

ABIDE & ADVANCE: 7 Day Bible & Prayer Plan

A prayer plan for preparation and activation

INTRODUCTION

This bible & prayer plan is part of a new season of Engage Prayer, an opportunity for the whole Elim movement to join in prayer, fasting and worship. It flows with Elim's desire to equip and be mission ready.

We believe God has given us a clear mandate to abide in Him and advance His Great Commission to the world around us (Mark 16:14-18). The scriptures and prayer are important components in this, and we believe they are vital in preparing the way for what God will do in and through His people. God wants to effect spiritual change and transform society through the church. The word of God is a sure foundation of truth, and the Holy Spirit releases this supernaturally through prayer, God's primary vehicle for bringing eternal change to individuals lives from the inside out. A spiritual change of heart often leads to outward change of lifestyle too.

INVITATION

You and the churches and ministries that you represent, are invited to use this seven-day Engage Prayer Plan to prepare the way. Participate in, and seal what God will do through us. Praying that as one movement of many churches across the nations of the world, we will see hearts prepared, resulting in fruit from evangelism and apostolic church planting in the years to come.

We therefore invite you on this 7-day journey together, seeing the difference that can be made in us, and through us. Learning anew to serve God from a place of rest. We invite you to read our key scripture for the week, John Chapter 15, particularly verses 1-16 (printed in full towards the end of this introduction).

Some important scriptures

1. This eternal change is seen very clearly in Acts 1:12-14 NKJV where the disciples gathered, *v¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.* The result of their obedience to Jesus, to wait and pray, was the fulfilment of promise (Acts 2:1-4). The Baptism in the Holy Spirit released the power to witness, and the consequent fruit seen from Peter's first sermon seen in Acts 2:14-45. The fruit of this first sermon in Jerusalem was clear to see; *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

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7 day bible plan

Each day we will look at why it is essential to Abide in Jesus, who said of Himself, "I am the true vine". We will also find out the Fruit that comes from Abiding in Him that will advance His kingdom.

When you see the Bible icon, click here to read the full scripture.



HOW DO I USE THIS PLAN?

Each day will follow a similar structure, building important understanding about the need for an intimate relationship with our Saviour Jesus, and the outworking of His refining work to bear fruit that remains **John 15:16**. The daily plan will be in two parts, 1. Preparation and 2. Activation. This mirrors our theme of Abide and Advance. You will have opportunity to spend time in reflection, but also to be motivated to actively serve and share your testimony in your community.

Each daily prayer plan will enable you to consider how you can personally engage in reading, prayer and worship, and give you a practical strategy to Abide and Advance:

Abide (Preparation)

- Thought - Be still
- Listen and be challenged
- Key Scripture for focus
- Prayer of petition
- Worship and reflection
- Today's focus for reflection
- Prayer of submission
- Decide to hear God's voice

Advance (Outreach)

- Thought - Be alert
- Recognise your giftings and calling
- Key scripture for challenge
- Prayer of response
- Worship and activation
- Today's focus for activation
- Prayer of activation
- Decide to obey God's direction

Here is the key passage of scripture for this week of prayer:

John Chapter 15 NKJV

The Vine and the Branches

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you^[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

AND FINALLY

All that remains to say is, be determined to stay the course each day if you can. Jump in, enjoy, be challenged, be changed, be motivated, and be blessed.

Let's see God advance His kingdom through us, for His glory.

With our love and prayers.

Elim Prayer Team

Day 1 of 7 – Find and Stay

Abide (Remain)

Thought: Jesus is the only true Saviour for the whole world. There is nothing better than to find Jesus as Lord and Saviour personally, and then Abide (remain) in Him, stay close to Him, and be conscious of His presence every day.

Listen and be challenged: As you prepare your heart to pray today, take time to be still in God's presence. **Think about your salvation**, how Jesus found you, transformed you and changed the direction of your life for the better. Depending on your circumstances, find a new equilibrium in the Lord's presence. As you hear your heart beating inside you, try and listen for God's heartbeat for your life. **Spend time reflecting** on the goodness of God. **Attune your ears**, maybe close your eyes, begin by refreshing your understanding, that God loves you, and wants to spend time with you. **Draw close to God**, and then stay in His presence for a while. **To help you prepare your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:4 NKJV Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

'Abide in me and I in you' - What does this scripture mean to you today? Have you been struggling to sense God's presence in your life? Personalise this scripture. Be challenged, and determined to understand what it is saying, and change your thinking and lifestyle to suit recovering the consciousness of God's presence. Have the verses in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Petition: Having stilled your heart, and spent some time in God's presence, pray this prayer, (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I open my heart to You today. Help me to listen to You, hear what You are saying. Help me to respond in my heart. Help me to dwell in Your presence and Abide (remain) in You today. In Jesus Name. Amen."

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Worship and reflection: Having prayed, why not play a worship song that you love, it will help you abide (remain) in Jesus and centre yourself for whatever you are facing in your life. Choose your own song or use **Elim Sound's Gethsemane (The oil press)**

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for reflection: The **homeless and addicts** of every kind – Allow God to increase compassion in you, so as not to jump to conclusions about the kinds of people affected!

Prayer of submission: *“Lord, please help me to Abide (remain) in You. Help me to find an intimacy with You again as I open my heart and submit myself to You. Where I've lost sight of You, help me to find a closeness to You again. As I recover a sense of You, help me not to lose sight of You again. Help me as I determine to spend time with You and develop a deeper awareness of You again. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to hear God's voice:



“If you do all the talking when you pray, how will you ever hear God's answers?”

Aiden Wilson Tozer

“Lord, I determine in my heart to give You more time, listen to Your voice, and try not to make assumptions about You and my life. I choose to listen to You and align myself with Your will and purpose today. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: Knowing Jesus personally usually releases within us an urgency to share the gospel (good news). When you get to know Him yourself, you will end up wanting to share with someone about it! The closer you get to Jesus, the more you will have compassion and zeal to share your story with those around you.

Recognise your giftings and calling: We are all called to be disciples of Jesus. That will mean more than just having a personal relationship with Him, which we cultivate over time. The Holy Spirit at work within us will release spiritual gifts to add to our natural giftings and personality. Accept these gifts, and use them for God's glory, by spreading good news, letting the signs follow.

As you consider how you can serve God today, take time to be open to God releasing fresh power and energy to witness. **Respond to your salvation journey**, how Jesus has called you, and has empowered you to fulfil His commission to go and share your story (testimony). Your story is unique to you, and you are connected to the tree of life, Jesus Himself. Therefore, you have His power at work within you to spread the news about salvation through Him. **Spend time considering how to motivate yourself** to step into God's call on your life and the share good news (Psalm 40:9). **Be prepared to respond** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Let Him guide you in how to act, to whom and where. Go in the power of God's love. **Let Him give you eyes to see and ears to hear** what the Holy Spirit wants from you. **To help you stir your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:4 NKJV* Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

'As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself' - What does this scripture mean to you today? Have you been living in your own strength? Do you need to ask God to fill you afresh with His power today? Personalise this scripture. Be challenged, and determined to understand what it is saying, and change your thinking and lifestyle. Be refilled with God's power to witness, in His strength and not your own. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

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Prayer of Response: Having stirred your heart, and responded to the challenge presented, pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

“Lord, I choose to respond to You today. Help me live in Your strength and power and not my own. Guide me, and lead me to the right people, in the right place, and at the right time. Give me the words of eternal life to share and may my testimony and witness bear fruit. Help me to react to the leading of the Holy Spirit to bring words of life and challenge about eternity to those who are willing to hear. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

Worship and activation: Having prayed, Why not play a praise song? it will help your response and activate faith to go out and share with boldness. Choose your own song or **Elim Sound’s The best is yet to come!**

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today’s focus for activation: The **homeless and addicts** of every kind – What can I do to help? What practical ways can I and my church reach these kinds of people in our community.

