

A woman is shown in profile on the right side of the image, her eyes closed and hands clasped together in a prayer position. She is looking down towards her hands. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a field of tall grass or wheat. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a soft glow. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Focused Prayer for the New Year

by Pastor Erin Canter



P O E M
B Y S T A C Y T R I M B L E



BLESSINGS AMONG THE UNCERTAINTY

**THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CHALLENGING, FROM MY FAITH TO HEALTH
ISSUES AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. ANGER FROM SITUATIONS
THAT BLINDSIDED ME, BUT IT ALL LED ME TO CRY OUT TO GOD.**

**TO SEEK THE HEART OF THE FATHER SO I CAN BE FREE. NOT
BOUND BY THE THINGS OF THE WORLD, BUT FREE MY MIND FROM
WORRY. TO CONSULT GOD'S WORD WHEN LIFE FALLS APART,
WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHEN PAIN GETS TOO MUCH, I
REACH FOR HIS HAND.**

**THE TIMES I FAIL, ASHAMED TO TRY AGAIN. THAT IS WHEN MERCY
WINS, AND GRACE BEGINS. MAY THIS NEW YEAR BE ANOTHER
YEAR OF GROWTH, NEW LEVELS OF FAITH REVEALED. SO WE CAN
WALK IN CONFIDENCE, GOD IS FAR FROM DONE AS WE TRUST HIS
WISDOM TO LEAD US TO HIS LIGHT AND PROTECT US WITH HIS
SHIELD.**



