Happy New Year Family

What a blessing it is to have your presence here at St. John's in this new decade. We are grateful that God has given us each other and a shared space to worship God together.

This year we are starting off on a journey that has been predetermined by God to lead you along your destiny. You see, there is no destination for your life. What God has planned for each one of us is a journey that continues to lead towards eternity. With eternity lasting forever, we are only at the beginning of this expedition.

So no matter where you are at this very moment on your journey, the train has stopped to pick you up. Drop whatever baggage is weighing you down - unforgiveness of a loved one, low self-esteem and unhappiness in your current stage in life, or any negative energy that is consuming your joy- put it down.

You won't need any of it on this journey to Aligning with God's Love, Surrendering the Battlefield, and Living in the Promises of Manifestation.

God loves you just the way you are. Come to God, covered in all your sins and let God wash you clean. Allow God to control all storms that come your way. Continue to move forward, keeping your mind set on living out the desires of your heart.

Our special thanks to long serving member, Ashley B. Patton, Drs. Pamela & Floyd Atkins, and Pastor Tiffany Chandler for their contributions. Anything worth doing is usually done in community. As we journey together over the next 30 days know that "We love you and there's nothing you can do about it!

Pastors Rudy & Juanita Rasmus

FOOD TIPS "New Decade, New Lifestyle"

Pamela Atkins, MD and Floyd Atkins, DPM

•FASTING FROM TOXIC FOODS
•No Flour (bread, pastry, cake, pasta, etc.)
•No Sugar (candy, soda, ice cream, cookies)
•No Bad Fats (fried foods, red meat)
•No Processed and Fast foods

THE FOOTHOLE – Chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes) are now among the most prevalent and preventable of all health problems. Since the "War on Cancer" began in 1970, overall cancer deaths have increased every year.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
•"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"– Corinthians 3:16
•"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."– Hosea 4:6
•"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."– Romans 12:2

WHERE TO BEGIN?
•FASTING FROM PROCESSED FOODS
•No Flour (bread, pastry, cake, pasta, etc.)
•No Sugar (candy, soda, ice cream, cookies)
•No Bad Fats (fried foods, red meat)
•LET FOOD BE THY MEDICINE
•Eat 50% Raw – Vegetables/Fruits (organic)
•Brown Rice, Beans, Fish and Poultry
•Drink spring or purified water
•Avoid dairy products
•DON'T WAIT FOR "THE SHOE TO DROP"

Center for Wellness and Healing
3730 Kirby Dr. Suite 1200
Houston, TX 77098
713.520.9611
www.centerforwellnessandhealing.com

6 Powerful Prayers for God's Manifestation

John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 3:16
Heavenly Father, I thank You that you sent your only begotten son that I may have eternal life. Father I pray that You will remove the veil from my eyes that stops me from seeing Your true glory. Father, I ask that You reveal Yourself to me in a mighty way so that I will follow You all the days of my life and that I may dwell in Your presence, Amen.

Matthew 7:7, Exodus 33:18
Dear God, I thank You that your Word says to ask and it will be given. Therefore, I ask today that You will show me Your glory God. May You also prepare me for all that You have in store for me that Your glory may dwell within me. God teach me how to walk in Your glory that You may dwell in me for the rest of my life, Amen.

Jeremiah 33:3
Dear Lord, I thank You for Your hidden secrets of prosperity that You have stored up for me. I pray that as I go to sleep tonight that I will dream dreams and have visions from You Lord. As I dream, I pray that You will manifest yourself to me and show me great and mighty things that I do not know. I pray that Your presence shall be evident in every area of my life, Amen.

James 4:8
Most Righteous Father to You I give thanks. Father I pray that You will help me to draw near to You, that You may draw near to me. As I draw nearer to You Father, I pray that You will manifest Your love in my life that I may know the true and living God that I serve. I also pray that You will manifest Your glory to those who do not know You that they may be saved, Amen.

1 John 1:5-7
To our Father, we give glory and thanks. Father I pray that You will help me to walk in Your light to have fellowship with You. Strengthen me in the areas that I am weak, that I may be obedient to You at all times. I pray that Your Holy Spirit will always dwell within me and that You will always reveal yourself to me that I may have an intimate relationship with You Father, Amen.