Prayer of Activation: *“Lord, help me, and my church to be bold. Help us to go and share testimony and words of life with those that we meet. May we as a church have an outward focus into the community. Empower us afresh and release new anointing as we demonstrate Your love. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to obey God’s direction:



*“In me is working a power stronger than every other power.
The life that is in me is a thousand times bigger than I am outside.”*

Smith Wigglesworth

“Lord, I determine in my heart to go and share good news, to be led by the Holy Spirit, and allow You to use me today. I choose to exercise my giftings in Your strength and not my own. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**



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Day 2 of 7 – Stay and Grow

Abide (Remain)

Thought: By abiding (remaining) in Jesus you bear real fruit that is good to the taste. When people meet and relate to you, they become aware of something different, you have been with your Saviour! Your lifestyle is different and will be noticed.

Listen and be challenged: As you prepare your heart to pray again today, take time to be still in God's presence. **Think about your personal relationship with your Saviour.** Jesus found you, transformed you and changed the direction of your life for the better. Begin to benefit from the new equilibrium (peace) gained in the Lord's presence. As you listen and react to your own thoughts and feelings, try and listen for God's perspective on your life today. **Spend a bit more time reflecting** on the faithfulness of God. **Attune your ears to His still small voice**, (1 Kings 19:12) and open the eyes of your heart. Allow yourself to be refreshed in understanding that God still loves you and wants more of your time. **Draw close to God again**, (James 4:8) and then remain in His presence for a little longer. **To help open your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:5 NKJV I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

'If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' - What does this scripture mean to you today? Have you sensed God's presence in your life by spending a bit more time with Him? Why not personalise this scripture. Again, be challenged, determined to spend more time with God. If you do, it will change your thinking and lifestyle, and lead to greater fruitfulness. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Petition: Having now prepared your heart, and spent a bit more time in God's presence, pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I love Your presence and want to give You more of my time. Help me once again to listen carefully to You, and to hear Your voice more clearly. I respond to Your prompting in my heart. Help me to be more attuned to Your voice as I dwell in Your presence and Abide (remain) in You today and every day. Soften my heart Lord so that I can begin to see things from Your perspective. (Isaiah 55:8-9) In Jesus Name. Amen."

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Worship and reflection: Having prayed again, play a favourite worship song, it will help you to abide (remain) in Jesus, and recentre yourself and renew your mind and heart for the day ahead. You may like to use **Elim Sound's One**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for reflection: Those with **mental and emotional health** issues – Allow God to refine you and bring greater kindness, softness and sensitivity to your heart!

Prayer of submission: *“Lord, please help me continue to Abide (remain) in You. Help me to find a new daily rhythm of prayer with You again. I open my heart and centre myself in You. Help me not to get distracted and to find stay close to You. (Luke 10:40) As I carve out this precious time, I realise that I need more of You and Your presence. I don't want to lose sight of You. Help me as I determine to give You. My Lord and Saviour, the time You deserve. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to hear God's voice:



“We (Christians) are always in the presence of God.

There is never a non-sacred moment! His presence never diminishes.

Our awareness of His presence may falter, but the reality of

His presence never changes”.

Max Lucado

“Lord, I have decided to follow You, and determined in my heart to give You more of my time, to listen to You more carefully. Help me not to get distracted by other less important things. I choose to focus on You, Your will and purpose in my life once again today. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: By being determined to cultivate a lasting relationship with Jesus, it will stimulate a desire to share the gospel (good news) with someone you know. What gets your attention gets your worship! If you spend time getting to know Jesus better as a priority, you will inevitably end up sharing about Him with others! With Jesus as number one priority, you are more likely have His love surge up in your heart and deep desire to share your story with the people you meet.

Recognise your giftings and calling: As we have considered already, when we know Jesus as Lord and Saviour and born again, we become a changed person, a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17) When the power of Jesus is released within us by the Holy Spirit, we are given gifts that need to be released. These gifts are given by God and are never taken back. The onus is on us to recognise them, and then use them. The spiritual gifts from God will complement your natural giftings and personality. Be determined to move forward in these gifts of God today. Use them for His glory. Be good news by boldly sharing your testimony in words and deeds, and let Holy Spirit do His work in and through you. If you are not sure what these gifts are, ask God to show you.

As you consider how best to serve God today, be open to Him. **He can release power** and give you fresh energy to witness. Ask God to show you how to **rely some of your personal journey of salvation**, how Jesus has transformed you and set you free. Join in His great commission and go and share your own story. Remember that **Jesus Himself is alive in you**, therefore, His power is at work within you *to share 'Really Good News'*. **Spend time considering planning how to** step into God's purpose for your life, and 'be' good news. Again, **be prepared to respond** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Let Him guide you practically in how to act, to whom, and where. Go with joy, in the power of God's love. **Let Jesus illuminate your eyes to see, and your ears to hear** what He requires of you today. Once again, **stir your heart**, and read.

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Key Scripture: *John 15:5 NKJV I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

'If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' - What does this scripture say to you today? God's desire is for you to bear 'much' fruit! Have you been doubting your ability to share the gospel message? Personalise this scripture. Don't doubt God, His strength is in you! Again, be challenged, and determined. Understand God's power is at work in you. Be filled again with the Holy Spirit. His power and strength will enable you to witness. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Having prepared your heart, stir up the gifts of God in you, and respond to the call to be a witness of the work that Jesus has done in you. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I choose to be a witness to Your love today. Help me share good news in Your strength and power, not my own. Guide me. Lead me to the right people, place, and time. Give me words of truth and life to share. May my life radiate with Your love. Let me be a witness to the power of Your salvation. Help me respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and share words of life with people I meet. May they 'hear' what I say. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and activation: Having prayed, why not play a praise song to help your response, and to activate faith and boldness. Choose your own song or use **Elim Sound's Higher**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: Those in our communities with **mental and emotional health** issues – Ask God to give you increased kindness and sensitivity to those you know who are struggling!

Prayer of Activation: "Lord, please help me, and my church to declare Your love in the marketplace. Help us all to share our testimonies in words and deeds. May the church find creative ways to reach our community in the power of Your love. Release compassion through us, in Jesus Name. Amen."



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Decide to obey God's direction:



"That is what it means to be saved. You declare that you belong to another system of things. People point to you and say, "Oh, yes, that is a Christian family; they belong to the Lord!" That is the salvation which the Lord desires for you, that by your public testimony you declare before God, "My world has gone; I am entering into another."