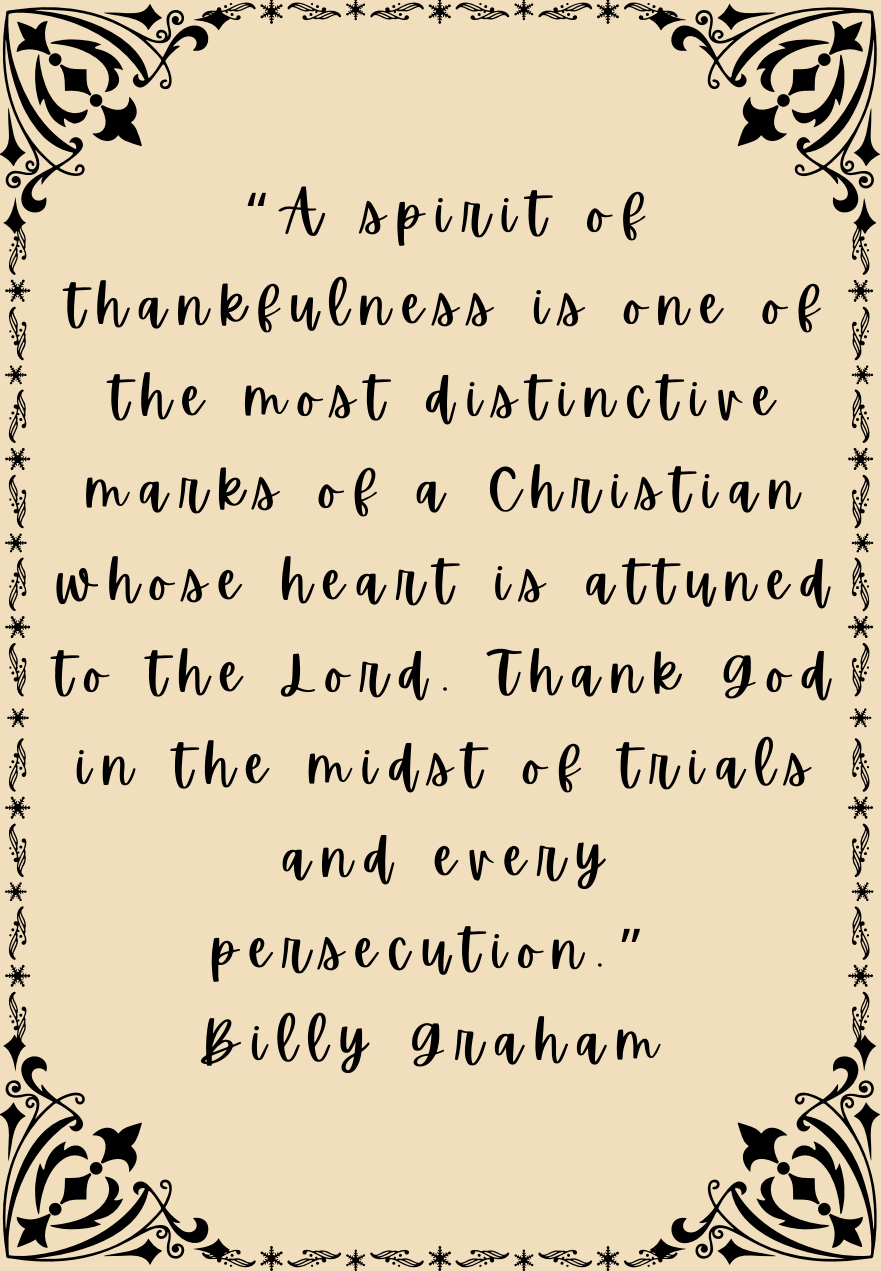
DAY 1: GRATITUDE

P S A L M 100:4

**ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND
INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE: BE THANKFUL UNTO
HIM, AND BLESS HIS NAME.**

Lord, we want to start this time of prayer and fasting to kick off the new year so that we can be right with You and can have the best year possible for Your glory. And first, we want to have thankfulness in our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” It is Your will that we give thanks, no matter our situation. We might be in a season of sickness, pain, or difficulty, but we still give thanks. You have been so good to us, so very merciful. We thank You for the times that we struggled because You were right there with us, drawing us closer and holding us in Your precious hand. You meet our needs. You answer our cries for help. We never want to fail to be grateful. Let our hearts be full of this and take this posture all year long. In difficult times, I will remember all You have done and continue to be grateful that You are my God.

In Jesus’ name, amen!



"A spirit of
thankfulness is one of
the most distinctive
marks of a Christian
whose heart is attuned
to the Lord. Thank God
in the midst of trials
and every
persecution."

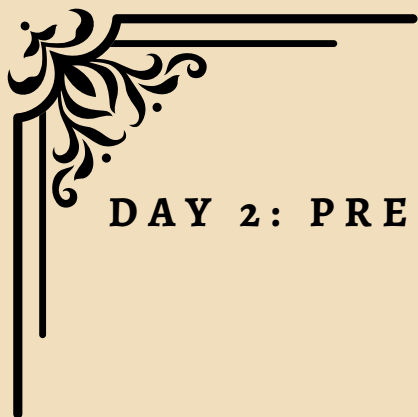
Billy Graham

GRATITUDE

MAKE A LIST OF 10 THINGS THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

MAKE A LIST OF THOSE DIFFICULT THINGS IN YOUR LIFE AND START THANKING GOD EVERY DAY OVER THEM.



