

BISE & SHAE

REPRESENTING **CHRIST** WELL FOR THE **WORLD** TO SEE

21-DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

RISE & SHINE!

We all know how it feels to be tucked in our warm beds and wanting just a few more minutes before getting up. Our beds are comfortable, safe, and restful. But we all know that we can't live there. The call to Rise and Shine is a call to get up and get going with your day! This 21-day devotional is a call to get up and get going with what God has called you and all of us to for the future.

Temple City Church is a "City on a Hill that cannot be hidden". This is taken straight from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5:14. We have adopted this verse as a mantra for our ministry here. We want to shine forth the truth of God in love for all to see. It is time for us as a church to rise up and let this message shine brighter in our community. The light of our church becomes stronger and brighter as we as its members become more like our savior, Jesus Christ.

This devotional follows a simple plan. For three weeks, we will think about seven topics in order to help us know what God is calling each of us to do as we move forward. Every week we will think about the following things:

- 1. Sunday Repentance: We have to confess and forsake any sin in our lives to be rightly related to God.
- 2. Monday Submission to His Will: Before we ever hear from Him, we must be willing to obey anything He asks.
- 3. Tuesday Seeing His Vision: We want to accomplish God's vision, not merely our own. What does He want?
- 4. Wednesday Having Wisdom and Discernment: We don't want to be blinded by our own desires/limitations.
- 5. Thursday Hearing His Voice: God's vision is global, His voice is personal. What does He want from you?
- 6. Friday Sacrifice: Being willing to give up something we love for something we love more...
- 7. Saturday Personal Participation: This isn't something your church is doing, it's something you're doing!

God is calling Temple City to Rise and Shine! We want to expand our facilities here so that we can better shine forth His gospel but we also want you and your family to deepen your personal walk with Christ so that you can shine forth His glory to those around you! We're excited for this journey and we're glad you're on it with us!

- Pasjor Chad

HOW TO TAKE YOUR **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY...**

- **1. Keep your commitments.** You've filled out a spiritual journey commitment card. Whatever it is you've intended to do these next 21 days, commit to complete them! If you miss something, don't quit, get back to it and cross the finish line!
- **2. Be Intentional.** Whether you're spending a minute in prayer, taking a day to fast, or keeping up with this devotional, don't waste the time by just checking off a box. Focus on why you're doing what you're doing and seek God through His word and prayer.
- **3. Be Specific.** Don't be general in your answers or in your prayer requests. Write down and pray exactly what is on your heart. We are asking you to specifically ask God what He would have you do as we launch into the City on a Hill vision for our church. We also want you to specifically ask God what He wants to do with your life moving forward. Your spiritual life is more than giving to a building, so seek out how God wants to make you more like Him during these next 21 days.
- **4. Participate Daily.** Our whole church is going on this journey together. What a blessing it will be to know that at 5:14pm every day, our church family will be praying together. It won't just be you, it'll be all of us! Every day, we will all be looking at and meditating on the same truths. This journey will be very personal for you (and for your family), but it will also be extremely communal as we embark on these journey together!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH REPENTANCE

Psalm 51:17 (NLT)

"The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."

Repentance is a tough thing. To "repent" means to turn from one thing to another. Spiritually, when we repent, we are turning from our sin to God and His word. What makes this so difficult is that we have to come to a place where we admit that we're wrong and that God is right. Nobody likes admitting that they're wrong! However, this type of humble attitude is exactly the kind of heart that pleases God. If you are going to grow in the next 21 days, you cannot hold on to your sin, you cannot keep going down that same old path. You must have an attitude of brokenness and repentance in order to hear from God.

What do you need to repent of today?
How has pride crept into your life lately?

