

***2026***

***CHURCH  
FAST***

***FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 13***

***DEVOTIONAL - VOLUME 2***



**March 2**

# **Forgiveness**

*Carrie Finch*

Tragedy. Tragedies are seen in the news, movies, a TV show or social media. They feel far removed because it is happening someplace else or to someone else. One moment can change everything. One person's actions can alter your storyline.

The night before while driving home from visiting the kids the song; In Jesus Name plays. I've heard it many times before but this time, this moment is different. My heart starts to break and I start crying while driving. I feel God is speaking to me and I need to listen. I play the song over and over not understanding why.

Months before I had read the book; Nothing is Wasted, A true story of hope, forgiveness, and finding purpose in pain, by Davey Blackburn. I was stirred by this book that it could make such an impression on me that I have referenced the book often. God was impressing on my heart the word, "Lament." I started hearing the word in podcasts, peoples prayers, and my daily reading in the Bible. God was preparing me for a session of grief and sorrow like I had never experienced before.

December 2024 I received a desperate phone call from my daughter, "I need you. We are safe, but I need you to pick up myself and the girls." No other explanation was needed. I left work and started to pray while driving to be by her side. Whatever was happening, God would be in control. God's peace was over me as I continued to pray.

## **Psalms 56:8 NJKV**

**God collects your tears. You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in your book?**

This past year I have shed so many tears but have never stopped feeling God's peace. It would be easy to choose hate, because at that moment I hated the person who hurt my child and grand babies. I felt anger and hate each time I held my child in my arms as she was distraught and crying in pain. I hated him for a future that could be robbed from my grandchildren. But, we have a bigger God. One who tells us to forgive. If I don't, my heart will harden.

## **Ephesians 4:32 NKJV**

**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

My daughter and my two grand babies live with my husband and I. Our lives and theirs have been changed. Tragedy will not define us. We trust God, we claim His name. I'm not a saint. I'm just a mom who loves, who shouts to God, who is going to stand against the enemies' schemes.

## **Ephesians 6:11 NIV**

**Put on the whole armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**



Vengeance is Gods. I choose to forgive. I told their dad I forgive him. Not because he asked, but because of God's love and I want to do what is pleasing to God. When my granddaughter asks for me to pray for her daddy, I'm able to do so. I am helping to lay down a foundation. I will not give the enemy a foothold.

This past year, I see how forgiveness in my heart is making a difference. I have joy when I hear my youngest granddaughter sing "Hallelujah" randomly in her play. Or she will ask any one of us no matter where we are to, "Pray". When my oldest granddaughter during worship will sing loud and off-key. I see God's provision in my daughter's life. God has answered prayers and I know He has great plans for them.

Be thankful on all occasions. Tell your story. There is power in prayer, strength in forgiveness. I will sing and shout and worship Jesus until my dying breath.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV**

**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

We sin daily. That sin has consequences that may only hurt yourself, or it may hurt others. I continue to ask God to help me forgive. Sometimes I can be overwhelmed with hate, so I ask God to help me to forgive. Our God never struggles to forgive us. He paid the price for all of our sin, big and small. When he went to the cross, the blood He shed covered ALL our sins. God loves us more than a mother's love. His arms are opened wide to receive you, all you have to do is ask for His forgiveness, let no sin separate you from the LOVE of God.

### **Reflect:**

Am I holding onto any unforgiveness? Is there someone I need to forgive today?

### **Pray:**

Lord, today I ask you to forgive my sins. And help me to forgive those who have sinned against me. Help me to lay down the hurt and pick up forgiveness. I thank you for forgiveness, and that your son Jesus made a way for me. Amen.

**March 3**

# **When it Feels Hard**

***Melissa Avina***



David writes in Book of **Psalms 35:13**,

**"I humbled my soul with fasting."**

He didn't say, "I impressed God with fasting." He said, "I humbled my soul."

Somewhere in the middle of a fast, it gets real.