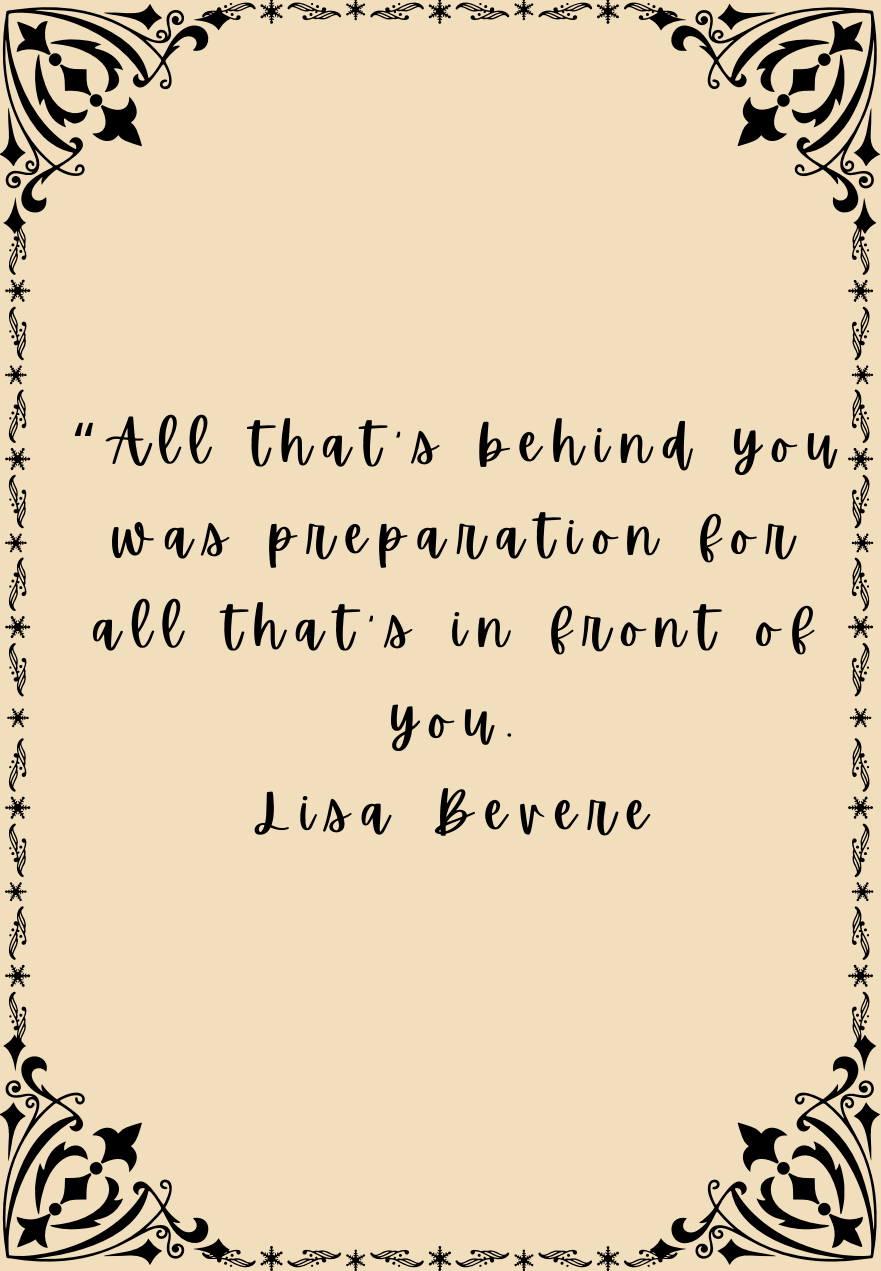
DAY 2: PREPARATION

PROVERBS 16:1

THE PREPARATIONS OF THE HEART IN MAN, AND THE ANSWER OF THE TONGUE, IS FROM THE LORD.

Lord, I pray that You prepare our hearts for this new year. Let us start the year by repenting. Forgive anything that we have been doing wrong, 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” We can believe this passage and let those things go. We need help to do as it says in Hebrews 12:1: “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Help us to continue on this path without sin and to respond when things (that are not in alignment with Your Word) confront us. Open our hearts to receive Your Word with gladness and to be willing to change our ways and desires to become Your ways and desires. Prepare us for a wonderful year in You!

In Jesus’ name, amen!

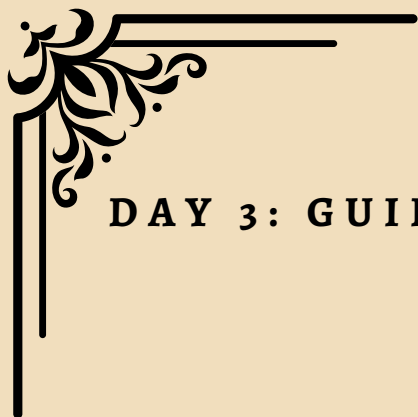


"All that's behind you
was preparation for
all that's in front of
you.

Lisa Berere

PREPARATION

1. **WHAT SINS DO YOU NEED TO LET GO OF TO START THIS YEAR FRESH? WRITE THEM DOWN.**
2. **WRITE BESIDE THEM THE TOOLS THAT YOU NEED IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THESE SINS OR TO CONTINUE WITHOUT THEM.**



