

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Daily Bible reading from John chapters 1 -21.*

*Daily Devotionals focus on a theme from scripture within the daily reading.*

Day 1 – John Chapter 1	<b>Hungry in Spirit</b>
Day 2 – John Chapter 2	<b>“Zeal for Your House Will Consume Me”</b>
Day 3 – John Chapter 3	<b>Stepping Into the Light</b>
Day 4 – John Chapter 4	<b>Love Overflowing</b>
Day 5 – John Chapter 5	<b>“Do You Want to Get Well?”</b>
Day 6 – John Chapter 6	<b>How vs. Who</b>
Day 7 – John Chapter 7	<b>In Your Honor</b>
Day 8 – John chapter 8	<b>Engaging the Light</b>
Day 9 – John Chapter 9	<b>Clarity</b>
Day 10 – John Chapter 10	<b>Loved by God</b>
Day 11 – John Chapter 11	<b>Even Now</b>
Day 12 – John Chapter 12	<b>A Fragrant Home</b>
Day 13 – John Chapter 13	<b>“Do You Understand What I Have Done for You?”</b>
Day 14 – John Chapter 14	<b>At Peace</b>
Day 15 – John Chapter 15	<b>Abiding – The Secret to Answered Prayer</b>
Day 16 – John Chapter 16	<b>The Holy Spirit – Our Prayer Partner</b>
Day 17 – John Chapter 17	<b>Common Threads</b>
Day 18 – John Chapter 18	<b>Hearing from God</b>
Day 19 – John Chapter 19	<b>Right vs. Right</b>
Day 20 – John Chapter 20	<b>On the Move</b>
Day 21 – John Chapter 21	<b>Have You Any Food?</b>



*Day 1 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 1*

## **Hungry in Spirit**

It's one thing to hunger for physical food; it's another to be hungry in spirit.

When we crave food, we can easily grab a snack or consume a meal that satisfies in the temporal. When we are hungry in spirit, we become desperate for more of God, His presence, and His power that moves in the supernatural. But how do we fuel and feed our spiritual hunger?

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1 (NKJ)***

The opening text of the gospel John introduces the Word as the source of life. The Word was not only *with* God, it was God. The deepest hunger in our life is for Jesus Christ Himself. In Jesus, we have the bread of life. He is the only one that can satisfy the true longings of our heart.

As the source of life, God's written Word was designed to fuel spiritual hunger. The Word brings strength, joy, hope, wisdom, contentment. It is a guide for our steps, a living and active tool that searches and knows all things, a revealer of the character of God. It offers spiritual nourishment that can fulfill the deepest cravings.

As we begin our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, what are you hungry for? Stir up your spiritual appetite and feast on God's Word. Dig into the Scriptures, pray His Word aloud, and press into His presence. Make sure to come to the daily devotional of the book of John here on the [www.awake21.org](http://www.awake21.org) site.

May your spiritual hunger grow and be fed by the Word the next several days and beyond...

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 2 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 2*

## **“Zeal for your house will consume me” *John 2:17 (NIV)***

Zeal – Enthusiastic devotion to a cause, ideal, or goal and tireless diligence in its furtherance.

For some people, being passionate for God's house is not a challenge. Why? We all love our local church, as it strengthens our relationship with God. It is a place to hear a life-giving Word, worship collectively with other believers, and fellowship with great people. The church is helping to change your life, challenging you to be a better person, and renewing you every week. Who wouldn't be enthusiastic about a place like that? We all can be passionate about God's House.

The word “house” is not limited to a structure. Paul refers to our bodies as *“living temples” (I Corinthians 6:19)* and the temple was God's house. That puts a different spin on this scripture and challenges us in an entirely different way. Let's face it - it can be much harder to be zealous for people. People are imperfect; we are imperfect. It's difficult to be enthusiastic towards people when they don't treat us the way we want to be treated.

What would the world look like if we were enthusiastically devoted to and tirelessly diligent in furthering God's people? What would our communities or even our families look like if we were zealous about loving and preferring them? Today during prayer, let's pray with passion for God's people - His house.