Take whatever the Lord has shown you to prayer, confessing and forsaking it!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH **SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL**

Romans 12:1-2 (CSB)

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

This is a beautiful passage of Scripture! Later in the week we will think on "sacrifice" and "discernment". These verses could easily help guide our thinking on these points. Before you can ever sacrifice and discern God's will for yourself, you have to be submissive to whatever He would ask of you. To "submit" means to place yourself under the authority of someone else. As Christians we want to place ourselves under the authority of God. He is trustworthy, He keeps His promises, He is honest and the list goes on and on. You must present yourself to Him as an offering...a living sacrifice, that is totally submitted to **whatever** He would ask of you. Only then, will you be able to rightly sacrifice for Him and determine what His will is for you.

What are two ways you can present yourself to God as a sacrifice to Him today? Think about it and be specific! Maybe it's an action of service, maybe a commitment to stay away from something harmful for you or a determining to engage in worship through prayer or bible meditation.

Pray back through these verses, calling God "Lord" and "Master" throughout your prayer.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

SEEING HIS VISION

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NASB)

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

The truth of these two verses will blow your mind! During our spiritual journey together, we don't just want to accomplish our vision, we want to accomplish God's vision for our church! How can we know what His vision is? We've started with repentance and submission and now we want God to show us what He wants.

Take a moment and think about what the vision for Temple City Church should be (seriously, STOP and think about it). Our passage tells us that God *is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think!* Our God is so powerful that even our wildest imaginations can't contain Him! If that doesn't blow your mind, think on the rest of the verse...He works through the power that works *in us!* The God of the universe takes up residence in the lives of His people, we in turn, should give Him glory and go out and fulfill His vision for us!

Be careful not to go off and create your own vision here. Seek the Lord for Him to show you HIS plan, we need to focus on glorifying Christ throughout all generations. How can you best glorify Jesus with your personal life today?

Start asking the Lord to show you what His plan is for you personally over the next 3 weeks.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST HAVING WISDOM & DISCERNMENT

James 1:5-8 (CSB)

"Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God — who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly — and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways."

Many people think they hear from God about things, only to be disappointed when things don't go the way THEY hoped. Sadly, many people are only hearing from THEMSELVES. How can you determine what you're thinking is from God or just the desire of your heart? This passage tells us to ask God! If you are humble, submissive to His will, and seeking His vision, the next step is to ask Him to make that vision clear to you. In praying this however, we must be willing to accept "No" as His answer. We must have faith to believe His answer is best and not be blinded by our own plans and desires.

What areas of your life are you doubting God? Or maybe not fully trusting Him?

God has a specific plan for you as our church launches out to become a brighter City on a Hill. Pray that He would give you the wisdom and discernment to know that plan and then go do it.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

HEARING HIS VOICE

Psalm 1:1-2 (CSB)

"How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night."

Ultimately, we want to hear from God! We want to know His heart and see His vision. The very opening words of the book of Psalms tells us how to do that. We do that as we meditate on God's word, the Bible. God tells us that His word is our spiritual food, and this passage tells us to delight in it and to think on it throughout our day. Many times however, we can be influenced by negative sources that are contrary to the word of God. We must be careful to give our attention to, get our advice from, and take our delight in God's words!

What kind of company do you keep? Are the people/voices in your life giving you advice and help from God's word or from the world? Are there any changes you need to make?

What is your relationship like with your phone? (yep, we're going there...) How **much** do you hear from it? How **often** do you hear from it? What are you hearing from it?

Do you have a special place and time where you meet to hear from God through His word and in prayer? If so when is it? If not, write down your plan on how and when you will spend some time with God in your day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

SACRIFICE

Mark 8:34 (CSB)

"Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.."

Jesus often taught very hard things in order to separate His true disciples from the flaky, fake followers that were just hanging around Jesus for selfish reasons. In this verse, there is a crowd following after Jesus. He then gives them the price of admission to be His disciple. They had to deny themselves and carry a cross. They had to be willing to sacrifice! They had to be willing to sacrifice their own pleasures, comforts, and dreams in order to follow Him. They had to be willing to even sacrifice their lives to follow Him. In Jesus' day, the cross wasn't a charm to be worn on a necklace, it was an instrument and symbol of excruciating and shameful death. Jesus' words would have caused the crowds to take a step back, turn their head to the side and ask their neighbor, "what did He just say?" thinking they had mis-heard Him. You need to make sure you hear His words clearly today, they still stand. The price of admission hasn't changed or cheapened. If you want to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus, you must deny yourself, carry your cross, and follow Him.