Watchman Nee

"Lord, I ask that You soften my heart and help me today, that I may sensitively go and share good news, and be led by the Holy Spirit. Use me today, in Your power and strength and not my own. I choose to use the giftings given by You, in Your strength and not my own. In Jesus Name. Amen."

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**

Day 3 of 7 –Grow and Learn

Abide (Remain)

Thought: By abiding (remaining) in in God’s word you will learn His truth, ways, priorities, and will provide you with answers to life’s biggest questions. Our God is eternal, and our times are in His hands. As we grow in understanding by reading the bible (Psalm 119:105), we gain insight into God’s plans and purposes, and we learn how to live and bring Glory to Jesus, the ‘way, truth and life’. (John 14:6)

Listen and be challenged: Prepare your heart to pray again today. Take time to be quiet in God’s presence, and to listen to His voice. **Think about the truth spoken by the Saviour of the world.** Jesus has begun a good work in you, and **He will bring it to completion if we abide in Him and His ways.** Begin to apply the truth to your heart by spending more time reading the word of God. You will benefit from the revelation that it brings. **As you assimilate what you read,** the Holy Spirit will bring light to it, so that you can apply its wisdom to your life in a practical way. Listen to the word’s that the Holy Spirit highlights to you and apply it to your life today. **Spend time reading with an open heart** so that the truth will begin to set you free. **Attune your spiritual ears to His voice** and allow it to open the eyes of your understanding and guide you. **Draw close to God through His word** (James 4:8), and then apply wisdom day by day. **To help your understanding,** read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:7 NKJV* If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

‘If you remain in me and my words remain in you’ - What does this scripture mean for you today? Do you realise that by reading God’s word every day it sets you on the path of truth and wisdom? By spending a bit more time in God’s word, your mind will be renewed (Romans 12:2)! Why not personalise this scripture. Be challenged and determined to spend more time hearing God in His word. If you do, it will transform your thinking and affect your lifestyle. The product of spending time in God’s word will be greater fruitfulness in truth and wisdom on a day-by-day basis. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

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Prayer of Petition: Having read God's word and spent a bit more time allowing the Holy Spirit to illuminate it to my heart. I accept the wisdom it brings. Now pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I love Your word and want to give apply it to my life. May it transform my thinking and bring Your direction into my life. Help me to hear Your voice speaking to the depth of my heart as I read through the pages. I want to respond to Your promptings, so help me to be attentive to Your voice as I assimilate and understand Your ways through its pages. I choose to Abide (remain) in Your word and apply it's truth to my life today, and every day. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and reflection: Having prayed, play a favourite worship song, it will help you to abide (remain) in the truths in God's word and the revelation of Jesus in its pages. Be renewed in your mind and spirit for the day ahead. You may like to use this **Elim Sound** worship song **You found me**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for reflection: Those suffering **loneliness and isolation** – Give me greater awareness of those who feel cut off. Ask God to give you understanding and love for those you know!

Prayer of submission: *"Lord, please help me continue to Abide (remain) in You and Your word. Help me to read the truth daily, as I open my heart to You again. I choose to live a life of truth based on the wisdom in your word, the bible. Be the centre of my life. Help me not to get distracted (Luke 10:40) and to attend to what You say. As I give time to read, I desire more of Your truth in my life. I fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher (perfecter) of my faith (Hebrews 12:2), who paid the ultimate price for my salvation. I am determined to give time, please help me Lord. In Jesus Name. Amen."*



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Decide to hear God's voice:



*"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man
. All the good from The Saviour of the world is
communicated to us through this Book."*

Abraham Lincoln

"Lord, now that I have determined to read Your word every day, please help me to apply it to my lifestyle and not just be a hearer. I open my heart to Your truth and want to yield up more of my time. I want to listen and understand You, and not get so distracted. I want to live my life glorifying You, and applying Your word every day. Bring revelation to me I pray. In Jesus Name. Amen."

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: The bible says in Psalm 119:105 that 'Your word is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path'. That means we have a way to navigate through life that helps us to live right and bear good fruit. When you punch a post code into a Satnav, it should take you to the right destination. An accurate input should give you a successful outcome. If we regularly put the word of God into our minds and hearts, we should end up going the right way and find the right destination. Encouraging others to do this is also part of God's plan and purpose for our lives.

Recognise your giftings and calling: The word of God clearly sets out the giftings and ministries of the Holy Spirit, especially in Paul the Apostle's 1st letter to the Corinthians chapters 12 to 14. Yesterday we looked at how the power of Jesus can be release gifts within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given by God to reach those that are lost, hurting, downtrodden and marginalised by society. Jesus came to provide a way of salvation for these kinds of people, but also for everyone, without exception. God wants us to operate in them, and bear fruit in His kingdom. We do this by spreading the gospel message of good news. Be determined to make yourself available, and break through the fear barrier. Boldly share your testimony, and see the Holy Spirit use you to reveal God's message of life and hope. Use the gifts, but only for His glory. Your lifestyle will be good news if you live according to God's ways, and by sharing His word both verbally and in and deeds of kindness.

As you make yourself available to serve God today, let Him release the power of His supernatural creativity within you. **Be determined to go and share the good news.** Jesus has transformed you and set you free so tell people about it, don't hold back. The discipleship life isn't about us, it is about Him who saved us! Yes, **go into all the world** (Mark 16:15), wherever God leads you, whether it is in the workplace or with family and friends. Carry out Jesus' instructions to share your story and experiences with people. Don't forget that He is at work in you, so **fulfil His purposes by reaching out** to others with the message of peace, hope and love. **Spend time planning how to** serve God's purpose in your generation. Again, **be led by the Holy Spirit.** Let Him be your guide in what to say, to whom, and where. Go out with peace and joy (Isaiah 55:12), in God's mighty power. **Let Jesus open your eyes and ears to see and hear** what God wants to say to people. Once again, **focus your heart**, and read.

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Key Scripture: *John 15:7 NKJV* If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

'...ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' - What does this scripture say to you today? If you abide (remain) in the vine (Jesus), you will be led to speak and act on His behalf. If you ask God to lead you to the right people, at the right time and in the right place, He will do it! Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit daily. Flow in it, and His strength, but ask God to guide you, He will! Be an encouraging witness, not just in words, but by the way that you live. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Having stirred up the gifts of God in your heart (2 Timothy 1:6), begin to action things by stepping out into the call to be the witness of change that Jesus' has done in you. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I want to go boldly into the community today and be a light and witness to the power of Your love. Help me to be a shining light, and radiate your peace, love, and joy. I realise it is all about You, so let there be minimal attention on me. Let people have their focus on what You can do for them. Take me to people who have an open heart and mind. Lead me to the right places, and at the right time. May the words of eternal life flow through me as I share. May people 'hear' and 'respond' to what I say about You. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and activation: Having prayed, why not play a worship song about Jesus to help your response, and to stimulate faith and boldness. Choose your own song or use this **Elim Sound** song – **I have a Saviour**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: The **lonely and isolated** – Find practical ways to reach out to people with fear and anxiety, who are at home alone by need or because of e.g. Covid-19. Valuing them, understanding their circumstances, and trying to offer support and comfort.

