

MAY GOD SPARK IN US FAITH



1/8 - Sunday

May God spark in us faith in the One true God. Our faith is an "and" faith. We believe God exists AND that He rewards those who seek Him. He is both real AND involved! This is such a comfort! There's not a person in history who has ever sought God out and not found Him. He loves to be found by those who seek Him. Your faith in God is not a static faith, but a dynamic one. We don't just nod our head to acknowledge God exists. We believe to the point of trusting Him, and we mature to the point of trusting Him completely. As we begin our 21 Days of Prayer, our prayer for you is that God will spark faith in you that moves mountains!

Scripture: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 15:13

- What does it mean to "earnestly seek God?"
- What would it look like for hope and faith to overflow in your life?
- How can you devote these next 21 Days to sparking faith in a new and fresh way in your life and relationships?

1/9 - Monday

May God spark in us faith in God's sovereignty. The first sin in history was Adam and Eve trying to take their destiny into their own hands. That continues to be the choice for each of us today. We can try to live life in our own power and for our own purposes, or we can trust that God knows best. We live by faith, not by sight. That means that even when we don't have clarity for our future, we can have confidence in God. Worry and anxiety are mental and physical indicators that our confidence in God is shaken. This is why Paul encourages us to take everything to God in prayer so that the peace of God will rest in our hearts.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Philippians 4:4-7

- How does faith in God's sovereignty change the way you live your life?
- Why do you think faith brings peace?

1/10 - Tuesday

May God spark in us faith in God's presence. Do you believe God is with you? The story of Scripture is the story of God seeking to walk with us in a Divine-Human relationship, where His glory fills our world, and we share in His Kingdom. We have a unique place in God's creation! What a privilege that God longs to be among us and hears our prayers. It's been said that there is a God-shaped hole in every heart. Whatever you long for today, that is a God-given desire that ultimately points to our need for God. What if you brought every longing, desire, let-down, and unmet expectation to Jesus today and asked Him to be the One who fills you and satisfies you?

Scripture: John 11:40; Romans 10:11; John 7:38; Galatians 2:20; John 14:20-23

- How does it make you feel to know that God is with you in this moment and has not abandoned you?
- What would your life look like if you brought every longing, desire, let-down, and unmet expectation to Jesus?

1/11 - Wednesday, Pray & Fast

May God spark in us faith in God's salvation. Salvation is more than fire insurance. It's the power of God being exercised on your behalf! It's also more than a moment of decision; it's a life of abiding in Jesus Christ. If you follow Jesus, God has saved you from the consequences of sin, He is saving you from the power of sin, and He will one day save you from the very presence of sin! Your salvation leads to a faith that loves God even though we do not see Him, and a joy that is inexpressible because we know the depths of sin we are saved from.

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:8-9

- What does saving faith look like?
- What about this kind of faith brings you joy?



1/12 - Thursday

May God spark in us faith in Jesus as God's Son and our Savior. We are given an incredible promise, that if we are "in Jesus" we will never die! And Jesus asks a very important question: "Do you believe this?" It's a good question because the claim Jesus makes is pretty unbelievable! Yet, Jesus proved that He can resurrect us when He was raised from the dead Himself. Death cannot hold Jesus, and if you are found in Him, death cannot hold you either! So often, we say we believe in Jesus, but we live as if everything is falling apart. Jesus doesn't just give us the promise of resurrection in the future, He wants us to begin living a resurrected life right now!

Scripture: John 11:25-26

- Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior?
 - If so, how does this belief impact your life?
 - If not, what is holding you back from this belief?

1/13 - Friday

May God spark in us faith that evil and suffering are temporary. As Christians, we believe that God is love; and because He is love, He is also just. After all, who would ever say they love someone that they refuse to protect? Yes, bad things happen. But the promise of God made possible through Jesus is that evil has an expiration date. Suffering will one day cease. Not one evil act will go unanswered by God. In the meantime, the suffering we experience today is preparing us for a better tomorrow. Knowing that God uses temporary suffering for your eternal glory doesn't make it easy, but it does make it bearable.

Scripture: Matthew 21:22

- Suffering and hard times can feel unbearable. God knows this. He watched His Son, Jesus, die. Jesus understands too. He was crucified. Faith in Jesus allows us to recognize that suffering will end. How can this understanding help you face hard days?
- Because God is love, and He extends that love to us, we can love others. What are practical ways that we can show God's love to people around us who are suffering?

