

Praying for Pentecost



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PRAYING FOR PENTECOST

50 Days of Prayer Devotionals

Designed to renew and transform
individuals and churches by Spirit-led prayer

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Introduction

This prayer and devotional guide is ideal for individuals and churches that desire renewal and transformation by Spirit-led prayer. Each day a scripture, quotation and directed prayer emphasizes one aspect of praying for Pentecost. You can pray these scriptures with confidence because these truths are God's will for your life and the life of your church.

The high point of the church year in the early church was the Great 50 Days from Easter to Pentecost. During that time people were earnestly praying for Pentecost. You are encouraged to use this prayer devotional with that legacy of faith in mind.

Used in conjunction with *Encountering God in our Celebrations of the Church Year*, individuals will greatly enhance their understanding and experience of Pentecost by praying and studying together.

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Small Group Bible Studies

- Lord, Teach Us to Pray, a study of personal prayer
- Encountering God in our Celebrations of the Church Year
- Pathways to a Praying Church, a study of corporate prayer
- Until He Comes: Living out the Book of Acts

Concerts of Prayer

- ARM Concerts of Prayer Booklet
- Praying the Lord's Prayer as Corporate Concerts of Prayer
- Concerts of Prayer for the Church Year

Prayer Devotionals

- Becoming like Christ
- The Power of Christ
- Praying for Renewal by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Visit www.aldersgaterenewal.org to view descriptions or purchase these resources.

Listening Activity

Prayer was always designed to be a two-way conversation between God and us. Throughout this resource we have emphasized praying the scriptures to see our lives transformed to reflect the character of Christ. That is a powerful tool. But it is not the entire picture. In order to be faithful in prayer, we must also spend significant time listening for the Lord's voice. The Holy Spirit desires to speak to you directly about your need to become more like Christ.

Position yourself in an attitude of listening. Many people find it helpful to prostrate themselves in an attitude of humility or kneel before the Lord to listen. Make yourself comfortable.

Absolute quiet is difficult to achieve in most settings. Many people find it helpful to play worship music softly when they are preparing to listen to the Lord. Instrumental soaking prayer CD's are a good choice. Soaking prayer CD's are available through ARM if you'd like to know more about this style of listening prayer.

Enter into silence with this scriptural prayer on your heart –
“*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*” (1 Samuel 3:9)

Day 1

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

"I want the presence of God Himself, or I don't want anything at all to do with religion. You would never get me interested in the old maids' social club with a little bit of Christianity thrown in to give it respectability. I want all that God has, or I don't want any." (A.W Tozer, from *The Counselor*)

Prayer: Father God, I desire all you have for me. I know I need your power to live in victory. I receive the promised Holy Spirit. Fill me, empower me, Holy Spirit! Together, fill my church with your presence and your power. Let your power flowing through us be a witness in our community and beyond.

Day 2

UNITY PRECEDES PENTECOST

Acts 2:1 *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

“I was crying all the time God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day in the city of New York – oh, what a day! I cannot describe it. I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were no different; I did not present any new truths; and yet hundreds were converted. I would not be placed back where I was before that blessed experience for all the world.” (D.L. Moody, from *The Life of D. L. Moody*)

Prayer: Loving Father, the day of Pentecost came and the church was never the same. Today, empower me to walk in true humility and unity with others. Holy Spirit, reveal any hindrance on my part to unity in the body of Christ. Together, unite our hearts in your love. Come, Holy Spirit.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 3

SUDDENLY

Acts 2:2 *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

“So has it been in all revivals, God’s work has been done suddenly.” (Charles Spurgeon, from *The Story of God’s Mighty Acts*)

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the “suddenlies” in our lives. Holy Spirit, come like a mighty wind, unseen but powerful and effective. Fill me, fill us, with the Holy Spirit. Together, help us to abandon ourselves completely to you as Lord.

Day 4

AMAZED AND PERPLEXED

Acts 2:12 *Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”*

“Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without any recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through and through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings.” (Charles Finney, from *Charles G Finney: An Autobiography*)

Prayer: Father, I am amazed by your grace. And sometimes I’m perplexed by your power. I recognize that sometimes I follow the letter of the law rather than the life of the Spirit. I lift to you my honest questions about the work of the Holy Spirit. Spirit of life, fall afresh on me today. Together, may my church be a place where honest inquiry about the power of God takes place. Fill us with the knowledge of the truth. Help us to walk in obedience to your truth.