What is something in your life that you really don't want to sacrifice for Christ?

What are some ways you can follow Christ better? Think about how He lived and how you can emulate that.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH PERSONAL PARTICIPATION

Philippians 1:3-6 (CSB)

"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Every week will end with us thinking about how we can personally get involved and participate in the vision of our church as the City on a Hill which cannot be hidden. Paul in this passage is very careful to emphasize the personal involvement of believers in this church in the city of Philippi. The church at Philippi was also a city set on a hill, just like we and every other gospel preaching church! Churches are full of individual people who make up the body of Christ. Paul is thankful for their "partnership in the gospel". This is primarily a thankfulness for their financial support of Paul and his ministry. This is an extraordinary thought...the Philippians through their giving and support of Paul were actually partnering and participating in the gospel ministry. Paul was the one preaching, but the Philippians are credited as being alongside Him through their giving!

How are you personally participating in the ministry of Temple City Church? Start praying that God would show His vision for you and that you would have the wisdom to hear His voice and the humble attitude to submit to and sacrifice for Him in order to participate in whatever it is He is calling you to.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH REPENTANCE

James 4:17 (ESV)

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

God is never satisfied with half-hearted devotion to Him. God desires the totality of our hearts. Many times we may think, "well as long as I try to not do wrong then God will be pleased with me". While this is true, God doesn't want us to run around sinning and doing wrong, this verse takes our obedience to Him to a deeper level. God doesn't just want us to not sin, He wants us to do good! James is very clear, for us to know what God wants us to do and then not do it is sin. It's not just refraining from sinful behaviors, sin is also failing to obey and do the right things that God wants us to do.

List out a few things that you know God wants you to be doing.

Think very carefully here...is there something you know you should be doing and yet you aren't doing it? Take time to repent of your disobedience, confess it to the Lord and commit to obey what God wants you to do.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL

Matthew 26:39 (CSB)

"Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Submission, or placing yourself under the authority of someone else, is very easy when we're being asked to do simple, comfortable things. The true test of your loyalty and submission to God is when He asks you to do hard, uncomfortable, even painful things. Jesus Himself gives us an example of perfect submission. The Father's plan was for the Son to come and die for the sins of mankind. Jesus came to accomplish that very plan, but as the hour of suffering approached Jesus, being 100% God and also 100% man, cries out that if there is another way to accomplish the plan He would rather do that. But He cried out further that He was submissive to the Father's plan and He would obey to carry it out. He would carry it out even though it was hard and even though it was going to cause Him to suffer. He was submissive to God's will. If we're going to follow Christ, we must be submissive to whatever God is calling us to.

Are you following God in the simple and comfortable things like you should?

Spend some time in prayer, opening your heart up to God for Him to direct you however He chooses. Commit to obey Him in whatever He asks you to do today, or in the future.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

SEEING HIS VISION

John 4:35 (NLT)

"You know the saying, "Four months between planting and harvest." But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest."

God has a vision for the world. That vision is carried out in different ways by different believers and different churches. If we're not careful, we can be shortsighted by the vision of building a new building here. We have to stay focused on the larger vision of God and trust Him to guide our steps as we accomplish that vision here at Temple City. God sees a world of lost souls that are in desperate need of His salvation. The fields of our community are full of people who are ripe to hear and believe the gospel of Christ. We must reach them with the message because that's God's vision (and mission) for His church. As we set out to better accomplish this mission through bricks and steel beams, lets renew our commitment to be faithful with our lips and lives as we minister to the lost around us.

Who do you know personally that is lost and needs to trust Christ for the forgiveness of their sins? Maybe it's a family member, friend, or co-worker. Take time to pray for that person specifically. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to share the gospel with them or invite them to church with you.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

HAVING WISDOM & DISCERNMENT

Philippians 1:9-10 (NASB)

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ."

