



AWAKEN HOUSTON

A CITY-WIDE MOVEMENT OF PRAYER AND FASTING
ON UNIFYING THE CHURCH TO STRATEGICALLY PRAY
FOR AND BLESS THE CITY, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

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OVERVIEW

For the past seven years we have coordinated a season of prayer which we call **Awaken Houston**. It has been a time to pray in unity for our mission as a Church, revival in our churches, and a spiritual awakening here in Houston. These have been impactful seasons as we've prayed together for a move of God in our city.

This year our 30 Days of Prayer will be from January 30-February 28. Our prayer focus this year for Awaken Houston will be *Hungry for God* and will have the following daily themes:

MONDAY — **REPENT** (JONAH 3)

God mercifully responds when we honestly, humbly, hungrily repent.

TUESDAY — **RETURN** (JOEL 2)

God graciously restores when a whole community whole-heartedly returns to Him.

WEDNESDAY — **RELINQUISH** (ESTHER 4)

God powerfully rescues others when we courageously relinquish our lives to Him.

THURSDAY — **REQUEST** (EZRA 8)

God appropriately receives glory when we confidently request specific things from Him.

FRIDAY — **RELEASE** (ACTS 13)

God unexpectedly revives the church when we willingly release our best to Him.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY — **REVIVAL** (PS. 85:6)

God causes the gospel to surge forward with extraordinary power resulting in God touching communities of faith and the possibility of a spiritual awakening in society.

During the 30 Days of Prayer, we will send out a daily devotional written by pastors and leaders from across the city, followed by prayers for our churches and for those in our lives and in our city who we desire to know God. Feel free to use this in your devotional life, with your family and with your church.

This year we are asking people to identify people in their lives that are far from God and pray fervently for them during these 30 days. In addition, we are encouraging individuals to consider fasting in a way that is appropriate for them over these 30 days. Each of the key passages above is an instance where a community is fasting together. To see more on fasting go to awakenhouston.org

On Saturday evening, February 25, from 5:00-6:00pm, go on a Prayer Walk in your neighborhood, asking God to make Himself known to the men, women, and children represented in the homes or apartments you walk past. Imagine thousands of people around Greater Houston doing this throughout neighborhoods all across the city.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Please consider joining us during this season of prayer and fasting, from January 30—February 28 as we continue to pray for a spiritual awakening here in Houston.

To pray with us, visit awakenhouston.org or follow along on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, or **Instagram** for links to the daily devotional.

RESOURCES

ARTICLES:

- » [Why Do Christians Fast?](#)
- » [Fasting for Beginners](#)
- » [Sharpen Your Affections with Fasting](#)

SERMONS:

- » [Fasting From Food to Feast On God](#)

BOOKS:

- » [A Hunger for God](#) by John Piper
- » [Revival Starts Now](#) by Dave Clayton

PRAYER WALK:

- » [Prayer Walking, Guide Example 1](#)
- » [Prayer Walk, Guide Example 2](#)
- » [Prayer Walk by WayMakers, Guide Example 3](#)

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HUNGRY FOR GOD SERIES

MORE RESOURCES

DAY 01

MONDAY,
JANUARY 30

*"Repentance is as much a mark
of a Christian, as faith is."
—Charles Spurgeon*

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." Acts 3:19

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As we kick off our 30 days of prayer, I was heartened to read this verse about finding times of refreshing. Times of refreshing. What a fantastic phrase.

We could all use some times of refreshing. The last few years seem to have taken a collective toll on so many people. We hear of isolation, loneliness, ruptured relationships, increased conflicts, and the like.

Loneliness created another set of problems as people discovered new ways to soothe their disturbed souls behind closed doors. Addictions, substance abuse, and divorce skyrocketed in the wake of 2020. Pastorally, I continue to see the ripple effects in our church.

Many who were once spiritually vibrant have lost their way. Ruptured habits led to ruptured lives.

When we are out of sync with the Lord, our sin can quench the Spirit's work in our lives. He is still present, but not able to work because we are out of alignment.

Repentance leads to times of refreshing because it is the act of "realigning" with the Lord. When we confess our sin and turn back to His ways, we invite the power of the Spirit.

And that's refreshing, indeed.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, we often struggle to repent. Lord, show us where our hearts are divided. Show us the way back to alignment with you. And as we repent, provide the Spirit's supernatural refreshment. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, show where lives have wandered from your heart's desires. Show them that true satisfaction and refreshment only comes from You. Give us opportunity to share You with them. Amen.

REPENT



Contributed by Steve Bezner, Pastor | Houston Northwest Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 02

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 31

*"Have death always before your eyes as
a salutary means of returning to God."
—Bernard of Clairvaux*

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!" Lamentations 3:40

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

There is something about distress, disaster, or even facing death that causes us to stop and question life. What am I doing? Where am I going? Does this really matter? I can tell you that in those moments, I find myself just sitting with the Lord in a quiet place to listen what He might say. I want to know if I have missed his voice or is this just a reminder that in this world I will have trouble but to take heart, Jesus has overcome the world. When Jeremiah says to "test" our ways, metaphorically, it is an invitation to probe one's behavior. The act of poking around, as well as "examine", which is to investigate or search the depths. This is a process by which you and I might find something that doesn't look like a life of devotion to the one true God. We may stumble over idols of pride, entitlement, unforgiveness, resentments, prejudices and more. It is Socrates, quoted by Plato in Apology, that said, "The life which is unexamined is not worth living." Test, examine and then return. Returning isn't about a destination, it is about a relationship. Return to the Lord. Returning also requires us to let go of this world to hold onto the only source of life, Jesus.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, let each of us hear the words of Jeremiah and test, examine and return to You every day of our lives. May we let go of this life and live in obedience with hope in what is to come.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, I pray for all the families on my list that they will be open to your Spirit and the truth of the Gospel. Lord, go before me and give me divine opportunity to serve them and share with them your love.

RETURN



Contributed by Jerry L. Edmonson, Founding and Lead Pastor | The Fellowship
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 03

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 1

"I do not pray for success; I ask for faithfulness." —Mother Teresa

"Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."" Esther 4:15-16

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Esther is a story of a beautiful young woman used by God to save a nation. God invites us to join Him in His rest and His work. God's timing is not always our timing and His ways are seldom obvious to us. Our inability to understand what God is doing often leads to our refusal to relinquish our lives completely to Him.

Haman, one of the king's highest-ranking officers designed a plan to have all of the Jews killed. When made aware of Haman's plot, Esther decided that she would go and make an appearance before the king, but only if she was supported by her people through prayer and fasting.

Esther carried a bold attitude toward her mission. She was determined to relinquish her life to God's plan no matter the cost. Jesus exhorted his followers to have this attitude of bold surrender to God's will. The Apostle Paul sums up these thoughts when he says, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

This story ends with Esther and her cousin Mordecai being honored while Haman and his evil plot were brought to an end. Esther wasn't lucky to win the beauty contest and become queen. Esther wasn't lucky to find favor with the king. God orchestrated all of these events for His glory. This was God's plan.