ABOUT ARM

Our Values (What inspires our vision)

- The Holy Spirit is essential to fulfill the great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20, 10:7-8 / 2 Peter 1:3-4 / Acts 1:8)
- God uses the local church to reveal Christ to the world. (Acts 2:40-47 / Ephesians 5:25-30 / Ephesians 3:9-11)

Our Vision (What the future could be fueled by a passion that it should be)

- That every local church would proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel in the character and power of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission (What we do to fulfill our vision)

- To equip the local church to minister to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Strategy (What we do to fulfill our mission)

- Serve the local church by providing dynamic learning experiences that educate participants to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT ARM

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries (ARM) was organized in 1978 as the United Methodist Renewal Services Fellowship, Inc. as a network of individuals and churches who are praying and working together for the spiritual renewal of the Church.

The purpose of ARM is to encourage United Methodists and their churches, by the grace of God and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be filled, gifted, empowered, and led by the Holy Spirit in ministry to the world. ARM, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit ministry, receives no funding from the general church. Individual and corporate contributions are tax-deductible. ARM is a member of the ECFA – Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Local congregations are encouraged to include ARM in their missionary budget. The ministry is sustained solely by the grace of God and the freewill offerings of those persons and Churches that have caught the vision of *“bringing the Life of the Holy Spirit into the Life of the Church.”*

ARM is governed and led by the Holy Spirit through an elected Board of Directors and Advisory Council who direct the management of the ministry.

Visit www.aldersgaterenewal.org to find out more about ARM or look for us on Facebook and Twitter.

Day 5

THE POWER TO LOVE

Romans 5:5 *And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

“No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. These waves came over me, and over me, and over me, one after the other, until I recollect I cried out, ‘I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.’ I said, ‘Lord, I cannot bear any more;’ yet I had no fear of death.” (Charles Finney, from *Charles G Finney: An Autobiography*)

Prayer: God of love, pour your love into my heart through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for this gift. Together, let our love be a witness to the world.

Day 6

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Luke 24:49 *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*

“I want to talk to you today about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You may call it what you want, but I want to know, have you experienced the fullness of the Spirit? I know that all of you would want to say to my question about the Holy Spirit, ‘Well, we got it all at conversion; there’s no need for any more experience.’ I have only one other question to ask you. If you got it all at conversion, where in God’s name is it?” (Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a British pastor)

Prayer: Father, I believe your promises. Thank you that the Holy Spirit is available for me. Holy Spirit, clothe me with power from on high. Together, help us to wait expectantly for the celebration of Pentecost. Fill us all!

Day 7

FREELY RECEIVE, FREELY GIVE

Matthew 10:7-8 *As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*

"The world lives in such a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were normal." (A.W. Tozer, from *Born After Midnight*)

Prayer: Gracious God, fill me completely with the Holy Spirit and faith. Use me to proclaim your message through supernatural signs and wonders. Together, let our church see healings, deliverances, and miracles.

Day 8

WAITING ON THE LORD

Isaiah 40:31 *but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Phineas Bresee, Church of the Nazarene founder, speaking about his baptism of the Spirit: "While all of this would be nothing, there came with it into my heart and being, a transformed condition of life and blessing and unction and glory, which I had never known before. I felt like my need was supplied. I was always very reticent in reference to my own personal experience. I have never gotten over it, and I have said very little relative to this; but there came into my ministry a new element of full spiritual life and power." (from *Called Unto Holiness: the Story of the Nazarenes*)

Prayer: Lord, my hope is in you. Renew my strength as I eagerly wait on you today. Together, help us to not grow weary in ministry to a hurting world. We need the power of God. Come, Holy Spirit. We want to soar like eagles.

