

PREVITAL

PREPARING FOR A MOVEMENT OF GOD

**21
DAYS
OF
PRAYER**



**If we want to
be vessels of
revival, we
have to
experience
revival first.**

DAY 1

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Psalm 25:1-15

APPLY: “To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.” Wow. What a simple prayer with profound implications. This is where we have to start. If we want to see revival come here in our church, in our city, then we must first submit ourselves to our God. When we give ourselves over to the Lord, two things will happen. First, get ready to be changed. God is going to do a work in you that you would not believe. Your heart is going to change. Your heart is going to be purified into more and more of all that God’s heart is for his people and his glory. Your ways, your desires, your worship will all be directed toward King Jesus like they never have before. Secondly, get ready to be used. God has a plan for your life. You are the vessel for revival to come. As we lift our souls up to the Lord, he fills us with His Spirit. We go with him wherever we go, and as we walk in the way of the Lord, opportunities will come. Open doors to share the good news of Jesus. Open doors to disciple others along the way. Open doors to go further than we have gone before to tell of his steadfast love and mercy.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 2

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Romans 12:1-2

APPLY: The appropriate response to the immeasurable riches of God's mercy toward us is to give our whole selves to him as an act of worship. We do this by no longer conforming to our old way of life that was opposed to God. Paul tells us that the way we can continue to worship God with our lives is by renewing our minds. Elsewhere, in other letters of Paul's, he talks about the idea of "setting your mind" on things of the Spirit, on things "above." When we choose to think about the Lord and meditate on his teachings, and what he has revealed to us about his will, then we begin to be transformed. The transformation that happens in our hearts and minds being changed to agree with the Lord's. Today, before you pray, take a few minutes to think about what God has clearly revealed in the Bible that he desires. Then ask yourself whether that is what you want. More likely than not, on your best day, you need your heart's desires more aligned and more committed to what God's heart desires. As your heart is being aligned, rest in knowing that what you are aligning to is excellent and perfect.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 3

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Colossians 1:15-23

APPLY: The first thing that we have to stand back and be in awe of is all that Jesus is. The supremely valuable and supremely worthy of worship. Before Jesus did anything to intervene in the narrative of mankind, he was just as magnificent and glorious to behold. Before Jesus ever demonstrated the most sacrificial act of love that we have ever known, he was still lovely and gracious. It's so important that we see Jesus not only through the lens of what he has done for us but what he has done alongside who he is. When we see first how holy, glorious, and supreme Jesus is, then we can understand the weight of his love, the cost of our sin, and the worthiness of following him. Then, here again, we see that Jesus came not only to reconcile us to himself, but also to make us holy and blameless. As we know and enjoy the one we have been reconciled to, we become more like him. As we become more like him, our hearts long for what he wants. Then we, too, become vessels of reconciliation to the rest of the world. We become the means by which the rest of our city can be reconciled to God as we proclaim to them the glory and good news of Jesus Christ.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 4

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

APPLY: There is something powerful and even necessary regarding love to those of us who follow Jesus. Its power comes from the fact that God is love. So to know love is to, in part, know God. To show love to others is to show them a piece of who God is. And to enjoy love is to enjoy a piece of God because love has this direct connection to the person of God. It's almost as if Paul is saying that you can have some great things, but if you don't have this one thing called love, then you are missing the most important thing. Its importance is not only connected to the fact that its origin is in God, but also the absence of love in us should be an alarm. When we don't see love in our hearts, then we are missing a vital piece of the heart of God. Our love should begin with adoration and devotion to God first and foremost. It must start here because it's our love for God and his love for us that overflows to every other person in our lives. Once we have been filled with the love of God, then we can look to our brothers and sisters, our parents, our spouse, our children, and more.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 5

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: John 1:1-5

APPLY: When has anyone offered you life or truth? Wouldn't you be interested? Life and truth are essentials to not only existing but existing with purpose and peace. Jesus is both. Jesus is the embodiment of what is true and what it is life. We know that life is so much more than your heart beating and breathing. There is a whole way to live that is only complete when Jesus is known and enjoyed by us. John describes the life that Jesus gives as a light. This light of Jesus shines on the darkness of our hearts to reveal to us where change is still needed. Jesus' light is also shining in the world through his creation as well as through those of us who bear his name. So today, as you continue to pray and meditate on this description of Jesus, receive the truth and life that he brings. It will shine a light in your heart that will lead you to confession, repentance, and ultimately wholeness in Christ. Be sure to share what God has already done in you to those around you. This testimony will magnify the shining light we have found.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 6