Psalm 27:4, Acts 13:22
To our God and soon coming savior, I give You thanks. God, I pray today that You will reveal yourself to me and those in my life. May we have an encounter from the true and living God. I pray that the desires of our hearts shall be to seek after You that we may know You and that we will be men and women after God's own heart, Amen.

-Adapted from Connectusfund.org

SAMPLE DAY

Scripture: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as thy spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
–Acts 1:42–47

Reading: Devotion is the time we intentional give to God and his way for our lives.

Reflection:
Using written expression to declare actions that we will take to grow closer to God and align ourselves with the plan He has for our lives.

FASTING COVENANT

I commit with God's help, to go on this spiritual "journey of allowing God to make me a disciple" the next 31 days I will:

•Fast: I will fast from (or fast by not):

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1. Study the daily scripture (Assigned in this journal)
2. Invest time in daily silent reflection
3. Pray daily (without ceasing especially when you feel hungry, use this to trigger a conversation with God throughout your day)
4. Daily identify anyone, myself included that I need to pray forgiveness for

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Your Name Accountability Partner

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Phil. 4:13

January 1

Thank God – For Everything

At all times and for everything give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. – Ephesians 5:20 AMP

Gratitude is a powerful human emotion that is probably not used as much as it should be. Research as proven that gratitude in any form can enlighten the mind and make us feel happier. Expressing gratitude or thankfulness can also create a direct line to the Almighty. Whenever you feel that there is some distance between you and God, begin thanking God-genuinely; from your heart-and see how quickly that gap changes.

But what about those times when your life isn't running so smoothly? How can you honestly express your gratitude to God when you can't find much to be thankful for? You could start by thanking God for being there during the rough patches, for welcoming you into His presence so you can unload your burdens on God, for the good that will ultimately come from life's difficulties. Once you start thanking God in that way, you're likely to find even more reasons to be grateful.

Take moments to make lists of things you are grateful for, even for simple things like air or family. During hard times, your list of blessings can become your prayer of thanksgiving.

Today I am thankful to You, Lord, for…

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January 2

The Love Lavished On You

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you. – 2 Corinthians 13:14 MSG

Most gospel songs, sermons, and other Christian works of art focus primarily on how much we should love God. The words "I Love You" are stated millions of times when in the context of expressing our love for Christ. Yet, of equal importance is how much God truly loves us. The reality is, God loves you far more than you could ever love God. That love is proven every day through continued life, grace, and answered prayers.

God wants you to meditate on His love, particularly when you feel least deserving of it, because God wants you to understand-to the extent that anyone on earth can- how deep and profound His love is. God knows that humans have a flawed grasp of genuine love, but by sitting quietly in His presence and reflecting on nothing but His awesome love for you, you can catch a glimpse of the great and magnificent love that God will pour out on you throughout eternity.

Accept God's generous love for you without hesitation and without question. God knows you are undeserving of that love, and God knows you can't possibly return an equal measure of love to God. Yet, continue to thank God for his love, even on the days when you feel most unloved; for it is then when God loves you most.

When I meditate on Your overwhelming love, God, I realize that…

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January 3

Focus Your Heart

For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. – 1 Kings 11:4 NASB

A whirlwind of distractions spins around you every day. Your growing to-do list. Your bodily aches and pains. Your family responsibilities. Keeping up with profiles and friends on social media. Your workload. Your home's maintenance. Toss in a dizzying ride on a financial roller coaster or the aftermath of a shipwrecked relationship, and you're a huge mess of commotion and emotion.

When life hurls too many disruptions at you, somehow an eager devotion to know God can slip to the back burner. Its tough to set your heart on the things of heaven when the things of earth scream for your attention. King Solomon was considered the world's wisest man, yet even he waivered in his passion for God. His wives even in the midst of still trying to seek God distracted Solomon.

Just like Solomon, we still may try to focus our hearts on God, but often times life's distractions blind us to what's really important-our devotion to God. Ask God to help you retune your priorities and silence the distractions. If you ask God, God will. It won't be an instant fix, and it won't be easy, but you will get there if you set your heart to it.