Prayer of Activation: *"I come to You again Lord and ask that you help me and my church, to fulfil Your commission to go and share good news. Your love is needed in my village/town/city, so use me to be a shining light for You. Give me power and strength to share testimony in words, deeds and with great love*



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and compassion. May all those I fellowship with in my church be inspired to reach out to our community in the power of the Holy Spirit. May Your love be the driving force as we go in Your Name. For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Decide to obey God’s direction:



“The Bible is very clear that God put you here on Earth to do two things: to learn to love God and to learn to love other people.”

Rick Warren

“Finally, Lord help me today, to go with boldness and share the good news about Your transforming power. I deeply desire to be led by the Holy Spirit. I want You to use me today. Surprise me with naturally supernatural ways in which You guide and use me. I’m open Lord, please give me the strength and boldness that I need. Use me in the specific giftings You have provided me with. In Your power and not my own. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**



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Day 4 of 7 - Learn to Love

Abide (Remain)

Thought: As Christians we know how much God loved us because He sent Jesus to be the only true Saviour, an act of sacrificial love! When we are loved by someone special, we will inevitably want to give love back. So, if we keep being loved by Jesus, we will learn to abide (remain) in His love, benefit from it, and want to give some of His love away.

Listen and be challenged: Consider that **God really loves you today**. Take time to **be still and consider the depth of His eternal love**, paid for by Jesus' who was willingly obedience to God, His Father. **Think about the cost of this kind of love**, an ultimate sacrifice of Himself, for the sin of the whole world. By doing this, **He made it possible to be transformed** (saved) and give us new life from the inside out. Embrace this love and be reassured by the power of the Lord's presence. Application of today's key scripture verse can help you **'face today with a fresh sense of peace** (Shalom), because of God's love. (1 John 4:18) Reflect on the power of God's love. **Listen as God whispers words of love deep inside you**. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring fresh understanding as you spend time in His presence through His living word. To help you **prepare your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:9-10 NKJV* "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

'Now remain in My love' - What does this scripture mean to you today? Do you feel unloved by people? Have you felt rejected and pushed aside? Do you struggle to sense God's love for you? Maybe you do feel loved, but need an increase of it because of life pressure and stress? Why not personalise this scripture today. Believe what it says. Make the choice to remain in God's love, despite how you feel. Think carefully about the demonstration of love shown by Jesus, for you! Decide to believe it, receive it, and remain in His love. Have these key verses in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Petition: Having reflected on the Jesus' love, allow it to soften and reassure your heart. Sense God's presence, and then pray this prayer to strengthen you (preferably out loud)

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7 day bible plan

“Lord, I receive Your love into my heart today. I choose to abide (remain) in Your love and ask that You give me the strength to resist fear, anxiety, and stress, in the power of Your love. I embrace this love and receive this love Your words of life to my heart. I choose to abide (remain) in Your love today. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

Worship and reflection: Now having prayed, why not play a worship song that you love, it will help you abide (remain) in Jesus’ presence and abide in His love. Open Your heart and mind to Him today in worship. Choose your own song or **Elim Sound’s Here is love.**

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today’s focus for activation: Valuing the **elderly and infirm** – Challenges of age and frailty. Having honour, compassion, care about health and wellbeing, patience, and tenderness of heart.

Prayer of submission: *“Lord, help me to Abide (remain) in Your love, and may it positively affect my attitude today. I draw close to You and embrace the power of Your love as I open my heart and yield to Your will afresh today. Calm my heart and help me regain a sense of Your abiding presence. As I receive Your love, please renew my mind, and bring peace to any restlessness in my soul. Help me as I wait on You. I choose to spend this quality time again because I long for more of You in my life. Fill me afresh with Your love and power. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to hear God’s voice:



*“Though our feelings come and go,
God's love for us does not.”*

C.S. Lewis



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“Lord, I choose to embrace the truth in Your word, especially about the sacrificial love that was clearly demonstrated by You, and which showed the depth of Your love for us all. I thank You that I’m included in that. I feel so blessed by Your presence and thank You Jesus from the bottom of my heart. I choose to allow Your power and love to set me free to live a full life in You today. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: When we are overwhelmed with God's love it leads us to respond. We either accept it or reject it. Surely, we wouldn't reject this kind of love? Well, it sometimes depends on how we feel about ourselves. For our thoughts today, let's remember two things, that God's love is an amazing thing to receive, but it's even better when we then give love away. When you receive the love of Jesus something happens inside. It gives us the capacity to be forgiven and to forgive sin. Acceptance of Jesus as Lord brings about a huge transformation from the inside out. The result is a strong desire to share the source of newly found love fulfil Jesus' instruction to go into all the world to preach the gospel. Obeying Jesus means loving each other as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31).

Recognise your giftings and calling: By sharing your story with someone who doesn't have a personal relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit uses you to introduce someone new to the kingdom of God. The eternal life that is only found in Jesus. By using the gifts God has given you, God is glorified. Everyone who knows Jesus has the power to witness of His love. Recognise what God has given you. Don't be slow to use the gifts. Freely receive and freely give, for someone else to benefit!

Consider how you can serve God today. **Be open to God filling you with fresh anointing**, strength, and boldness to witness to Jesus' and His saving grace. **Respond to this new anointing by sharing the love of God** with someone. You are unique, there is only one of you. **You are special as far as God is concerned**, so much so that He gave His life for your salvation. (John 3:16) His power at work within you means you can proclaim good news. Rather than feeling inadequate, **why not decide to share** despite your feelings of inadequacy. Stir up the gifts within you (2 Timothy 1:6) and move forward in God's call on your life. **Be prepared to respond to peoples' questions** by allowing the Holy Spirit to release gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. Jesus will guide you to who, where and when. Go in the power of God's love. **Let Jesus guide you, quicken you, empower you** with what to do and speak. **To help you stir your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:9-10 NKJV* "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

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'If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love' - What does this scripture mean to you today? What Jesus is saying here is quite strong! Have you been reluctant to give testimony of God's love? Are you afraid of what people may think of you as you share your faith? Jesus is with you right now by the Holy Spirit. Throughout scripture even angels were sent to say to those called and gifted by God 'Do not be afraid!' (Isaiah 41:10) Personalise this scripture. Don't just be challenged but be determined to overcome fear. (Daniel 10:19) The love of God is powerful enough to drive out all fear. (1 John 4:18) Why not change the way you think from I 'can't', to 'I can and I will'? Let God fill you with His power and strength. Make the choice and have this key verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Having become more determined in your heart, begin to actively respond, think differently, and step into your calling to witness about Jesus. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I am determined not give in to the fear of man, which is a snare. (Proverbs 29:25) As I stir the gift up in my heart, please lead me and guide me as I obey the command of Jesus to Go into the world and share good news (the gospel). Please increase boldness in me I pray. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and activation: Having now prayed, consider playing a praise song, it will help your response and activate faith to share God's love with boldness. Choose your own song or **Elim Sound** song **Be praised!**

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: The **elderly and infirm** – Finding ways to visit, be kind, and respectful. Also, by gleaned knowledge, experience, and wisdom from their lifetime of service!