The excitement fades.

The hunger becomes noticeable.

The distractions feel louder than ever.

And sometimes we quietly wonder, is this really doing anything?

Fasting is not just about giving something up. It is about what God is building within us. When we deny our flesh, we strengthen our spirit. When we quiet the noise, we begin to hear Him more clearly.

When we fast, we are not just removing something from our lives. We are replacing it with prayer, surrender, and deeper intimacy with him.

Sometimes what He wants to break isn't around us it's within us: Anxiety that has gripped our thoughts, pride that resists surrender, distraction that keeps us distant, control we refuse to release.

Fasting humbles us, yes but it also strengthens us. It teaches our spirit to lead instead of our flesh. If today feels hard, that doesn't mean it's not working. It may mean something is shifting.

Stay humbled.

Stay consistent.

Stay close to God.

God is doing more in the unseen than you realize.

## **Reflect:**

Does fasting feel hard today? Do you feel like there are things that God is revealing to you or working on in you?

## **Pray:**

Father, Thank you for the good, the bad, and the ugly. Teach me to remain humble. When this feels difficult, remind me that YOU are my strength. Do a deeper work in me than I could ever do on my own. I trust YOU in all that YOU are doing. Amen.

**March 4**

# **Having a Yes to God**

**Adam**



Having a yes is about the submitted position of one's heart to the authority of God. We can easily get focused on performances, and actions for His Kingdom, little yes's. But these should come as a result to our hearts position being surrendered to His authority in our lives first. When we first become a Christian many of us have a strong zeal to do many things - doing many faith based actions for Him towards people. We may say yes to praying for the sick, may say yes to feeding the hungry, yes to evangelizing, yes to street preaching etc. These are good things. But can we say yes out of zeal and do these things but not have a heart of true surrender to Him? A sincere heart of Yes Lord, you are my Lord entirely? I remember my first year being a Christian, traveling a couple hours to pray for a cancer patient and laying hands on her while reading scripture, this was a yes. I remember working for a church and moving furniture, feeding the homeless and embarrassingly even correcting what I thought was false teaching (doing so while living in fornication and drunkenness) this was a yes accompanied by a boldness. But Christ was not the Lord of my life despite these things.

I enjoyed the sin that I was in, I only hated the conviction and pain. Esau loved satisfying his desire by eating the soup, but hated the cost afterward. I was this way also. Like a drunk man that hates the hangover, so can a man enjoy the sin but hate the repercussions. I responded to situations how I desired. My thoughts were given over to my sinful desires. I would set my mind on lustful things, not on His Kingdom. I enjoyed the sin that I knew was wrong. I still acted the way I always have done, the only difference was my ideology and wanting to act on what I read in the Bible. But does this make a true yes? A fully surrendered heart that speaks 'yes Jesus, my life is fully yours'? Did that mean I was surrendered? No, despite many yes's, I was still Lord of my life.

Yes must be a surrender to Him as Lord of your life, and a yes to purchase from Him white garments in replace of your own image. Which is to live through the spirit a life walking in His light and crucifying the old life by reckoning a genuine death with Him. Not only putting to death aspects of the old but entirely putting that life to death. Choosing to die to self, no longer living as your own Lord, but living with Christ as your Lord. A sincere yes to Him and no to the life outside of him. We may say yes to Him in certain actions of our lives, but our yes doesn't touch the true desire of His heart if we deny Him being the Lord of our souls.

Does your natural man say yes to religious works but is your spirit submitted to His in everyday life? Do you have a name that you are a Christian, but not fully submitted to Christ? Is His spirit your adornment or do you live by your own identity? Let our YES be an acceptable, Holy, declaration of our love for Him as a bride fully giving herself to her husband without reservation.

**Read:** Genesis 25:19-34

**Pray:**

Lord, I choose today to fully surrender to you. Fully surrender to the plan you have for my life. Help me to choose to turn away from sin. Forgive me where I have done my own thing, and help me to live a life that is pleasing to you. Amen.

