



RENO VATE

To restore to good condition, make new or as if new again, repair.

To invigorate; refresh; Revive.

2021

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR IS “RENOVATE”!

I just love the definition of this word straight out of the dictionary:

Renovate:

To **restore** to good condition, make **new** or as if **new** again, **repair**.

To **invigorate**; **refresh**; **Revive**.

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to 2021, and all of those words describing renovate bearing truth in my life personally and CCF corporately.

Can you imagine with me your own life during 2021, CCF, and your community experiencing restoration, repair, renewal, refreshment, and, yes, REVIVAL!

And I can think of no more excellent reminder to help encourage us to that goal than the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 12.

*"I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Romans 12:1-2

Renovate so easily describes the goals of a transformed life, a life able to discern the will of God and live it out thoroughly.

We will also discover great truths throughout chapter 12 to help us renovate all areas of our lives.

The following devotional, along with the Fasting and Prayer booklet, has been lovingly prepared to help you receive daily encouragement as you begin 2021 and believe for a Renovated life!

We are excited to start 2021 with you refreshed, invigorated, and with the hope of revival. And we are looking forward to partnering with you in all that God wants to renovate in and through you.

We believe in you, your family, CCF, our community and the nations that this will be a year where we will see the goodness of God renovate us all.

Pastor Fraser & JoAnne Venter



WELCOME

to your 2021 Fasting Devotional!

I believe this devotional will help you see and experience Jesus in a new and powerful way over the next 21 days, especially in 2021.

As we begin our year together, we ask our entire CCF family for the first 21 days to utilize the discipline of fasting.

We believe that giving the first of the year to Him sets the discipline for the rest of it. Fasting is a remarkable way to center our lives on His hopes and purposes for us both individually and as a church family.

This year our fasting theme is based on Romans 12. We selected this passage because the apostle Paul challenges us to the on-going process of being Renovated in Christ. It takes work to renovate something, especially 'someone,' and Paul lays out a clear biblical strategy to help us in this process.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

How you begin and conduct your fast will largely determine your success.

By following these seven necessary steps to fasting, you will make your time with the Lord more meaningful and spiritually rewarding.

1. **Read** the Fasting and Prayer booklet written by Dani Falcioni (available in the foyer and online). This booklet is an excellent resource as a general overview, refresher, or reminder of fasting basics.
2. **Set Your Goal:** Ask yourself what aspect of Renovation do you need in your life? Is it for spiritual renewal, guidance, healing, resolution of problems, career choice, special grace to handle a difficult situation, or relationships? Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His leading & objectives for your fast. Goal setting will enable you to pray more specifically & strategically.
3. **Determine Your Commitment:** Pray about the kind of fast you should undertake. Jesus implied that all of His followers should fast (Matthew 6:16-18; 9:14,15) For Him it was a matter of when believers would fast, not if they would do it. Before you fast, decide the following up front:
 - How long will you fast? All 21 days, one day a week (Beginners should start slowly, building up to longer times of fasting.)
 - What type of fast God wants you to undertake? Such as water only, or water and juices; one meal a day, an item, entertainment, etc.) If you have questions about what too fast, please speak to others to help with discernment and accountability.
 - What physical or social activities you will restrict?
 - How much time each day you will devote to prayer and God's Word.Having a schedule is vital.

Making these commitments ahead of time will help you sustain your fast when physical temptations and life's pressures tempt you to abandon it. (**See commitment and goals worksheet to fill in**)

4. Set your place: A place is more than a physical location where you will go to sit and listen for the voice of God. It is the place of rest and peace of mind. It is where your mind can be renewed, your heart changed, your emotions prepared, and your spirit behind. It needs to be a place where there is no or minimal interruptions.

5. Prepare yourself spiritually: The very foundation of fasting and prayer is repentance. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayers. Here are several things you can do to prepare your heart:

- Ask God to help you make a comprehensive list of your sins.
- Confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and accept God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- Seek forgiveness from all whom you have offended, and forgive all who have hurt you (Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4; 17:3,4)
- Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads you.
- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit according to His command in Ephesians 5:18 and His promise in 1 John 5:14,15.
- Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master; refuse to obey your worldly nature (Romans 12:1,2). Meditate on the attributes of God, His love, sovereignty, power, wisdom, faithfulness, grace, compassion, and others (Psalm 48:9,10; 103:1-8. 11-13).
- Begin your time of fasting and prayer with an expectant heart (Hebrews 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition. Satan sometimes intensifies the natural battle between body and spirit (Galatians 5:16,17).

6. Prepare yourself physically: Fasting requires reasonable precautions. *Consult your physician first*, especially if you take prescription medication or have a chronic ailment, or pregnant. Some persons should never fast without professional supervision. Physical preparation makes the drastic change in your eating routine a little easier so that you can turn your full attention to the Lord in prayer. Do not rush into your fast prepare your body by eating smaller meals before starting a fast and by avoiding high-fat and sugary foods.

7. Expected Results: If you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord, repent, pray, and seek God's face; if you consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence and spiritual insight (John 14:21). Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. And you will feel spiritually, and physically refreshed.