Prayer of Activation: *"Lord, I praise You for all that you have done in my life and in my church. Help us to go with boldness and testify of your love in words and deeds. Jesus, You bought us eternal life, and it cost You everything! I choose to break through my fear and nervousness about sharing my testimony. I realise it is not about me, but all about You. So, Lord, please help me and my church to reach out into our community and be salt and light, pointing to Your saving grace. Shine Your light through us and release fresh power to witness of Your love. In Jesus Name. Amen."*



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Decide to obey God's direction:



*"Life is too short, the world is too big,
and God's love is too great to live ordinary."*

Christine Caine

"Lord, I am determined to go and share the good news of Your great love. Help me to be led by the Holy Spirit and allow You speak truth with love in and through me today. I choose to use the gifts You have given me, in Your strength and not my own. In Jesus Name. Amen."

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**

Abide (Remain)

Thought: Each day so far, we have looked at the importance of getting to know Jesus personally and of the positive consequence of receiving Him into our life as Lord and Saviour. Positive things happen. We change from the inside out! Things are never the same again, and we discover that we have a friend not just for life, but for eternity. We receive God's love, His peace, and a new joy. This joy is not dependent on circumstances as is the case with happiness. By Abiding (remaining) in Him, and staying close to Him, we find the joy of the Lord brings us strength.

Listen and be challenged: Prepare your heart today, take time to pray and rest in God's presence, being renewed in His love, joy and peace. ***Has Jesus has changed you*** since He found you? Why not ***dwell on the fact that He has transformed you*** and given you a complete change of direction? ***Be glad in your heart.*** Give God time in your busy diary today and try to ***find a new spiritual balance*** in the Lord's presence. ***He is our joy. Expect this to flow in you, because that is where our strength comes from.*** Acknowledge God today and speak to Him as if your life depended on it, because it does! Not just this earthly life, but for eternity. Pause for a moment with that thought, ***it will bring you immense joy and peace*** to know your life is in His hands. ***Spend a little more time reflecting*** on the joy of your salvation. ***Listen to God and give thanks for Him*** and rejoice in His love for you! ***To help you prepare your heart,*** read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:11 NKJV* *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

'That my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete' - What does this scripture say to you today? Are you joyful, or have you lost your joy and the sense God's presence in your life? Personalise this key scripture. Be challenged and determined to understand the depth of its truth and what it is saying. Be determined to think about all God has done for you. Choose to recognise God's divine hand at work in your life and adapt the way you think. Remember joy will help you to behave differently. Are you joyful now? God's strength enables the Holy Spirit to glorify God through you! (Nehemiah 8:10) Have the verses in mind as you pray now.

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Prayer of Petition: As you open your heart, spend some quality time in God's presence, and pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I open my heart to experience Your joy today. Help me to focus on Your goodness, kindness, and love. Help me to see with Your eyes and hear what You are saying. Help me to respond to You and recover new joy in my heart. Help me to look forward to Abiding (remaining) in You today, experiencing this new joy. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and reflection: Now that you have prayed, try playing a worship song that brings you joy to help you abide (remain) in Jesus and enable you to be lifted in mind and spirit. Choose your own song or use **Elim Sound's I am Yours**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for reflection: Challenges of **health and wellbeing** – Caring about people affected by Covid-19, delays to hospital waiting lists for operations, and the worry and anxiety that all of this causes.

Prayer of submission: *"Lord, please help me to Abide (remain) in Your love and experience joy in Your holy presence. Help me to find fresh energy and strength as I offer You my heartfelt worship. Help me to reconnect with You again. As I sense Your nearness, help me keep my eyes firmly fixed on You. I choose to offer joyful praise and thanksgiving because of Your great love. Help me as I determine to deepen my connection with You. Teach me Your ways and guide my steps today. In Jesus Name. Amen."*

Decide to hear God's voice:



*"Though our feelings come and go,
God's love for us does not."*

C.S. Lewis



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“Lord, I choose to receive Your love and joy today. As I consider all that You have done for me, I am grateful that You went to the cross and then rose again to bring salvation to the whole world. I am really challenged by the sacrificial love You have shown and am very grateful in my heart. It brings me great joy to know that You love me that much! Jesus, I am overwhelmed by Your willing obedience to the Father. Please, help me to share the message of Your saving grace, and not just keep it to myself. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: I'm sure that you agree that the world needs a lift right now. Some good news would be helpful! There is! When we get to know Jesus personally, there is always a release of desire to share about it. There is an urgency to share about the good news of Jesus' love and salvation. The world is desperate for it, although won't know unless we mention it! If we know the Saviour ourselves, we then have a responsibility to talk to people about Him. Jesus had compassion on people, and so should we (Mark 6:34). Let's start by sharing our own story out of the love and compassion that God has shown to us.

Recognise your giftings and calling: We are all called to live like Jesus and be His ambassadors (representatives/2 Corinthians 5:20). Part of our ministry as disciples of Jesus is to spend time in His presence (abide), but it shouldn't stop there. The gifts that God releases need to be used and cultivated over time. The more we use them the sharper they become. They are Gifts of the Holy Spirit and are not meant to be held onto for our own benefit alone, but shared. They will flow out through us using our own unique personality. Therefore, use these gifts as God leads you, for His glory, and let supernatural signs follow.

Be open to God's power and energy to joyfully witness. **Release stories the good news stories** about your own salvation journey. Share how Jesus has strengthened and changed your life for the better. **Don't be shy but share your story (testimony).** The fruit of your life will also speak volumes to the people you meet day by day. Remember, Jesus is alive in you by His Holy Spirit. **You have His power at work within to help make you bold.** Spread the news about your salvation and talk about your personal relationship with Him. **Be motivated to move into God's call on your life,** part of which is to directly share good news. **Always be open to the insights revealed by the Holy Spirit.** Let Him give you the right moment to share snippets of how God has changed your own life. The power of God's love and joy will be seen in you. **Let God give you revelation and guidance every day. To help you stir your heart,** read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:11 NKJV* I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

'So that My joy may be in you' - What does this scripture speak to you about today? Have you experienced God's joy in your heart recently? Perhaps you have had challenges that have dampened your strength?

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Ask God specifically to fill you afresh with His joy and strength? Try to personalise this scripture. Be challenged yes but choose to be joyful because strength flows from it. Your time spent preparing in God's presence reaps fruit (of joy), so adjust your thinking and lifestyle accordingly. Let God's joy bring lightness of spirit. This will enable you to boldly witness, and shine (glow), (Ecclesiastes 8:1) causing people to ask what is different about you today. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Reflect on this scripture in your heart, respond and be challenged by it. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I delight in You today. Help me joyfully move into the day in Your strength and power. Stimulate me and create opportunities for me to talk to people with lightness in my step. Help me to connect with people in the right place, and at the right time. Give me the words to share. (Isaiah 51:16) May these words be encouraging and uplifting. Let my attitude, expressions and conversation be a clear witness, glorifying You. Help me to be led by the Holy Spirit to share words of life and that Your supernatural presence will be evident to all those who are willing to hear. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and declaration: Now that you have prayed, why not play a praise song, it will help your response and activate faith to go out and be good news to people you meet. Choose your own song or **Elim Sound's I will give thanks**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: Challenges of **health and wellbeing** – Consider those affected by delays getting medical attention, Covid-19, life threatening diseases and other. What practical help can you give to support and assist those in need?