**March 5**

# **At Your Word**

**Esosa Nwambuonwo**



**Luke 5:1-7**

**As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God's word, He was standing by Lake Gennesaret. He saw two boats at the edge of the lake; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. He got into one of those boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to push it out into the water. Then He sat down and was teaching the crowd from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper and let down your nets to catch some fish."**

**"Master, " Simon replied, "We've worked hard all night long and caught nothing. Nevertheless, at Your word I'll let down the nets." When they did this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets began to tear. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and hope them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.**

What stands out to me in this passage is that these men had been working hard all night—and caught nothing. They were exhausted. They were cleaning their nets. They were ready to call it a day and head home.

Simon had already done what Jesus was about to ask him to do. He had already been fishing all night without results. From a human perspective, it didn't make sense to try again. Why would this time be any different?

Because this time, Jesus asked.

Jesus, who has authority over all creation. Jesus, who sees what we cannot see. Jesus, who is never limited by our experience or our exhaustion.

Peter may have had doubts, but his response is powerful:

**"At Your word, Lord, I will."**

What is the Lord asking you to do right now?

What doubts rise up in your heart when you hear His prompting? Do you feel unqualified? Unprepared? Already stretched thin? Maybe you're serving faithfully and feel like you have nothing left to give.

The beautiful truth is this: obedience isn't about having the strength—it's about trusting the One who does. When we bring our fears, weaknesses, doubts, and burdens to Him daily, He becomes our source. He is faithful to prepare and equip us **"for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16–17).**

As we run the race set before us, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and not grow weary in doing good. May we stay sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. And as He calls us—individually and as a church—into deeper waters, may our hearts respond with simple trust: "Yes, Lord. At Your word."

**Pray:**

Lord, today I put my trust in you. I trust you with my life, I trust you with my obedience, I trust you with my yes. Help me to keep my eyes fixed on you and not grow weary in doing good. Today I say "Yes, Lord. At Your Word". Amen.

March 6

# Hearing God's Call

Regan Brodeur



Mom

Mama

Momma

I get texts on different days, at different times from all different people. But only 3 people start off their messages like this. And only this. No context, no question or exclamation just one word in the bubble and then nothing. No dots, no "still typing" no immediate follow up message.

And depending on the day, the time, where my mind is, what I'm doing...my answer varies.

"Baby" "Bubba" "Sweets"

Sometimes 'James Harden eye roll' gif. Depends on my mood. Depends on what I think might be coming in that next bubble.

I love my kids so much it hurts and there is hardly anything within my means that I would not do for them. Or ask their dad to do for them.

But sometimes, some days (or nights) sometimes my answer is not an answer at all. It's a question, Sometimes my "What?" sounds more like "What now?" or "Ugghhhhh, WHAT??" Sometimes they get no response- until I know what their question is. Deep in my heart on my very worst day I want my kids to have anything they need-almost anything they want. I want to be able to do anything they ask me to. Deep in my heart I want my answer to be "Yes! Anything, anytime, I'm on my way, I can do that, I can help you, I got you!" Yes. Before I know the question I want my answer to be Yes!

I love my husband. I love my kids. But oh! Where would I be without my God? Not good, my friend. I love Him so much - I would have nothing and be nothing without Him. He has got me this far. Every day He calls my name. Because if I wake up then He is calling me. And I don't want to live with the regret of my answer being "uh God, what now? Eye roll. Not now! Or worse. No reply. Deep in my heart I want my answer to be Yes! God, If it's you I'll come!" Anything God, Anytime, I'm on my way. "Here I am, Send me!"

**Reflect:** Do you hear the call of God today? Take a moment to quiet your mind and ask him to speak to you.

**Pray:**

God, I thank you that you call me and know me by name. My heart and ears are open to hear you call me today. My reply today is Yes! If its you, I'll come! Here I am, Send me! Help me to have the courage to do all that you ask me to do. I love you. Amen.