- GRACE DAY -

DAY 7

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: 1 Peter 2:11-17

APPLY: In the greater context of this passage, Peter is giving all kinds of instruction for what it looks like to submit to all people that God has providentially put in your life. Everyone from your boss at work, your parents, your spouse, your government, and more. He is trying to show us that whether these people in your life are good, bad, or indifferent, that there is a way of relating to them that honors the Lord and will ultimately bring them to know the Lord as well. Would you describe the way you relate to your boss as honorable? What about with your family? Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ in an evident way? Is it clear that in all you do, there is reverence for God above all others? This is God's will for your life today that you would conduct yourself in such a way that it would silence the foolish talk of the world. When we choose to honor one another, to love regardless of deservedness, this confounds the logic of the world. So, whether it's your manager at work, your parents, or your spouse, choose to show the same kind of grace and love that Jesus showed you on the cross when you least deserved it.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 8

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: 1 John 3:11-18

APPLY: This passage might feel somewhat familiar. This is a principle that bears repeating. John gives us this same argument that we should love one another and that if we don't, it could be evidence that we don't know or love God. Wow. That will get your attention. There is a transformative work that occurs in our hearts when we find Jesus. See, we were spiritually dead, and spiritually dead people don't love God, and they don't love others very well. More often than not, they struggle to love as God loves because they have not understood the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross by giving his life so that others might have life. When we received that life, we received with it the seed of love that grows and flourishes and ultimately brings love to all the people in our lives. We have been transformed from death to life by faith in Jesus Christ. The fruit of that life or the evidence is that we love others the way Jesus loves. None of us is the kind of perfect, selfless, sacrificial, loving person that Jesus is. But there should be evidence that we are becoming more and more like Jesus. Do you want to see your marriage flourish? Do you want to see your children come to know God? Do you want to see other people in your life be disarmed and melted by the love of God? Then be the conduit through which that love flows to the people God has placed in your life.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 9

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

APPLY: This passage is a small excerpt from an entire letter that the apostle Paul wrote to a younger man named Timothy. Paul is writing to him for several reasons, one of which is to encourage him and remind him of the great gift of faith that he has from the Lord. When was the last time you said things like this to anyone else in your life? Or better yet, when was the last time anyone said things like this to you? If neither of these is happening for you yet, then hear these words to you, “fight the good fight of the faith.” Be strong because he who is in you is the mighty one. Remain steadfast because the never-failing, never-changing God is present with you. And more than anything, **REMEMBER**. Remember God’s faithfulness through every circumstance, through every loss, through every mountain top, and through every unknown, and that he has been good. Now, look to the leaders and mentors that God has placed in your life. Parents, older siblings, small group leaders, older friends, anyone who could be a means of grace and encouragement to keep fighting. Be on the lookout for how God is going to use them in the coming days to bestow wisdom on your life. Be willing to ask for help and encouragement from them. Finally, be on the lookout for the **Timothys** in your life who need that same encouragement and love along the way. Don’t let the fear of being ready, keep you from simply being present in someone’s life.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 10

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Philemon 1:1-7

APPLY: This is another example of Paul writing to a dear friend to encourage them on their faith journey. Philemon was a wealthy and influential person who had come to faith and was hosting a local church in his home regularly. His love for God and people was evident and spoken of so much that Paul heard of it while he was away in a time period where news did not travel fast. Paul is not merely celebrating the work that God has done in Philemon but the local church that is being built up through his generosity, faithfulness, and love. Who has discipled you? Who has taken regular, intentional time to share the teachings of Jesus with you from the Bible? Who has encouraged you toward deeper obedience to Jesus? Who has helped you see the sin that you could not see on your own? Who has shared with you this common mission we have to share the good news about Jesus and multiply disciples of Jesus? Thank God for the people he has put in your life to do all or some of these things with you. If you haven't been following Jesus long or haven't been a part of The Journey or a Small Group here at Foothills Church, then take the next step towards being discipled. If you are on the other end of the spectrum and have been discipled for a few years or more, then you need to begin to imitate and multiply what others have done for you. This is Jesus' charge to you as your King.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 11