Prayer of activation: *"Lord, help me to be a bringer of joy. I'm not just praying for myself, but for my community. Please help me and my church to look outside the boundaries of the church buildings or use them to reach more people. Stimulate us to go and help people, starting with their felt needs, but also sharing testimony. Anoint us as we talk about first-hand stories of Your life changing power. May we move forwards and give in time and resources within our community. Release fresh fire and fresh power in us.*



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May Your anointing release something that has a transforming affect by the power of Your love. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

Decide to obey God’s direction:



“The Lord gives his people perpetual joy when they walk in obedience to him.”

Dwight L. Moody

“Lord, I want to move into this day with joy and strength. I know that this comes from You, so help me to be conscious of Your presence during every moment. May Your Holy Spirit cause my face to shine, (Exodus 34:29) and may people be uplifted as they spend time with me. Use me today to point people to You, our only Lord and Saviour (Acts 4:12). Help me be bold and exercise the gifts You have released in us, for Your glory. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**



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Day 6 of 7 – Joy leads to Sacrificial Love

Abide (Remain)

Thought: In previous days we have looked at how Abiding (remaining) in Jesus has such a positive effect on our lives, and the lives of others. Joy as well as love is so important and brings great strength. Having Jesus in our lives consistently makes such a difference. Once we develop a relationship with the living Lord Jesus, it is so important to cultivate it. By doing so it will also benefit people around us. By receiving God's love, peace, and joy we discover that it isn't linked directly to our circumstances. Abiding (remaining) in Him means the Lord's love is always present and not dependant on feelings. He paid the ultimate sacrifice to achieve salvation for us, and so we should be eternally grateful.

Listen and be challenged: Prepare your heart to pray again today. Take the time you need to rest in God's constant presence. Renew your acceptance of His love, joy, and peace. **Consider again how Jesus has renewed you** from the inside out. As you **dwell on the fact that He has poured joy and fresh love within you**, ask Him for more strength. Desire to be more like Him **by giving love away to others**. Remember His sacrificial love has brought salvation for us all, so be joyful and grateful in your heart. **Let it be seen by everyone you meet**. Give God your full attention today. **Find a new balance for work and spiritual engagement** by setting aside lunch or teatime in the Lord's presence. **Expect His joy to well up inside you as you give Him** some this extra time today. **Remember, we are made to worship Jesus** not just here and now, but for eternity. Stop and think about that for a moment. Eternity **will bring you immense joy and peace**. **We all need to release time** in our diaries to think and pray. **Let God speak to you and be thankful**. Let His love well up within you! **To help you prepare your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:12-14 NKJV* My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

'Love each other as I have loved you ... to lay down one's life for one's friends' – This is challenging, so what does this scripture mean to you today? You have received God's salvation and love, so can you do something with it? The answer is yes, Jesus can, so can we. Try to personalise this scripture. Be aware of its significance and determine to understand what it is saying. Don't just think about yourself, but of those who can benefit. Choose to see that God's love has been released to you for a purpose.

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Adjust your lifestyle and understand that Jesus laid down His life for you. He is our friend, so perhaps we can befriend people too (John 15:15). The fruit of this should be a change our behaviour. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness, so allow the Holy Spirit to glorify God through you! Have the verses in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Petition: Having read these thoughts, open your heart, and spent some quality time in God's presence, pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I thank you for the joy and sacrificial love you have provided and released within me today. Help me to demonstrate Your goodness, kindness, and love to those around me. Help me treat people with compassion and be a friend to them. May Your love and joy well up within me today, helping me to Abide (Remain) so that the light of Your love will shine in and through me. Help me to be friendly and treat people with compassion as You did. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and reflection: Having prayed, why not listen to a worship song that stimulates God's presence within you and releases love and joy, it will help you abide (remain) in Jesus. It will also enable you to be stimulated to communicate to people about it. Choose your own song or use **Elim Sound's** song of worship and declaration **We Say Yes**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for reflection: The challenges of **education and culture** – it is so important to understanding our communities, especially in areas that affect young people and children. Teaching and policies have a lasting effect on them, but also on all of us. Pressure is immense on teachers and pupils.

Prayer of submission: *"I ask You to release peace into my heart and enable me to Abide (remain) in Your joy and love. I really want to value Your holy presence. Help me to stay fresh, have Your strength, and be worshipful. Help me to stay close to You because I want to live a Holy life. Please allow my conscious and sub-conscious mind and heart to sense Your presence. I choose to keep the eyes of my heart firmly fixed on You today. You deserve all praise and honour because of Your sacrificial love. Help me to put my roots down deeper in You. I want You to show me areas in my life that need to change. Continue to show me the right path and guide my steps today. In Jesus Name. Amen."*



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Decide to hear God's voice:



"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others.

It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.

That is what love looks like.

Augustine of Hippo

"Lord, I choose to walk in Your ways, and Your love and joy today. I ask that this radiates out to the people I meet. As I think about all that You have done sacrificially for us, stir in me a deep understanding of the price You paid to bring us eternal salvation. I am challenged by its cost and am grateful deep in my heart. Your love overwhelms and challenges me, especially Your obedience to the heavenly Father. Please, help me to be more like You, not to be self-absorbed, but determined to live by Your example. Your saving grace is worth telling others about, so help me to have courage to do this. In Jesus Name. Amen."

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: There is a need to reverse the trend of introspection and 'me-centred' behaviour, even in the Christian life, and church life. Combatting this tendency requires us to choose to allow the power of God's sacrificial love at work in us. This will mean going out and not staying in (the four walls of the church building). We are to be disciples of Jesus and are meant to selflessly share good news about Jesus! God's love for us was never intended to be kept to ourselves, but to be shared. So, let's be led by Jesus and see a reduction in the world's influence, and more of Him (Romans 12:1-2). We now carry a responsibility to talk to people about the love of Jesus, but we must also demonstrate it, which will often mean acts of love coming first! In other words, show, then tell. Let's start by living a Godly life, and then sharing our own story.

Recognise your giftings and calling: We are His ambassadors (representatives) in a hurting world. We might not all be called to be gifted evangelists, but we are all called to be witnesses of Jesus' love and joy! All that is required of us is availability. As disciples of Jesus, we need to spend time in His presence (abide), but then take His presence out into the world. The gifts that God releases in us need to be developed and practiced. So let us be challenged about sharing. The gospel applies to us but is exclusively for our own benefit. The gospel message was freely given. The Holy Spirit at work in us is the power and strength needed to share with others the good news. Spiritual gifts will flow through us naturally supernaturally as we express our unique personality. We should not be slow to give account of our hope, but use the gifts as God leads us, for God's glory (1 Peter 3:15). Let supernatural signs follow the spoken word, thereby bringing life and freedom.

As you make yourself available to God today, **let His power rise up from within you** and cause you to be a love filled, joyful witness. **We should feel free to talk about your life's journey in Christ**, how Jesus has transformed and strengthened you and changed your life for the better. **Be bold and generous to people with time and in kind.** Be a bearer of fruit that remains. You will be surprised that your life will speak volumes to the people you meet day by day. Jesus is at work in you by His Holy Spirit. **His power will help make you bold.** Spread some joy and good news about salvation flowing from your personal relationship with Jesus. **Move deeper into God's call for your life as you witness of Him.** Always **be open to what the Holy Spirit shows you.** Let Him line up the right people, place and time to share examples of how God has changed your life. The power of God's sacrificial love, and the joy it brings will be seen in you. **Let God guide you each day. To help you stir your heart,** read.