Let us not miss Christ's invitation to join Him in what He is orchestrating in our circumstances. We may not understand it but we are called to relinquish our lives in those moments. God powerfully rescues others when we courageously relinquish our lives to Him. God is faithful. May God help us to be faithful too.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, make me a channel of your peace, that where there is hatred, I may bring love; where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness where there is discord, I may bring harmony; where there is error, I may bring truth; where there is doubt, I may bring faith; where there is despair, I may bring hope; where there are shadows, I may bring light; where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand than to be understood; to love than to be loved; For it is by forgetting self that one finds; it is by forgiving that one is forgiven; it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. —St. Francis of Assisi

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord Jesus, forgive us for allowing ourselves to live in distraction from your Holy presence. We are all in desperate need of you. We ask you to flood our hearts with your presence, saturate our lives with your power, help us relinquish our will for yours as we come to know your heart. May those who are far from you in our region come to know your love as your Holy Spirit moves here. May we truly be your witnesses and accept your invitation to join you in your rest and in your work. May we see revival in our city and region and may revival begin today with me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Contributed by Jervie Windom, Lead Pastor | Resonate Church
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RELINQUISH

DAY 04

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 2

*"This is a woman [his mom] who prays for parking spots.
How else would you find one?" —Paul Miller*

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Luke 18:17

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Christians are afraid to ask God for specific things—the requests feels selfish. Take it from Jesus' brother, asking God for selfish things is a bad decision (James 4:2-3), and we certainly do not want to be seen as prosperity preachers or prosperity askers. However, we need to come to our Heavenly Father like a child. Asking for specific items from our Father—even the ones that seem mundane ("God, please give me an opportunity to talk to my co-worker, Steve, who I think looked at me oddly yesterday")—are a gift. They aren't all the prayers we pray, but they are part of our ordinary life with our Father. After all, children don't filter their requests to mom or dad. It is up to mom or dad to deal with the heart and it is up to our Heavenly Father to deal with us, too. Abide in Jesus, make (all of) your requests known, and trust him with the outcomes. Otherwise, we'll think parts of life are too unimportant to bring under his care—and then we've lost the gift of being a child.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, I pray that every person who reads this brings one specific—even uncomfortable or awkward—request before you today. Show them your grace in mercy by perhaps even answering it today.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, give me a good conversation with one person on my list today. Provide an opportunity for them to move one step closer to trusting Jesus.

REQUEST



Contributed by Hans Googer, Preaching Pastor | Genesis Community Church
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DAY 05

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 3

*"Nothing shall be lost that is done for God
or in obedience to Him." —John Owen*

"But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children." **Matthew 14:16-21**

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As a parent of a two-year-old and a six-year-old, one-word rings throughout the house frequently as they play together. That word is "mine." Despite all of the disciplining, that word somehow pushes its way to the surface as they hold tightly to the thing they want most. Of course, we know it's due to our fallen nature, yet; the same word creeps in slowly as we labor to advance God's kingdom.

The mindset of "mine" is the quickest way to quench the Spirit of God moving through our city. The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand is no stranger to us. If we aren't careful, the story becomes just a tool to teach people how to be generous or trust God when they have very little. These are great truths, but when was the last time you read this through the lens of your church? The disciples said, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish." As they looked upon the great need of the hungry people, they didn't believe what they had was enough. It's easy to look upon the vast city of Houston and think to ourselves, like the disciples did, that what we have isn't enough. However, as we know from the story, something miraculous happened when the disciples released what was in their hands to the people. What once wasn't enough... multiplied and became more than enough.

Releasing is challenging. Dying to the notion of "mine" is even more difficult. However, both are necessary to aid a spiritual renewal in our city.

We may feel like we need more people, time, or resources but what's in our hands is enough. We can be part of a multiplying miracle when we release what has been stewarded to us and place it in God's hands.

We have a city of people starving for the gospel. God is asking us to rest in His sufficiency and release what's in our hands till every man, woman, and child hears the good news!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, you are so good and full of grace. We thank you that you are sufficient in all things. We long to see you continue to move in our city. Would you help us die to ourselves daily and place your agenda above ours. Help us to operate in bold faith and release the little in our hands so that we might see your kingdom continue to multiply throughout Houston and beyond. In Jesus' Name, amen!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, we long to see those hurting, broken and lost find new life in you. Holy Spirit, would you stir up the hunger of those far from you. Let them come to know that you are the only one who can truly satisfy their needs. Let their eyes see the beauty of the gospel! Help us move to love those around us and help our eyes to be open to see opportunities for your grace to meet the mundane. We trust that we will see spiritual renewal happen in our city through your power! In Jesus' name, amen!



Contributed by Josh Gosney, Lead Pastor of Vision & Teaching | Wake Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

RELEASE

DAY 06

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 4

"God's manifest presence is attracted to a corporate people who have abandoned themselves to prepare for His transforming presence."

—Dr. John Wesley Adams

"You who called on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

If we desire God to come to our communities, and bring transformation revival on all levels of society, then we must dedicate ourselves to call upon Him and invite Him over and over again - and give ourselves no rest and give Him no rest until He is delighted to come! What price are we willing to pay for God to revive and transform our community? Isaiah 62:6 gives us the answer to this question. The price he suggests is to give ourselves no rest and give Him no rest till He establishes our cities and makes her the praise of the earth. That means not only asking, but also offering a spiritual environment that is welcoming for His transforming presence and if God has not answered with His awesome power and His transforming presence, then we must seek to understand what is holding him back. There is no price too great to pay for His all-consuming presence. Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come and revive us again!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord Jesus, we worship You as the only one worthy of all of our praise and honor. We confess to You O Lord, those things in our lives that we have placed as a priority ahead of You. Holy Spirit, we ask You to reveal whatever is holding back Your presence, and we commit to resolve those things with You. We ask You to stir a dissatisfaction within us for anything less than Your full blown presence in our life and community. We pray for a growing unity among churches who will join us in inviting Your transcending presence into our community. We will give you no rest, until.... You establish Your kingdom in our city. In Jesus Name, Amen!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Our Father, You are the Lord of the harvest. We pray for (Names on your list), to be convicted of their sin and their need for a Savior. Grant them a repentant heart that turns fully to Christ. Fill them with Your Holy Spirit. Help them to grow in Christ by obeying the Word of God as a disciple. Deliver them from evil, the devil's traps and schemes, and any strongholds. Help them Lord to abide in Christ and live according to Your perfect and blessed will. In Jesus Perfect and Powerful Name, Amen!



Contributed by Pastor Rickie L. Bradshaw, Director of Ministry | First Southwest Baptist/KSB 89.3FM
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

REVIVAL

DAY 07

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 5

*"Whenever God determines to do a great work, he first sets his people to pray."
—Charles Spurgeon*

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Houston has never experienced a true revival. O how our city needs it! There is so much sin, brokenness, pain, and heartache in our city!

The problem is not with the non-Christians. The problem is the failure of the church to be the church.

