

Week 4 Challenges:

Day 23 Challenge: So often when we think of living a life of surrender to Jesus, we tend to focus on the “big”. This is where we paint with broad strokes on the canvas of our lives with prayers such as, “Jesus, I will go anywhere and do anything...” These altars where we commit our lives to God in this way are critical. However, when we find ourselves having gone to that place called “anywhere” and we are living out what often seem to be mundane tasks, we must regard these as holy before the Lord. It is here where all the details of Christ’s character being formed in us are put upon the canvas in much smaller strokes. If we are not careful, we can find ourselves busily trying to paint a beautiful picture *for* God instead of aligning ourselves with the Spirit and allowing Him to take the brush and have HIS way.

As you reflect on the following questions, prayerfully consider how God is speaking to you about where He wants to be most comfortable: your heart.

1. Do I find that I am inconvenienced by unexpected things that come my way, or do I see them as something God may be orchestrating and seek to join Him in what He is doing?
2. Do I see my home as a powerful place to affect a life for God?
3. What is the attitude of my heart in regard to the value of people?
4. Am I impatient with the “smallness” of serving?

This week, invite someone you would not normally invite to your house for a home-cooked meal. Lavish love on your guests and end the fellowship by praying with them and for them.

Day 25 Challenge: A Turkish believer who spoke at the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization said that he judges missionaries by a “humility index.” If they are humble, he prays that they stay and are used mightily. If they are not humble, he prays God takes them away from Turkey, to trouble their own people back home. See if you can make it for a week without referencing yourself, or anything you have done, both in conversation or writing.

Day 27 Challenge: The Live Dead challenge is first a personal commitment to Jesus and to His concept of team. It often means laying down your will for the will of God and others. Are you currently submitting your gifts, strengths, and personality to God’s purpose and the larger purpose of the team you are part of? Look today for the opportunity to celebrate the victory or success of someone else on your ministry team, or in your family, or on your dorm floor, or in your apartment, or in your workplace. Write a note of congratulations expressing how glad you are for this person’s effort and achievement.

Read Ephesians 4 and let the words sink deep into your heart.

Enjoy your team. Everyone is a blessing from God.

Day 30 Challenge: If you have been raised without hearing much emphasis on the Holy Spirit or the baptism in the Spirit and are afraid of it or don’t know how to feel about it, spend time releasing any of that fear to the Lord. Fear and resistance usually come because of a lack of knowledge or understanding. Read Acts 1 through 4 and ask Jesus to fill you with His Spirit. Get ready for conviction, power, boldness, comfort, and guidance to enter your life in a new way.

Think of anyone who has offended you recently and ask the Holy Spirit where you need to repent. Ask this person for forgiveness today.

Living Dead – Women’s Bible Study – Jan 12 – Feb 2, 2022

How does this “challenge” challenge those of us who have been “Pentecostal” for a long time? In your daily time of abiding with Christ, ask Holy Spirit to show you where you are resistant to Him. Are you closing your spiritual ears to His conviction and guidance? Are you letting Him flow through you in power and boldness? Are you seeking to use the gifts of the Spirit to minister to those around you?

As a final challenge, Bishop Phillips Brooks encourages:

*Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men*

*Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers*

*Pray for powers equal to your tasks*

*Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle*

*But you shall be a miracle.*