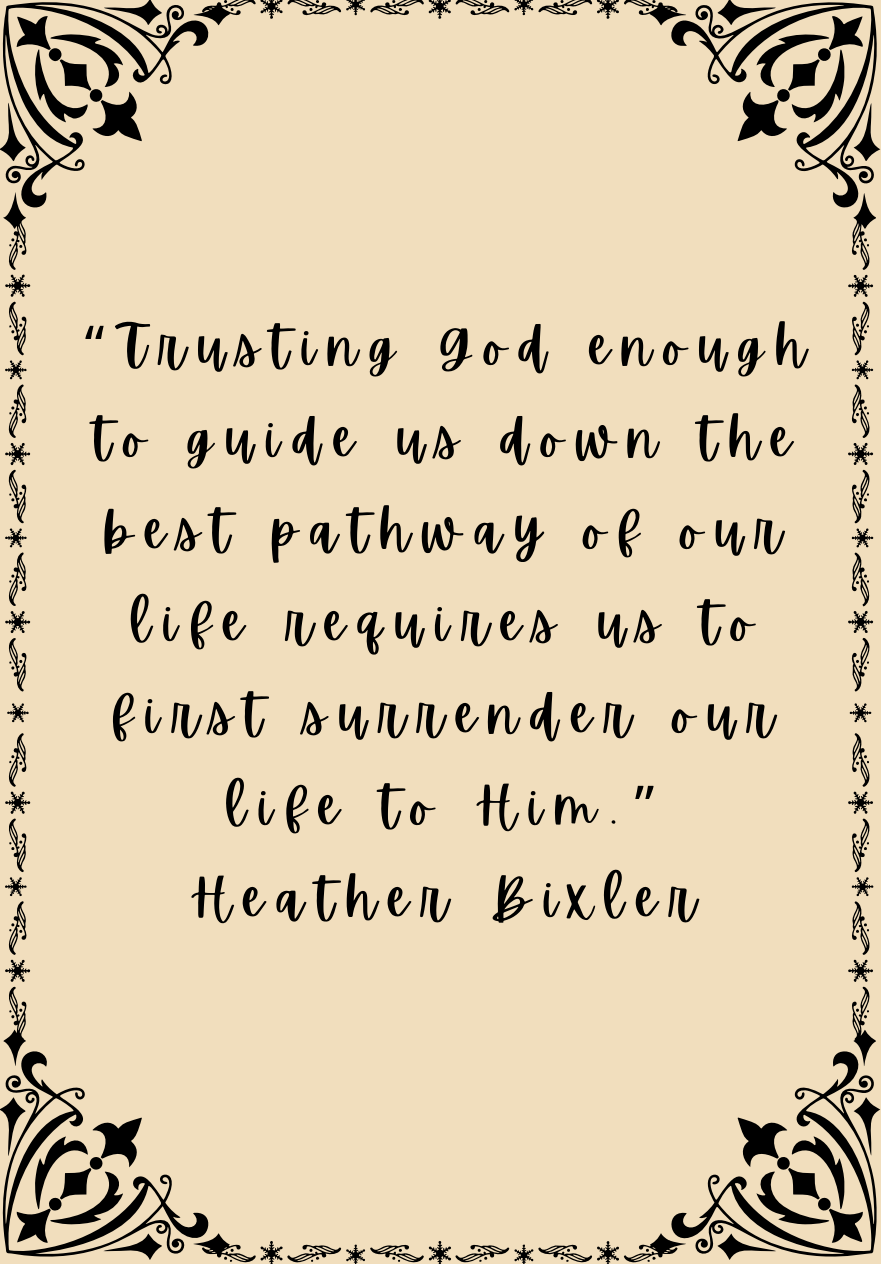
DAY 3: GUIDANCE

P S A L M 3 2 : 8

**I WILL INSTRUCT THEE AND TEACH THEE IN THE WAY
WHICH THOU SHALT GO: I WILL GUIDE THEE WITH
MINE EYE.**

Lord, we pray that You give us the guidance we need through Your ministry leadership and through Your Spirit within. Psalm 25:4 says, “Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.” We need instruction to know that we are on the right path. Help us also to trust that Your direction is right. It might not feel that way, but we will continue to move according to Your direction. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” We want this year to be full of Your presence! We acknowledge You in our lives, even when it seems like we do not hear You or feel You. You are there! Lead us, God.

In Jesus’ name, amen!



"Trusting God enough
to guide us down the
best pathway of our
life requires us to
first surrender our
life to Him."

Heather Bixler

GUIDANCE

- 1. WHAT THINGS DO YOU NEED TO SURRENDER OVER TO GOD THIS YEAR? LIST THEM.**
- 2. HOW CAN YOU DEVELOP YOUR TRUST IN GOD IN THOSE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS? MAKE A PLAN.**