Here is God's word to us: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

If my people who are called by my name. We belong to God. We are his! We are much-loved, blood-bought, fully-adopted, completely-forgiven followers of the Lord Jesus Christ! This is our identity!

Humble themselves. We admit that God is God and we are not. We no longer live for ourselves but for Christ. We resolve to lie low and exalt the Lord.

Pray. Every great move of God begins with prayer. We will never see transformation in our city apart from prayer. Much prayer, much power. Little prayer, little power.

Seek my face. Yes, we seek God's hand because we need him. But first we seek God's face because we love him.

Turn from their wicked ways. Without confession and repentance there is no revival. Right now ask the Lord: "Lord, is there anything in my life that needs to go?"

If we do these five things, then we have the sure promise of God: He will hear from heaven. He will forgive our sin. He will heal our city.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, may the church in Houston rise up and be the church! O God, give us grace to believe that what you say here in your Holy Word is true for us. May we hear and obey!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, we are begging you to give us the souls of lost people! Lost people on our street! Lost people where we work and play and study! Lost people all over our city! O God, give us Houston!

REVIVAL



Contributed by Jeff Wells, Senior Pastor | WoodsEdge Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 08

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 6

"The word 'grace' emphasizes at one and the same time the helpless poverty of man and the limitless kindness of God." —William Barclay

"When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it." Jonah 3:10

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

There are some things we cannot control such as the day we are born and the family we are born into. Other things like our own resurrection as promised by Christ after our bodily death are out of our control. In these things we are completely dependent on God. If we are to experience a revival of Holy Spirit proportions in the city of Houston and surrounding areas, we will have to completely depend on God. It will be up to Him to grace us with a movement of His presence and power. As such, God has a part and we have a part. No, we can't control or manipulate a move of God, that's up to Him. We can lean into God in prayer and repentance. This is what God calls us to. This is our part.

Houston is a bit like the city of Nineveh; the recipient of the prophetic preaching of Jonah. Independent, pagan people who hear the call of God to repent. In fact, they do repent in obedience to God. What do they find out about God in their repentance? He is merciful, kind, and gracious.

Jonah 3:10 "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it."

I love what the prophet Joel says about repentance, returning, and the heart of God.

Joel 2:12 "Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; render your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He relents over disaster."

Let us turn away from the sins we get so easily entangled in and turn toward God with all of our heart. Let us repent and return to our Father and His good life. I am always amazed at the kindness of God in scripture and in my life in the wake of true repentance. We are spiritually impoverished, begging poor, as we approach God in our prayers of repentance. Yet, He meets us, with a grace and forgiveness; undeserved and yet freely giving through Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, by your Spirit, draw the people of God in the city of Houston and surrounding areas to genuine repentance. Let us experience your grace and kindness as we approach you humbly.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, for the people in my family and in my church, I ask that your Spirit would lead each of us toward you through prayer and repentance. Reveal the unique sins we each struggle to resist or that are so part of our lives it does not seem like sin any more. Reveal these things to us that we may repent and find your grace.

REPENT



Contributed by Brian Haynes, Lead Pastor | Bay Area Church and Christian School
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 09

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 7

"Gospel repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed." —Thomas Watson

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." Joel 2:12-13

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Oftentimes, our repentance falls short because we don't begin with an "inward humility." It truly is a heart issue.

Rending your heart will result in that outward change. Yes, there is fasting, weeping, and mourning for the sin we have committed against a holy and all-loving God. But it must begin with the heart.

As lots were being cast at the feet of Christ to divide his clothes, he hung on a wooden cross. Ultimately, it was on the cross, that God paradoxically relented over eternal disaster. On the cross, God brought judgment on His innocent Son, so that when we would rend our hearts, disaster would not come upon us.

It was there that Christ appeals to the Father and cries out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Today, as you read this, may the words of Jesus on the cross wash over you. May God's forgiveness, make your head bow and let us return to him with all our heart.

The prophet asks, "Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him?" (Joel 2:14) That question is answered in the death and sacrifice of Christ. Because it is there that God relents. That worship would rise in our hearts as we see God relenting complete and total destruction on us as He has put it on his Son. May that bring us to our knees with godly sorrow, confessing our sins, and bringing true conversion to our hearts.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, search our hearts and let us have sorrow over our own personal sin. We confess our sin and we rend our hearts, trusting that you will convert us and have us return to you once again. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

God, I pray for those who are far from you. May your appeal on the cross for the Father's forgiveness touch every dark corner of their heart, and may they know that you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and that you are a God who relents over disaster. Amen.

RETURN



Contributed by Tony Villatoro, Pastor | Sojourn Spring Branch
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 10

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 8

"The prayer of Relinquishment is a bona fide letting go, but it is a release with hope. We have no fatalistic resignation. We are buoyed by a confident trust in the character of God." —Richard Foster

**"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'"
Luke 1:38**

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Young Mary's life has just been interrupted by an angelic messenger from God. She is chosen to participate in God's redemptive work on earth. She is a recipient of divine favor. She is invited to follow. To change directions. To surrender what she thought her life would look like in favor of trusting the words of a God she cannot see.

She asks a single question; then, her answer is yes. This yes would cost her. It would cost her reputation and sense of security. Her status as a 'normal' girl. She says yes anyway.

Yes to messy. Yes to being misunderstood. Yes to heartbreak. Yes to pain. But also, Yes to playing a vital part in the eternal rescue of souls. Yes to watching her son walk in perfect communion with his heavenly father. Yes to faith in a life to come, life beyond her current reality. Yes to nurturing the Messiah. Yes to faithfulness. Yes to generations inspired by her faith and obedience.

The way of following Jesus is the way of trust. It is the willing subjection of the self to death. Death to the will and death to self at the center.

It is wide open hands and lips that say, like Mary, "Let it be to me according to your word."

The road toward the movement of God's Spirit is paved with the surrender of the saints. Not our will, but His. Not our kingdom, but His. Not our ways, but HIS. When we truly encounter the reality of who God is, yes is the only response that makes sense. Anything He would ask of us is worth it. Because He has proved He is trustworthy. He has proved His love.

When we come to God in prayer, asking Him to move, to awaken, to revive, we are acknowledging that WE cannot accomplish any of this. We are in need. We are dependent. Surrender and trust is the way of prayer. He knows the way, we do not. And so we relinquish the desire for control. We let go of the need to get our way. We tune our hearts to His. Prayer IS surrender. Prayer is turning aside from attending to our business, our tasks, our responsibilities, and directing our gaze to the One who sees and knows. The One who can actually change things.

Let it be to me according to Your word. Let it be to Your church according to Your word. Let it be to Houston according to Your word.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, thank you that You are absolutely trustworthy. Thank you that we can freely open our hands and trust you with our lives, our work, our souls. Please make clear the areas where we are trusting in anything other than You; maybe it's ourselves or money or status or connections. Please empower us to trust you fully. Please give us ears to hear Your words and faith to obey what You ask. Tune our hearts to Yours. Make our desires match Your desires. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, awaken souls to the reality of Your lordship and trustworthiness. Help us see who you are and respond with our whole hearts, YES. Please take away any deception or spiritual blindness and help us see that your way is best.