Day 49

MY DUTY

Matthew 28:20 *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

"I felt from the time of my conversion that it was my duty to preach the Gospel of the Son of God. I told the Lord I had no education, had no gifts and it was impossible for me to preach. But I had no rest while I refused to do my duty. At last I told the Lord if He would give an evidence that I could not doubt, I would try. I went into the dense forest about one-half mile and laid the case before God in prayer. And all at once the Savior appeared before me. There seemed to be a halo of Glory around his person and his person appeared as bright as the lightning. ... How many hundreds of times have I realized the fulfillment of this blessed promise (Matthew 28:20) by feeling his presence with me when trying to speak for Him, and this is the best witness that we can have." (from "A Short sketch of the Life and Conversion and Call to Ministry of Austin Taft, May 10, 1887" in *Good News* September/October 1995)

Prayer: Loving Father, help me to be faithful and obedient to everything you call me to do. Together, help us to be keenly aware of your presence with us every day so that we always do your will.

Day 50

PENTECOST

Revelation 22:20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

From *A Hymn for Pentecost* by Charles Wesley: "Lord, we believe to us and ours the apostolic promise given; we wait the Pentecostal power, The Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Assembled here with one accord, calmly we wait the promised grace, the purchase of our dying Lord: Come, Holy Ghost, and fill the place."

Prayer: Lord, all by your grace, we have prepared our hearts for Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit, we need you. Have your way! May our celebration of Pentecost honor the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

Day 47

SEIZED BY THE SPIRIT

Psalm 71:18 *Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.*

Cane Ridge Revival of 1800's, when students visited camp meetings and were "seized" by the Spirit of God: "They swooned away and lay for hours in the straw prepared for those 'smitten of the Lord,' or they started suddenly to flee away and fell prostrate as if shot by a sniper, or they took suddenly to jerking with apparently every muscle in their body until it seemed they would be torn to pieces or converted into marble, or they shouted and talked in unknown tongues." (from *2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity* by Eddie L. Hyatt)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, when I'm honest I think revival sounds messy. I sometimes wonder if I'm praying for revival or only some picture of revival that seems safe to me. Together, help us to pray and believe for revival – whatever it looks like. Help us to declare your mighty acts in every generation.

Day 48

ABUNDANCE

Psalm 36:7-9 *How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.*

"Don't think yourself towards fullness; think from fullness. Don't move towards abundance; swim in it, live in it, think from it, pray from it, plan from it, talk yourself into that place now because you are full now!" (Graham Cooke)

Prayer: O God, I stand amazed at your river of delights. In you is life and light. Your unfailing love is priceless. Teach me to feast on your abundance. Together, we take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Teach us to plan and pray from abundance. Allow us to minister to the world from a place of fullness in your Spirit.

Day 9

LEARNING TO BE STILL

Psalm 46:10 *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

"The only fear I have is to fear to get out of the will of God. Outside of the will of God, there's nothing I want, and in the will of God there's nothing I fear, for God has sworn to keep me in His will." (A.W. Tozer, from *Success and the Christian: The Cost of Spiritual Maturity*)

Prayer: Almighty God, I exalt you among the nations. Teach me how to be still and know that you are God. Forgive my frantic activity, especially in the church. I want to remain in your will. Together, help us to bring all of our plans before you and to give you permission to sift and change our agenda. Our desire is to be effective in the Lord and not exhausted by activity. Empower us to exalt you in our homes, this community and among the nations.

Day 10

DO NOT BE AFRAID

2 Chronicles 20:17 *You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.*

"No matter what the circumstances, we Christians should keep our heads. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind. It is a dismal thing to see a son of heaven cringe in terror before the sons of earth." (A.W. Tozer, from *The Warfare of the Spirit*)

Prayer: Father, I confess I am often discouraged and afraid. The trials in my life seem so overwhelming right now. Help me to take up my position in prayer, to stand firm, and see the victory of the Lord. Together, empower my church to stand with all those who need encouragement and strength for daily trials.

Day 11

MORE THAN WORDS

Isaiah 29:13 *The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”*

“Not of the letter, but of the Spirit: For the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.” (John Wesley, Sermon #141, *On the Holy Spirit*)

Prayer: Lord of Hosts, break my heart before you so that I can truly draw near to you today. Forgive me when I allow my worship to be based merely on human rules. I desire to honor you with my heart, mind, soul, and strength. Together, help us to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Holy Spirit, we welcome you to move in freedom in this church.