HOW TO

Use This Devotional

Provided for you are 21 days of short devotionals based on scriptures that describe aspects of RENOVATE. We have tried to be creative in order to encourage all types of learners.

Each day you will have a scripture to read and reflect on, a short thought about that passage, and a declaration.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS...

- Make sure you set a time and space to do your devotional. If you miss a day pick up where you are and add the day(s) you lost.
- Take a look at your Commitment worksheet each day.
- Begin each day by reading **Romans 12:1-21**. Fasting is a continual prayer before God but becomes more effective when combined with God's Word.
- Read the devotional of the day and reflect on the questions provided. If you forget your devotional, a copy can be found on our website or Church app.
- Read aloud your declaration (**found on your devotional page**)
- Use the provided journal space to write down any impression you feel from the Holy Spirit during your time. It may occur later in the day and so jot it down as it comes. Prayer and hearing from God is a crucial component don't skip it!
- Write down any victories or struggles that you may be experiencing during the fast. These struggles could be the area God wants the most breakthrough for you.
- Don't get discouraged if you slip up. Ask God why you may have slipped, receive His grace, and start again. "No Condemnation for those in Christ Jesus!" (Romans 8:1)
- Reflect at the end of each week on what you are discovering.
- Share some of the praises with us at ccflive.org/share
- Break the fast slowly especially if you have restricted your diet.



GOALS & COMMITMENTS

MY TWENTY-ONE-DAY FAST TOWARDS RENOVATION BEGINS TODAY!

☐ I have read the Twenty-One Days of Fasting and Prayer Booklet by Dani Falcioni.

The reason I am Fasting: (GOAL)

I will be Fasting from: (COMMITMENT)

I am committing to fasting from (date)_____ to (date)_____

- 21 Days
- _____ # of days during the week
- Another timeframe: _____
- My time for devotion will be _____
- My space for devotion will be _____
- I will be accountable to _____

The results and highlights of my fast:

[illegible]

ROMANS 12:1-21 (NSRV)

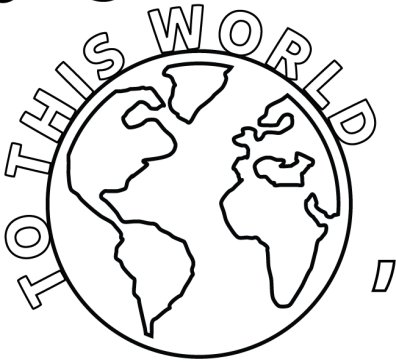
12 I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

DO NOT
be conformed



BUT BE
← TRANSFORMED
BY THE

RENEWING

OF YOUR MINDS,
SO THAT YOU MAY



discern

WHAT IS THE

WILL OF



WHAT IS →

GOOD & ACCEPTABLE & PERFECT

ROMANS 12:12

ROMANS BACKGROUND

The challenge within the book of Romans is that we know little of its origin and or history. Most scholars believe it was founded by Jewish Christians who were possibly returning from the Pentecost gospel explosion found in Acts 2. Or some believe they were traveling marketplace ministers who traveled there bringing the gospel to the many synagogues while doing business.

At the time, Rome had a large Jewish population, and so the harvest was ripe for the first generation of Christ-followers. However, as you can imagine, not everyone was receptive to the saving message of Jesus, especially many in the Jewish community. It got so tumultuous that by AD 49, the Roman emperor, Claudius, expelled all the Jewish Christians and Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2).

With this expulsion, the gentile Christians were left to lead and guide by developing their polity and style. And by the time the death of Claudius in AD54 came around, and many Jewish Christians returned, they found a very different church than when they left. This now gentile-dominated Church eventually created many tensions based on style, observances, and backgrounds.

Now enters Paul only three years later who has to address this increasing tension in order to make sure the witness of Christ and the unity of the Saints would persevere and heal. Paul had a few purposes in writing to the believers in Rome but no doubt high on his list was reconciliation and unity.

And what the Apostle Paul does in chapter 12 is masterful in achieving this pursuit. Paul helps them look beyond the fault or weakness of others or going down theological rabbit holes, but rather implores them to remember their new life in Christ. Paul calls them to a place of Renovation.

Paul' appeals' (to ask with intensity) to this place of Renovation in their lives in the following ways:

- a. **Accept** the need for Renovation! Romans 12:1
 - 1. Remember the mercies of God (Romans 11:30-31)
- b. **Build** your mind towards Renovation! Romans 12:2
 - 1. Remember the ongoing transformation needed through renewed thinking.
- c. **Use** your grace given assignment to Renovate! Romans 12:3-7
 - 1. Remember to use your graced gifts to bless each other.
- d. **Live** out and into your Renovation through the characteristics of being Christ-like! Romans 12:9-21
 - 1. Remember, our behaviors should reflect our faith and convictions.

The Apostle Paul believed in the church's success in Rome not only for their sake but for the strategic influence they would have in spreading the gospel all over the world. Remember, they lived when it was suggested that "all roads lead to Rome."

As we spend time in this short chapter, I hope that it has an extended impact on your faith's Renovation. For the next 21 days, the devotional will challenge us as we focus mainly on how to Live out our renovations. We still have the same call to be renovated to live out our faith in the perfect and acceptable will of God.