1/14 - Saturday

May God spark in us faith in our eternal victory. You are more than a conqueror through Christ! The victory is yours. The war is over. The battles we fight today, we fight FROM victory, not FOR victory. There's no such thing as a defeated Christian. The only kind of Christian that exists is a victorious one. So we don't live as if we've lost. We live with the confidence of knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God! Your future is set. The game is fixed. The life you live today, you live with the passion of a life set free!

Scripture: 1 John 5:4

- How can you live your life knowing you are fighting FROM victory, recognizing that Christ has already won the ultimate battle?
- As a follower of Jesus, you cannot be separated from God. He is always with you. How can this truth help you walk through hard seasons?

F A S T I N G

Fasting is voluntarily going without food - or any other regularly enjoyed, good gift of God - for the sake of a spiritual purpose. We fast in this life because we believe in the life to come.

Helpful hints for fasting

- Start small - fast one meal at first, then the next week, fast two meals, etc.
- Plan what you will do instead - how will you replace the time you would have spent doing that activity?

Fasting from something other than food

- Television
- Social Media
- Netflix
- Shopping
- Phone Apps
- Computer
- Drinking only water
- Music in the car
- Caffeine

MAY GOD SPARK IN US PASSION



1/15 - Sunday

May God spark in us a passion that we are willing to suffer for. As followers of Jesus, we define our lives according to Who He is and Who He wants us to be. We love the things He loves, and we hate the things He hates. This is the foundation of a life of passion. We often think that our passion helps us discover our purpose, but it's actually the reverse: our purpose gives birth to passion. When you know Who you're living for, you also know what you're willing to suffer loss for. Passion is about more than enjoying what you do; it's about valuing something (or someone) enough to sacrifice for it. In other words, passion is the authentic expression of genuine love.

Scripture: Galatians 5:24; Matthew 6:21; 1 John 3:16

- What are a few things you are willing to sacrifice and suffer for? Is Jesus at the top of that list?
- How do you think knowing your purpose helps you discover passion in life?
- What can you do today to increase your passion for God's Kingdom?

1/16 - Monday

May God spark in us a passion for the Word of God. The Bible is where we seek guidance, find encouragement, and grow in our wisdom. The study & application of the Bible is a critical part of the life of a follower of Jesus. We must not be merely consumers of the Word, but rather it is fuel for us as we go out on as ministers of reconciliation.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13

- What do these passages teach us about the Bible? Why is it important to meet together and study the Bible?
- If the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the reading of the Bible, how do you think your life would change if you had a passion for reading God's Word?

1/17 - Tuesday

May God spark in us a passion to become more like Jesus. We will never "arrive" as followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit transforms us by degrees into the image of Jesus. We must not pretend to be perfect but rather be authentic in our imperfections, knowing that God is at work transforming us.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12

- Why is community an integral part of how Jesus matures us as disciples?
- Why are we afraid to be open and honest about the sin in our lives? What does this reveal about our true understanding of the Gospel?

1/18 - Wednesday, Prayer & Fasting

May God spark in us a passion to seek Him above all else. We are all looking for happiness. We want to find what will satisfy our hearts. The truth is that we will never find what we seek in this world.

Scripture: Psalm 17:15; John 6:35; Psalm 107:9; Psalm 16:11

- Jesus is better than anything this world has to offer. What are the things you are asking to satisfy you in your life?



1/19 - Thursday

May God spark in us a passion for loving those around us. Because our salvation is secure, we no longer live for ourselves but for what is in the best interests of others, especially those who do not know Jesus.

Scripture: Romans 14:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:15

- What does Romans 14:7-9 teach us about our lives?
- How can we "rewire" our hearts and minds to understand that as Christians, nothing is about us anymore?

1/20 - Friday

May God spark in us a passion for being Ambassadors of reconciliation.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Matthew 28:19-20

- These 2 passages give the "job description" of a Christian. What are ways you can be an ambassador of reconciliation?

1/21 - Saturday

May God spark in us a passion to invite others into our lives. Anyone who met Jesus experienced love and acceptance, no matter who they were. May we strive to create a culture of invitation in Mercy Hill that makes everyone feel welcomed and loved.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:4; Matthew 9:9-13; Jude 22-23

- What are practical ways we can live this passion out, personally and during church events?

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MAY GOD SPARK IN US GENEROSITY



1/22 - Sunday

May God spark in us generosity because God gave first. The source of generosity for the Christian is not for self-fulfillment, self-advancement, or earning favors. Nor is it from compulsion, guilt, or manipulation. We give for one supreme reason: because God gave first! We live generously because God is generous, and because generosity is a powerful expression of love, honor, and commitment.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15; John 3:16-17; James 1:17

- How has God been generous to you?
- Is it possible to love someone without wanting to give them the best?
- Do you think generosity is vital or optional for Christians?