*Day 3 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 3*

### **Stepping Into the Light**

Nicodemus was a religious leader, a member of the group of Pharisees. He confessed to Jesus that they knew He had been sent by God. Although he knew the truth about Jesus, it's apparent he was still searching for more answers, as he came looking to Jesus to question Him. In the cover of darkness, Nicodemus was drawn to the light of Jesus Christ.

***“All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near for fear their sins will be exposed” John 3:20 (NLT)***

Notice the first step to doing what is right is stepping into the light. Our nature is to not want to be in the spotlight. We feel exposed and vulnerable, but only in Jesus are we safe. Whether it's accepting Jesus for the first time, or perhaps confessing a hidden sin, when we choose to step into the light, an exchange takes place. We exchange our faults and our shame for the light of His mercy and grace.

Is there anything “hidden” in your life that Jesus is calling you to bring into the light? His mercies are fresh every day.



*Day 4 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 4*

## **Love Overflowing**

A search for water leads the Samaritan woman to have an encounter with Jesus at the well. In Jesus' day, rabbis did not talk to women publicly and Jews did not get along with Samaritans. This particular woman was an outsider, a social outcast who had been married 5 times with a past that haunted her. She had been rejected. Perhaps that is why she chose the hottest part of the day to draw water at the well; so she could be alone. Instead, she found that Jesus was at the well.

God's love gushes like water and sustains us all. Our past is no match for the love of God. As this woman brought her empty jar to the well to be filled, she also brought her empty self, not suspecting to be filled that day with the ever-flowing fountain of God's love. She needed a new life that only Jesus could give.

The Samaritan woman left her waterpot at the well because she had the living water within her and was now satisfied. What is needed in your life to quench your thirst? Are you feeling dry spiritually? Jesus says...

***“...Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” John 4:13-14 (NLT)***

Go ahead, quench your thirst.



*Day 5 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 5*

## **Do You Want to Get Well?**

*“When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” John 5:6 (NIV)*

How often we become consumed with the urgent. When things go suddenly wrong, they tend to draw us quickly to the place of prayer. For this man lying by the pool of Bethesda, his wasn't a recent condition that plagued his life, but it was a condition he struggled with for a long time. Jesus showed us that he is not limited to intervene in seemingly difficult situations that suddenly come our way, but his healing and compassion also extend to long time conditions. Even those we may have given up praying about. Perhaps there are friends or family members in your life struggling with long-term issues. Maybe there's a problem that you have given up on, thinking you will never experience relief. Let's remember that God cares even for these and we can seek Him for an answer.

In this season of prayer and fasting, remember that nothing is beyond His reach, His love, and His care. Today, do you want to get well?

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 6 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 6*

## **How vs. Who**

It's easy to understand how the disciples might have been concerned – a massive crowd following Jesus needed to be fed and their only supply of food was a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Maybe a select few would actually be able to eat.

Jesus saw the multitude approaching him and tested Philip with a question:

***“He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?’” John 6:5 (NKJ)***

Jesus was not as concerned with the *how* of securing the bread, but was more focused on the *where*. Meanwhile, Philip and another disciple, Andrew, replied to Jesus with all the reasons why the existing supply of food was insufficient and the problem loomed large.

Oftentimes, we find ourselves in a difficult or devastating situation and ask God how to escape. We can get lost in asking God why, wishing to be rescued, or offering our own resolution. We may provide more reasons of why certain solutions won't work and overanalyze the process. Or we may simply resign and give up. But God wants to test us – often by questioning not the *how*, but the *where* – in this case, even the **Who** – the solution will come from, God Himself.

We see that Jesus was able to feed over five thousand that day and still had leftovers.