There is so much truth packed in these two verses! Follow Paul's thinking:

- 1. Our love should be constantly growing.
- 2. That love should be growing not as a feeling, but in *real knowledge and all discernment*.
- 3. This is so that we can distinguish between things that are excellent and things that aren't.
- 4.All of this is to be done so that we can be genuine and blameless. Our Christian growth has to be rooted in the knowledge of God's word and discernment.

What is the Lord calling you to do to participate in the City on a Hill campaign? What is God calling you to do in your service to Him? We have to have knowledge and discernment in order to distinguish His voice from even our own deceptive hearts.

Spend some time asking the Lord to grow you in your love, knowledge and discernment. Ask Him to burden your heart as to how you should live your life today, the rest of this week and as our church moves forward with our vision.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

HEARING HIS VOICE

Joshua 1:7-9 (CSB)

"Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua, was the leader of Israel after Moses died. He was commanded to carefully obey the instructions which God had given Moses. He was told not to deviate from it at all, he was to meditate on God's word day and night, constantly thinking on it and talking about it. Joshua's success as a leader was dependent on how well he kept to God's word. If we are to be strong and courageous, and if we are to be successful as a church, we must hold to God's word.

God speaks to His people through His written word. As we read, understand, and meditate on it God will reveal His will to His people. Commit to faithfully read and study God's word as part of your daily walk with Him and open your heart and mind to discern His will for your life.

Once this 21 day journey is over, what is your plan to stay in God's word every day? If you don't have a plan, take a few minutes and make one! Write down your plan. Keep it simple.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

SACRIFICE

Luke 14:25-33 (CSB)

"Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, and even his own life — he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.' Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

Jesus gives us the hefty price of being His disciple. Following Jesus is not just showing up to church on Sunday or posting something spiritual on social media. Following Jesus will cost you everything. Jesus doesn't want half-hearted disciples. He wants us to follow Him whole-heartedly! He doesn't want us to value anything over Him. He wants our obedience and He wants our hearts. There shouldn't be anything that we aren't willing to give up if He asks.

Make a list of 5 things that would be very hard for you to give up if Christ wanted you to. Pray through each one of them and if you're truly able, give those to Jesus to do whatever He wants with them. This doesn't mean you're giving them up, but it does mean you should be willing. "every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple".

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

PERSONAL PARTICIPATION

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NLT)

"Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do."

You should read over this passage a few more times. What an example of generosity! The believers in Jerusalem had financial needs and the churches in Greece determined to give money to them in order to help them. These weren't rich people, in fact, they were "very poor" but they gave in abundance. The reason for this is found in the last part of the passage, "Their first action was to give themselves to the Lord...". If you are going to be generous, it's because you've given yourself to God first. Just like yesterday's reading, you're not holding anything back from Him, therefore, you're willing to give freely!

Pray and commit yourself to the Lord and His will. This is something we should be doing daily!

<u>Underline</u> in the passage above all the ways that describe these Christians and their giving.

Keep praying about how you are personally (or as a family) going to participate in the City on a Hill vision of our church.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH REPENTANCE

Luke 5:32 (NLT)

"I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."

There are many people who think they are OK with God. They don't think they need to repent. In order to repent, you have to admit that you're wrong and people don't like to do that because people are prideful. If you are truly close in your relationship with God your days will be filled with repentance. You will realize your sin and you will take it to your Father quickly and ask for His forgiveness, just like a child should do with their parents.

What are the areas of your life that you think you're doing pretty good at spiritually? (prayer? Bible reading? Faithfulness to church? You're loving, humble, serving, etc.)

Take time to pray through these things and ask Jesus to reveal any spiritual pride you may have in these areas. We have to be growing as Christians, we need to be obeying Him better as we go along, but we cannot become prideful along the way. Satan is a fierce enemy and would love nothing more than to blind you with spiritual pride.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH **SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL**

Proverbs 16:3 (NASB)

"Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established."

