

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sky. The upper portion is a solid teal color, while the lower portion is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The text '21 DAYS OF PRAYER' is centered in the middle of the image, rendered in a gold-colored serif font. The number '21' is significantly larger than the words 'DAYS OF PRAYER', which are stacked in two lines. The overall composition is clean and spiritual.

# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER



## **1 JOHN 2:16-17**

For everything that is in the world—the desire for fleshly gratification, the desire for possessions, and worldly arrogance—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world and its desires are fading away, but the person who does God’s will remains forever.

# MARCH 20 - APRIL 9

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

Ephesians 3:20–21 (CSB)

Over the last 70 years at our Riverside location and 4 years at our Journey Point location, God has been incredibly kind and faithful. Many people have seen what God does when we stop, pray, and ask Him to do what only He can. When we pray, we remember who God is and our faith increases.

As we continue to remember God's faithfulness and look to the future of He is doing in Denver, let's be people who call out to God for his blessing and favor. He is the one who works in us "to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13). As we do this we're calling our one church in two locations to 21 days of prayer and fasting. Together, we want to earnestly seek the face of God and surrender ourselves to his purposes and plans for his glory, knowing that he says, "'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know'"

(Jeremiah 33:3)

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# PRAYER

Praying is spiritual breathing, essential for our life in God. As we meditate on God's Word, we breathe in the promises and purposes of God. In prayer, we breathe out, responding to God's Word to us. In prayer, we come to trust God's love for us and surrender to his purposes for us.

This guide provides a daily selection from Scripture as well as a few prayer responses to direct your time. Throughout the 21 days, you'll be praying for specific areas in your life, our church, and our mission. Together, let's put our faith into action, trusting in the promises of God for us and our church. Here are some helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide.

- Commit to a specific time each day to devote to prayer. Find a place where you can be free from distractions and alone with God.
  - Use the provided Scripture and prayer responses to focus and fuel your praying. Write them on a card and carry it with you, post them on your social media, make them the screensaver on your phone—whatever you can think of to keep these prompts in front of you. Use them throughout the day and invite others to join you in praying. • Take it a step further by journaling your prayers each day, simply writing out your prayers to God. This is a great opportunity to hide God's Word in your heart, working to memorize the verses as you meditate and pray.
  - In addition, consider ways to pray with others during this season. Set up a Zoom call with friends or members of your small group. Pray together as a family. Invite others to join you on this journey.
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# FASTING

Why do we fast? Fasting is a way to deepen our hunger for God and to grow in holiness. It's been said that "more than any other discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us." And so it confronts us with our need to surrender to God. It's not a way to manipulate God or coerce him to hear and answer our prayers, but rather it acknowledges our complete dependence on him. It humbles us and awakens us to our great need for and reliance on God.

As you consider fasting, we encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lead you in this time of seeking him. Whether you choose to fast for one day, several days, or the entire 21 days, the point is to humble yourself in a new way and draw near to God.

Here are some ideas of ways you could fast.

- A selective fast, eliminating certain things from your diet. For example, eating only fruits and vegetables, what some might call a "Daniel fast."
  - A partial fast, refraining from eating for a set period of time each day. For example, fasting from a single meal or from sunup to sundown.
  - A complete fast, refraining from eating and only drinking liquids for particular days or an extended period of time.
  - If fasting from food is not possible, you may feel led by the Lord to fast from something else, such as social media, television, or certain times or activities on your cell phone.
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# PRAYED

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**MARCH 20**

**READ - ROMANS 7:18, MATTHEW 26:41**

**Romans 7:18** For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for the desire to do what is good is in me, but there is no ability to do it.

**Matthew 26:41** Watch and pray, so you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

We are tempted daily by our flesh. It is part of the sinful nature we were born with, the result of living in a broken world. Temptations of the flesh can be anything from unhealthy eating habits, to sexual desires, laziness, wanting total control of our lives, and much more. Matthew 26:41 shows that in this life, we WILL be tempted, and we need to watch out for ways we personally are tempted to give into desires that don't align with God's Word. Matthew and Romans also show that on our own, we are not strong enough to resist temptation. But there IS a way to combat temptation: prayer. By seeking the Lord in prayer daily, maybe even moment by moment, and asking him for His strength, we can begin to resist the desires of our flesh and walk in step with God's plan for our life – a plan that's ultimately better than giving in to the temptations of our flesh.