Is God testing you during the fast? As you pray for relationships, finances, or work, shift your focus from the solution you think is needed to who can supply the best solution for your life. Think not of the *how*, but the **Who**.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 7 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 7*

## **In Your Honor**

Life is filled with many challenges that can cause us to live our lives relying upon our own abilities. Not only do we rely on our own abilities, but we mistakenly prioritize, focus on and value our possessions, achievements, and even our families before God. As we place honor on these things we tend to lose focus on the power and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*"He who speaks on his own does to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him." John 7:18 (NIV)*

Through every challenge or accomplishment our primary goal and focus should be to honor God. Jesus chose to honor God in every situation by doing the will of the Father. The words above were spoken at the Feast of the Tabernacles. Many of the Jews were amazed by Jesus' teaching because they saw Him as an unlearned man. Jesus' intentions were not to honor Himself, but to honor the Father who sent Him. He took no credit for His words, actions, or abilities. All He had come to do on this earth was done to glorify the Father.

As Christians, we have a responsibility -- we can choose to honor ourselves by taking credit for the things we have done, or we can honor the Lord. When we acknowledge that we can do nothing apart from Jesus, we place honor upon the Son of God. Speak words of grace and honor your brothers and sisters. In whose honor are you living, being, or doing? Let the Holy Spirit be your guide as we honor God during this time of prayer and fasting.





*Day 8 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 8*

## **Engaging the Light**

*“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’.” John 8:12 (NKJV)*

In John 8, we see a woman who is facing a dark place in her life. Caught in adultery, the woman was surrounded by people who wanted to put her to death. Her future was unsure. When we face times of uncertainty and we feel paralyzed with doubt, we should engage the light source in our lives - Jesus Himself. There are many practical ways we can do this. During the fast we should use every opportunity to study God's Word, to focus on prayer, and to learn more about Him. This will help each of us to keep the light burning bright in our lives.

What do you need to do to allow God to light the pathway of your life? Will it require surrendering certain dreams, desires, or fears? Allow Him to bring light to the dark places and He can bring confidence and clarity to every step you take.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 9 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 9*

## Clarity

*"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing." John 9:7 (NIV)*

Right after Jesus announced that He was the light of the world, the Scriptures tell us of a man who was healed from his blindness in a strange yet spectacular way. Jesus brought light to a man whose view was covered in darkness. He brought sight and clarity to one who could not see clearly on his own. Don't get lost in the clay and spittle; Jesus' process may not always make sense, but it does produce what we all truly desire. Light where there is darkness, clarity when options clutter our view, and confidence to move forward and avoid obstacles life brings.

Today, this same Jesus can bring clarity to our lives in a profound way as we seek after Him in prayer. You and I don't know what lies ahead in 2009. Yet we can have confidence that as we invite Jesus to lead us forward, He will bring the clarity and vision that is only possible with Him.



*Day 10 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 10*

## **Loved by God**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.” John 10:11 (NLT)*

You are greatly valued by God. You were paid for with a dear price – the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Because you've accepted Jesus as your Good Shepherd, you've entered into relationship with Him. In that relationship, He cares for the things you care about. He loves you right where you are. He's burdened with your burdens. Nothing comes as a surprise to God, He is always there, ready to lead you on the path you should go.

The good shepherd didn't just love you in sacrifice, He loves you in your daily life. Today, take a moment to reflect not only on your love for God, but on His amazing love for you.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 11 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 11*

## **Even Now**

*“But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” John 11:22 (NIV)*

As people, we prefer things to be done on our time schedule and the way we want them done. If they don't happen when or how we want them to, we tend to get frustrated or we simply give up. In John 11:17-27, Martha believed that God could do whatever Jesus asked of Him, but it wasn't how or when she expected it to happen. Martha didn't know that Jesus would raise her brother, Lazarus, from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days. Yet, she still believed that Jesus was *“the Christ, the Son of God...” (John 11:27)*. She did not question Jesus' ability, but she put limits on what she believed He was able to do. Jesus could have prevented Lazarus from dying, but He waited for a greater purpose; so others would believe He was the Son of God.

God is always in control and He always answers our prayers; it just might not be the answer we want or in the time frame we would like. But God's plan is better than our own plan. Is your faith in your own agenda or in God's? Be challenged to believe that God knows what is best for us and that He has perfect timing. God can do the impossible-even now.



*Day 12 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 12*

## **A Fragrant Home**

*“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” John 12:3 (NIV)*

Mary's generous offering and act of worship has been written about, preached about, and sung about. It symbolized the anointment of Jesus' body for burial. She lavished this expensive perfume on the feet of the one she loved deeply and offered us a beautiful picture of worship.