Day 12

GOD’S PRESENCE GOES WITH US

Exodus 33:14 *The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

David Brainerd, writing in his journal, August 1745: “The power of God seemed to descend on the assembly like a rushing mighty wind and with an astonishing energy brought all down before it. I stood amazed at the influence that seized the audience almost universally and could compare it to nothing more aptly than the irresistible force of a mighty torrent.” (from *Revival Fires: A History of Revival* by Geoff Waugh)

Prayer: Lord of all, I am desperate for your presence. I stand in need of your “mighty torrent.” Fill me, heal me Holy Spirit. Come in power; come with love. Together, help us to learn how to host your presence in worship and throughout our days. Allow us to make experiencing your presence our highest priority. Empower us to be carriers of your presence wherever we go.

Day 45

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

“Has God changed? Is he not an immutable God, the same yesterday, today and forever? Does not that furnish an argument to prove that what God has done at one time he can do at another? Nay, I think I may push it a little further, and say what he has done once, is a prophecy of what he intends to do again – that the mighty works which have been accomplished in the olden time shall all be repeated.” (Charles Spurgeon, from *The Story of God’s Mighty Acts*)

Prayer: Lord God, from the bottom of my heart I know that you are unchangeable. I believe that the mighty acts of the past are indeed prophetic for your supernatural work today. Fill me; use me. Together, we pray in faith, “Do it again, Lord!” Fill our church with your miracles.

Day 46

KNOWING BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

Psalms 119:125 *I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.*

George Fox, founder of the Quakers: “Fox also experienced the revelation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as discerning of Spirits, the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom. He often knew things supernaturally and said, “The Lord gave me a spirit of discerning, by which I many times saw the states and conditions of people and could try their spirits.” (from *2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity* by Eddie L. Hyatt)

Prayer: Almighty God, you know the hearts and minds of all people. I am your servant. When you show me things by the power of your Spirit, help me to be wise and use these gifts to honor you. Together, may our church be a place where revelation from the Spirit is commonplace and encouraged.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 43

PREACHING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 1:17 *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*

“This power was the baptism of the Holy Ghost poured out upon them at Pentecost. This is an indispensable qualification for success in the ministry and I have often been surprised and pained that to this day so little stress is laid upon this qualification for preaching Christ to a sinful world.” (Charles Finney, from *Charles G Finney: An Autobiography*)

Prayer: God, show me ways that I preach Christ every day with my words and with my actions. Fill me with your Spirit today and every day. Together, we intercede for our pastors and spiritual leaders to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to preach your word with power to the world. Thank you for the power of the cross.

Day 44

DISCERNMENT TO NAVIGATE THE WATERS AHEAD

Revelation 22:12 *Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.*

“The Lord is pouring out such a massive wave of supernatural glory in this hour; we will need greater discernment than ever before to navigate the waters ahead. But discernment is no paranoia or witch hunts. ... The most important thing is to recognize when the Lord is truly moving, so we do not miss out on His fullness. The watchmen on the wall had a two-fold responsibility in Old Testament times. They sounded the alarm when they saw the enemy approaching. But this was not their primary task. Their greater responsibility was to watch for the king coming, so the gates could be opened and the inner chambers prepared for him.” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder)

Prayer: King Jesus, I open my heart to you today. Thank you for calling me to be a watchman on the wall. Together, help us to have greater discernment. Prepare us. We desire to be ready for your coming.

Day 13

INVITATION TO THE THIRSTY

Isaiah 55:1 *Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*

“Come Holy Spirit I need You. Come sweet Spirit I pray. Come in Your Strength and Your Power. Come in Your own gentle way.” (Song by Gloria and William J. Gaither, *The Celebration Hymnal*)

Prayer: Abundant God, only you can quench my thirst. I come freely to the waters of your Holy Spirit today. Show me anything in my life that hinders me from drinking deeply from your river of life today. Together, enable us to recognize our thirst and come to be filled with your love and power.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 14

DO NOT FRET

Psalms 37:7 *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

William Durham speaking of his baptism of the Holy Spirit: “I was conscious that a living Person had come into me, and that He possessed even my physical being in a literal sense.” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder)

Prayer: Refiner’s Fire, purify my heart and my motives. Remind me when I begin to fret. Change my way of responding to stressful situations. Allow me to be still and wait patiently in your presence. Forgive me for comparing my circumstances to the success of the wicked and grumbling or complaining. Together, help us all to learn to trust you more.