## PRAYER

Lord, thank you for sending your Son to rescue us from sin and death. We praise you that you are a God who doesn't leave us in our sin, but that you provide a way to combat the temptations we face. Thank you for being a God who cares for us and has a better way to live, and that we can seek you in prayer and receive strength to fight temptation and sin in our lives. I know that on my own I am not strong enough, but that you provide the strength I need when I seek you in prayer.



# PP A WED

## LUST OF THE EYES

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**MARCH 21**

**READ - PSALM 119:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.  
Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

It is easy to get caught up in the things the world has to offer – nice houses, the best clothes, the fastest car, the list goes on. Even if this list doesn't interest you, there's something in your life that when you see it, you desire to have it. But the things of this world won't last, and they won't satisfy our deepest desire – to be fully known and fully loved. The only thing that can satisfy this desire is a relationship with the Lord our God, the Creator of all things. He will never fade away, unlike the things we see that we want so badly to have. When we fix our eyes instead on Jesus through prayer and reading of the Word, we will experience the fullness of life that is found only in him.

### PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful that you are enough to fulfill the deepest desires of my heart. I praise you that you have given me exactly what I need, that you are a provider. I praise you that you are in control. I know that you can give and take away, but that I can be content in little or in plenty because I have a relationship with you, and I can trust you. Help me take my eyes off material and worldly things and instead set them on you and you alone. Remind me of your promises and the truths of your character that are found in your Word.



# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**MARCH 22**

**READ - 1 CORINTHIANS 4:7, PROVERBS 29:23**

**1 Cor 4:7** For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

**Proverbs 29:23** A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

We live in a culture that values hard work, self-starters, and high achievers. We praise those people for everything they did, their hard work, and say they deserve their success. When we experience good things or success, the world says it's because of what we did, and we should own it, be proud, and show it off. But as we see in 1 Corinthians, everything we have is from God – every new job opportunity, every relationship, our possessions, all of it. It is God's to give, and his to take away. Though we may work hard, the fruit of our labor is a gift from God. The strength to put in the work is a gift from God as well. We are called to give HIM the glory, not ourselves. We must acknowledge that it is from His work in our lives that we experience provision and even abundance. Praise God for his gracious provision in our lives!

## PRAYER

Lord, I praise you for all you have given me. You are a provider, and you will not forsake me. Remind me that all I have is from you and not by my own doing. Thank you for the abilities you have gifted me with, the opportunities you have given me, and the relationships you blessed me with. Help me to give the glory to you in everything – to not boast about myself, but about your majesty.

# PRAYERS

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**MARCH 23**

**READ - ROMANS 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus;<sup>2</sup> because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, <sup>4</sup>in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

## PRAYER

God's law shows us our guilt, but Jesus takes the guilt of our sinful nature on himself. We have freedom in Christ and God's Holy Spirit to break free from the grip of sin in our lives. As you fast today commit to living in this freedom. Bring the difficulties of fasting before God and ask him to reveal more of his goodness to you so you can grow in trust of him.

# PP A WED

## LUST OF THE EYES

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**MARCH 24**

**READ - MATTHEW 4:8-11**

A thread running through the entire tapestry of the story of the Bible is the lust of the eyes. Said another way, the lust of the eyes is our basic human downfall – our sin pattern of seeing something that God has declared evil as good, desiring it in our hearts, and taking it regardless of the consequences<sup>1</sup>. This condemning sequence of events is found in the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6-7), the attempted self-sufficiency of Abraham and Sara (Genesis 16:1-3), the unholy worship of Aaron and the Israelites (Exodus 32:1-4), David's lust of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2-5), and probably our own lives as well. Without Christ, humanity is doomed to repeat this pattern. With Christ, Christians are freed from the guilt of their sin and empowered by the Holy Spirit to forge a new path. Take a look at how Christ handles the temptation of the lust of the eyes in the following passage.

### PRAYER

Even though God created everything and has the ultimate say over what is good and what is evil, we as sinful humans are tempted to make those distinctions for ourselves and take what we see as good no matter the cost. Ask God to reveal to you the lust of your own eyes. What small or large evils have you seen as good, desired, and taken for yourself? Ask God's forgiveness in these areas and the empowerment to choose God's will over your own.

# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**MARCH 25**

**READ - DEUTERONOMY 8:11-18**

At the beginning of our story with God, God creates the world and everything in it and calls it "good." He then creates the first humans, Adam and Eve, and calls them "very good." Humanity is then blessed and commissioned by God to share in his creative work. "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth" (Gen 1:28). A clear hierarchy is set in place with God as the supreme Ruler and Creator and man and woman as his representatives. However, this peaceful partnership does not last long as Adam and Eve try to subvert this divine order by disobeying God and trying to be like him.