Contributed by Lizi Bailey, Worship Pastor | Faithbridge Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

RELINQUISH

DAY 11

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 9

"God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible— what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves." —A.W. Tozer

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, 'The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him.' So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty." Ezra 8:21-23

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As another group of exiled Israelites return to Jerusalem, a skilled teacher of the law was commissioned to be a part of God's plan for renewal and revival. Convinced the catalyst for restoration begins with God's word, Ezra sets his mind to teach His word to the people (Ezra 7:10).

With any God ordained mandate, he wisely anticipates the journey will be met with resistance, and the travelers subject to attacks along the way. Jesus warned in the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world. Ezra's response to the pending danger is not intimidation, fear, or anxiety. Instead, he courageously trusts in the Lord with all his heart. Having influence with the king, it would have made sense to request the king's protection. Rather, Ezra decides to ask God for provision for the path. We would do well to make our request known to God. What a privilege to have access to seek the one who knows all for answers, instead of defaulting to unreliable confidence in the flesh, subject to destruction (Proverbs 14:12).

Ezra demonstrates the importance of godly leadership as he leads the people to set their faces towards the Lord in fasting and prayer. This was his resolve on the front end of the journey, not the middle, or the end. Prayer must be our first response, not our last resort. Prayer and fasting humbles us, bringing into focus the reality of our utter human frailty and desperate need for God.

The Lord faithfully answered the request of the people and gave them safe passage. What glory we bring to the Father when we trust Him, and what good we enjoy when we depend on Him completely.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, we pray that we would be mindful of Your will for our lives. We ask that You fill us with the knowledge of Your will, in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Give us the hunger to seek Your wisdom, and the courage to obey Your word, even when we don't understand it, in Jesus' name, amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, we pray for those on our list. We know You love them more than we ever could. We pray Colossians 1:9-11 over them today. Send someone to plant or water the seed of Your word. May Your Spirit bring the word to life, and make it grow, in Jesus' name, amen.

REQUEST



Contributed by Terrence Campbell, Lead Pastor | Growing Faith Fellowship
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 12

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 10

"Release me. Release me. Please!"
—Thom Yorke

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" Acts 13:2

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

I've noticed that I say things that I don't really mean. No, I'm not a major hypocrite, just an average one. Maybe you are too. Here's the test - when was the last time you asked someone, "How are you?" without any intent to hear the answer?

I have a hunch that many faithful, Jesus-loving people constantly say or sing things that they also don't really mean. "All we have is yours." "His kingdom is first above all." But do we really mean those things?

In Acts 13:1-3, the prophets and teachers in Antioch were fasting and praying, evidently desirous to hear God's voice. The Holy Spirit responded and marked 2 of the 5 leaders to GO for His work. Barnabas & Saul (later Paul), the cream of the crop, were called away from the growing church in Antioch.

This church had to answer two hard questions: did you mean what you said? Will you release your best for My best?

Though we don't have their prayers recorded, I believe they didn't pray anything more holy or super-spiritual than we do. Instead, in faith, those believers trusted the Holy Spirit with their best for His best.

We must ask ourselves the same two questions: do we mean what we say? Will we release our best for His best?

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, give us the strength to pray honestly. Jesus, help us put your Kingdom first. Holy Spirit, empower us to give our best for your best. In your grace God, help us release our all for You.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

God, please show me those who You have called me to. Open my eyes to their need for You. Holy Spirit, please open their hearts to your peace and heal them. Christ, increase your kingdom!



Contributed by Andrew Johnson, Associate Pastor | Neartown Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

RELEASE

DAY 13

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 11

"I have but one passion — it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field, and the field is the world, and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." —Ludwig Zinzendorf

"And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" Acts 1.4,8

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Undoubtedly, every great movement of missions, discipleship, and church planting began with a handful of uniquely different people on their knees with one mind, one heart, and one gospel mission in prayer.

When church planting in Poland, we were invited to speak in a church at Český Těšín on the Polish border. This church was born out of the Moravian Revival in the early-1700s. While sitting in those 200-year mahogany pews, we were told how their great-grandparents, little children at the time, recalled the prayer meetings in their homes for a move of the Spirit of God in their towns.

They recounted how they prayed over homes and streets, walking in the evenings through their neighborhoods. Everyone felt the Spirit of God move and set a fire across the grassy hills and farmlands in that sleepy countryside, where family after family, house after house, turned to Christ and gathered together in community and mission.

Not long later, amid internal conflict, a group of 50 Moravian men and women covenanted to pray together - a prayer meeting known to have lasted 100 years.

What resulted in 1732 was dozens of Moravian missionaries launched a modern missions movement by taking the gospel to Poland, Europe, then onto other lands; West Indies, Greenland, Turkey, West Africa, South America, and the English colonies of Georgia and Pennsylvania and to the Native Americans.

I am confident that this can happen in our generation. Let us beseech the Lord of the Harvest!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

O Lord of the Harvest! Send your Spirit to stir up and send co-laborers into your harvest. Stir our hearts to humble ourselves, to pray, and to see healing in our land.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

We at EverGrace are earnestly burdened and compelled to pray with you and seek God with you to see a missional movement as the Moravians in our lifetime. Let us pray, fast, and see the Lord move these next few weeks in the lives of lost people in our neighborhoods and communities.



Contributed by Christian Moore, Lead Pastor | EverGrace Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

REVIVAL

DAY 14

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 12

"Revival is a season of breakthroughs in word, deed and power that ushers in a new normal of kingdom experiences and fruitfulness" —James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer

"Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence." Isaiah 64:1

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

One of the things that has happened through revivals is a tangible sense of God's presence. God makes His presence known and experienced, where people are saying "God is really among you." (1 Cor.14:25) God is omnipresent of course but in revival the sense of His tangible presence is everywhere.

In the book "Revival in the Hebrides", many accounts are recorded mentioning the tangible presence of God. One story is about a young man whose friend has become a Christian during this revival and is telling him about Jesus. The young man is convicted of his sin but tries to shake it off and not respond to the conviction. He goes to a pub to get away from this overwhelming sense of the presence of God. At the pub he finds that all the men there are speaking about their lost ruined state and how they need Jesus! He leaves the pub and goes to a local dance club to dance his troubles away. He is not there five minutes when a young woman, who he knew, came up to him calling him by name saying, "Oh, where would eternity find us if God struck us dead now?" The book states, "The sense of God was everywhere. That evening that young man found the Savior, he could not escape God."

This is what we want friends! The sense of God being everywhere! God's presence known and felt on Hwy 45, Hermann Park, the beaches of Galveston, in every restaurant, every Starbucks and more. People not being able to escape God! The young, the old, the poor, the rich, male, female and every kind of ethnicity coming to faith in Jesus because they cannot escape God.