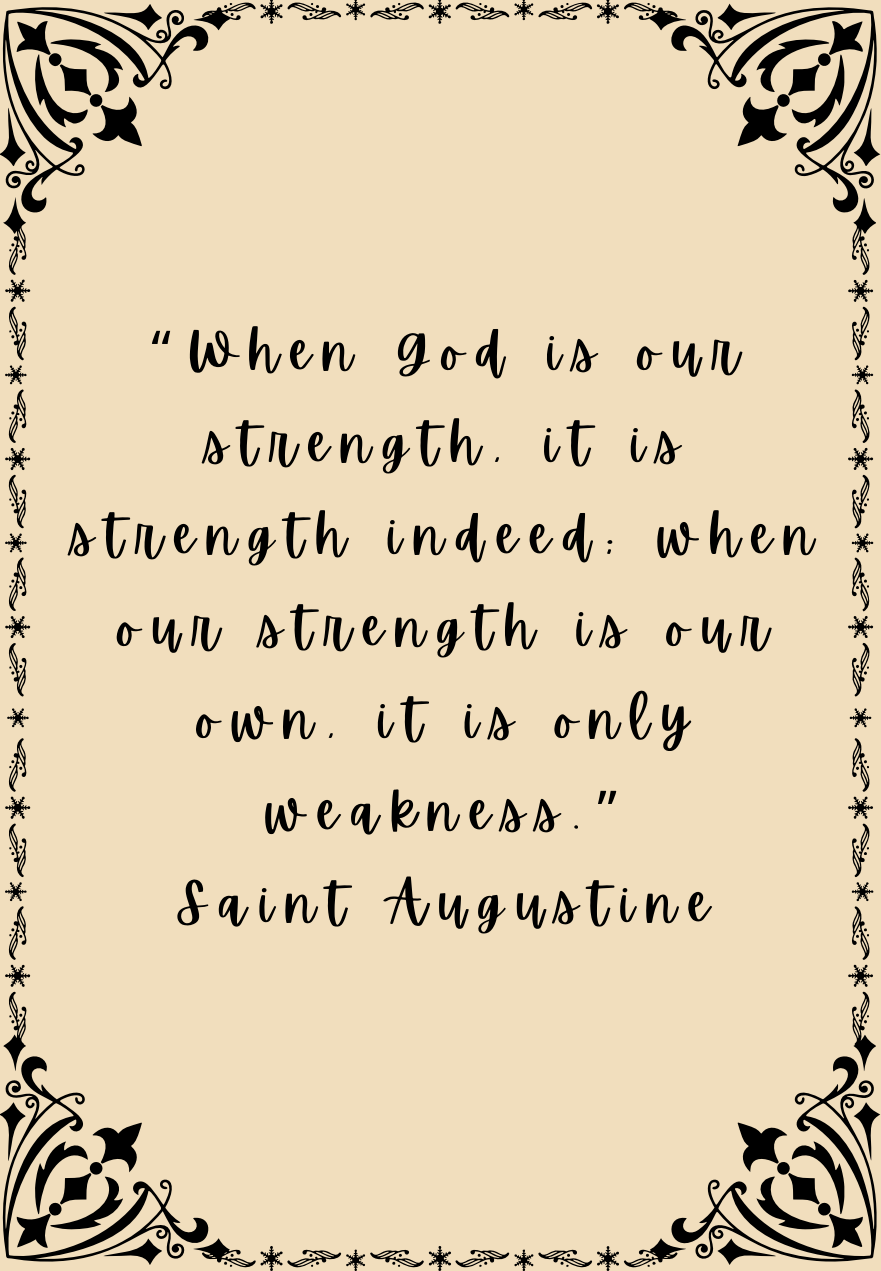
DAY 4: STRENGTH

EPHESIANS 6:10

**FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD,
AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.**

Lord, we need Your strength to carry us through this year. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Help us to remember this Scripture as we encounter situations and circumstances that are difficult. We know that this is a supernatural strength and that it is only through You that we can survive. Isaiah 40:31 says, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” When we start to feel weary, all we need to do is to wait upon You and we will receive a renewal of this strength. Help us to understand what Paul said concerning his thorn in the flesh: “For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). You are the power to live and breathe and make it from day to day. You are the power in our lives!

In Jesus’ name, amen!



"When God is our
strength, it is
strength indeed: when
our strength is our
own, it is only
weakness."

Saint Augustine

STRENGTH

1. **LIST THE THINGS THAT ARE TOO HEAVY FOR YOU TO BEAR. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT YOUR WEAKNESS PROVIDES GOD'S STRENGTH TO SHINE?**
2. **HOW CAN YOU ALLOW GOD TO CARRY THOSE HEAVY THINGS THIS YEAR?**