This act of betrayal places a wall of separation between the most holy and perfect God and sinful humanity. However, in spite of their desire to be greater than God, to pave their own path, and to put themselves first, God spends the rest of the story trying to bridge the divide between him and his sinful creation. Generations later, a man named Moses leads God's headstrong people into a beautiful land God has promised them and shares with them some words of wisdom.

## PRAYER

In what ways have you forgotten God as ultimate Ruler, Creator and Provider and placed yourself in those roles instead? Ask God to reveal these sinful thought patterns – big or small. Ask forgiveness for placing yourself above God and spend some time thanking God for his steadfast love and all of his blessings to you.

# PP AWED

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**MARCH 26**

**READ - ROMANS 1:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

### PRAYER

God gave us our bodies, and he gave us a set of healthy desires that, when rightly pursued and submitted to him, actually glorify him. Your desire for food, for sex, for shelter. They are all part of our bodies' natural wants and needs, and when they are pursued in the proper context, they honor God. Eating fuels us for ministry. Sex contributes to intimacy with a partner in our walk with Christ. Sleep keeps us rested and focused on what God is doing. But when we take these desires out of their proper place, we do what the scripture above says. We trade God's truths for lies. We worship the created things rather than the God who gave us those things to bless us and give him glory. Ask the Lord to show you the places where you are worshipping created things rather than God, and ask him to show you how to walk in obedience to his word and his desire for your life.

# PP A WED

## LUST OF THE EYES

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**MARCH 27**

**READ - PROVERBS 27:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. <sup>20</sup> Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes. <sup>21</sup> The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise.

### PRAYER

Do you ever wonder why your life looks the way it does? Maybe there are things that have gone wrong, and you can't seem to wrap your mind around it. Or your life is far more amazing than you ever imagined, and you find yourself wondering how you got to be so lucky. I think what you will find on examination is that your life reflects what your heart is devoted to. This does not mean that the more holy or good you are, the more money or stuff you will have. What it does mean, however, is that the more you seek after Jesus, the more your heart will be satisfied in him. We look for more in every part of our life, and it never seems to be enough. More money, more success, more clothes. In reality, the heart can only be satisfied by God, and the things we pursue because they look good to us don't ever actually fill us up. If we want to live a life that isn't measured by the stuff we have, but by our fulfillment and satisfaction, we have to look to the One who can satisfy our soul. Pray and ask God to help you to trust in him, and to show you how to rest and rely on what he has given you.

# 27

# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**MARCH 28**

**READ - JEREMIAH 9:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, <sup>24</sup> but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

## PRAYER

We often convince ourselves that the things God has given us are really just things we earned for ourselves. We think that because we worked really hard, the stuff that comes to us is just our due. The truth is, God has already been gracious to us long before any sort of material or personal blessing. He gave us life, and salvation, and his Word. If we find ourselves impressed by our wealth, or our strength, or our intellect, we should thank God that he saw fit to bless us even beyond what we could have imagined for ourselves. Take a moment to thank God for his good gifts, and for the way he has blessed us. Thank him for the things you like about yourself and about your life, and remember that he is the one who gives gifts from above. Take a moment to praise him and honor him, to remind yourself that he is the one who does good over all the earth.



# PRAYERS

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**MARCH 29**

**READ - GALATIANS 5:16-17**

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.<sup>17</sup> The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

In these verses, we see how our flesh and the Spirit are in opposition. When we do the things that our own heart and flesh desire, we can make decisions and choices that aren't God's best for us. However, when we live according to the Spirit, the things we desire are in step with the better life we have in Him. I know that I have felt this opposition of flesh and Spirit in my own life. When I am not reading the Word and lackluster in prayer it is easier to give in to my sin. But when I am disciplined in my God time and prayer life, those habits help create an awareness of how the Spirit is helping us to live out the Jesus life!

### PRAYER

Perfect Father, I am thankful for your kindness in giving us the Spirit to help me when I am tempted to do things outside the way you desire me to live. God, help me to be aware of my own sinful nature and how living by our flesh doesn't satisfy. Help me to see where I give in to evil and how you want me to align my heart with yours. Amen.