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7 day bible plan

Key Scripture: *John 15:12-14 NKJV* My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

'to lay down one's life for one's friends ... if you do what I command.' - How does this scripture apply to you today? Have you been able to show the love of God recently? Have you been able to be joyful even when experiencing challenges? Ask God to release His joy and love again today? Why not look for opportunities to be joyful and bring encouragement to someone? Take up the challenge and draw on God's courage and strength today. Remember, your time spent in God's presence will undoubtedly bring out fruit (of joy). Allow God's joy, and lightness of spirit to glow in you today, it will be noticed by the people you meet (Matthew 5:16). If this happens, people are likely to ask what is different about you today. Don't be slow to respond in love. Have this verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Reflect on this key scripture once again and respond to its challenge. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, I want You to help me lovingly and joyfully influence my day today. May the strength and power I use be from You and not my own. Create opportunities for conversations about faith with the people I meet. Help me to connect with the right people and have the right words to share. May they be uplifted as they meet and talk to me about life issues today. Cause them to ask important questions and help me to have wise responses that will be a witness to Your love and joy. I really want You to be glorified in every way. Holy Spirit, bring Your supernatural presence to all those who are willing to hear, and who have open hearts. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and declaration: Play a praise or worship song, it will help your to focus and respond in faith and activate obedience to God, causing you to go and share good news. Choose your own song or use **Elim Sound's** version of **This is a move**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: The response to the challenge of **education and culture** – How can you get involved and influence this area? Getting actively involved in our communities is so important. Become a volunteer, or a governor, and let God use you to influence areas that affect young people and children.



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Prayer of Activation: *“Lord, will You move in me by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please use me and also my church. Come alive within us and demonstrate Your power and love through us. As we go and help peoples felt needs, may we see You working in and through Your church. As we testify of God’s life changing power, may we see some real evidence of You working salvation and healing in those that we serve. May we act with sacrificial love within our community. Release a flow of living water and fresh sparkling life in, and through us. (John 4:14) Release Your anointing and transform people’s lives. May they be affected by the power of Your love and receive a new joy and strength. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to obey God’s direction:



“I was delivered from the burden that had so heavily suppressed me. The spirit of mourning was taken from me, and I knew what it was to truly rejoice in God my Saviour.”

George Whitefield

“Lord, please move us out today with joy and strength in You and a sense of urgency. Help me to minister in Your mighty power during every moment of this day. Holy Spirit, let Your light shine in me. May my church come alive and go out into the community with love, joy, and increased boldness. Let me be an encourager as we meet people today. Point out the people You want us to meet today. May we flow in the gifts You have released and be effective in the community for good, and for Your glory. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**

Day 7 of 7 – Obedience Leads to Promise and Purpose

Abide (Remain)

Thought: This is the last day of our week of prayer. Let's remind ourselves of how Abiding (remaining) leads to a series of promises. Jesus can have such a positive effect on our lives, and the lives of others. The caveat is we need to stay in relationship with Him constantly. We need to let Him teach us important life lessons and follow the way of love. This will lead us to joy unspeakable that becomes a powerful strength in us. Remember, having Jesus in our lives consistently makes all the difference. A consistent relationship with the Lord is life changing, enabling us to bear fruit. And there is more, it isn't just us who benefits, it's also the people around us too! By Abiding (remaining) in God's love, peace, and joy we discovered that it isn't dependent on circumstances, it is constant and eternal. Today we will consider another benefit from Abiding (remaining). It's based around the refining process that is necessary to grow in the knowledge of, and relationship with Jesus. This is what produces good fruit in us.

Listen and be challenged: How is your heart today? *Whether you feel positive, negative, or indifferent*, take time to rest in God's presence again. Renew and receive again His love, joy, and peace. *Jesus has given us the power to be renewed* from the inside out. As you consider *the fact that He has made available His joy and fresh love within you*, ask Him for more of His strength so that we can be more like Him. This might lead you to be challenged about attitude and thoughts. This is part of the refining process. If we are to *give love away to others*, purity of thought and deed will be necessary. Jesus' salvation is for everyone, but He uses vessels of honour that are pure and holy. Pruning and refining is necessary if we are to radiate His joy and love. The purpose is to let His power be *evident to everyone you meet*. Let God get your full attention today. *Remember that we are meant to witness of Jesus* in word and deed from a pure heart (Psalm 24:4). Eternity is real, and we need to live this by example. If we do, it will show people that *salvation will bring immense joy, peace, and purpose*. Set aside quality time *to meditate and pray on Jesus, and the truth in the word of God*. Most especially, remember it is all by God's grace. *Let God lead you, challenge you and speak truth into to your heart*. Let the power of His love overwhelm you! *To help you prepare your heart today*, read.

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Key Scripture: *John 15:16 NKJV* You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

'I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit' – This is a purposeful promise for us. Have you accepted the fact that you have been chosen by God to bear fruit? God has saved and loved you, so are you now prepared to do something with this knowledge and experience? Personalise this scripture. Let it challenge you. Be determined to accept and apply what it is saying. See that God's love has been given to you for purpose. Abide (remain) in Jesus and decide to obey Him. Develop an intimacy with Him and bear the promise of good fruit, through prayer and dialogue.

Don't forget Jesus gave His life for you. Having received salvation, it is important we follow His purposes in our lives. Let God cause you to bear fruit in a change of thought and behaviour. God's strength and promise is at work in you to will and do of His purposes (Hebrews 13:21). Allow the Holy Spirit to glorify God in, and through you! Have the key verses in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Petition: Open your heart again and spend some quality time with God in His presence. Now pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Once again, I thank you for going to the cross for my salvation. You have released new purpose and promise which carries joy and love as well. As a result, we are forever grateful. Help me to reflect and share something of Your character, goodness, kindness. Help me to share this with people I meet today, and every day. Help me to see people with Your eyes of compassion. May the power of Your love and joy rise within me today. Help me to Abide (remain) so that Your love will shine in and through me. In Jesus Name. Amen."

Worship and reflection: It is always helpful to link worship and prayer together. Why not play a worship song that stimulates God's presence and releases love and joy. This will help you abide (remain) in Jesus. It will also enable you to be stimulated to communicate to people about it. Choose your own song or use this song sung by **Elim Sound**, a song of worship and adoration **Nothing Else**.

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



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Today's focus for reflection: The need for **youth and children** – There are so many influences that affect young people and children. Peer pressure, social media and other external factors affect and cause concern. Being caring and understanding of parents and youth and children is essential.

