do not deserve your full attention. Some situations do not require your presence or even your voice. The best thing to do in some situations is simply to step away and realize that not all battles are meant to be fought.

A stress-free life is a Jesus life. Live with humility, see the big picture, and walk away when necessary.

PRAYER

Father, help me to live a life in the Spirit and not a life in stress.

17

Day Seventeen

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

*This will be written for the generation to come,
that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.*

Psalms 102:18

The Calvary 90 project got its name because last year Calvary celebrated ninety years of existence as a church. It is good to hear stories of the past that involve Calvary Baptist Church. Those stories include memories on the mountaintop but also memories in the valleys. Through it all, the Lord has shown His faithfulness and grace to the people of Calvary Baptist Church. Many of those who have gone before us have children and grandchildren that are now members of Calvary. Today, we are enjoying the fruit of the generations that have gone before us.

Psalms 102:18, in context, describes the nation of Israel as it was coming back from exile in Babylon. The Lord promised His faithfulness, mercy, and grace to the nation of Israel. The promises of God were to be written down so the next generation would be able to read them. In fact, those not even born yet would have the opportunity to hear about the promises and faithfulness of God.

While Calvary has a memorable past, the future is just as bright. Today, we are making our own memories of the faithfulness, grace, and mercy of our Lord. Today, we are making memories that those not even born yet will be able to read. Today, we are celebrating the Calvary 90 project.

What about sixty years from now? What will Calvary Baptist Church look like? What would a Calvary 150 project look

like? When Calvary turns 150 years old, many of us will no longer be here. Our children and teenagers will be senior adults. So, today, we are making decisions that will affect generations to come, many of whom are not even here yet. In God's own providence, if someone sixty years from now were to pick up this devotional and read it, here is what I would want them to know.

1.) Calvary Loves the Word of God – The promises and faithfulness of God are found in His Word. We love the Word, and may the generations after us continue to be faithful in God's Word.

2.) Calvary Loves Missions – Calvary is consistently involved in missions locally and all around the world. May we continue to share the Gospel until Jesus returns.

3.) Calvary Loves the Next Generation – Calvary loves our children and teenagers. Calvary is pouring into the next generation, which may one day read this and, in turn, pour into their own next generation.

4.) Calvary Is Making Decisions Today that Will Affect the Next Generation – Today, Calvary is walking by faith and preparing for a future generation, yet to be born, to praise the Lord.

PRAYER

Father, may all who come behind us find us faithful.

18

Day Eighteen

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

*Peter was therefore kept in prison,
but constant prayer was offered to God for him
by the church.
Acts 12:5*

Violence and persecution were spreading all through the early church. One of the disciples, Peter, was arrested and put in prison because of his love for Jesus. Even through difficult situations, the early church teaches us how to navigate through difficult times. Their answer: PRAYER.

Notice the specifics of Acts 12:5 concerning prayer.

1.) Prayer was “To God” Is not all prayer unto God? One would say yes, but that is not always the case. In some praying, there is not much thought of God. Our mind is taken up with the thought of what we need and is not occupied with the thought of the mighty and loving Father from whom we are seeking it. Oftentimes, it is the case that we are occupied neither with the need nor with the One to whom we are praying, but our mind is wandering here and there throughout the world.

But when we really come into God’s presence, really meet Him in the place of prayer, and really seek the things that we desire from Him—then, there is power. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite and vivid consciousness that we are talking to God. We should believe that He is listening to our petition and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him.

2.) They had “Constant Prayer” – The word means “without ceasing.” The full force of the Greek means “stretched-out-ed.” It means intensely. When was the last time you fervently prayed for something that “stretched you”?

Another way of describing this type of praying is found in Romans 15:30, “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.” “Strive” is an athletic term meaning to fight. Spiritual battles are won on our knees, crying out to God as our faith is being stretched.

3.) “By the church” – There is power in united prayer. God delights in the unity of His people and seeks to emphasize it in every way. There is something special when the church gathers together in prayer over a matter.

We are nearing the completion of our twenty-one days of prayer and fasting. We are petitioning the Lord who is awesome and mighty. Our faith is being stretched as we fight on our knees. We are *Coming Together* as one body of Christ in prayer for our Calvary 90 project.

PRAYER

Father, stretch our faith and help us fight on our knees.

19

Day Nineteen

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
Psalm 100:1

This psalm was a psalm of thanksgiving. It was used in the Second Temple in connection with the sacrifices of thanksgiving. The thanksgiving offering was the “peace” offering. It was offered in gratitude for special mercies received from the Lord. The peace offering was always given last. Once our sins are forgiven, we can truly worship as we ought to.

The psalm can be broken down into four parts:

1.) This song is a *joyful* song.