DAY 1

RENOVATE A LOVE THAT DOES NOT PRETEND

9 **Let love be genuine***; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

The Apostle Paul challenges us right from the start by asking us to take a hard look at our love's genuineness. Paul asks that our love be genuine – sincere, without pretension, authentic, and without hypocrisy. As a reminder, here is the definition of hypocrisy.

“the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's behavior does not conform.”

Thanks, Dictionary! Just when you thought the bible was the only place of conviction. Hypocrisy has roots in the world of drama for actors who would project an image that would hide their true identity. In other words, it's not who they are, but they are pretending to make us believe they are someone else.

My son Jeff went to acting school in Los Angeles, and he played several different people in various shows. I didn't have to be convinced that he was good at it because it only took a few minutes into the play that he made me believe he wasn't my son but the actual person written in the script. However, as convincing as he was, or how well the makeup concealed his features deep down, I knew he was my son.

Even when your love is not genuine, know that the Father still sees who you are.

So, Paul reminds us of that truth by letting us know to stop pretending, stop acting, and stop claiming a standard that our behavior was not destined to conform to. You are loved, and you have the full capacity to love well!

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, thank you that today you can renovate my love. I choose to step off the stage of play-acting and become who you have called me to be—a person whose love is sincere, authentic, without pretension or hypocrisy. Help me today to align my behaviors to your passion. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

I declare today that you are renovating my love so that I live and operate in a genuine, sincere, authentic and holy love in Jesus name, Amen!

GENUINE

[illegible]

DAY 2

SHERLOCK'S LESSON ON RENOVATION

9 Let love be genuine; ***hate what is evil***, hold fast to what is good;

Paul uses a powerful word when you translate the word hate. It means to abhor violently. And to violently abhor what? Evil. Now the word evil used here describes that which is morally corrupt. I think Paul had in mind something, not just about the evil we may face in our world. I believe it is closely linked with the first phrase, 'love be genuine' that deals with our love's moral standards.

It is often easier to get riled up about the evil we see done by others or the evil we may find in some systems, but what about being violently abhorrent about our moral standards.

One of my favorite detective shows is Sherlock Holmes. I read the novels when I was younger (thanks, Mom) and watched the recent series with Benedict Cumberbatch several times (yes, so many hours of my life given to this). I love the premise of the socially awkward and brilliant detective who is masterful in discovering the plot and the protagonist behind it. Still, he is so oblivious to so many of his faults and weaknesses. Sherlock often would say to Watson, "You see, but you do not observe." Let's not miss the clues that can lead us to a more genuine heart.

As you renovate this year, don't let your wisdom miss one of the things you could be smartest at. Taking a good look at yourself and ridding anything that is less than the moral standard of love you are called to live in.

'The games afoot.' (I couldn't help myself).

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, rise up in me a holy indignation against anything evil that wants to hinder my love for you or others. I take up my weapons of warfare and come against all things that are hidden in my heart. Renovate the places that I often don't want to go to or look at. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

Holy Spirit I declare that you are rising up a holy indignation in me and beginning to renovate the places I can't or don't want to see. I declare your Lordship over all of my life in Jesus name Amen.

[illegible]

DAY 3

ROLLER COASTER RENOVATION REMINDERS

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, ***hold fast to what is good***;

Of course, they mean well when you get on a roller coaster and say, “Hang on as if your life depends on it (slight pause) because it does!” When I was younger, and it came to roller coasters, the faster, the better, and the more dangerous, the better it was. It didn’t even matter if you would hang on or get fastened in. And sometimes, I think both were neglected for the sake of the thrill.

Then I had children, and I saw the same wild abandonment in them, but as a parent, it no longer was a ride of joy for me, but the potential for all things that could potentially harm them. So, I became the parent who made sure the seatbelt was on and the hands holding the rail. As you can guess, soon JoAnne became the favorite parent to go on all the rides with. She had another approach. It was brilliant. Get on the ride, let them sit beside you, pull the bar down, and raise your hands. The kids loved it, but before you think caution was thrown to the wind, she had a plan. She knew once the ride kicked in, and the bravery faded from my children’s initial excitement, they would surrender to hold onto something.

Here is the wisdom, as the ride began, she would gently remind them it was okay to hold onto her.

You have nothing to fear when you have something good to hold onto! Get on the ride of renovation. Throw up your hands as the coaster of life gets moving, but when it gets a little tricky, then don’t forget you can hold on to the one who is Goodness. And you might be surprised that He too is ready to hold fast to you.

Renovate Prayer :

Holy Spirit, rise up in me a holy indignation against anything evil that wants to hinder my love for you or others. I take up my weapons of warfare and come against all things that are hidden in my heart. Renovate the places that I often don’t want to go to or look at. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

Holy Spirit I declare that I am holding onto you and letting go of worry, fear and my own safety nets. Here we go!

[illegible]

DAY 4

FAMILY RENOVATION

10 **love one another with mutual affection**; outdo one another in showing honor.

I love this line because it repeats itself by using two similar words for love and mutual affection. Some things are just worth repeating, but you should always ask why. Paul switches from his commonly used word for love – Agape (unconditional love) to two words that describe love more like family affection. Now I know for some I just lost you at the words family and affection being put together. Remember, this is more than your biological or historical connection; this is a newly introduced family through a spiritual connection.