Prayer of submission: *“Lord, I come to You today with real purpose. Please help me Abide (remain) in You. I know this will enable me to have Your joy and love released into my heart. I appreciate Your holy presence. Help me to be alert to Your voice. Your Holy Spirit leads me to worship You with all of my heart, soul and mind. Help me to remain close to You and not let my mind wander. I long for Your nearness and covet Your presence. I make every effort to keep my eyes firmly fixed on You today. Thank You Lord for giving me new purpose. I honour Your great and sacrificial love which has brought so much joy and promise into my life. Please continue to guide my steps today. In Jesus Name. Amen.”*

Decide to hear God's voice:



“God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, “. . . who will go for Us?” The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.”

Oswald Chambers

“Lord, You have called me and chosen me to walk in Your ways. Help me to love the people I meet today. May Your joy and compassion be released towards the people I meet. You have done amazing things for me and shown sacrificial love. I realise it isn't just for me, but also for the whole world. I feel challenged that You gave Your life as a living sacrifice on the cross. Your overwhelming love has touched my heart. I want to live obedient to You, my God, my Lord, and my Saviour. Help me be more like You, and live as You would do. Help me to tell others about You, and give me boldness to do this. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Having prepared your heart, now be activated to serve, and to be used by God today ...**



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Advance (Outreach)

Thought: Good news in our world is at a premium now. You will have read stories in the newspaper or looked at TV news channels. There is a real lack of stories bringing hope and courage. For Christians the power of God's sacrificial love is the sort of great news that needs to be shared widely. God's sacrificial love for us was real. We shall be forever grateful for Jesus' willingness to obey His heavenly Father and go to the cross out of love for us. His resurrection is the most amazing news because it means Jesus won the victory over sin and death. This news needs to be shared. Jesus personally transformed the world, but the people of the world just don't know it yet! That is where we come in. As disciples of Jesus, we have a responsibility to talk to people about His love. But we must also demonstrate it, showing just how much. We can care in practical ways. Often acts of kindness comes first. Then comes opportunities to talk and share testimony! Show and tell or tell and show. Whichever way round, let's live a Godly life, care for people in need, and share our own salvation story.

Recognise your giftings and calling: The world is hurting (Romans 8:22). It is confused and in need of peace and hope. We have the answer! God's salvation has been released and we need to ensure the message is shared. We are all called to be witnesses of Jesus' love and joy! You don't need to be an apostle or evangelist to do that! Just be available. Spending time in God's presence (Abiding) is vital, but we need to take His presence out into the marketplace (Acts 17:17). God releases His power and giftings to us, but we need to operate these in faith, despite our feelings of inadequacy. We grow in confidence as we practice regularly. Don't just feel challenged about this need, but act on this by faith. The gospel is good news and needs to be shared widely. It is a message that is not for our own benefit, but for others who otherwise may end up going to a lost eternity! The Holy Spirit is at work in us, so use the abundance of God's power and strength to share with others. Spiritual gifts will flow naturally supernaturally if we just use them in our own unique way. Let's just do it, individually and as churches, for God's glory. Let signs follow as you share that God's love brings life and freedom.

Be determined to be available to God today. Let **God's power and love will be released within you.** Be joyful as you witness. **Try to boldly share good news examples about your life in Christ.** Jesus has transformed you, that is great news! He has changed your life for the better. **Be generous hearted to people with time and in kind.** God will show you what to say and do, causing you to bear fruit that brings Glory to Him! Your life speaks loudly, **mostly by the way that you live, not just in what you say!** Jesus is working in you by His Holy Spirit and **His power will make you bolder** the more you step out in faith.

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Be the bringer of joy and good news, and share scriptures when the opportunities arise, especially about salvation in Jesus alone. Your personal testimony illustrates the power in God's word and has real value in this process. **God's call for your life is primarily to be a witness to Him.** Sometimes we forget this as we get caught up in activity and life issues. Be open to what go where the Holy Spirit leads you. **You will be pleasantly surprised by what you can do rather than what you can't do!** Let Jesus lead you people who need to hear your story. God has changed your life, so don't be slow to open up and share about it. The power of God's love and joy is worth talking about. **God will guide you today** if you trust Him. **To help you stir your heart**, read.

Key Scripture: *John 15:16 NKJV* You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

'so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.' – This is a real promise from God. How can you apply this scripture today? Are you able to trust God to ask boldly and receive the answer? What are your expectations of God using you to help bring the message of Good News? You can do it! Ask God for power and strength and ask Him to equip you today. Take the opportunities God presents to bring encouragement to someone. Joyfully draw on God's wisdom today. Remember, time spent in God's presence releases the fruit of God's love, and touching people you meet. God can, and will release a lightness of spirit in you, just step out, obey, and believe in Him. Don't hold back, be bold, be strong and the know that the Lord your God is with you (Joshua 1:9). Have this key verse in mind as you pray now.

Prayer of Response: Think about this scripture carefully in your heart. Respond and be challenged by it. Pray this prayer (preferably out loud)

"Lord, help me to be full of courage today. Help my church to get out into the community and grow in courage too. Help me to communicate some Good News with love and joy. I choose to trust in Your strength and power and not my own. May Your love and joy be evident as I have conversations with the people I meet. Give me the right words. May they have transforming power to bring truth and healing today. I want people to be uplifted and encouraged as we talk together today. Use me to bring important answers to the real-life questions they ask. May Your love and joy well up within them. May You be Glorified in every way. Holy Spirit may Your life-giving power and presence touch all those willing to listen. In Jesus Name. Amen."



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Worship and declaration: Now you have prayed this prayer, try playing a praise or worship song, it will help you activate faith to be obedient and trusting of God. Let worship bring an urgency to share good news with people you meet. Choose your own song or try **Elim Sound** song **No Longer I (At the cross)**

When you see the YouTube icon, click here to listen to the full song.



Today's focus for activation: The needs of **youth and children** – Think about how you can actively influence young people and children for good. Find ways to work together as a church in the community to help them deal with peer pressure, social media, and other external factors. Be caring and encouraging, wise and understanding.

Prayer of Activation: *“Help me be bold Lord by Your mighty power. Holy Spirit, please use me and my whole church to share Good News and to demonstrate the power of Your love through us. As we advance into the community, help us to be sensitive to peoples felt needs as well as testify to Your saving grace. May we begin to see evidence of Your presence to work in and through us. Give us increased boldness as we testify of Your life changing power. We pray You will use us to bring salvation and healing in all those that we meet. May the Holy Spirit's living water bring fresh sparkling life bring life into our community. Release Your anointing to release people and bring forth the fruit of transformed lives. May people be affected by the power of Your love, especially that they experience the salvation and new joy and strength that only comes from Jesus. In His precious Name. Amen.”*

Decide to obey God's direction:



“A true Christian lives and labours on earth not for himself but for his neighbour. Therefore, the whole spirit of his life him impels him to do even that which he needs not do, but which is profitable and necessary for his neighbour.”

Martin Luther



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“Finally, Lord, we need a new move of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to be bold as You advance Your kingdom. May Your joy and strength be in evident in us. Holy Spirit, let Your light so shine in us as we meet people. I ask that they see Your love in my actions and words. Let Your church come alive again as we go out into the community carrying Your love and joy with boldness. Bring transformation that we will see a demonstration of Your power. The world needs a Saviour, and that is You and You alone! Help the whole church to point people to You. They need to know that You are the only true Lord and Saviour, the only one who can bring freedom for eternity. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

➤ **Go out today and be good news!**



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