To me, the word devotion means…

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January 4

Greater Trust, Fewer Fears

Be strong, courageous, and firm; fear not nor be in terror before them, for it is the Lord your God Who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you. – Deuteronomy 31:6 AMP

Do you fully realize that God is always with you and that you can always trust God? One evidence of your faith in God is the extent to which you've handed over your fears to God. the fewer fear you should have.

Maybe you're still riddled with fear. What can you do about it? How can you learn to trust God more? When it comes to trust, your relationship with God isn't all that different from your relationship with a close friend or spouse. Early on in a friendship, you share information about yourself a little bit at a time. As you learn to trust the other person more, you share deeper thoughts and intimate secretes, knowing your friend will carefully guard them.

One way to develop a greater trust in God and allow God to allay your fears is to immerse yourself in His Word, particularly those passages that reassure you of His constant presence with you, His protection over you and His care for you at all times and in every circumstances. Though God already knows, open a line of communication with God, telling your fears and asking God to help you calm each of them so you may be prepared to do the work of His Will.

Lord, I am afraid when…

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January 5

Power With God

God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.
– Psalm 66:19 NIV

Any parents, even parents of multiple children, have a unique ability to distinguish the differences in each child's voice. Not merely being able to tell them apart, but each voice has a unique effect upon their parent's heart because each relationship stands on its own, having a singular impact upon your life.

So it is in God's experience, as well. When you come into the presence of God, God recognizes you as the individual that you are-unique in the entire world. The sound of your voice tugs with familiarity upon His heart, and God draws near to you to listen to what is on your heart. God receives your praise and gratitude, responding in Spirit with peace and joy.

At some point in your growing friendship with God, you come to discover a staggering sense of power in prayer. You might find this especially true when you dedicate your prayers to others. Those compassionate prayers cause miraculous things to happen in the lives of others. A boomerang effect can cause those miracles to double back to you.

Lord, I want to use your power through prayer by praying for…

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January 6

The Faith to Celebrate

Elijah said to Ahab, "Go and enjoy a good meal! For I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!"– 1 Kings 18:41 TLB

Though things don't always go as planned, we find security in knowing that there are some things we can count on like the sunrise, for instance, for instance. Very few of us go to sleep worrying about whether the sun will come up in the morning.

Even more than the rising of the sun, you can count on God's faithfulness in every day and in any circumstance. That doesn't mean that everything will happen according to your wishes, but it does mean that God can and will work with everything that happens.

The next time you find yourself in a situation where things aren't going your way, accept it as an opportunity to engage with God, having the chance to verbalize your thoughts, fears, and desires. Have the faith to celebrate what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do in your life.

As you gain more insight and understanding, you'll move deeper into faith and begin to celebrate the outcome in advance. So even if things aren't exactly as you wish, trust the Lord enough to rejoice in what lies ahead.

Trusting that You are faithful, Lord, I need to begin celebrating right now over….

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January 7

Work of Faith

O Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. – 2 Chronicles 20:12 NKJV

Admitting that you are stuck and don't know exactly what to do is a humbling experience. "I can figure this out on my own. I know I can fix this.," you may mumble to yourself in times of confusion and uncertainty. Most of us are wired to be independent and some of us have been deserted so many times that we have simply adapted. However, life has taught you many times that "many hands make light work". But with the hands of God, the hardest part of your job will be keeping the faith.

Open your heart and mind to God, allowing God to do His part in your life without your help. It won't be long before you see how far your new faith will take you.

Help me to focus my eyes upon You, God, by….

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January 8

Not a Worry

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praise shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. – 2 Chronicles 20:12 NKJV

When you worry, you are outputting negative energy in a constant motion. This motion causes our negative thoughts to begin to move in cycle-like patterns. This type of process is often very difficult to break out of once the cycle is set to motion and momentum picks up. Yet, one sure-fire way to throw a wretch in the spin is to focus your mind on thanking God for something you are grateful to have and to pray for those things that you need His help with the most.