**March 7**

# Selah

**Christena Ghanem**



**Psalm 57:7-11 NLT**

**Selah**

**My heart is confident in you, O God;**

**My heart is confident.**

**No wonder I can sing your praises!**

**Wake up, my heart!**

**Wake up, O lyre and harp!**

**I will wake the dawn with my song.**

**I will thank you, Lord, among all the people.**

**I will sing your praises among the nations.**

**For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens.**

**Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

**Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.**

**May your glory shine over all the earth.**

What is Selah?

Selah - is thought to be rendered from two Hebrew words: s\_lah, "to praise"; and s\_lal, "to lift up." Another commentator believes it comes from salah, "to pause."

Psalm 57 takes a moment of Selah before encouraging us with a song of praise and worship to the Lord. I am encouraged when I read these words - God's unfailing love is as high as the heavens and his faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

At this point in the fast, I don't know how we are all feeling, or the challenges we have faced in this season, but be encouraged that our God is bigger. Our God is stronger. Our God is better. Worship changes my heart posture, from looking at my circumstances, to looking to God. When we worship, impossible situations are made possible.

What an honour it is to be able to praise Him! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  
"Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens! May Your glory shine over all the earth!"

**Reflect:** Take a moment today to have a moment of worship with the Lord. An on-purpose time to stop and sing out - a Selah moment in the busyness of life to worship the King. Don't know what to worship to? Here are a few of my favourites:

At the Alter - Elevation Rhythm

I Will Exalt You - Hillsong Worship

Blood of Jesus - Upperrroom

**Pray:**

Lord you are worthy of my praise! You are worthy of my worship! May my words be a sweet song of praise to you today! I lay everything down at the alter before you. I exalt you! I worship you! Amen.

**March 8**

# **My God Given Potential**

***Anonymous***



One of my favorite quotes says, "My potential is God's gift to me. What I do with my potential is my gift to Him."

What a powerful reminder that the abilities, callings, and opportunities we have are not accidental, they are gifts from God. It is through His grace and His empowerment that we are able to do more than we could ever imagine. On our own, we are limited. But with God, our potential becomes something eternal.

As we fast and prepare our hearts for our missions conference, I want each of us to reflect on our God given potential. What has God placed inside of you? What gifts, passions, burdens, or dreams has He entrusted to you?

Some of those gifts may not always be seen. Some may not be applauded or publicly recognized. But that does not make them any less significant in the Kingdom of God. In fact, Scripture tells us the opposite. In I Corinthians 12:22 it says, "Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary."

In God's design, every part matters. Every role carries weight. Every "yes" makes a difference.

A couple of weeks ago, Heidi reminded us in her sermon: Don't sell your vineyard. Don't give up on what God has placed in your hands. Don't walk away from your calling and purpose or let your gifts go to waste. What may seem small today could be the very thing God uses to impact nations tomorrow.

Your potential in God begins with your yes.

When we surrender our potential back to Him, He multiplies it beyond what we could ever accomplish on our own.

Your potential is His gift to you.

What you do with it is your gift to Him.

**Pray:**

God I pray that you open my eyes to my potential you have given me. I pray that I start every day with a yes for You. Amen.

**Read:** I Peter 4:10

# YES!

**MISSIONS CONFERENCE**

*MARCH 13-15 2026*

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

*Isaiah 6:8 NIV*

It's easy to get stuck in the ordinary and becoming self-focused. Our annual Imagine Nations Conference aims to broaden our perspective, reminding us that God has great work for each of us to make a real difference in someone else's life, both practically and powerfully.

## SCHEDULE

### **FRIDAY 13th**

11:30am Pastor's Summit  
*Elevate Coffee Shop*

6pm Potluck Dinner

7pm Session

### **SATURDAY 14th**

10am Session

6pm Session

### **SUNDAY 15th**

10am Service

6pm Session

No registrations required for Conference

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