As difficult as a biological family can be, so can the family of God; however, God still encourages us to learn how to love one another. The difference being in that our biological families may not have lived by a biblical standard of love. These verses in Romans (9-21) are a small glimpse of what God's family is supposed to not only look like but act like. Stop for a moment and reread these verses and imagine what your biological family could have looked like if this passage was lived out in your home.

Now, allow God to renovate you to make sure this can be true of you and hopefully, through you and Christ together, impact your family.

Renovate Prayer:

Father God, you know all the places where both my family and I could use some renovation. Would you highlight for me today the places you desire for me to grow in? And would you allow me to demonstrate this holy affection to others. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that you are the author of love and that you are deepening your love in me so that I can demonstrate holy love and affection to all in Jesus name, Amen.

Affection

[illegible]

DAY 5

RENOVATE THE STORY TOPPER IN ALL OF US

10 love one another with mutual affection; **outdo one another in showing honor.**

I have a particular pet peeve, and it is called “story topping.” Let me describe what I mean. Have you ever shared a story, and then the person without acknowledging you or what you experienced dives right into their account, which by their standards is way better than yours could ever be? Story toppers are a place of spiritual growth for me.

Paul encourages us not only to honor one another but outdo one another with this characteristic. To honor means to give priority of place to one another by also expressing esteem. So, in other words, to not only put others first but exclaim value on them.

Now, that may be a way to renovate ‘story topping.’ When a person shares or does something exceptional, to go out of my way to take their story to a higher place. Who in your life right now needs their story to be valued and esteemed? Start there before ‘story topping’ with your account.

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, let’s make you famous by honoring one another. Today, would you renovate my mouth, ears, mind, and heart so that I may esteem those around me and value their story. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

Jesus I declare that you are helping me to love, esteem and honor all around me in deeper and deeper ways as your love permeates and renovates me.

Honor

[illegible]

DAY 6

RENOVATE THE HYPE

11 ***Do not lag in zeal***, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord..

Have you ever watched a musical performance where there is a guy or girl on stage who doesn't sing, doesn't play an instrument but every once in a while, shouts out some encouragement to the audience or the performer? These exclamations, interjections, and increasers of audience participation are called in the world of rap the "hype-man/woman." Sign me up and take me on a world tour as I would love that job.

To support the artist and encourage the audience, it sounds like a job for all of us somehow.

When Paul uses the word zeal, he tells us to be eager, full of energy, and to get rid of slothfulness, fear, bashfulness, laziness, and weariness.

In other words, Paul is calling us out as performers and audience to get more hyped about our relationship with Jesus and our witness to the world.

Make this year a time to renovate your zeal. When you lag, make sure you have some 'hype' people in your corner, and when you see others lag, help bring the 'hype' for them. As a matter of fact, I will turn on some Kirk Franklin (my favorite hype man) and get my zeal ready for 2021.

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, today I am hyped about you. I am ready, Lord, for you to re-energize and renovate my passion for all things about the Kingdom. Please help me find some people today to encourage them to be their very best. And Jesus, let me be humble enough to let others share their hype with me!

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that you are stirring up zeal in me Lord to encourage and re-energize me not just for my own sake, but also for the sake of others.



Zeal

[illegible]

DAY 7

THE GLASS SMITH LESSON IN RENOVATION

11 Do not lag in zeal, ***be ardent in spirit***, serve the Lord..

When I was younger, my mom would drag me to every museum and tour she could find. Of course, I didn't realize the gift she was giving my education at the time but looking back, I am so grateful. One of those tours was to a bottle factory. This was not at the top on my Saturday to-do list as a young elementary school-age child who would rather be outside throwing rocks at a bottle.

Nevertheless, I went, mostly kicking and screaming. However, when I got there, I was blown away (no pun intended) at how cool the process of making bottles from scratch was. I was expecting people in fancy gloves with fancy tools and air conditioning. I did not expect furnaces, overwhelming heat, and the anticipation of glass breaking all the time. There was one thing that stood out while I was there. Everything glowed from the glass smith's furnace. It was breathtaking as the artisan would take material so formless and breathe life into something that looks so red hot and turned it into either an ordinary day bottle or a beautiful vase.

Paul tells us to be ardent or aglow (materials glowing by heat) in the Spirit. When something is aglow, its purpose is not to be touched but to be seen. When the glassworkers make the glass glow, you can't touch it, but it sure does grab your attention.

Ask the Lord this year to Renovate your 'glow' in the Spirit of God. What would your life look like if the breath of God daily revived you and molded you into becoming what was needed for the day? Maybe one day, you need to be a bottle to serve someone thirsty and another day a vase to hold the treasures of God to be displayed for others.

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, you are the living fire that can renovate my life. Wind of God, Fire of God come together in me so that I may be useful in your hands and a display of your glowing power to others. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

You are the true glass smith and I declare that you are fashioning beauty in me that will attract the world to you and your Kingdom!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 1

WEEKLY RENOVATIONS REFLECTIONS

Reflect on today's message and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

Reflect on this week's devotional and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

DAY 8

THE 'WHATEVER'S AND 'EVERYTHING'S OF RENOVATION

11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, **serve the Lord**..