Today as we worship, we too can lavish our pure and unbridled affection – not on one who will be buried, but on our resurrected Lord. The one who paid the price for our sin and deserves our complete devotion. Notice, the collateral impact of her act of worship - the Bible tells us that the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. As we worship Him with our words, our actions and our lifestyles, it also changes the atmosphere of our house, our household.

May our worship of Jesus Christ today, whether in song, in words, in prayer or in the way we live, impact our homes with the fragrance of a life changed by the one we worship. Talk about collateral improvement!



*Day 13 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 13*

**“Do you understand what I have done for you?” John 13:12 (NIV)**

This particular day, Jesus didn't speak in a parable, but he chose to powerfully illustrate serving by washing the feet of His disciples. And to ensure they “got it,” he checked for understanding. No doubt about it, Jesus needed His disciples to understand the principle of serving one another and this extends to us who follow Him today. Not only does he call us to lives of service, he wants us to know that this is indeed the path to blessing. He said – “you will be blessed if you do them.”

Understand though that we don't serve just to be blessed – that contradicts the very essence of what it means to truly serve others. Yet God has made it so that as we serve, He pours back into us through His generous hand of blessing.

As you seek God in prayer today, ask Him to show you how you can grow in serving your family, your neighbors, your church, and ultimately your world.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 14 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 14*

## **At Peace**

When you're at peace, there is a sense of stillness. You are hushed, quiet, and at ease. Wholeness and complete surrender reign. Have you discovered this peace yet during your time of prayer and fasting?

***“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27 (NKJV)***

It can be easy to worry with challenging economic times, international conflict and war, sickness, relational and personal dysfunction or difficulty - how can you not be concerned?

But Jesus promises His gift of peace. He clarifies with his disciples and us that this is not the same gift offered by the world – temporal, external, fleeting, conditional. This is peace that is eternal, steadfast, deep, and pure. It's a peace that is powerful enough to calm the most troubled hearts.

What is concerning you today? Is there a burden you have yet to release to God during this period of fasting? Surrender the concern or fear to God and receive His gift of peace today.



*Day 15 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 15*

### **Abiding - The Secret to Answered Prayer**

*“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” John 15:7-8 (NLT)*

Abide means to dwell, to stay, to settle in, and to sink deeper. When we abide in Christ, we take on His desires and begin to pray according to His will. That is the secret to getting our prayers answered. When our heart is lined up with His heart, God becomes the inspiration for the things we pray for. This unrelenting dependence upon Him is what produces spiritual fruit in our lives.

As long as a branch is abiding in the vine, it is alive and will produce fruit. Once the branch is separated, it no longer produces the fruit it was created to produce. God loves us so much that He wants us to remain connected and dependent upon Him as a branch is to the vine.

Lord, draw me as close to your heart as a branch is to the vine. Help me to pray according to Your will.





*Day 16 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 16*

### **The Holy Spirit - Our Prayer Partner**

*“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard.” John 16:13 (NLT)*

The Holy Spirit has many functions. He convicts the world of sin and God's righteousness, guides believers in truth, glorifies Jesus, and speaks on the authority of Jesus. He knows the future. Jesus declared Him as our Helper. Who better to guide us in prayer than the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is always with us as believers. He will never lead us in the wrong direction. He only speaks what He hears from Jesus. When we open our hearts to pray, the Holy Spirit will guide us. He guides us in truth and will bring joy and encouragement during our prayer time.

Lord, thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit as my prayer partner.



*Day 17 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 17*

### **Common Threads**

We know from the scriptures that Jesus would get alone with God and pray (Luke 5:16). Have you ever wonder what it would have been like to be a fly on the wall at one of those prayer sessions? John was afforded the opportunity to be there when Jesus “looked toward heaven and prayed” (John 17:1) this prayer. What did he hear?

- Jesus talking to The Father about their relationship as Father and Son (*vs. 1-5*).
- Jesus praying for John and for the rest of their team - that they may be one (*vs. 6-19*).
- Jesus praying for the fruit of their ministry, for all the people who would hear the message of the Gospel and believe (*vs. 20-26*).