Sit quietly in the presence of God. Power off. Completely. Just allow the spirit of God to overtake the presence and bless you with a peace. When your mind begins to panic and says, "Wait! I should be worrying!" bring your energy back into gratefulness and pray.

The next time I am worried, I will be grateful for….

January 9

Keeping Yourself in Perspective

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. – Romans 12:3 NIV

In order to receive the power of God you must be in tune with His presence. Trouble comes in when you are so consumed with the things happening around you and to you that it becomes easy to ignore or forget God.

Remember that God is all-powerful. That probably means that God can make ways for your needs to be met. Somewhere between tapping into God's power and your needs being met, however, is a large dose of patience. Tame your worry. Try not to think of yourself at all. Focus on God and God only. Make your requests known and believe they are already given.

Instead of worrying about myself, I will think about….

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January 10

Performance Review

God lived well before God, doing the right thing for the most part. But God wasn't wholeheartedly devoted to God. – 2 Chronicles 25:2

Life is full. You can make a long list of things that require your immediate attention. Those lists are what keep you constantly moving in many directions with not enough rest in between. In those moments you pray on the go and read Bible verses here and there because there is no time to sit and meditate on God's word. There just isn't a space written in your planner or entered into the calendar app of your phone for God.

Write God in. Daily. It will always be the best time you ever spent. Time with God is invaluable. And even if your devotion wavers from time to time, God steadily enjoys you and hold you with a firm grip.

I will make time for God by….

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January 11

The Battle is the Lord's

Everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues His people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle. –1 Samuel 17:47 NLT

There are so many instances in this life that cause you to fight or flight. Troubled relationships, unfair treatment, or any other altercation, which brings forth those emotions that, puts you in defensive mode. Be it physically, emotionally, or mentally, you fight everyday in brawls that should not even concern you.

God has already promised that God is the champion of every fight. There is no need for you to exert energy towards battles that God has claimed as His own. It is faith in God's omniscient power that will keep your heart still in the tumultuous days we in. Knowing God intimately, knowing that the battles are His, is your safe haven in the storm.

I can trust God in times of trouble by ….

January 12

Reasoning with God

"Let us reason together", says the Lord. – Isaiah 1:18 NASB

God wants to engage you right where you are. God wants to look over your list of worries, fears, desires, and celebrations with you. Is there a battle going on in your life that you need God to fight? Talk it over with God. Are you struggling to have faith in troubling times? God wants to hear about it.

God loves to listen to you. God wants to hear about what's on your heart, even though God already knows. When you go to God with all things you, it opens a line of communication that allows you to experience a side of God you may have never experienced before. Answered prayers are a real thing. Reason with God through prayer and watch your life change.

Dear God, issues I want to discuss with you include ….

January 13

What Can God Do?

Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few. – 1 Samuel 14:6 ESV

How do we get the right perspective on our own circumstances? The Bible is full of stories of people whose backs were up against the wall. They faced certain death, slavery, oppression, and every kind of trouble. Often they had nothing – no weapons to fight an overwhelming enemy, no food to feed their families, no cure for their diseases, no money to pay their taxes, no hope that life could ever again be right. In their darkest moments, they discovered a God whose love and power went far beyond their wildest expectations.

During your time with God, bring a few of these stories with you. Learn how their faithfulness in all that God can do, and watch your faith builds until the floodgates open to you. What can God do? Every life is meant to be an answer to that question. Your problems are no permanent. God's provision is.

Stories that have inspired me include….

January 14

Run for the Hills

Be strong and courageous. Don't be frightened or terrified….Someone greater is on our side. – 2 Chronicles 32:7 GWT

Our fear and worry is no surprise to God. Though God doesn't go through tribulation, God has compassion for our circumstances and God has the power to grant us strength to walk through the darkness. Countless times throughout His Word, God confidently reassures us that we can gain courage and "fear not". God nudges us to come out of our anxiety by shifting our thinking.

What should our thoughts say? We are not alone. God is always with us, no matter what stands before us. When reminded that God is constantly on our side, we can stand up to our fears and watch our worry run for the hills.

Lord, I give to You all these things that cause me fear, worry, and anxiety today….