What are you passionate about?

Or what is the one thing you enjoy spending time doing? Now ask yourself does this passion or time occupier have any ability to be linked to serving the Lord.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I remember when I first read this passage, I circled the words that I have emboldened. And I thought to myself, 'whatever' and 'everything' it does seem like a huge challenge. First, I had to realize that some of my whatever's and everything's were not something I would attach to the name of Jesus. So, the first step was to start evaluating and renovating the whatever's and everything's in my life. Secondly, I began to discover that I had lots of words and deeds that could be utilized to serve the Lord.

For instance, I love to read, and when the Church asked for readers of scripture at the beginning of our services, I jumped on it. Of course, my first reading was Matthew 1, and I am so glad that I was not caught on videotape.

You try to say Zerubbabel, Zadok, Eliakim, and Abiud for the first time!

Nevertheless, this year ask yourself where God could renovate a passion of yours to be turned into acts of service. And then share that with someone and do it!

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, I want you to help me renovate all of my words and deeds.

Give me the opportunity to turn my 'whatever's' and 'everything's' into acts of service that demonstrate a genuine love for you and others. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that you are sanctifying my acts of service Lord. Continue to stir up zeal in me so that I may serve all with joy in my spirit!

Serve

Journal Entry

[illegible]

DAY 9

HOPE RENOVATES

12 **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

I found the following anthem on Hope many years ago in a book by John Maxwell and then heard him share it. It still is one of my favorites. Read it over and over today, and let Hope renovate you!

WHAT DOES HOPE DO IN YOU!
HOPE SHINES BRIGHTEST WHEN THE HOUR IS THE DARKEST
HOPE MOTIVATES WHEN DISCOURAGEMENT COMES
HOPE ENERGIZES WHEN THE BODY IS TIRED
HOPE SWEETENS WHILE THE BITTERNESS BITES
HOPE SINGS WHEN ALL MELODIES ARE GONE
HOPE BELIEVES WHEN THE EVIDENCE IS ELIMINATED
HOPE LISTENS FOR ANSWERS WHEN NO ONE IS TALKING
HOPE CLIMBS OVER OBSTACLES WHEN NO ONE IS HELPING
HOPE ENDURES HARDSHIP WHEN NO ONE IS CARING
HOPE SMILES CONFIDENTLY WHILE NO ONE IS LAUGHING
HOPE REACHES FOR ANSWERS WHEN NO ONE IS ASKING
HOPE PRESSES TOWARD VICTORY WHEN NO ONE IS ENCOURAGING
HOPE DARES TO GIVE WHEN NO ONE IS SHARING
HOPE BRINGS THE VICTORY WHEN NO ONE IS WINNING
THERE IS NOTHING TO DO BUT BURY A PERSON WHEN THEIR HOPE IS GONE
LOSING HOPE USUALLY PRECEDES LOSS OF LIFE ITSELF
SO, YOU DON'T NEED A BETTER ENVIRONMENT YOU JUST NEED MORE HOPE,
IT'S THE ONE THING IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN NOT DO WITHOUT
AND THAT HOPE YOU WILL FIND IN JESUS CHRIST

Renovate Declaration and Prayer:

Holy Spirit, you are the giver of my Hope.

Today, I choose Hope to deepen my renovation in 2021. I will watch out for hope stealers in people and circumstances and instead will declare the biblical definition of Hope – a strong and confident expectation in who God is and what He can do. Amen

[illegible]

DAY 10

PAINFUL PATIENCE

RENOVATION

12 Rejoice in hope, ***be patient in suffering***, persevere in prayer.

A few years back, I had to make a couple of different appointments to see some specialists that my Doctor referred me to regarding some painful neck problems I was having. So, I made my first call early in December, and the polite lady on the other end of the line, with all seriousness, said, “the Doctor has January 25th available does that work for you?” I might have misheard her, but I had heard her right, and that was the earliest appointment available. I said okay and made the appointment. I wasn’t too pleased and was not living out patience in suffering.

The next day I spent some time with the Lord trying to accept where I was, trusted that He cared, prayed that He would help, petitioned my requests, and thanked Him for the results in advance. Later that day, I read an email that said if you want to break impatience in your life, deliberately choose to place yourself in positions where you have to wait. Delete. I wasn’t ready for the answer to my suffering to be patience. An hour later, I got a phone call from the same Doctor’s office telling me they had an opening on Friday (the next morning). Awesome, but I still had more to learn.

While I was there, the Doctor was an hour and a half late. I wanted to murmur, but the Lord said shhhhh, “I moved the date by six weeks didn’t I, please give me a half-hour” I got in to see him, and he was extremely apologetic, attentive, kind, and thorough like we desire every Doctor to be. And to top it off, he gave me two references I needed for other specialists in our area so that I might not have to wait.

What a lesson in patience! It doesn’t always work out that fast for me, but it made me realize my patience in suffering does not mean He is not working on my behalf.

What does a renovation in your patience look like in 2021?