Day 15

POURED OUT AND FILLED UP

John 16:13 *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come*

“The incarnation, preaching, and death of Jesus Christ were designed to represent, proclaim, and purchase for us this gift of the Spirit.” (John Wesley, sermon #141, *On the Holy Spirit*)

Prayer: Spirit of truth, you came to guide me into all truth. I desire to know the truth, speak the truth, and live the truth. Open my ears to clearly hear your guidance. Together, help us to walk in truth without compromising the Gospel.

Day 16

ASK FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 11:13 *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

Austin Taft describing his encounter with the Lord in 1887: “I saw a light in the distance far above my head, which grew brighter as it came near, and when it reached me I fell to the floor as quick as the lightning flash, and that moment was filled with the fullness of God. Old things passed away and all things became new. My happiness was complete ... And I remained motionless for 45 minutes without power to move a muscle. My good Presbyterian father thought I was dead and talked of sending for the doctor.” (from *Good News Magazine*, Sept/Oct. 1995)

Prayer: Father, I boldly come asking for the fullness of your Spirit in my life. As your child, I receive the good gifts of the Holy Spirit. Together, help us to embrace the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our church without fear. We come asking and seeking for more. Surprise us by your grace and power.

Day 41

EMPTIED OF SELF-DEPENDENCE

Psalm 62:7 *My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.*

“Every step of progress in the Christian life is taken by a fresh and fuller appropriation of Christ by faith, a fuller baptism of the Holy Spirit. As we are more and more emptied of all self-dependence and as by faith we secure deeper and deeper baptisms of the Holy Ghost.” (from “Lectures on Revivals” by Charles G. Finney)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, empty me of all self-dependence. I want to be emptied out and completely filled up with more of you. Together, help our church to embrace a fuller baptism of the Holy Spirit. We come to you by faith.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 42

TIME SPENT WITH THE LORD

Ezekiel 47:12 *Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.*

Heidi Baker writing on the secret of intimacy with God: “I live to spend time with Him. I live to be fully possessed by His glorious presence. God yearns to draw us so deeply into this Ezekiel 47 river that we do bear fruit all 12 months of the year, that our lives do bring healing to the nations, that we go beyond ankle, knee, or waist deep; we go until we are fully immersed in the ocean of His liquid love. Only from this place of full possession can we truly be used by Him.” (from *God’s Supernatural Power in You*, by Frank DeCenso Jr.)

Prayer: Father, I know that time spent with you is the true key to being used by you in ministry to the world. But many days I do not choose the secret place alone with you. Forgive me. Help me to be immersed in your love today. Together, draw us deeper into the river of your presence so that we will continually bear good fruit.

Day 39

MANIFESTATIONS OF TONGUES

Acts 2:11-12 *Cretans and Arabs - we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

"God taught me a valuable lesson at Azusa. There was a man there who started quacking like a duck after receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I thought that the man was making a mockery the Baptism and got upset with him. Many years later I saw a documentary about a tribe in a place called Quackland. Their language was just like that of a duck. I learned since never to question the acts of God, no matter how unique the act is." (from *They Told Me Their Stories* by Billye Brim)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I have some honest questions about the acts of God. Sometimes I am amazed and perplexed by manifestations of your gifts. Help me, Lord. Together, teach us all more about your supernatural ministry.

Day 40

POUR OUT YOUR SPIRIT

Acts 2:15-18 *These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*

John Wesley commenting on speaking in tongues: "He who worketh as He will, may, with your good leave, give the gift of tongues where He gives no other; and may see abundant reasons to do so, whether you and I see them or not." (from *Letter to Dr. Middleton*)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good gifts of the Spirit. Your ways are not my ways. They truly are higher and better. Pour out your Spirit on me. Equip me with the spiritual gifts I need. Together, pour out all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on your church to empower us to carry your ministry to the world. Give us your vision for ministry.

Day 17

RECEIVED BY FAITH

Galatians 3:2 *I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?*

"Rightly understood, faith is not a substitute for moral conduct but a means toward it. The tree does not serve in lieu of fruit but as an agent by which fruit is secured. Fruit, not trees, is the end God has in mind in yonder orchard; so Christ-like conduct is the end of Christian faith." (A. W. Tozer from *Size of the Soul*)

Prayer: Lord, you have made receiving the Holy Spirit so simple even a willful child like me can understand it. I believe your promise is for me. Thank you for faith to receive your promised Holy Spirit. Together, help us to walk in faith, not relying on the works of the law, and receive the Holy Spirit eagerly.