January 15

When Stillness is a Good Strategy

The Lord will fight for you; you only need to be still. – Exodus 14:14 NIV

Those who walk with God are challenged to remain calm and still during undesirable moments or conflict. What does being still have to do with facing conflict? Stillness is a state of calm. The most common reaction people exhibit in times of trouble is panic, which often causes them to act impulsively or rashly. Stillness is a form of waiting. Often times when we hesitate to react, we gain clarity and are able to see the forest in spite of the trees. Lastly, stillness means faith in peace that is on its way. For those who trust the Lord, find security in what they believe rather than what they see.

When everything around you is in chaos, being still gives God a chance to do His best work.

Dear God, I struggle most with waiting when….

January 16

Celebrate Anyway

Fig trees may no longer bloom, or vineyards produce grapes; olive trees may be fruitless… and cattle stalls vacant – but I will still celebrate because the Lord God saves me. – Habakkuk 3:17 NIV

No matter how much we may wish life was all peachy keen all the time, trouble can stir at any given moment. During those times it's easy to feel like God has abandoned us. And the devil will milk that feeling by hissing into our thoughts: God doesn't actually love me, because if God did, wouldn't I have more money/a better boss/a better marriage/a spouse?

When things turn sour, like we know they will, don't ditch your faith. Celebrate in anticipation of what God has brewing for your life. Celebrate for what is doing at this very second. Celebrate what God has done before because you know God can do it again and again.

Celebrate anyway.

These are things I will celebrate when trouble comes my way….

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January 17

Superheroes Need Not Apply

You're going to wear yourself out – and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself. – Exodus 18:18 NLT

Lucky for us, God wears the only cape we will ever need. God calls us to be team players to act as his supporting lineup for His Will to be executed in our lives and in the lives of those around us. "Many hands make light work" when everybody does a little and no one gets burned out.

On this team, God isn't looking for a superhero or a star player, we calls us all to be equal contributors towards his game plan. The lifework God created for you to do will require other people to complete the job. Jesus had the disciples. The president has his advisors. Who has God put around you to help you? Who are you around that God wants you to help?

God, I need some help today with….

January 18

Giving a Shout-Out

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. – Exodus 14:10 NIV

Even the Israelites, in the midst of what seemed like certain death, knew to call out for help from the Lord. They knew there is a time to be independent and then there are times to shout out for help.

With our direct line to the most powerful and gracious source, we are able to use our voices, thoughts, and emotions to send a smoke signal for when are most vulnerable. Never forget that. As His child, you're connected to God, the Almighty, who can do anything and who loves you just as you are. You have someone to always turn to even for the small things in everyday life. You never have to go it alone.

Use your voice to give a shout-out for God. God will show up just in time.

When I find myself in need of help, I will….

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January 19

The Faith to Celebrate

Elijah said to Ahab, "Go and enjoy a good meal! For I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!" – 1 Kings 18:41 TLB

Because you already know trouble comes and trouble goes. Because you already know that joy will come in the morning. Because you already knows that God can and will work out every kink in your life, have the faith to celebrate even before the blessing.

Faith of a mustard seed may seem like very little. But if you know anything about mustard, you know that its taste is so distinctive and strong. Our faith should be distinctive and strong enough to have us dancing in the rain of our storms. As you move deeper into your relationship with God, begin to celebrate the outcome in advance.

Trusting that You are faithful, Lord, I need to begin celebrating right now over….

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January 20

God Knows Best

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. – Psalm 143:10

Sooner or later we will all encounter a command from God that doesn't make sense. God's requirement may seem outdated, or too difficult, or not in our best interest. It may seem like we must choose between obedience and happiness. And sometimes, something deep inside of us says "no" to God. We think we know what is best for our lives without even consulting with God. Though His reasons are not always available to us, we have to always keep in mind that His plan far outweighs ours.

Just as we often hear or say, "mommy knows best", in the forefronts of our minds we should remember, "God knows best". Things will take time to become clear, but as we align ourselves with God, our faith, and His plan, we are given new perspective and a sneak peek into His vision for us.

Ask for your desires and needs. Believe those prayers will be answered. Receive what is best for you according to His will.