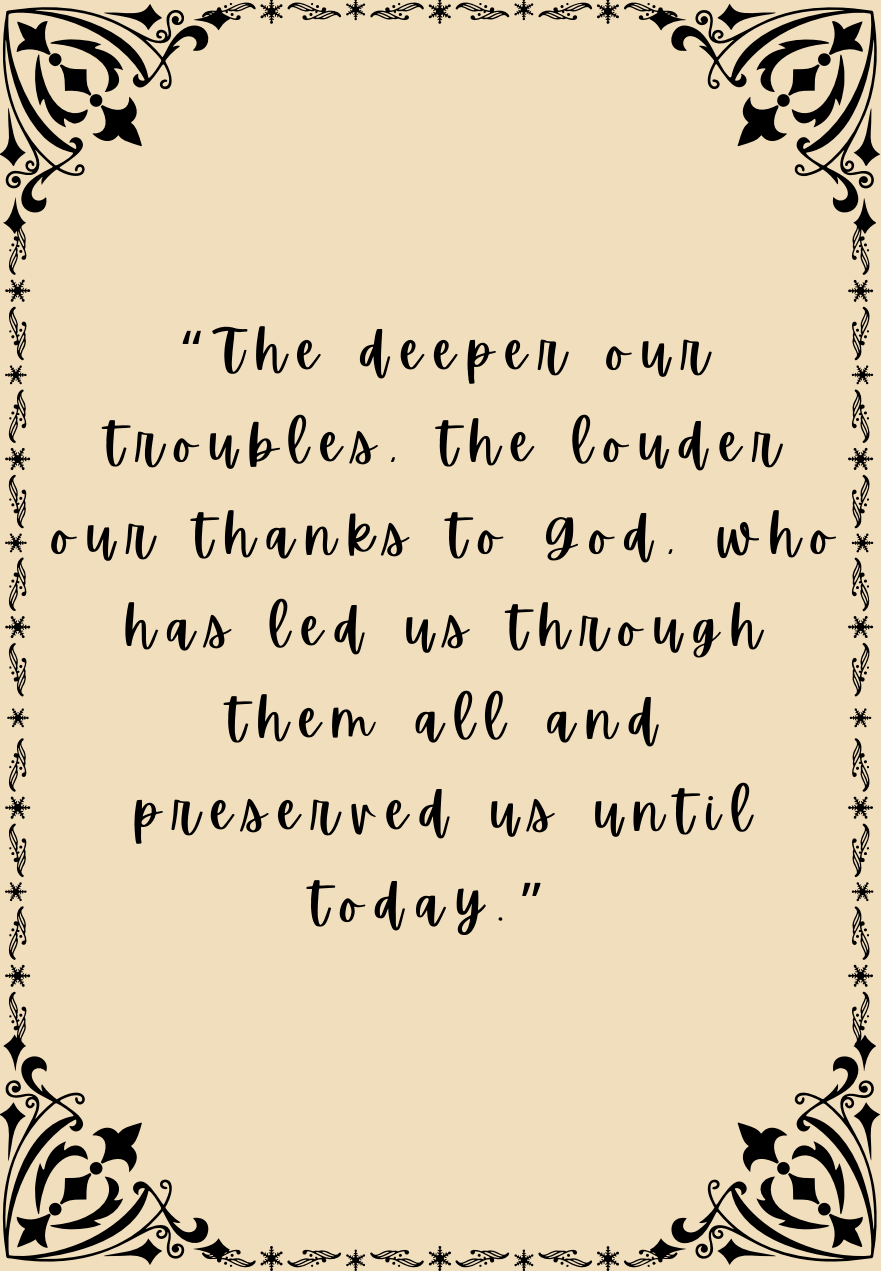
DAY 5: ENDURANCE

JAMES 5:11

BEHOLD, WE COUNT THEM HAPPY WHICH ENDURE. YE HAVE HEARD OF THE PATIENCE OF JOB, AND HAVE SEEN THE END OF THE LORD; THAT THE LORD IS VERY PITIFUL, AND OF TENDER MERCY.

Lord, we desire to not “just make it,” but to “suffer well.” Help us get to the place where we do as James wrote: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4). We want to be complete! Romans 5:3-4 reminds us that: “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...” Show us how to rejoice in our suffering and to get to that place of blessed hope in You. We want the world around us to see people who, in spite of their pain and sickness, praise You, worship You, love You, and live a life of victory!

In Jesus’ name, amen!



"The deeper our
troubles, the louder
our thanks to God, who
has led us through
them all and
preserved us until
today."

ENDURANCE

1. HOW CAN YOU REJOICE IN YOUR SUFFERING?

2. WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS PROCESS FROM ROMANS 5:3-4? IT STARTS WITH REJOICING IN YOUR SUFFERINGS.