Friends, what if in our lifetime we saw God move in the greater Houston area like the revivals in scripture and church history? Whereas Duncan Campbell writes, "the realization of God in their midst was so overwhelming..." Let us do whatever it takes for this! We cannot make God do this of course and this is not some emotional frenzy, this is a sovereign move of God. We can, however, prepare for it in our own hearts and pray for it. Today let us ask God to make His presence known that Houston might quake at His presence.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Our Father in Heaven we draw near to you now through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit to ask you to give to the city of Houston a revival. Would You make your amazing presence known in a tangible way so that people are freed, healed, delivered, and saved by the power of Christ? We have heard of Your fame and deeds in the scripture and in church history; will You right here and right now make Your fame and deeds known? We ask that would make Your kingdom come in Houston as it is in heaven. For Your glory, our good and the joy of Houstonians, Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Oh Lord, our friends and family do not need our wisdom, knowledge, or great programs; they need YOU! Will You stretch out Your hand do all the things that scripture describes when You make Your presence known? Cut our friends to the heart with Your truth and let them know that God is really among us. May Your presence be inescapable to them so they might know Jesus as their savior and Lord. In Jesus's name Amen.



Contributed by Chuck Land, Lead Pastor | Crossbridge Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

REVIVAL

DAY 15

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 13

"God's reckless grace is our greatest hope, a life changing experience." —Timothy J. Keller

"God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance..." Romans 2:4

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Repent. It's a familiar word but what does it really mean?

Early on in my walk with Jesus, I remember learning about repentance. I had so much shame and guilt. I had this long list of "sins" that I should stop doing. I'll spare you the details but you might have looked at my life and said the same thing. Stop it. That is a limited view of repentance. Merely abstaining from acts of sin doesn't change my mind or my heart. My motivation was to look like a "better Christian." This isn't real repentance.

The Biblical definition of repentance is to "change one's mind and thus change one's direction...."

Internal transformation only happens when I return to God. We see in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) how enthusiastically the father welcomes his lost son back. The son, "comes to his senses" and starts the journey home to confess his sin to his father, prepared to beg to live as a hired hand in exchange for food and shelter. But the father sees the son approaching and runs to meet him with open arms, to restore him and be with him. Jesus is explaining our Heavenly Father and His eagerness to receive us as we repent. God moves towards us not to make us some moral superstar but rather to embrace us as His child. This love is what motivates us to repentance.

Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Repentance isn't one and done but rather a constant state of my heart. To repent is to RETURN to God. It's only in His constant presence as His child, I get to live the life He desires for me. Let His love for you drive you to repent and receive His embrace.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, please awaken our hearts to You. Help us to repent of our self will and self improvement. Forgive our wayward and divided hearts. Show us quickly when we are not walking towards You in thought or deed. Help us to live our lives before You in gratitude for your forgiveness and the gift of being Your children.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, so many in our city feel alone and anxious and broken. Open the eyes and ears of those who need to know You. Reveal Yourself to people all across our whole region. Make hearts pliable and ready to receive Your salvation. We ask You Father to save our community and move to dispel the darkness with Your steadfast love.

REPENT



Contributed by Susan Wesley, Care and Support Associate | Clear Creek Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 16

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14

*"The most miserable Christians
I've seen are those who live
with a foot in both worlds."
—Jim Johnston*

"...Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning." Joel 2:12

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Christian misery could be described as one who has just enough Jesus to spoil their sinning but not enough Jesus to satisfy them. James uses the term "double-minded". The illustrative word in Revelation 3:16 is "lukewarm". Jesus tells of the seed that falls among thorns and is "choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produces no mature fruit." (Lk. 8:14) In each instance, it is the half-hearted Christian that suffers the loss.

What would keep us from whole hearted devotion to Jesus? Honestly, it's believing that something else out there will satisfy us; a myth that crimps the flow of living waters. Like Joel's audience, God in His fatherly goodness will send locusts and droughts to strip the veneer off our half-heartedness in order to awaken us.

Doctor Jesus prescribes whole-hearted return with a round of fasting, weeping and mourning to cure miserable Christianity. It's time for us to get both eyes on heaven and both feet in God's kingdom. We have only our misery to lose and the satiating joy of heaven to gain!

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, thank you for the difficulties that you send to reveal our half-heartedness. You alone satisfy us. We turn ourselves completely to you. Let us experience the full joy of Jesus and the living waters of the Holy Spirit.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, pursue [names on your list] with your lovingkindness today. Use every circumstance of their lives to reveal their need for you. Please use me and others to tell them about Jesus. May they turn to you in faith.

RETURN



Contributed by Chris Kipp, Planter & Pastor | Renaissance Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 17

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 15

*"We must remember that it was not by interceding for the world in glory that Jesus saved it. He gave Himself, and our prayers for the evangelization of the world are but a bitter irony so long as we only give of our superfluity and hold back from the sacrifice of ourselves."
—François Coillard*

"And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." Mark 8:34-35

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jesus had a way of flipping things over. Here Jesus describes discipleship to his followers in a way which must have felt like the world turned upside down: to follow the savior is to suffer, and to live we must die. In summary: relinquish yourself. Let go.

We are to let go of our desire for comfort and instead grab hold of our version of the cross if we want to follow him. Pursuing the savior and his kingdom is costly. Jesus calls each one of us to let go of our very lives to grab hold of him. Oswald Chambers says it well, "God wants to bring you into union with Himself, but unless you are willing to give up your right to yourself He cannot." To identify so closely with Jesus, to love what he loves, go where he leads, and do what he says...to truly live, we must relinquish ourselves. We must let go.

As we navigate church and life and pursue Houston with the gospel, my prayer is that individually and collectively we would be bold enough to let go of the things keeping us from depending on Jesus fully – whatever that is for each of us – and as a result we'd experience the fullness of life he offers.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, I confess that I often desire to hold onto my life instead of relinquishing it to you – the source and giver of life. Please grant me and all your people in Houston the boldness to let go of ourselves and to faithfully do your will in this city. Please, God, bring your kingdom to Houston here and now. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, thank you for the grace you have shown me through Jesus. Please give me the boldness and love to pursue the people on my prayer list so I can point them to that same grace you so freely gave me. I pray that your love would be overwhelming and irresistible to those who encounter it. Amen.



Contributed by Clark Henry, Student Ministry Director | Christ Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

RELINQUISH

DAY 18

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 16

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray." —S.D. Gordon

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:18-20

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Paul writes these verses immediately after he describes the armor of God. Paul's hands are chained to a Roman soldier. How could he not be aware of the soldiers that rotated into his cell every eight hours. In this setting the spirit of God prompts his mind to focus on what he and the Roman believers desperately need. God's protection and God's power. The Holy Spirit is Paul's source for strength, and boldness. The Spirit's power is unleashed through intentional focus, asking, seeking, and continual knocking. He uses the word ALL, three times. Pray on ALL occasions. Pray ALL kinds of prayer. Pray for ALL the saints.