# LUST OF THE EYES

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**MARCH 30**

**READ - HEBREWS 12:2**

<sup>a</sup>We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

We live in a world very focused on the things that we see – fancy cars, brand new iPhone, the new items on the Target shelves that you must have for your home, and the list goes on. Now, those things in and of themselves are not bad, but when what we see is our desire, that is sinful. Where we fixate our eyes, our focus, our attention, it matters. Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of our deepest desires. When we keep our eyes on him, we are not fixated on our sin that can trip us up and take our attention.

## **PRAYER**

God, would you help me to see things through your eyes and not be distracted by the material, fading things of this world. The Jesus Life isn't easy, but I trust that your ways are better than my own. When I am tempted, help me to keep my eyes fixated on you and remember that you are my greatest desire. Amen.

# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**MARCH 31**

**READ - JAMES 4:6, HEBREWS 4:15**

**James 4:6** <sup>6</sup>And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**Hebrews 4:15** <sup>15</sup>This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Pride can easily and quickly wreak havoc in our own lives and the lives of people around us. When we are arrogant, prideful, and think that we are the "best," we are placing our identity and hope in the wrong places. God speaks many times in Scripture about the dangers of pride. In our Scripture from today, it says that, "God opposes the proud." When pride is where our attention lies, we are in direct opposition to God. When Jesus was on this earth, He was tempted in all the same ways we are, yet He did not sin when those temptations come. He understands what we are going through and where we are weak, but is also full of generous grace in our weakness.

## PRAYER

God, if I am to take pride in anything, may it be in you and your Gospel alone. I acknowledge and repent for the times in my life when I have thought more highly of myself than I ought. Help me to be humbled by your Spirit and to live in line with how you want me to live. When I am tempted to be prideful, would you help me to cling to your truth and live it.

# PP AWED

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**APRIL 1**

**READ - JEREMIAH 17:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>. "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

We live in a world that says "follow your heart", "what you feel in your heart is right", and "what does your heart say." But the Bible is clear that above ALL else, the heart is deceitful. When we give into our "heart" we are really giving into our flesh. We must be aware of this and ask God to align the desires of our heart with His. Once we do that, we can pursue the things that He would have us pursue. Don't follow your heart, follow God!

### **PRAYER**

Pray that God would show you His heart so that you can align yours with His. Seek wisdom in discerning what is from Him and what is from your flesh. And lastly, ask Him that He would reveal to you the temptations of your flesh and to give you strength to flee from them when those situations and temptations arise.

# LUST OF THE EYES

**APRIL 2**

## READ - MATTHEW 5:29

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell."

This is a powerful and weighty statement that Jesus makes. But it is imperative that we take it to heart. Our eyes are what bring the world to us. There are so many beautiful things to see. But there is also much evil around us as well. What Jesus is stressing here is that NOTHING worth seeing on this Earth comes close to what we will see in Heaven. What sights might be causing you to fall into sin, and how can you sacrifice them to God in order that you can see more of Him?

## PRAYER

Ask God to reveal HIS beauty to your eyes. Pray that you see Him in everything and that you don't become distracted by the many sights that the enemy tries to show you. Ask Him finally that you can see the world the way that He sees it, and that you would chase after the lost as He does.

# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**APRIL 3**

**READ - PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4, PROVERBS 11:2**

Phil. 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Prov.11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

We ALL want to be wise. We all want to succeed in life. But in the life of a Jesus Follower, success looks much different than the world's version. We mustn't let our ambition trump other people's needs. God shows favor to the humble, and the best way to gain wisdom is humility. You want wisdom? Ask other's advice in humility. You want clarity? Seek the Lord with selflessness. This stems from a spirit of honor and lifting of others up. Think of someone today who you can honor!

## PRAVER

Pray for Godly wisdom and discernment. Understanding that these are indeed good things that we should pray for. But also ask yourself WHY you want wisdom. Ask God that He would take away your need for a platform above His, but that you would use the gifts that He has given you for HIS kingdom. Be reminded today that God works everything together for His kingdom and for our good.

# PLAYED

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**APRIL 4**

**READ - PSALM 16:11**

You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

God has created us to be pleasure seekers. He created the world, and it was good. He has given us the ability to experience joy, love, passion, and satisfaction. Our problem comes when we find pleasure in things outside of God's design. Rather than leading to LIFE, they lead to DEATH. But they appear to feel good in the process or at least for a moment. We must trust that God reveals the path of life. And that in HIS PRESENCE is ABUNDANT JOY! We must trust that at HIS RIGHT HAND are ETERNAL PLEASURES!