What the psalmist sees is joyful people. Our happy God should be worshipped by happy people. A joyful spirit is in keeping with God’s character. Is God good? Yes! Is all that God does good? Yes! Therefore, when you worship the Lord, you are worshipping a joyful Lord. The worship of a joyful Lord ought to come from joyful people. Unjoyful worship is impossible because the *object* of your worship is joyful. Worship is joyful not because of a specific song, instrument, place, temperature, or even a specific group of people. Worship is joyful because it comes from *joyful* people to a *joyful King*!

2.) This song is a *spoken* song.

The word “shout” means a glad shout. Psalm 95:1 says, “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord. Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.” The throne room in Heaven is surrounded by people shouting in worship. Revelation 5:12

says, “saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

3.) This song is a *direct* song.

It is “to the Lord.” This joyful shout is to one person, and to one person *only*. It is *only* to the Lord.

4.) This is a *universal* song.

This joyful shout is to the Lord from “all you lands.” One day soon, a voice from every tribe, every nation, and every language, from all over the world, will gather around the throne (Revelation 7:9). Until then, the call is to share the Gospel to all the lands so that they will have the opportunity to worship the Lord.

This Sunday is our Calvary 90 Day of Giving. Although our worship service will be a little different than usual, there will be numerous opportunities to offer a *joyful shout to the Lord*. This Sunday will be special! May our hearts be full of joy as we worship a *joyful Lord*!

PRAYER

Father, may we gather on Sunday as joyful people worshipping a joyful Lord.

20

Day Twenty

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

*And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the Lord the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness. Then all the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given.
2 Chronicles 24:9-10*

Joash was seven years old when he became the king of Judah. The Scripture says, "Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest" (2 Chronicles 24:2). He reigned in Jerusalem for forty years. Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the Lord. He instructed the priests and the Levites to go out into all the cities of Judah and gather money year to year to keep up with repairs in the house of the Lord. This was a commandment of Moses from back in the days of Exodus.

Even though the collection was commanded in Scripture, the chief priest and Levites dragged their feet and did not do as Joash requested. Also, at this time, items were presented in the house of the Lord and dedicated to the god of Baal.

As a result, King Joash commanded that a chest be made and set outside the gate of the house of the Lord. A proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the Lord the collection that Moses, the servant of God, had imposed on Israel in the wilderness.

Three things happened in 2 Chronicles 24:9-10:

1.) "All the leaders and all the people rejoiced."

When the chest was put at the entrance of the house of the Lord for people to give, they rejoiced. *Biblical giving is joyful giving!* Giving to the Lord brings joy to our hearts. Joy in an internal attitude that is expressed externally through giving. When the command was given, can you imagine the smiles, the laughter, the singing, and the celebration surrounding the entrance to the house of the Lord? Giving to the Lord can change a setting! The entrance to the house of the Lord became a place of rejoicing!

2.) They "brought their contributions."

Earlier in the Scripture, when the chief priests and the Levites did not gather the collections, Joash asked the people to bring their collection to the entrance to the house of the Lord.

3.) "Until all had given."

Everyone had the opportunity to give. No one was denied the opportunity to be a blessing and help repair the house of the Lord.

On Sunday, we will gather as a church family with hearts of joy! We have an opportunity to make some much-needed repairs to the place of worship that the Lord has given us. You will have an opportunity to bring an offering and place it in a chest on the altar for these repairs. Everyone will have an opportunity to be a blessing.

PRAYER

Father, may our giving to the Lord be a reflection of our joy in the Lord.

21

Day Twenty-One

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

*And they received from Moses all the offerings
which the children of Israel had brought
for the work of the service of making the sanctuary.
So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning.
Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work
of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing,
and they spoke to Moses saying,
"The people bring much more than enough
for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do."
...And the people were restrained from bringing,
for the material they had was sufficient
for all the work to be done—indeed too much.
Exodus 34:3-7*

Moses was leading the children of Israel in building the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was to be a place of worship for the children of Israel. As construction began, the people began to bring freewill offerings every morning. So much so that the craftsmen came to Moses and said that they had all they needed to do the work. In fact, the Scripture says, "indeed too much."

What a blessing we find in this passage! The people of God, overwhelmed with joy and generosity, gave to the Lord. They gave so much, that Moses restrained the people from continuing to give.

Today, we find ourselves as a church family at a very important day in the life of our church. We have spent the last twenty-one days in prayer and fasting for this specific day. I don't know all that the Lord will do. From day one,

we have given this Calvary 90 project to the Lord. Our theme has been, "Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus."

Do I believe the Lord can provide everything we need today? I certainly do. The Lord has shown His miraculous work time and time again! He will provide what we need.

What a joy and blessing it is to be able to come to the house of the Lord today and give! As we bow one more time in prayer, wouldn't it be great to hear the words, "Indeed too much?" God can do it!!! Let's keep our eyes on Him.

PRAYER

Father, we trust You by faith to provide what is needed today.



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