Do you sense that Paul is being a little too intense in his challenge? Do you hear what I hear. I hear loud and clear Paul say, you don't pray enough. You don't stay alert. You don't keep on praying on all occasions. Paul is intense! Paul desires to awaken us, to arouse us, to heighten intensity. And to fan the flame. Paul desires that we be willing to open our mouths, trust God's Spirit to anoint our lips with words that are gracious, loving, and genuine.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, may we be less distracted, may we be more focused, as you fan the flame of your spirit working in us and through us. May we not be intimidated, to speak the mystery of the gospel to those around us. We request like Paul that we not have a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. Give us a calming presence as we speak the good news. Open hearts to your grace and truth. In Jesus name. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

God, please show how I can reach out to those for whom I pray. Open my eyes to their need, and the opportunities to serve them. Please open their hearts to your truth and peace. In Jesus name. Amen.

REQUEST



Contributed by Roger De Young | Regional Pastor CRC
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 19

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 17

"I have felt the impact of your prayer in these past weeks. I am certain now that nothing has had a more powerful influence on this life of mine than your prayers." —Jim Elliot

"Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'" Luke 9:60

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Excuses. We all have them. Sometimes they're even "good."

After being invited to follow Jesus, the man in Luke 9 explains that he must first "go and bury [his] father." Jesus' response is to "let the dead bury the dead." While Jesus' response may seem harsh on first glance, it becomes clear that the man is really just saying, "tomorrow." Tomorrow will be the day I go all in with you Jesus. Tomorrow will be the day I put you first. Yet, tomorrow never comes.

How many of us have done the same? How many of us have said "I will follow you wherever you go," (Luke 9:57) yet responded to Jesus' leading with an excuse. That opportunity was just too crazy, that season was just too busy, it didn't make sense financially, or we simply said "tomorrow." Jesus' call to follow Him is an invitation to release our wants, desires, and even our dreams to Him. God's kingdom has been built through the lives of those who are willing to trust Jesus in this way. Every time, it is a powerful reminder that Jesus' people live in light of eternity, not just the present. Would we be people who are willing to trust Jesus' leading today, not tomorrow.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, would you help us to be followers who are willing to trust your leading today, not tomorrow. Lead us to put your desires and plans above our own, and to trust you with all of our lives. Lord, would your name be spread, and would your kingdom grow through our sacrifices.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, I pray for one. Would you give me one interaction, one conversation, or one opportunity to connect with someone far from you today. Give me eyes to see the opportunities in front of me.



Contributed by Joseph Castillo, Small Groups Pastor | Brazos Pointe Fellowship
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

RELEASE

DAY 20

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18

"Believers must confess all sins, put away all doubt, obey all promptings of the Holy Spirit immediately and publicly confess Christ." —Evan Roberts

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Evan Roberts prayed for 13 years before the Welsh Revival broke out at the turn of the 20th Century. If we followed his appeal to confess our sins, put away doubt, obey the Spirit's promptings and publicly confess our faith it could create fertile ground for revival. If we don't have love though, we could do all that and still quench the Spirit. No love, no revival. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciple..." John 13:34-35

I remember singing "They will know us by our love" when I was a child during the Jesus Movement of the 60's & 70's. What if we asked God to help us love one another? What if pastors prayed for opportunities to build bridges with pastors in the community they don't always get along with? What if prayers for love and unity marked every church gathering? What if we really did love one another as Jesus loved us? Then we could pray to God "Revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you" as we sing "They will know us by our love."

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, we live in the most divisive time of our lives. And our churches often reflect that division rather than resist it. Remind us of your great love for us so our gratitude will compel us to love one other.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, let our love for one another in the church spill over to love for our community. Show us tangible ways to love those who are far from God so they can see the love of Jesus in us.

REVIVAL



Contributed by Greg Pickering, Lead Pastor | Brazos Pointe Fellowship
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 21

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 19

"If you're feeling weak or not like a good prayer, remember the power of prayer is not in the person praying but in the one hearing it." —Max Lucado

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As a child I attempted to gain the praise of my friends by having my dad buy me a pair of white and brown Gucci Air Force 1's. Once I walked into school all eyes were on me, but not for the reasons I hoped. From a distance my shoes looked amazing but when kids got up close to them, they noticed that they were not real, they were fake! You would think that paying about \$100 from a highly suspect website for "Gucci" shoes would've been a huge red flag to me, but when you are trying to impress your friends, you don't think about things like that. From afar the shoes looked like the authentic but upon further review it proved to be nothing more than a counterfeit.

Throughout history, the church has experienced the power of God in such a remarkable way that it resulted in an authentic revival, leaving God's people hungry for more of Him. But we've also experienced what it's like to manufacture revival, from a distance it looks authentic but when you got up close, it's nothing more than a counterfeit. The psalmist in Psalm 85:6 knows what it's like for God to inflame the hearts of his people in such a way that all they want is more of him because he doesn't ask God to bring revival, he asks God to bring revival "again". When God's people experience revival, we respond like a child being joyfully tossed in the air by their father, we yell "do it again daddy, do it again!"

The psalmist understands that he can't manipulate God to do what he wants, all he can do is beg God to move. So, he cried out to Him. God must perform a miracle. This was not the cry of an individual who prayed God "revive me" it's a communal cry for God to "revive us". Since He must perform the miracle, we are left completely dependent on him as we humbly approach his throne of grace together in prayer. And when God is the one who brings revival, he is the one who gets the credit and we are the ones filled with joy.

ESPN analyst Scott Van Pelt once asked this question to University of Alabama head coach Nick Saban. He asked, how do you stay hungry when you are so well fed? If you know anything about coach Saban then you know he would answer that question the way he answers most questions, by talking about his team's commitment to the process, every practice, every game, and every season. We are people who have been well fed by our savior, our sins have been cancelled and death no longer has power over us. So how do we stay hungry for God when we've already been given so much? We commit to the process, day after day, crying out to him in prayer in hopes he will do yet another miracle in our lives, our churches, and our city. And we are careful to give him the credit so that everyone knows it wasn't a counterfeit, it was the real thing.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, revive us again so that we may rejoice in you.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, would you revive the hearts of those far from you so that they too may rejoice in you.



Contributed by Ayo Omopariola, Lead Pastor | The West Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

REVIVAL

DAY 22

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 20

"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." —D.L. Moody

"You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." Psalm 51:16-17

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Since we have four boys under the age of 12, apologizing is something that happens often in the Whitley home. Any other parents have a testimony? So, something my wife and I instruct our boys in is that an apology must have 3 things. Eye contact, saying I'm sorry and confessing your mistake, and then asking for forgiveness. This kind of apology is not only beneficial for the one receiving it, but also for the one asking.

Psalm 51 is King David's infamous apology to God. It's his prayer of confession and repentance after his affair with Bathsheba, getting her pregnant, and then arranging the murder of her husband, Uriah, to cover it up (2 Sam 11-12). This prayer can be a sort of "how to" for our own confession to God and repentance. David's cry for mercy, admission of sin, and desire of renewed commitment are all great examples for us in our own prayer.

But where did David find his confidence to go before God? After all, he had just made some colossal mistakes. Read vv 16-17. David's hope before God wasn't in the right words, acts of penance, or sacrifice. David's hope before God was in knowing the truth of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Repentance is not only turning away from sin; it's also bringing our brokenness to the Father.