1/23 - Monday

May God spark in us generosity beyond what we can imagine. Jesus Christ is generous beyond measure, especially to those of us lucky enough to live in this Country. We are blessed to live in the spirit of his generosity in more abundance than we typically realize. Whether we acknowledge it or not God is generous to each and every one of his children and if only we receive the breath in our lungs it will always be more than we have earned. To truly receive from God and understand the fullness of his generosity, requires that we practice contentment in remembering His goodness daily.

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21; 1 John 3:16-18

- Looking back over your life in what ways has God been generous to you?
- What blessings from God are you most prone to overlook?
- What would it look like to always seek to identify with God's active generosity in your life?

1/24 - Tuesday

May God spark in us an understanding that He does not need our generosity. The simple truth is that God doesn't need generosity from anyone. He doesn't need our good works or our gifts, but our neighbors so desperately do. God is sovereign to design systems the way that He wants and because He is a Father that is for the unification of His children, He has given us a powerful way to tend to one another. By being the Body of Christ, God has allowed us to be his hands and feet. So often we look to God to do something so much so that we forget that all power and authority given to Jesus was entrusted to us so that we might fulfill his will in tending to each other's needs out of an abundance of love for the generosity Christ showed us on the cross.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21; Acts 2:42-47

- Can you remember the feelings you experienced the first time you were generous and saw that create an eternal impact in someone's life?
- Who are some people in your sphere of influence who could use your generosity?
- What would it look like to always be looking for opportunities to be the difference maker to those in need around you by serving them with your generosity?

1/25 - Wednesday, Prayer & Fasting

May God spark in us a willingness for sacrificial generosity. The example of Jesus Christ and God the Father shows us that sacrificial generosity is not only giving but giving something that costs you something. God the Father gave His only Son and His only Son gave His life in such a way that cost Him both spiritually and physically. Both examples show that even God is willing to give what is precious to Him. Sacrificial generosity is not giving from an abundance but rather giving something that is precious that requires sacrifice.

Scripture: Matthew 19:23-30; Mark 14:3-13

- What are you willing to give that you have an abundance of?
- What are you willing to give that you have very little of?
- Can you think of a time when you have given your last of anything?



1/26 - Thursday

May God spark in us an understanding that giving generously of what we have is what matters. God is well aware of how He has specifically gifted each and every one of His children whether it be in talent, finances, or in time. Giving is proportional to God and He is way more interested in how you steward what you have than He is in how your relational or financial bank account stacks up against the next guy. God doesn't measure by the standards of man but rather by how much obedience and love for Him is attached to each gift.

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

- Have you ever felt like your generosity wouldn't make a difference?
- Might such a feeling be exactly how the enemy might sideline a child of God from making an impact?
- What small blessings have you received that have made a lasting impact on your life?

1/27 - Friday

May God spark in us an understanding that He wants us to be generous. God doesn't need our gifts but He desires for us to show our obedience to Him out of love. A cheerful heart when practicing generosity is more precious to God than a dollar amount or a specific number of hours spent.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7

- Is your heart cheerful when you give?
- Do you feel reluctant to give?
- What are the major roadblocks to receiving the full joy of being generous that you face?

1/28 - Saturday

Why does God ask us to give if he doesn't need your generosity? Ultimately God's intimate knowledge of our hearts means that He knows that our hearts lie where our treasure is and He wants our treasure invested in Him and His Kingdom so that we can be intimately invested in a relationship with Him. Giving in this sense is more for us than it is for Him or our neighbors. It is a means for God to deliver a gift of a deeper relationship with Him that is born out of our cherishing Him and His body with our treasures.

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24

- Where is your treasure?
- Are you tempted to store up treasure in temporal things?
- How is God leading you closer to Him with your Generosity?

1/29 - Sunday

What has God sparked in you? God has created you for a life of faith, passion, and generosity. These things are not just individual attributes that make us good people. They are the outcome of a life lived in a Christ-centered community. The church needs your faith, passion, and generosity. The people in your life and community need it as well. Let's see what God can do through you this year! Are you in?

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:6; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:15; Isaiah 52:7

- Think back over the last 3 weeks. What is your best next step to increase your faith?
- What is your best next step to follow Jesus with passion?
- What is your best next step to living a life of generosity?

Write them down. Keep them in front of you, and have a spouse or friend hold you accountable to do what God has placed on your heart to do.

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