Thinking back, these are some things that You knew were best for me when I didn't….

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January 21

The Fingerprints of God

If this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing. – Acts 5:38

How do you tell the difference between the work of God and mere human effort? If you live in Texas, you know the sweltering heat we endure during the summer months. The sun shows no mercy on the Earth beneath its rays. Yet, God can send a quick rain shower at the snap of a finger to turn the furnace down. If we were to try to solve the problem, we would probably cause more damage to the ozone layer than we already have.

God effortlessly and silently moves on our behalf without any huffing, puffing, or damaging of the ozone layer. In the same way, the work of God seldom attracts a lot of attention. Typically, it isn't noisy or flashy. Most of the time, the work of God comes in the form of quiet miracles, gentle transformations, invisible works of wonder. These results are everlasting and eternal. His fingerprints are effortlessly upon you. God can move your mountains in the blink of an eye.

God, I have seen You work when….

January 22

Accessing the Wisdom of God

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people). – Ephesians 5:15 AMP

It's very confusing to expect the miracles and blessings of God while living a life of ignorant bliss. Often times we bow our heads in prayer for God to move in our lives, yet we don't seek the understanding necessary to tap into those blessings.

The wisdom of the ages can be summed up in one book: The Bible. Anytime you need to make a significant decision, the answer is available to you in the pages of that one book. The exact answer may not be there to specific questions like, "Should I move to Austin or Dallas?", but it will give you the principals you need to consider whenever you are ready to make an important decision – and can even warn you when you're about to veer off course.

God wants you to reap the benefits of making good choices for your life. That's why God gave you access to His wisdom.

Please give me wisdom, God, in these situations….

January 23

Now I Know

God who comes to God must believe that God is, and that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek God. – Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

What is the difference between those who know the truth and those who don't? They look alike. They talk alike. The sit side by side in the same church, eat at the same table, sleep in the same house. But some know and some don't.

The difference is, those who know the truth, seek God's guidance in every day decision-making. Those who know the truth go to God in confidence for what they want and need. Those who know the truth trust that all things work together for those who love the Lord. Those who know discover, "God cares about me. God is rebuilding my life into something beautiful."

Dear God, what I know for sure about You is this….

January 24

Winning

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. – Proverbs 21:30 NIV

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There is a sense of pride and admiration that comes over us when we witness the success of someone close to us who has experienced great loss at a previous time in their lives. Often times on social media we get to witness such life-changing stories through various posts. People tell about tragic situations they have endured, only to also share how God has turned their lives around with miracles and blessings.

God's actions can sometimes make no sense at all to us in the midst of chaos and destruction. Yet, when God begins to move those storms aside, the desires we manifested along with God show up clear as day and make perfect sense.

Don't give up before the manifestation. Remember God Has all the pieces and God knows exactly where each of them fit. God cannot lose.

Lord, instead of giving up, I will….

January 25

God's Plan

What Do You Want? – Matthew 20:32 NKJV

How do you discover God's Plan for your life? How do you find God's plan for today? Is it really a matter of sacrificing all your own plans, giving up your own desires, canceling your own identity? Usually not.

Yes, it is true that we submit to God. It is true that when God's desires and our desires conflict, we must yield to God, knowing that God is wiser than we are. But, as a rule, God works through our desires to move us in the direction of the plan God has for us. God is a dance partner, not a puppet master.

Your dreams matter to God. Bring your questions, requests, and desires to God in intimate conversations. Be specific to God. More times than not, your desires are part of His plan.

Father, I desire….

January 26

The Glory to Come

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. – Romans 8:18 NASB

In the midst of prayer and waiting blessings, it is also important to set our hopes on the glory that we will witness. This promise is what should keep us moving ahead even when we feel like we are moving our slowest.

When we enter into the glory of God, we will also enter a dimension in which we will receive everything that God has for us – our eternal inheritance of healing, joy, peace, transformation, righteousness, and so much more. We will be so transformed that even if we couldn't sing a note on earth, we'll sing praises to God right along with a choir of angels.

Prepare for the day when all pain, all suffering, all hardship of any kind will disappear in the brilliant light of God's glory - and you will receive your inheritance.