Is the truth of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness, (given in and through Jesus Christ) what leads you to confession and repentance or is it a belief that you need to perform for God trying to earn forgiveness? Go to God today with a broken and repentant heart over your sin, but also with the truth that you are already forgiven in Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, my prayer today is, "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me." In the guilt and shame of my sin, I find freedom by seeking your forgiveness. Forgive me for taking and holding sin in my life and thank you for the promise that you will not reject a broken and repentant heart. Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for my sins, so that I may be forgiven. I praise You for that incredible gift! In my new life in Jesus, I turn from sin and bring my brokenness to you. Thank you for making me whole again.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, as I've received your incredible gift of a new life in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of my sins, I pray for _____ to also receive you. May I be faithful today to pray for _____, but to also share the truth of my need for you and demonstrate to them the love you have given me. Amen.

REPENT



Contributed by Cameron Whitley, Lead Pastor | West Lake Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 23

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 21

*"...the seeds of good works must
be watered by a river of tears!"
—Fulgentius of Ruspe*

"...rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." Joel 2: 13

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

The famous farmer-poet Wendell Berry once wrote that we are not a nation that contains a homeless population, rather, we are a homeless nation. A nation where people have lost all concept of place, belonging, and a true sense of the self -- withering under the weight of distraction.

As Christians, we also have become victims of the perpetual commercial of self-indulgence and self-promotion. We need more than sentimental religion and happy thoughts. We need to return to the living God and recover our communities, for the sake of the Gospel, by first taking the time to seek His face and learn His ways.

More than liturgy, or Sunday prep, we have learned that God wants broken hearts in the inner-man of the Pastor. The Prophet is clear: open your heart, and cry out to God in the assembly of the people. As Joel says, "Why should they say among the people, 'Where is their God?'"

God seems to enjoy doing the miraculous when those whom He partners with - his Church - actually do the work of prayer, first! May we begin by asking God for a fresh move of His Spirit by breaking our hearts for this people and this place.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Almighty God, whose heart was ripped open and revealed on a bloody cross, and whose eyes burn with passionate love for His people, give us the blessing of capturing your heart for a broken world. May we live under the happy burden of prayer, and the reminder that you are in our midst. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, be not far from those we pray and labor over. Heal, save, and deliver from the bondage of sin, and restore their nature to wholeness. May everyone on our list come to a real encounter with your Spirit, and tremble. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

RETURN



Contributed by Jon Beadle, Senior Pastor | All Saints Conroe
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 24

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 22

"Faith does not grow disheartened because prayer is not immediately honoured; it takes God at His Word, and lets Him take what time He chooses in fulfilling His purposes, and in carrying on His work." —E.M. Bounds

"Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, 'I remember my offenses today. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard...' Genesis 41:9-12a

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

When Joseph was waiting in prison, he was, no doubt, being trained in the school of patience. Scripture doesn't explicitly mention whether or not he prayed while in prison. But one can imagine him wondering both in the prison and in the pit he was thrown into long ago, "How long, O Lord, until you rescue me?"

It took two years before God moved to free Joseph from captivity. All of a sudden, after two years of forgetting, the cupbearer remembers Joseph—that he was supposed to mention Joseph to Pharaoh after his own release from prison. Who knows why this lapse in time? The sovereign God has his ways. Pray we must. But we must also leave the secret, unknown will of God to God and trust him in our seasons of waiting.

In our prayers for revival and for the lost, may we not despise the fact that waiting goes hand in hand with urgent, expectant prayer.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, help us pray for things on our hearts with greater fervency and expectancy. And, all the while, teach us to relinquish our grip on how and when you choose to answer such prayers.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, would you grant those who are far from you the gift of new birth? Give me opportunities to engage them with the gospel and help me patiently wait on you to answer my prayers for their salvation.

RELINQUISH



Contributed by Jonathan Huang, Church Planter | Ethnos Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 25

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 23

"Ask of me is the one condition God puts in the very advance and triumph of His cause." —E.M. Bounds

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As a father of 3 children, I am often bombarded with requests. Each of my children asks my wife and I for things regularly. It can often feel never-ending! Dad, can I play outside? Dad, can I go to the game with friends? Dad, can we go get ice cream? Mom, can I get a ride to the mall and go shopping? You get my drift. At times it can be annoying and bothersome but yet this is how our heavenly father wants us to bother him in prayer. He gives us permission to bother him in prayer.

We should be encouraged to submit requests to Him daily. All kinds of requests, things that keep you up at night, difficult circumstances that you continue to worry about, and breakthroughs in a particular area of your life.

In Matthew 7, Jesus tells his disciples to 'ask' God, but this 'ask' is a persistent asking. In Philippians 4, Paul writes, Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

This is a reminder that our loving Father longs for us to ask of him. Asking God in prayer strengthens our relationship with him. Be specific about your request. Even though God knows what you want and need. He wants you to ask Him for it. God can answer vague prayers but being specific creates a deeper bond between you and Him.

God wants us to ask and ask again, not simply because he told us to pray, but because when we pray, we open another window for his glory to stream through.

Throughout scripture, God invites us to ask of him. What a heavenly invitation! Although parents often ask their children to stop bothering them with requests, our heavenly Father does not operate this way. He is longing to hear from us daily.

When was the last time you asked God in prayer for a specific, bold, and audacious request?

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, may we be people that will bring daily requests to you. I thank you that you love giving good gifts to your children. We repent for our prayerlessness and ask you to give us a passion for prayer.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, may you give us open doors to reach the lost with the gospel message of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and city.

REQUEST



Contributed by Efrain Cirilo, Lead Pastor of Ministry & Multiplication | Wake Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 26

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 24

"Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off." Acts 13:1-3

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Acts 13 records the beginning of one of the most impressive church planting undertakings ever done. On their first missionary journey, Paul and his companions planted churches in five cities with an average stay of four months per city. On the second journey, they planted churches in 13 cities every 1.5 months. And on the third, they planted new ones and strengthened old ones between 3 weeks to 3 months per city. This remarkable feat can be attributed to several factors. But one of them is the willingness of the mother church to release their best individuals, like Paul and Barnabas.

How did they know the best ones to release? Since the word "fasting" is repeated twice in this short passage, it's the author's way of showing that fasting is indeed the means God used to reveal the best people to accomplish His plan and to move the whole congregation to release them. In short, when the church fasts and responds in obedience to the Holy Spirit by releasing whom God identified as the best, I believe God can revive his church in the 21st century, not just in the 1st century. What do you think?

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, may we become so aligned with your perfect will because we spend time marinating in your presence through fasting, resulting in us releasing our best and brightest. May what happened in Acts 13 be not just history but also a Houston reality. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Merciful God, several families on our B.L.E.S.S. list are still far from you. But by your Holy Spirit's gentle conviction and persuasion, coupled with our obedience to your Great Commission, may we see a great harvest for your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

RELEASE



Contributed by Juan Eclarin, Lead Pastor | Mosaic Church of Houston
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 27

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 25

"I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right and for the glory of God, I go on praying for it until the answer comes." —George Müller

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." —Jeremiah 29:7

REVIVAL | PRAYER WALK

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

The prophet Jeremiah is speaking to the nation of Israel in captivity in Babylon. His challenge to them...be a good neighbor. They found themselves in exile, but they weren't called to escape the city. Instead, they were to bring peace and seek the welfare, or shalom, of this hard place.