Renovate Prayer:

Father God, patience means to endure, act with restraint, tolerate delay or hardship, and persevere. I know those don’t come naturally to me, so I need your help. Remind me as you renovate my patience that you are still working on my behalf, and your timing is perfect. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

Lord, I declare that you are worth me learning to Rejoice in Hope, being patient in suffering and persevering in prayer. I declare that I will submit to you as in your faithfulness you cause me to grow in these ways, in Jesus name Amen.

[illegible]

DAY 11

PRAYER

RENOVATIONS

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, ***persevere in prayer.***

Persevere means to do something with intense effort despite difficulties. No wonder Paul puts these three phrases together for us. Start with the hope that births joy because you will need both while maintaining patience in your suffering, and the solution to experience it all is intense prayer.

What does your prayer life look like? Would you use the word 'intense' to describe it? Does it need a renovation that may require more intensity on your part? Praying is easy but being intentional is another matter.

For the last nine months and counting, I have watched and listened to the prayer team daily persevere in prayer on our behalf as individuals, CCF, and the nation(s). I think one of the best ways to renovate your intensity is to be around the people who do it; in 2021, commit to participating in more prayer meetings and being intentional about your daily times by yourself.

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, if I am to be intense about anything, let it be my prayer life. Help me today to recognize that my hope, joy, and patience are tied to my conversations (prayer) with you. Renovate my prayer life so that I may hear you more clearly and love others more genuinely. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that I will persevere in prayer from this point forward and will not shift my gaze from my Father, my God and all of His promises.

PERSEVERE

[illegible]

DAY 12

GENEROUS RENOVATIONS

13 ***Contribute to the needs of the saints***; extend hospitality to strangers

I recently learned that the word generosity derives from the Latin word *generōsus*, which means “of noble birth.” And up to and during the sixteenth century, the word generous was always used to reflect an aristocratic sense of noble lineage or high birth.

So, in other words, when you describe someone as generous, it was a way of saying “to belong to the nobility.”

When you think about that, the Bible calls us a ‘royal priesthood’ or ‘heirs of Christ’; it says you have been born into nobility of the highest order. You are a son/daughter of the King.

When allowed to be generous to others, you are acting as a royal child of God. And it could be said that when we are not generous towards others, we are not living out our true identity.

What does generosity in 2021 look like? What areas of your time, talents, and mostly treasure need God’s touch of Renovation?

And remember that being generous is not about the amount; it is about being true to who you are as His child.

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, this year I want to align both my finances and the ability to be generous to who I am in you. Today, I recognize I am a child of the King and therefore have the privilege in my nobility to be generous to others. Help me see a need today and meet it through you. Renovate my generosity. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that this year I will be true to who I am as His child and walk out generosity with my King daily!

[illegible]

DAY 13

RENOVATING MY IDEA OF HOSPITALITY

13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; **extend hospitality to strangers.**

Henri Nouwen once said the following about hospitality:

In our world full of strangers, estranged from their past, culture, and country, from their neighbors, friends, and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where the community can be found.

Hospitality means primarily creating a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.

What would a renovation in hospitality look like if you approached it as more of a space where change could happen rather than making change happen for others?

Who would you consider a stranger in your life? You may not have to look as far as you think.

I love this quote, *“True hospitality doesn’t work hard to make a good impression. It opens easy to make hallowed space.”*

Let’s make more hallowed/sacred spaces in 2021!

Renovate Prayer:

V

Father God, first renovate in me the ability to have sacred/hallow space with you.

I need your hospitality, and you desire mine. Thank-you that in this space, I have room to see change shaped into me. Next, please help me release the change I want for others and create spaces with YOU that allow change to occur. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

Lord, I declare that you are opening my eyes to the needs of others and that you are expanding my heart to extend hospitality to all. In Jesus name Amen!

[illegible]

DAY 14

CARROT, EGG & COFFEE

RENOVATIONS

14 ***Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.***

Do you remember the illustration of the carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Imagine with me three pots of boiling water for a moment, and in one pot, you placed a carrot, one you put in eggs, and the other pot coffee beans. Now let them sit and boil, and then after a while, remove each item from their pot. What would you see? You would see a carrot, eggs, and coffee. But when you felt the carrot, you would note that it is soft. When you take the egg out, it seems less fragile; peel off the outer shell, and you find a hard-boiled egg. When you sip and smell the coffee, it is rich in flavor and smell.

So, what does that all mean? And what does that have to do with persecution?

Matthew 5:10

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Persecution for righteousness sake (important note: it does not say for ignorance sake or arrogance sake or meanness sake or un-forgiveness sake or manipulative sake, or unloving sake, etc.) can be like boiling water. The carrot, the egg, and the coffee bean all faced the same persecution – boiling water – but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened, became weak, and is easily broken. The egg was fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but it’s inside hardened after sitting through the boiling water. The ground coffee beans were unique as the beans changed the water.

So, when persecution confronts you, how do you react? How do you respond? Are you soft and ineffective? Are you hardened and put off? Or are you willing to let it change you as well as those around you?

2021 may have days that your righteousness is persecuted but will you let Him renovate you to be a catalyst of change for the Kingdom’s sake?

GK Chesterton once said, Jesus promised the disciples three things - that would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble.