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: John 10:7-18

APPLY: Let's first celebrate that Jesus is the best shepherd. He is the best because not only is he steering us toward truth and guiding us in true life, but he gave his own life that we might be saved. There is no greater love than this. Whatever your circumstances are today, I hope that his presence and sacrifice for you bring joy and peace that transcends what's been going on. Now not only should this passage draw us closer to Jesus, but let's not read too quickly over what he said in verse 16, "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also..." This is another point where we see our flourishing relationship with God blooms into living a life on mission with him. Our shepherd's heart is not only for those of us who have already been found, but for those who have yet to come. We must spread the word about this perfect shepherd that we have found and how he has changed our lives. When we talk about him and his countless acts of faithfulness, it gets people's attention. And maybe it doesn't grab their attention in such a way today that they come to him and follow him yet, but it's the culmination of testimonies and acts of love that crescendo into saving faith in Jesus Christ.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 12

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: John 4:31-38

APPLY: Food is one of our most basic needs to live. It sustains us and fuels us for all that we do. Jesus just said that what sustains and fuels him is obeying the Father and accomplishing the work that is set before us from the Father. Now it's okay if that's not where you are at today. But as Christ-followers, imitators of Christ, I hope that there is a longing for you to want to be there one day. To be at the place where the Father's will and mission are your own. To desire to fulfill these as if it were essential as eating and breathing to live. How do we journey to that place? It always begins with our hearts. Heart change takes time. You could start by becoming familiar with what God's will is. It's found in your Bible. Every page, every chapter, every verse reveals the Father's heart. Then you have to ask for a miracle that your heart would be the same as the Father's. Day after day of understanding all that God desires, and asking that his Spirit make your desires the same, will ultimately produce fruit that will accomplish the work before you. Be as patient with the Lord's work in you as he is patient with you. Before you know it, you will be right in the middle of being consistently satisfied with reaping a great harvest for the Lord.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 13

- GRACE DAY -

DAY 14

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Acts 2:42-47

APPLY: If we summed up what was going on in this local church we just read about, we would likely use the words: devotion, unity, and joy. They were devoted to one another and to learning more and more about the person of Jesus and his teachings. They maintained unity because they had a common singular belief that Jesus is life. The life they found in Jesus and the contentment they had apart from their possessions brought them great joy. If it has hit you yet, these are all things that are uncommon to our world today. However, when your heart is filled with awe for Jesus, and he truly begins to satisfy your deepest longings, this picture in Acts can become our reality today. It's that kind of deep worship of Jesus that transforms us into very loyal, generous, caring, and joyful people. Notice I said deep worship and not easy circumstances, convenient opportunities, and self-serving relationships. Let us work hard together to be people who are so like Jesus that we love, work, and rest like Jesus. Here is the adverse reality if we don't do this: We look like, act like, and sound like the same self-serving, self-focused, and self-glorifying, godless people of the world. If there is no light shining among us, there will be no darkness overcome around us.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 15

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Acts 4:5-13

APPLY: Right before this text, Peter had finished preaching a sermon that was calling on these Jewish people to reconsider that Jesus whom they rejected as the promised Messiah was indeed the one who was prophesied about. They have reason to put their faith in him. Upon hearing of this preaching, they had Peter and John, who was with him, arrested. The next day they stand before the religious leader's council to be judged. Peter and John had also healed a man, and that is what they choose to ask about first, inquiring about whose power they healed him. Peter boldly proclaims the same message he preached the day before that Jesus Christ is the only person, the only name by which anyone can be saved. Then one of the most relatable verses comes in verse 13, where it is commented that their lack of education was apparent, that this were common men, and yet they were being used for the uncommonly powerful work of God to heal and speak boldly. These men who were used to build-up and lead the early church, who wrote significant portions of the New Testament in the Bible, men who performed miracles, men who preached boldly to thousands of people at a time, were common men who had never been to seminary or had any kind of formal training but had simply "been with Jesus." God can use anyone. God wants to use you. Will you spend the time?

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 16

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Jeremiah 1:4-10

APPLY: This is how and what Jeremiah was called to as a prophet to the people of God. While this is a unique calling to a specific person, we have other passages from the Bible that affirm some things that happened for Jeremiah that are true for us as well. The first is the fact that God, outside of time, knew and appointed us for this calling. Proclaiming the gospel of our King Jesus is what you were made for above everything else. Before you are a son or daughter, before you are a husband or wife, before you are a brother or sister, before you are a mom or dad, before you are your job title, you are an appointed ambassador for the Kingdom of God. Then there are Jeremiah's limitations. He says he doesn't know how to speak and that he is only a youth. The best part is God's answer. God's answer isn't, "No, you are a great communicator, and you aren't as young as you think." He simply tells him that those aren't limitations to God's power. Jeremiah wasn't appointed because he was talented or the right age, but instead, he was appointed to display God's mighty strength. And in the process, there is no doubt that Jeremiah's faith was increased as he was used. God isn't interested in using the qualified and talented as much as he is interested in using the humbly obedient.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 17