God's people have always lived in exile, we live in the in between, somewhere that is not our home. While we wait, much like Israel, we spread shalom into the neighborhoods and cities we live and part of that shalom is proclaiming the good news of God's rescue that we find in Jesus.

Tonight, on day #27 of our 30 days of prayer, we are asking you to go on a prayer walk between 5:00-6:00pm. During this time pray for God's richest blessing and the welfare of every man, woman and child represented in the homes or apartments you walk past. Pray that God continues to revive his church and brings a spiritual awakening to your neighborhood and those throughout our city. Imagine hundreds of families and individuals from churches all over the city praying simultaneously for our neighbors and the neighborhoods that make up greater Houston.

As you consider joining us tonight visit awakenhouston.org to read more about Prayer Walking.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

As followers of Jesus we long for our future home, but as we wait may we live faithfully in pursuit of you and your mission. Help us love our neighbors with the same love that you have extended to each of us and embolden us to share our faith and be a blessing where we live, work, learn, and play.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

We pray now for those who are close to us, but far from you. As we walk our neighborhoods tonight may your Spirit give us wisdom on how to pray and be a blessing to each our neighbors. As we do, we ask that you draw our friends and neighbors to yourself.



Contributed by Chad Clarkson, Executive Director | Houston Church Planting Network
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 28

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 26

"Every revival in history seems to be the result of a few people becoming so hungry for God that they wanted Him more than oxygen. Those who have such hunger will not be denied. It's time to seek a revival that becomes the most famous address in the world. It's time to seek a move of God that won't quit moving." —Rick Joyner

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James 4:8

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

We have the promise of knowing when we come to the Lord, he will come near to us. If we pursue him, he can be found. It doesn't happen when we ignore sin and overlook evil; instead it comes when God's people put aside the things that got them into the mess they are in and pursue after God. Just think what could happen if pastors, church leaders, and believers took seriously this promise and actually pursued the God who can and wants to be found! Just imagine how God could move in our city and in our neighborhoods and at our kids schools if we turn from our sin and come near to the Lord! We must pray and ask that God would lead the way through us, that revival would begin in our hearts, in our homes, and in our churches. What does this look like for you, personally? What are your everyday rhythms that are actually opportunities of eternal significance?

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, I pray for your people to turn from their sin and wash their hands and come near to God. Thank you for the promise that when we come to you, you will come near to us. I pray your people would experience nearness and closeness and that taste of your presence would lead to revival that spreads all across our city and leads a movement for the nation.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, I pray for my list of those who don't know you. I pray they would experience conviction of their sin and they would turn away from evil and turn to you. May they experience the nearness that comes through forgiveness and cleansing of sin. I pray it would lead to not only themselves, but their whole households being saved.

REVIVAL



Contributed by Chris Kouba, Lead Pastor | United City Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 29

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 27

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." —Jesus

"Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.' When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it." Jonah 3:1-10

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jonah didn't want to hold out any hope of a different outcome to the Assyrians. He hated them, and not for no reason. They made a practice of piling the heads of the defeated foe into pyramids on top of and outside the walls of their cities (Shalmaneser II). They flayed their victims and stitched their skins together, quilting walls with human flesh (Ashurbanipal). God saw their wickedness, and He hated it. There would be Hell to pay. So in what may be the worst sermon ever preached (5 words in the Hebrew, with no hope offered), Jonah delivered God's word of just judgment into Nineveh, the ancient equivalent of Nazi occupied Berlin. "Believed" is the first word of verse 5 in the Hebrew, the first word following Jonah's threat. The Ninevites believed God. Doug Stuart writes, "Repentance broke out on the first day" (New Bible Commentary, 1994). Instantly, shockingly, from king to slave, with fasting and desperate prayer, the people turned from their wickedness to God. Such is the power of God's word. Let us take hold of God's warm compassion, on full display in the word made flesh who paid the Hell we owed, and beg him to bring repentance and revival – to our too-cool hearts, to our wicked, wonderful city. Houston, too, is "a great city to God" (the Hebrew of Jonah 3:3). "Who knows? [He] may turn and relent."

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

The first of Luther's 95 theses nailed to the chapel door in Wittenberg reads, "The Christian life ought to be one of continual repentance." Lord, make us a people whose lives are characterized by repentance. Impress deeply into our hearts the truth that repentance is not only the doorway into life with you (Matthew 5:3); it is also the highway. Thank you for your implacable love, gladly given, wholly purchased by Jesus' blood.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father so many of my neighbors are far from you, even those who think they are close. Humble them, turn them, open their blind eyes and deaf ears. Make them care. Wake them up. Give them soft hearts like the hard Ninevites who turned to you. Help me pray like prayer matters, like it makes a difference, because it does. All people around me at home, at work, and in shops I pop in and out of, are "a car ride away from a graveyard", and most of those will head to Hell for eternity if nothing changes (Ortlund, Is Hell For Real?). Impress this deeply on my mind and heart. Give me boldness and love to hold out the hope of Jesus to them, for them. Save Jay Lord, and Andrew, and Brent, and Carter, and Copeland, and Stefan, and Nick, and Louis, and so many, many more. Bring revival. Make us a people of desperate and perpetual prayer.

REPENT



Contributed by Taylor Ince, Pastor | Sojourn Galleria
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 30

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28

"From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him." (Isaiah 64:4)

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Hold that pose. That is a command that nearly killed me when trying pilates for the first time. It seems so simple to not move – to just stay there... until you try. Holding the pose requires muscles to fire. It requires endurance. It is a lot of things, but easy is not one of them. As we come to the conclusion of this 30 day fasting journey, I am convinced that this is God's word to us. He is inviting us to wait. Not in general, but specifically FOR HIM. Isaiah recognized that all people throughout all time could engage all of their senses and they still would not find someone who acts powerfully FOR his people like Yahweh does for those who wait FOR HIM. The struggle is that we so impatiently move on and miss the joy of having divine activity flood in on our behalf. These thirty days were not intended to be an end in themselves, rather a catalytic beginning -- an invitation to a city to Hunger FOR God. An invitation to wait FOR HIM because he is necessary, delightful and there is no one besides him that will act for us. Brothers and sisters, wait with anticipation for him and let's watch him act on our behalf.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Revive us. Help us to learn the lesson from history and choose to wait for you and you alone. I do believe you are our only hope and long for you to flood in and act on our behalf. We will wait with anticipation. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Our Father, move in the hearts of those that are far from you but near to us. Holy Spirit we yield to you our thoughts, words, actions entirely – you can have control. We want to be so fully submitted that we no longer live, but Christ lives in us. Then use us as faithful and bold witnesses in the lives of our family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Save the lost, for your glory and for our joy! Amen.

SUMMARY



Contributed by Jeremiah Morris, Lead Pastor | Seven Mile Road Houston