HOPE = EXPECTATION, TRUST, CONFIDENCE



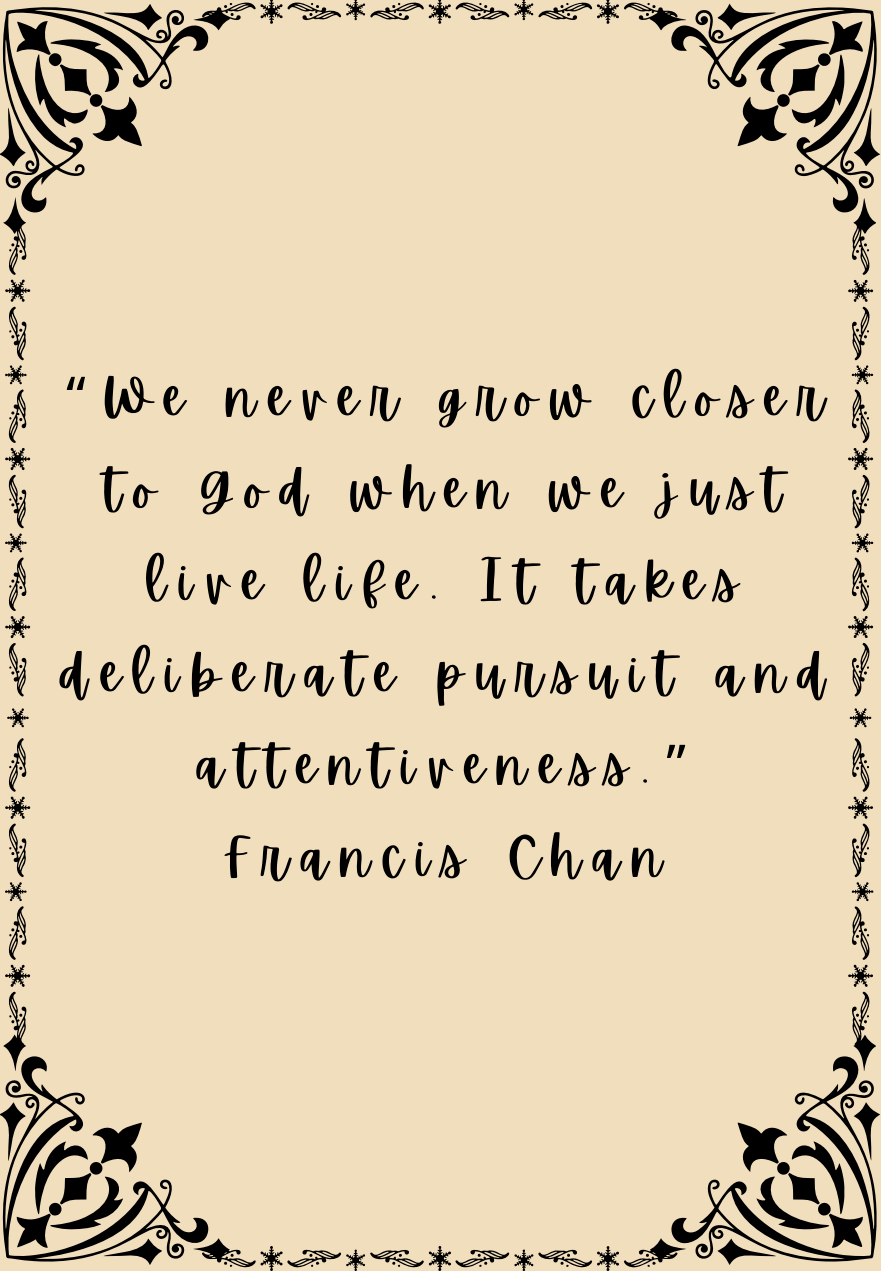
DAY 6: RENEWAL

ROMANS 15:13

NOW THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YE MAY ABOUND IN HOPE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST.

Lord, help us to understand the Scripture that is the backbone for this group: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). We cannot control a lot of things, however, we can control the way that we seek You through prayer, reading and studying Your Word and praising and worshipping You. We can receive continual renewal, spiritually. Help us to understand how important this renewal is and give us the desire to work on our relationship with You. Our spiritual life will last for eternity and we want to spend eternity with You. Help us to keep our eyes on You.

In Jesus’ name, amen!

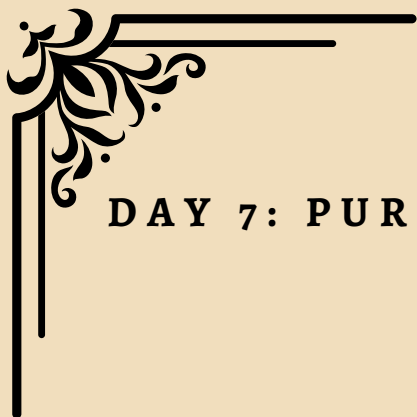


"We never grow closer
to God when we just
live life. It takes
deliberate pursuit and
attentiveness."