Having peeked into the prayer of Jesus, what common threads do you find in these three areas? How can this sharpen your time of prayer today?



*Day 18 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 18*

## **Hearing from God**

Prayer provides us an opportunity to seek God and invite His power and presence in our lives. Yet it demands that we come to God with authenticity. We call it “getting real” with Him. There is a place in prayer that we all come to - the line of truth - truthfulness within ourselves and truthfulness with God. At this place, the decision is simple - are we willing to stand with truth or hide from it? Are we willing to place everything on the altar and invite His inspection or shut our ears to His still, small voice?

Jesus answered Pilate's questioning of His kingship with these words “***everyone on the side of truth listens to me.***” (*John 18:37*). In other words, we too will listen to him (openly invite and receive His Word into our lives) when we take the side of truth. This is the place of raw authenticity with God. This is the place where real change happens.

As you seek God with honesty, draw closer to this place of wholehearted truthfulness with Him. It is there He will speak... it is there you will hear.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 19 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 19*

## Right vs. Right

Sometimes we have the “right” to do something, but it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s the “right” thing to do.

We might have the “right” to enjoy the money we earn, but the “right” thing to do is to give to others. Sometimes what’s right for you may not be what’s best for others. What’s “right” is what would bring honor to God.

Jesus understood the scope of his rights and what would honor God:

***“...Don’t you realize I have the power to release you or crucify you?” (Pilate speaking) Then Jesus said, ‘You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above’ ...” John 19:10-11 (NLT)***

We know Jesus had the power to immediately put a stop to everything... if He wanted. But what we see here is a picture of total surrender and submission to authority by Jesus.

Jesus had the right to call down ten thousand angels, but he chose to do what was right for God’s children. Jesus came to fulfill the will of the Father, and knowing that this suffering and His crucifixion was the only way the plan of salvation could be accomplished, ***“He gave up His divine privileges” (Philippians 2:7)***. He didn’t stop it all just because He could; He was looking at the bigger picture, God’s greater purposes.

What greater purpose or will do you think God is calling you to? What rights might you have to surrender to step into this call? Choose what is right.

# AWAKENING 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

*Day 20 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 20*

## On the Move

It was a tender, yet revelatory moment. Mary Magdalene had been weeping outside the empty tomb where Jesus once laid. When Jesus posed the question to her of whom she was seeking, Mary mistakenly took him for the gardener and cried out her quest to find Jesus' body. He called out her name and Mary immediately recognized him, saying "Rabboni!"

Mary had experienced a powerful encounter with Jesus. But He didn't want her to stop there.

***"Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"' John 20:17 (NKJV)***

Mary still wanted to hold onto Him. But Jesus spurred Mary on and commissioned her to share with the disciples about His ascension. Jesus had not yet risen with God – **He was still on the move.**

During our 21 days of prayer and fasting, most of us have experienced moments when we've caught a fresh revelation of Jesus. Overwhelmed by a fresh sense of His grace or faithfulness, realizing anew the power of His resurrection, or witnessing an eye-opening miracle firsthand.

But what will you do with this powerful discovery? How will you tell others about your encounter?

Share your personal testimonies here ([link](#)). Even as the prayer and fasting concludes, God is still on the move!



*Day 21 – to accompany our daily Bible reading from John chapter 21*

### **Have You Any Food?**

*“But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” John 21:4-5 (NKJV)*

In John 21, their Lord had been crucified and Peter, along with some of the other disciples had gone back to fishing. This is what they knew best prior to Jesus' ministry. Sometimes we get impatient, waiting for something we know God has promised. We go back to what we were good at, only to find it's just not the same.

When you have tried everything and when you have no options left. When you've fished all night and caught nothing. When you say Jesus, I have nothing, it is in that place where we come to the end of ourselves and begin to discover Him. Like the disciples, we too find Jesus waiting on the shore. Not only waiting but also with fish on the fire. Jesus is always waiting for us with just what we need—no matter where we've been, no matter what we've done. What a good God we serve.