When I consider Your glory, God, I think of….

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January 27

Unexpected

They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put God! – John 20:2 NLT

When Jesus came, the disciples expected God to overthrow the Roman oppressors and establish Jerusalem as the central power of the world. The last thing on their minds was for God to die as a criminal. Everything they supported and believed in was shattered. Then they find an empty tomb where His body should have laid. Another disappointment!

Then the impossible happened. Jesus had risen from the dead and returned to show the disciples His glory. God was and is forever alive.

Sooner or later, God will take us out of our comfort zone. While waiting for a breakthrough, God will bring forth the unexpected. Be prepared for the unexpected. Just as Jesus' death and resurrection was unexpected, so will be the miraculous plans in your life.

God, You showed me the unexpected when….

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January 28

Noticing You

The slave girl gave a name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are 'God who sees me'," because she said to herself, "Have I really seen God who sees me?" – Genesis 16:13 NCV

Do you ever wonder if God sees you? Most of us have questioned that. Deep down, everyone has a hunger for love and an intense, seemingly insatiable need to be noticed.

Centuries ago a teenage servant girl wondered if anyone noticed her. She became a surrogate mother for her wealthy employers, but began to be full of herself. The wife retaliated by mistreating the girl. So the maid escaped and ended up lost in the wilderness - alone, pregnant, friendless, destitute, and desperate. Suddenly God spoke her name. She became visible and life spun an about face.

God sees you. God knows you. God loves you. God sees you in your messes and draws close. God sees you in your triumphs and cheers. God knows your name and counts every hair on your head. And God adores you, no matter how far into the wilderness you wander. God will look you in the eye, if you let God.

Dear God, I think You have been noticing me because….

January 29

Finding the Ability to Bless

David returned to bless his household. – 2 Samuel 6:20 AMP

Have you ever heard, "In order to get a blessing, you must be a blessing?" There have been many reported instances where people have acknowledged the gains they have received when they give freely. This may include tithing, donations to charity, lending a helping hand to someone in need, or simply paying it forward. When we give ourselves to the service of others, God sets in motion for blessings to come back to us ten fold.

As you continue to spent time with God, asking for what you desire and believing they you will receive, consider finding people to bless in the midst of waiting. Then watch your blessings magnify and your dreams manifest past your wildest dreams.

Gracious God, I can find ways to help others by….

January 30

Experiencing Pure Joy

You'll go out in joy, you'll be led into a whole and complete life. The mountains and hills will lead the parade, bursting with song. All the trees of the forest will join the procession, exuberant with applause. – Isaiah 55:12 MSG

Do you know that you can experience pure joy even when things aren't going your way or when you are waiting for your prayers to be answered? Don't confuse happiness and joy, though. When circumstances come and rob you of your happiness, there can still be a deep, abiding joy, which is closely linked to your relationship with God.

Joy sees the world through faith. Joy allows you to turn what the physical eye sees as negative into what joy recognizes as blessings. Instead of looking in the mirror and being unhappy with what is looking back at you, allow joy to see a person whom God has blessed with life. Joyfully declare that you will continue to experience life with all its twists and turns, allowing that joy to bless you and God in return.

Happiness comes and goes, but joy can be enjoyed always.

I can experience joy right now because….

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January 31

The Spirit Within You

God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! God does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. – Ephesians 3:20 MSG

Think for a moment about some of your wildest dreams. How could you make those dreams come true? It would be impossible, right? That's why they are so wild; they are beyond your ability to fulfill. The Spirit of God, however, would have no problem making them a reality. Its just that there's a very good chance that the Spirit's dreams for you are so much better than you can imagine, and those are the dreams God wants to make come true.

That's why God has placed His Spirit within you – to make God's dreams your dreams. God won't force anything on you that you don't want. God will work on your heart until you catch the vision that God has for you. By then, you'll likely be so fired up with a passion for what God has shown you that the vision will have become your very own.

Follow God's dreams for your life. See where they lead. You may end up somewhere you never thought possible. Wherever the Spirit leads you, you can be certain it will be a far better place.

Father, I can trust Your dreams for my life because….

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