Francis Chan

RENEWAL

1. **LIST THE THINGS THAT ARE BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.**
2. **LIST THE THINGS THAT YOU CAN CONTROL. HOW ARE YOU CONTINUALLY RENEWING YOUR SPIRIT?**



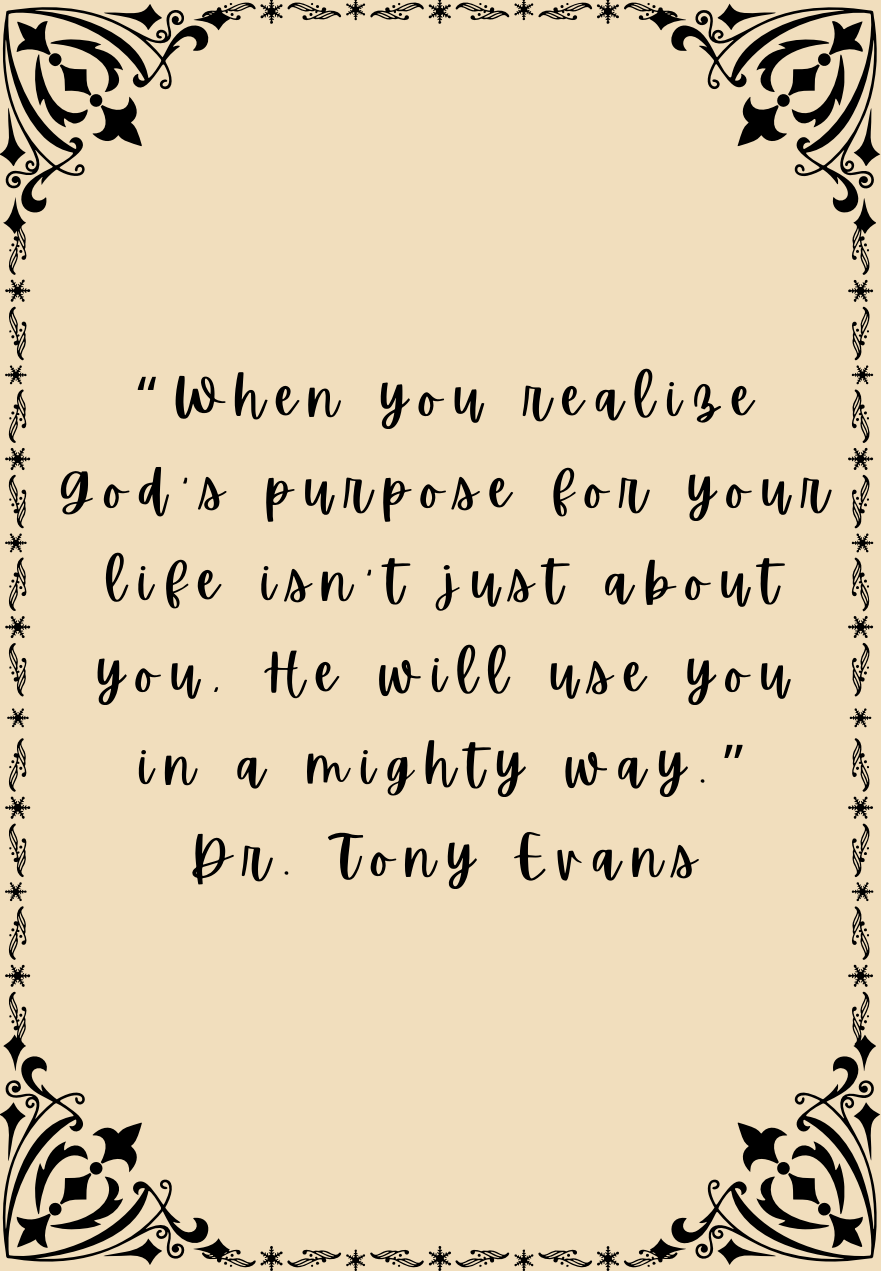
DAY 7: PURPOSE

ROMANS 8:28

AND WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Lord, we were created for a specific purpose. Give us understanding and grant us wisdom to walk in this purpose. Let this new year be the beginning of a life that brings You all glory and honor. Touch all who are in this group, that they would be not only be hearers, but doers of the Word (James 1:22). Anoint the leadership of this group to provide guidance and encouragement in this process. We need the fulfillment of our purpose through You, God. Help us to be what You desire, to minister to others who need hope and love in their suffering.

In Jesus’ name, amen!



"When you realize
God's purpose for your
life isn't just about
you. He will use you
in a mighty way."

Dr. Tony Evans

PURPOSE

CAN YOU LOOK BACK OVER YOUR LIFE AND SEE YOUR PURPOSE IN CHRIST? WRITE YOUR PURPOSE AND HOW GOD HAS USED YOU.

CAN YOU SEE A PURPOSE IN YOUR DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH OR ARE GOING THROUGH NOW? WHAT IS THIS PURPOSE?

2025





2025

Let's do this:
"Thrive in '25"

We don't want to simply
make it through another
year. We want to learn
to progress towards a
goal...in spite of our
circumstances!