### PRAYER

Oh God of great pleasures! You have created us to be pleasure seekers. To experience joy, to know love, to have passion, and to feel satisfaction. We confess that we seek pleasures in ways that are not glorifying to you. They are not your design. We confess that we do not trust that in you alone are all the pleasures we will ever need. Have grace and mercy toward us. And lead us in the paths of LIFE! By your power let us experience eternal pleasures that are at your right hand.



# PP A WED

## LUST OF THE EYES

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**APRIL 5**

**READ - JAMES 4:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." <sup>14</sup> Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.

Many of us are blessed with so many opportunities. We are driven to experiences and adventures. We want to accomplish great achievements. We plan and set our course for greatness and even train our children to do great things! But often we can forget, "A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Our compasses should be set on the path that God desires for us. And should be flexible enough to be directed by the Holy Spirit. We should not be surprised if the Holy Spirit leads us differently than we had scripted. And all of this should be for the glory of God, rather than personal ambition.

### PRAYER

Father, forgive us when we want to do great things for you, rather than allowing you to do great things through us. Give us the strength to always yield to the Spirit in all circumstances.

Let us see how you are walking with us through this life. We declare that you are directing our steps. You are setting our destinations. You are sustaining us. And all of this is for your glory!

# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**APRIL 6**

**READ - GALATIANS 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

When we seek to please others, we are no longer a servant of God but of man. Our aim is off. Our motives are wrong. This goal leads us to be prideful in our abilities, achievements, and resumes. We boast in ourselves! To be a servant of Christ we must humble ourselves. We must realize that apart from Christ we are nothing, no matter how grand our resumes may appear. Our identity comes from the truth that God loves us, created us, and we exist for his purpose, and nothing else!

## PRAYER

Lord, we confess our dependence on ourselves. We confess our desire to rely on our abilities and our achievements. We confess they lead us to boast in ourselves. We confess that we compare ourselves to others and judge others based on their abilities. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us. Remind us that we are nothing without you. Remind us that all we have accomplished is because you have given us the skills, strength, knowledge, and opportunities to do them. They are ultimately because of you anyway, and not us. We are your servants. Have your way with us.

# PP AWED

## LUST OF THE FLESH

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**APRIL 7**

**READ - EPHESIANS 2:3**

<sup>3</sup> We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

Paul is reminding us here that our human nature is to turn our natural state, which is the state that mankind has been in since Adam and Eve, sinful. Our sinful nature usually starts with the inclination we have to take care of ourselves, think about ourselves, and do things that we like to do. Our “fleshly desires,” is our orientation away from God and towards ourselves. The truth is that apart from Jesus Christ, we can only be dominated by ourselves and what we desire. But his example through his death, burial, and resurrection show us that life is about something more.

### PRAYER

As you begin this journey, ask the Lord to reveal to you what “fleshly desires” you have? What desires are ones that are easy for you to engage with and hard for you to give up? Is it envy, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, quarreling, dissension, or something else?

# PP A WED

## LUST OF THE EYES

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**APRIL 8**

**READ - EXODUS 20:17**

<sup>17</sup> Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The lust of the eyes is the desire to want to have the things we see, such as material possessions, money, houses, cars, physical appearance, or even looking at someone else lustfully. This means that we covet something we don't have. It's an intense, wish-filled desire that may show itself in various actions, good or bad, depending upon the object of the affection. Such desires are forbidden by God when they take forms such as envy and jealousy, which is rooted in the thought that God is not providing what we need.

### **PRAYER**

What are you coveting right now with your eyes, thoughts, and emotions that you believe you need and have the thought that God didn't provide?

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# THE PRIDE OF LIFE

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**APRIL 9**

**READ - PROVERBS 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

Pride. This is something we know. This is something we're all too familiar with. Pride is clearly a sin and most likely the most prevalent of them all. It's something that every human struggles with. We're born with a prideful nature and we don't like anyone or anything that tries to correct that. Pride doesn't allow us to admit we're wrong, it brings entitlement of what we're "owed," and it is self-confidence and importance. Pride removes our need for the Lord Jesus Christ. But as the above verse mentions, pride comes before destruction. Yet even though we know this is true, we sometimes fail to identify areas we're prideful and instead continue on a path that ultimately leads to a fall.

## PRAYER

Where are you prideful right now in your life? In your job? With your family? In your relationships? In your own knowledge and understanding? In what ways is pride leading you on a path that leads to failure?