Day 18

BEEN WITH JESUS

Acts 4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

Phineas Bresee, Church of the Nazarene founder, speaking of Holy Spirit renewal in his church: "People began to come into the blessing of full salvation ... being crowned by an almost constant revival. When the third year came to a close, the church had been nearly doubled in membership, and in every way built up." (from *Called Unto Holiness: the Story of the Nazarenes*)

Prayer: Soon and coming King, I exalt you as the source of all revival in the church. I'm thankful that you use ordinary men and women like me for your kingdom work. Help me to be so saturated with your presence today, that others will know that I have been with you. Together, use our church as an instrument of revival simply because we carry your presence to a hurting world.

Day 19

GOD'S COMMAND

Ephesians 5:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit*

“As I waited and waited, and continued in prayer, looking up, it seemed to me as if from the azure there came a meteor, an indescribable ball of condensed light, descending rapidly toward me. I seemed distinctly to hear a voice saying, as my face was upturned towards it: ‘Swallow it; swallow it,’ and in an instant it fell upon my lips and face. I attempted to obey the injunction. It seemed to me, however, that I swallowed only a little of it, although it felt like fire on my lips and the burning sensation did not leave them for several days.” (Phineas Bresee, from *Called Unto Holiness: the Story of the Nazarenes*)

Prayer: Holy God, fill me with your Spirit. Empower me to love your Word, to “eat” your Word, to live by your Word. Together, may we be people of the Word who daily search your Word and obey you completely.

Day 20

FAVOR AND HONOR

Psalms 84:11: *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.*

C.T. Studd, commenting on a gathering in 1914: “The whole place was charged as if with an electric current ... As I led in prayer, the Spirit came down in mighty power, sweeping the congregation. My whole body literally trembled with the power. We saw a marvelous sight, people literally filled and drunk with the Holy Spirit.” (from *Supernatural Missions: The impact of the Supernatural on World Missions* by Randy Clark)

Prayer: Lord God, I stand amazed at your favor and goodness in my life. Thank you for withholding no good thing from me. Together, empower us to walk blameless before you. We boldly ask for your favor and honor.

Day 37

THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

2 Chronicles 5:14 *Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.*

Describing the Shekinah Glory of God that was present consistently for 3 1/2 years during the Azusa Street Revival: “She loved to be in the center of the mist-like cloud. She was so little, she would sit down in it – when it was thick, the mist was about up to her neck. Like a kid, she would have fun and play in the midst. She would often lie down, breathing in the mist. She would tell how she could feel the energy of it and described that it was like being put into an oxygen tent.” (from *They Told Me Their Stories* by Billye Brim)

Prayer: Holy God, show me your glory. Your manifest presence is life and breath to me. Together, allow us to experience the supernatural power of your Shekinah Glory. We trust our church will never be the same again.

Day 38

REVIVAL

Romans 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

Jonathan Edwards, describing the revival of 1740-1742: “It was a frequent thing to see a house full of outcries, faintings, convulsions, and such like, but with distress, and also with admiration and joy.” (from *Jonathan Edwards on Revival*)

Prayer: Spirit of life, only you can bring life and revival to individuals and to the church. When the revival comes that I am earnestly praying for, help me to embrace it with joy, even if I don’t understand it completely. Together, help us to pray openly for revival. Begin today, Lord. Begin here.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 35

GOD'S GRACE AT WORK

Acts 4:33 *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.*

“Finney was a staid Presbyterian, not bothered by excessive emotion or shallow conversions. But the first time that people began to be overcome by the Spirit in his meetings, he was preaching in Utica, New York. Four hundred people fell off their chairs and hit the floor after he spoke for only 15 minutes.” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder.)

Prayer: Lord, thank you that the great power of the apostles and revivalists of the past is the same grace of God at work through me today. Together, help us to testify to your resurrection with powerful miracles.