The word "commit" means "to roll onto". We should roll our lives and plans onto to the Lord and let Him be the One who directs them. When we do this our plans will be established, made firm, set right, and secure. The reason for this is because we're letting God direct and lead our lives. When we try to plan out our days on our own we will make mistakes and those plans, apart from God, are bound to fail.

What is going on in your life that is hard for you right now? What stresses do you have that you have to work through and deal with? Certainly you have to make decisions and deal with the issues you're facing, but don't do it apart from God's leading.

Spend some time in prayer and roll those cares and burdens onto God and trust Him to lead you in wisdom as you navigate your day and week.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

SEEING HIS VISION

Matt 9:36 (ESV)

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

This is another reminder for us to keep focused on the heart of God for the lost. Christ taught like no else before or after Him. He performed miracles that made it un-mistakable as to who He was. But Jesus' heart wasn't to just draw a crowd (in fact, many times, He turned them away), His heart was compassionate to the people who were lost, who were helpless, wandering through this life with no shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd and desires that all men would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). We have to stay focused on that as we shine as a City on a Hill that can't be hidden!

Last week on Tuesday, you were challenged to pray for someone you knew that was lost and to pray for an opportunity to witness to them. Write a little bit about how that has gone.

Pray for this person again and ask for continued opportunities to talk with them about your faith. If you've been able to talk to them, seek a chance to follow up with them. Maybe call or text them, take them out for coffee or a meal...whatever is appropriate and sincere.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH HAVING WISDOM & DISCERNMENT

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

This is a very familiar passage and many times this can lead to us not giving special attention to the truth God is giving us. Read these two verses over again two more times. Go slow and meditate on what they are saying before moving on.

These are very simple but profound truths. Write out your own thoughts about what this passage is saying and how you can personally apply it to your life today. Don't rush!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

HEARING HIS VOICE

John 10:27-28 (CSB)

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

The picture of a shepherd with his sheep was one of Christ's favorite illustrations. It portrays our relationship with Him beautifully. You follow the voice of whoever your leader is. We say we want to hear from God, and yet so often we're busy following the voice of someone else. If we aren't listening to Him we can't follow Him and yet if we aren't following Him we can't hear Him. The closer we follow, the better we can hear our Shepherd.

Do you really want to hear from God or not?

How closely are you following Him? List some ways that you could follow the Good Shepherd better in your life and then pray through the list and ask for His help.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH **SACRIFICE**

2 Corinthians 9:6 (CSB)

"The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously."

Look back at last Friday and read those five verses again (2 Cor. 9:1-5). Look at what you wrote. The churches Paul is writing about were extremely generous even in their poverty! Verse 6 is given for today and tells why Paul said what he said. He wanted the church in Corinth to know that they needed to sacrifice as well and that they need to be just as generous as the other churches.

The 21-day spiritual journey is almost over and we are about to lay our commitments before the Lord as to what we plan to give towards the vision and building here at Temple City. Different people give different amounts. Don't think to yourself, "I don't have enough to give so I'm not going to" or "other wealthy people will give more than me so what is my gift worth?" We will give different amounts, but we must *equally sacrifice*, whether we have a little or a lot.

What do you think God is specially calling you to give as we approach commitment Sunday?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH **PERSONAL PARTICIPATION**

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Today is the last day, you made it! We trust that this devotional and spiritual journey has helped you open your heart and navigate how to give. But more than that, we really want you to grow spiritually. We hope that these past 21 days have been a time of growth for you and your family as you trust and follow Christ.

This verse rounds out the section that we've read in 2 Corinthians 5. Giving is a personal matter to be decided between you and God. You should not give because you feel pressure from friends or your church. Our heart is not to put pressure on you, but to encourage you deal faithfully with God, to seek His will, to discern with wisdom His voice in your life. We want you to be willing to sacrifice and personally give towards God's work here at Temple City Church. This is His church, we are His body, and we want to accomplish His mission. Will you join us?

We've talked a few times about having a personal time with the Lord to pray and read His word. As this devotion ends, what is your plan to stay faithful in communion with Him? You need to be in His word and in prayer daily!

FINAL REFLECTIONS