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, I choose to be a person who blesses and not curses others when experiencing persecution for my righteousness. Renovate my thinking and response so that I may be lovingly genuine to all those who may come against me. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

Lord, I declare that your love is creating me to be an agent of change. That when the heat is turned up I surrender to you and the renovation process fully. In Jesus name Amen.

Journal Entry

WEEK 2

WEEKLY RENOVATIONS REFLECTIONS

Reflect on today's message and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

Reflect on this week's devotional and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

DAY 15

STEWARDING THE JOY & SORROW IS AN ACT OF DEEP RENOVATION

15 ***Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.***

Knowing the sacredness and timing of these two actions could be some of the most important demonstrations of loving others. When you recognize when they are needed, you genuinely are communicating; I see you in the low and the high. I am comfortable to weep with you when you are sad and laugh with your triumphs, and I will not force you to move to either space until you are ready.

Robert Browning shared it beautifully in the following few sentences:

I walked a mile with Pleasure; She chattered all the way,
But left me none the wiser For all she had to say.
I walked a mile with Sorrow, And ne'er a word said she,
But, oh, the things I learned from her
When Sorrow walked with me.

Remember that in 2021 a proper renovation takes place when we can rejoice with others' triumphs and weep with others' sorrows because it is in these moments that we will learn to steward our triumphs and learn to mourn our losses. When we can steward other successes and failures, we can learn to steward ours well.

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, help me today to see those who need comfort and those who need joy. I will undoubtedly face both today, and I don't want to confuse their need with my plan. Renovate my approach of loving others well today. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that I will steward the triumphs and mourn the losses not only in my life but will be there to help rejoice and mourn with others as you are deepening your love in me.

Rejoice

[illegible]

DAY 16

RENOVATING MY EARS TO HEAR THE HARMONY

16 **Live in harmony with one another**; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Take 6 is a gospel group that I have enjoyed listening to for many years. Their claim to fame is the remarkable vocal harmonies they can produce. It's not fair that each of them individually is incredible singers, but something heavenly happens when combined. It's as if God likes music, and he likes it when we harmonize (Smile).

But here is something unique that happens to your ears when you listen to harmonies, you begin to make out what each note contributes and recognize how excellent they all sound together.

Also, your ear begins to learn when harmonies don't happen. When one note wanders off on its own without complimenting the other, you tilt your head, close one eye, twist your mouth as a signal that it doesn't sound right.

Paul uses the word harmony to describe the importance of unity of heart and mind towards one another. He encourages us to live at such a level that when one of our notes is off, our heads begin to tilt to recognize we are not in unity.

When we are in unity, we still enjoy each voice's contribution and realize we are better together.

Renovate Prayer and Declaration:

Holy Spirit, renovate the ears of my heart and attitude so that I hear what my voice is contributing. If it is dis-harmonious, then please make the correction. I know our voices, hearts, and attitudes are better together, so I choose to live in harmony today.

Harmony

[illegible]

DAY 17

RENOVATING MY HUMILITY

16 Live in harmony with one another; ***do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly***; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.”

To be haughty is another way of saying prideful and more directly, ‘stop being full of yourself’! Pride is one of the more difficult renovations because we don’t often recognize it in ourselves. Nevertheless, the path to greatness has been modeled for us in the humility of Jesus, who came to serve, not be served. And if we are struggling with the idea of associating with those who have nothing to give back or help promote your position or reputation or possibly are inconvenient, let us all be reminded that Jesus choose to be with us

G. K. Chesterton once said, “Humility is the mother of giants; one sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak.”

Renovate Prayer:

Father God, renovate my love into a style that is the opposite of the world’s power-based, accomplishment-equals-importance viewpoint. I want my love to be demonstrated in putting the other person first, seeking the other person’s well-being regardless of what it costs. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

Lord I declare that I will live in harmony with others and I accept your help. I will serve without regard to cost as I seek to model your example in Jesus name, Amen.

[illegible]

DAY 18

RENOVATING MY WISDOM

16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; ***do not claim to be wiser than you are.***

I don't think Jimi Hendrix was a theologian, but he sure got it right when he said, "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens." I believe this is actually what Paul was implying that you don't have to say it or claim to have it if you are wise.

Paul knew the church was struggling with what each party thought was the best way to demonstrate a holy life in Christ. Each side wanted to prove how right and wise they were. However, I have found when I have to claim and convince others about how wise I am, and I have to stop listening and to be honest, the other side probably has to.

In 2021 what would it look like to seek wisdom by listening more? What would it look like to take the posture of being more teachable? Matt Keller stated, "Teachability and wisdom are next-door neighbors, identical twins, two sides of the same coin. You could say that Teachability is simply wisdom in attitude form." I agree.

Renovate Prayer:

Holy Spirit, renovate my mind to align with James 3:13 today.
If (I am) wise and understand God's ways, (I will) prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that your word is true and that I will seek to honor, fear (the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom) and love you and all your ways all the days of my life.

[illegible]

DAY 19

RENOVATING THE MAFIA OUT OF ME

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all ...

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A whole devotional book could be written on just this topic; oh wait, it has already been written; it's called the Bible.