Day 36

WE WAIT THE PENTECOSTAL POWER

Acts 2:15 *These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!*

From *A Hymn for Pentecost* by Charles Wesley: “We wait the Pentecostal powers, the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Come as a mighty rushing wind; Great grace be now upon us all. Kindle in each the living fire, And fix in every heart Thy seat. Now let us speak with other tongues. The new strange language of Thy love.”

Prayer: Holy Spirit, we await the power of Pentecost. Thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are all wonderful gifts. From the earliest times, some criticized the gift of tongues and did not understand it. But that never hindered you, Lord, from pouring out your gifts of the Spirit in power. Do it again, Lord. Help me to use this gift to give you glory. Together, we pray send down from heaven the power of your Spirit. Kindle in each of us the living fire of God. Help us to embrace all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Day 21

GRACE IN TRIALS

2 Corinthians 12:9: *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

“God loves to pour out His Spirit with power on those who will dare to align radically their purposes with His.” (Steve Childers)

Prayer: Lord, your grace is sufficient for me. Where I am weak, be my strength. Let your power rest on me throughout my day. No matter what I face, I know you are with me. Together, enable my church to embrace our own weaknesses so that we can see more of your power.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 22

DO LIKEWISE

John 5:19 *Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”*

James B. Finney describing ministry among the Wyandot Indians of Ohio in 1828: “After singing one of their Christian songs, only as Indians can sing, they fell simultaneously upon their knees and lifted up their faces toward heaven. While they were praying the Spirit came down upon them, and the power of God was manifested in the awakening and conversion of souls. ... The whole encampment was in a flame of religious excitement, the Lord having taken his own work into his own hands.” (from *Supernatural Missions: The Impact of the Supernatural on World Missions* by Randy Clark)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, enable me to do what Jesus did. Together, make our church a place where your work is accomplished in your way and in your time.

Day 23

AGREEMENT AND UNITY

Matthew 18:18-20 *Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*

Hwa Yung, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia: “A 21st century reformation will demand reinserting the supernatural into the heart of Christianity. This will result not only in a sounder biblical theology but also a more powerful missional church.” (from *Christianity Today*, Sept. 11, 2010)

Prayer: Oh Lord, the power of your name! Supernatural ministry is at the heart of Christianity. But often I want your power without paying the cost in unity. Forgive me. Together, teach us the importance of praying in agreement.

Day 24

THE LORD’S BLESSING

Psalms 133:1-3 *How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

Nicholas Zinzendorf, Moravian, describing a special outpouring of the Holy Ghost, 1727: “We saw the hand of God and his wonders, and we were all under the cloud of our fathers baptized with their Spirit. The Holy Ghost came upon us and in those days and great signs and wonders took place in our midst.” (from *Revival Fires: A History of Revival* by Geoff Waugh)

Prayer: Thank you Lord, for bestowing your blessings when we live together in unity. I need your anointing. Together, we need your anointing for ministry. Teach us how to live together in unity.

Day 33

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

1 Thessalonians 1:5 *Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.*

Pentecostal revival in India in 1887: “One night at the school for orphans one of the girls claimed to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Visible tongues of fire appeared on the girl and someone ran to get a pail of water and was about to douse her with it, when they discovered it was not physical fire.” (Minnie Adams, from *Supernatural Missions: The Impact of the Supernatural on World Missions* by Randy Clark)

Prayer: Thank you Father for using the fire of the Holy Spirit to bring me to deep conviction. I am forever changed by my encounters with you. Together, help us to experience revival by the power of the Holy Spirit that goes beyond words. We need your power. Fill us with your fire!

Day 34

WORSHIP WITH SINCERE HEARTS

Mark 7:6-8 *He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”*

“God wants worshipers with a true heart, no hypocrisy, no religious acts. He wants sincere hearts, loyal and true. I have heard it said that we translate faith by obedience. I would suggest that we translate faith by loyalty—loyalty to Christ at any cost. I think you will find they work to exactly the same end.” (Derek Prince, from *Entering the Presence of God*)

Prayer: Worthy Lord, teach me how to worship you with a sincere heart. Keep me from all hypocrisy and religious acts. Together, help us to let go of any forms of worship that are not pleasing in your eyes.