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Acts 10:34-43

APPLY: This is a monumental moment in the narrative of the book of Acts. This is a turning point for the local church that those who are welcomed and called by Jesus are not Jews exclusively, but every kind of person from every nation from anywhere across the globe. Regardless of your heritage or where you are from, as long as you believe in Jesus, you can be saved. This is a refreshing reminder to those of us who already believe. It is good for our hearts to remember that God's gracious salvation given to us was not hindered by any part of our origin or story. It also serves as another reminder to who we have been called to go and tell. Everyone. We have been called to share and love all without exception. If we don't, who will? Don't be so quick to assume someone somewhere has been called to that people group, or that country, or that part of town. First, ask, should I go? Why or why not? Be open to what the Spirit might impress upon your heart and be ready to be led and guided by faithful leaders who love you.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 18

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Acts 13:36-43

APPLY: Hearing the good news that there is forgiveness for sins in Jesus Christ never gets old. There is never a day we don't need that forgiveness or that hope. And listen to what Paul said about the law. He was pointing out that there would never be any felt or actual freedom from obeying the law. Why? Because the law requires perfect obedience all the time every time from birth to death. Which we know from experience is impossible. That's why Jesus' perfect life and death in our place is so necessary if we are to have any hope of knowing God or please him. The special part of this message from Paul is when he refers back to the book of Habakkuk and echoes God's message to his people that was applicable in the Old Testament, was applicable in the season that Paul is speaking to the early church, and is still applicable to us here in Blount County at Foothills Church. **GOD IS DOING A WORK IN OUR DAYS THAT YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE.** Continue in the grace of God that has been abundantly provided to you and watch God change your family, our church, our county, and the world.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 19

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Psalm 25:1-15

APPLY: “To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.” Wow. What a simple prayer with profound implications. This is where we have to start. If we want to see revival come here in our church, in our city, then we must first submit ourselves to our God. When we give ourselves over to the Lord, two things will happen. First, get ready to be changed. God is going to do a work in you that you would not believe. Your heart is going to change. Your heart is going to be purified into more and more of all that God’s heart is for his people and his glory. Your ways, your desires, your worship will all be directed toward King Jesus like they never have before. Secondly, get ready to be used. God has a plan for your life. You are the vessel for revival to come. As we lift our souls up to the Lord, he fills us with His Spirit. We go with him wherever we go, and as we walk in the way of the Lord, opportunities will come. Open doors to share the good news of Jesus. Open doors to disciple others along the way. Open doors to go further than we have gone before to tell of his steadfast love and mercy.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

DAY 20

- GRACE DAY -

DAY 21

PRAY: Spirit use what I am about to read, to change me, and then our community.

READ: Matthew 28:16-20

APPLY: Here, we have our mission, from our leader, to whom, how, and the promise of his presence. These are Jesus' famous last words before left being bodily present here on earth to return to heaven until his triumphant final return. The mission is to make disciples. We start by sharing the gospel that has been preached to us. As people come to believe, we baptize them as a declaration of the new life that they have received. After they have been baptized, we make sure they know that to be one of his disciples is to follow him, to be changed by him, and to be on mission with him. As people buy-in to this life with Jesus, we teach them all that we have learned about Jesus and from Jesus. Along the way, those people also become disciple-makers by simply replicating precisely what we have done with them. Are you beginning to see the multiplication that takes place? This is not the initiative of a local church or from a denomination; this is the charge from King Jesus to all who worship him. Finally, to top it off, we have his promise that he will always be with us. What would you do and where would you go if you know the God of the universe was going to do it with you and go with you wherever you go? Consider yourself commissioned to do the greatest work with the promise of a successful mission.

PRAY: Praise God for who he is and what he has done. Ask God to revive you and our city. Ask God what your part in that looks like.

A person wearing a teal hoodie and a dark beanie is working in a workshop. They are leaning over a workbench, and a shower of sparks is flying from a tool they are using. The background is dark and industrial, with various tools and equipment visible. The text "PREPARING FOR A MOVEMENT OF GOD" is overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font across the center of the image.

PREPARING FOR A
MOVEMENT OF GOD