When I was in 2nd grade, a group of my friends had a falling out (2nd-grade drama is pretty life-changing). The group got split in half, and both sides began to conspire. I remember having a meeting at my house; obviously, I was the leader, and that says much about my childhood. We drew up a map of the neighborhood and began to divide up our territory. We began to mark the map and proclaim aloud, “This park is ours, and this street is ours, and they better not step foot on it.” Now looking back, I was organizing a 2nd Grade Mafia! Of course, everything was going great with our organized crime plan until our moms found out and dragged us by our ears and made us all become friends again. If only world peace could be solved that way!

To be challenged to love our enemies is not about our willingness; it is about our nature being radically changed as a living sacrifice, a surrendered offering to God to no longer conform to the world but be transformed in the renewing of our minds.

God knows that the ability to embrace the offender in injustice issues would be difficult, if not impossible, without Him, but that is the call to love genuinely.

Miroslav Volf, who wrote *Exclusion and Embrace* and now teaches at Yale Divinity School, found himself faced with the question of how he, as a Croatian Baptist, could love his Serbian Orthodox neighbor, after all the terrible things the Serbs had done to his country. He states, “I felt that my very faith was at odds with itself, divided between the God who delivers the needy and the God who abandons the Crucified, between the demand to bring about justice for the victims and the call to embrace the perpetrator. I knew, of course, of easy ways to resolve this powerful tension, but I also knew that they were easy, precisely because they were false.

In 2021 help us renovate the areas in our hearts that have created enemies (real or imagined) to learn to overcome evil with good.

Renovate Prayer:

Father God, I will admit today that loving my enemy is hard, so I need your help, wisdom, and discernment in how to do so. More than anything, I want you to be seen in and through me, and I will release the results to you. Renovate my need only to love those who love me. Amen

Renovate Declaration:

I declare that I will not repay evil with evil, but by the power of your holy spirit I will overcome evil with good.

Journal Entry

[illegible]

DAY 20

A NOBLE RENOVATION

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, ***but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all***

Sometimes we are called to demonstrate honoring others by doing it in private or even in secret. But when it comes to loving our enemies, Paul urges us to do it rather publicly. Do you remember when you were a child, and your parent, teacher, or coach would make you shake hands with the person you got in a fight with? And not just shake hands but do it in front of everyone? This is a little like what Paul is encouraging us to do and maybe even adding a hug to the handshake.

Here are two of my favorite quotes from Martin Luther King Jr to help us renovate this area of our lives:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. The chain reaction of evil--hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars--must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.”

“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”

What would this type of renovation look like for you in the sight of all?

Renovate Prayer:

Jesus, you seemed to be very public in how you faced and loved your enemies.
Would you renovate my life to replicate this same heart and behavior? I will trust you to do this.

Renovate Declaration:

Today I choose the path of being noble in how I relate to those I disagree with, understand, or feel anger towards. I will take my thoughts captive, and I will let my mind be free of hatred and anger. Amen.

NOBLE

[illegible]

DAY 21

PEACE RENOVATES

18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Well, this may be the last devotional entry, but I pray it won't be the last time you live these truths out.

It is so appropriate for Paul to end these exceptional virtues that he began with love to be bookended with peace. And a great challenge to live at peace with all. However, peace with all starts with your peace with God.

Millions of people pray the Serenity Prayer every day. You're familiar with it: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." The Serenity Prayer is a very famous prayer by a man named Reinhold Niebuhr. But the well-loved prayer is edited. There are more lines to the Serenity Prayer that you may never have heard. I think that's where all the power is. Here are the last lines.

Living one day at a time. Enjoying one moment at a time. Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is not as I would have it. Trusting that You, God, will make all things right if I surrender to Your will so that I may be reasonably happy in this life. And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

Again, I think all the power is in the second part of the prayer.

Renovate Prayer:

Father God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, I enter this last day of the fast reflecting on everything you have taught me and desire to birth into me. I am grateful that you have renovated my heart and life each day, and I want to keep this process going. I desire peace with you, peace with others, and peace in my own heart.
Amen.

Renovate Declaration:

Lord I declare that my peace is first found in you! I declare that I will purposefully love first and be at peace with all. In Jesus name, Amen.

Peace

Journal Entry

[illegible]

WEEK 3

WEEKLY RENOVATIONS REFLECTIONS

Reflect on today's message and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

Reflect on this week's devotional and write down at least one thing you were challenged by and one thing you plan on doing differently this week.

A photograph of a room in the process of renovation. On the left, a wooden ladder leans against a wall. In the center, a large window looks out onto a city street with buildings and bare trees. Below the window is a white radiator. The floor is covered with construction materials and debris. The image is split vertically into two halves with different color overlays: a darker, muted brown on the left and a lighter, warmer tan on the right.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

My hope and prayer are that these last 21 days, you have experienced new places of Renovation in your faith.

As we enter into 2021, I believe you are more ready to face all that comes your way because you have chosen to give Him your very best, your first of the year!

Please share with us some highlights and testimonies of your fast at **ccflive.org/share** We would love to hear how you experienced Renovation.

Now, let's declare that God is restoring, making new again, repairing, invigoration, refreshing, and reviving. 2021 get ready to be **Renovated!**



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