Day 31

JARS OF CLAY

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

John Wesley, defending himself against charges of being an *enthusiast*: “As it can be proved by abundance of witnesses that these cures were frequently (indeed almost always) the instantaneous consequences of prayer, your inference is just. I cannot say not, nor affirm that they were purely natural. I believe they were not. I believe many of them were wrought by the supernatural power of God.” (from *Principles of a Methodist Further Explained*)

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you that I am a simple jar of clay that contains your mighty power. When I tempted to look solely at myself, remind me that this surpassing power comes from you. Together, help our church to embrace your power to love, and see miracles of your grace every day.

Day 32

THE POWER OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

Romans 15:18-19 *I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God.*

John G. Lake, while pastoring a Methodist church in WI: “In addition to divine healings, Lake also experienced angelic visitation, as well as spirit transport to another country, where he was led to exorcise a demon. The presence of God rested so strongly on Lake that people would often fall if he shook hands with them.” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder)

Prayer: Christ, you can accomplish miracles through me! Nothing is impossible for you. Thank you for the ways you use signs and wonders to fully proclaim the gospel and draw people to yourself. Together, help us to witness the power of the Spirit of God.

Day 25

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Romans 12:6 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.*

Jonathan Edwards commenting on his wife Sarah’s behavior following several manifestations of the Holy Spirit: “Now if such things are enthusiasm, and the fruits of a distempered brain, let my brain be evermore possessed of that happy distemper! If this be distraction, I pray God that the world of mankind may be all seized with this benign, meek, beneficent, beautiful, glorious distraction!” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder)

Prayer: Lord, help me to embrace all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. By your grace, fill our church with all the gifts without comparison or criticism.

Day 26

THANKSGIVING

1 Corinthians 1:4,7 *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus...Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

William Durham, a Wesleyan Holiness evangelist, describing his fiery baptism experience at Azusa Street: “Azusa Street presented a whole new level of glory ... he jerked and quaked under it for about three hours ... He finished the work on my vocal organs, and spoke through me in unknown tongues.” (from *The New Mystics* by John Crowder)

Prayer: Father, my heart overflows with thanksgiving for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for grace upon grace in my life. Together, we are thankful that we do not lack any spiritual gift as we eagerly await your return in glory.

Consider adding the listening activity listed on page 30 today.

Day 27

WORSHIP GOD

Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe*

"In some circles, God has been abridged, reduced, modified, edited, changed and amended until He is no longer the God whom Isaiah saw, high and lifted up."
(A.W. Tozer, from *Whatever Happened to Worship?*)

Prayer: Almighty God, you stand alone as the one true living God, worthy of all worship and praise. I'm so thankful that your kingdom cannot be shaken. Together, teach us how to worship you acceptably with reverence and awe.

Day 28

THE ETERNAL COVENANT

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Oswald Chambers, Scottish Baptist devotional writer: "We had a blessed time. I was called down by the teachers to pray and anoint a lady who wanted healing, and as we were doing it God came so near that upon my word we were laughing as well as praying! How utterly stilted we are in our approach to God. Oh that we lived more up to the light of all our glorious privileges. (from *Oswald Chambers: His Life and Work*)

Prayer: God of peace, write this scripture on my heart and make it part of my daily prayers. Together, help us to know that we can only accomplish your will through the power of the Holy Spirit. Empower us to live up to our glorious privileges provided in your eternal covenant.

Day 29

GRACE TO OBEY

1 John 2:3-6 *We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

"I wonder also how many Christians in our day have truly and completely abandoned themselves to Jesus Christ as their Lord. We are very busy telling people to 'accept Christ'-and that seems to be the only word we are using. We arrange a painless acceptance." (A. W. Tozer, from *Who Put Jesus on the Cross?*)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, all by your grace and according to your mercy, I commit myself to obey you because I love you with all my heart. Together, help us to be made complete in you. We abandon ourselves to your will.

Day 30

LOVE TO ABOUND

1 John 4:7-8: *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Charles Spurgeon on miracles: "My aim and object will be to excite your minds to seek after the like; that looking back upon what God has done, you may be induced to look forward with the eye of expectations, hoping that he will again stretch forth his potent hand and his holy arm, and repeat those mighty acts he performed in ancient days." (from *The Story of God's Mighty Acts*)

Prayer: God of love, fill me with your boundless love. Help me to love others with the love that comes from God. My own attempts to love others are so shallow and selfish. Together, make our church a place of true love that is a witness to a hurting world. Perform your miracles among us.