



Thrive

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

*Expanding Our Reach.
Deepening Our Roots.*

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2026

 **coastal**
community church

A Letter from PC

I am so excited that you are a part of THRIVE! Over the next several weeks, we are going to journey together as a church family—learning, growing, praying, giving, and trusting God to do something extraordinary in and through us.

THRIVE is more than a campaign. It is an invitation to grow in faith and to be part of something that will impact lives for generations to come. Our prayer is simple: God, help us expand our reach and deepen our roots.

This daily devotional is designed to help you go deeper in your faith and to apply God's Word to your everyday life. My hope is that it will encourage you, challenge you, and draw you closer to Jesus as we take this journey together.

Thank you for saying "yes" to being a part of what God is doing at Coastal. I truly believe the best days are ahead of us—together.

I love you, Coastal. I love being your Pastor. And I can't wait to see what God is going to do!

– Chris Rollins, Lead Pastor

"Thank you from your Coastal staff for being a part of THRIVE. We are honored to have been able to write these daily devotionals to compliment all of the THRIVE elements this fall as we all seek to expand our reach and deepen our roots. We pray that each devotional increases your faith and pulls you closer to The Lord and His Word."

Pastor Scott Huff (weeks 1 & 6)

Pastor Chris Jones (weeks 2 & 7)

Pastor Ryan Spell (weeks 3 & 8)

Pastor Jacob Bonetti (weeks 5 & 9)

Educator Bailey Clark (week 4)

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Week 1:

What Happens When You Have Faith

"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time."

– Oswald Chambers

Day 1: Faith Is Seeing

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." — **Hebrews 11:1**

Faith has everything to do with vision. It is learning to see beyond your circumstances, your fears, and the present moment. Faith is seeing life from God's point of view.

In 2 Kings 6, Elisha's servant woke to find an enemy army surrounding them. He panicked—until Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes and let him see." Suddenly the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire. God's army had been there the whole time. He simply couldn't see it.

In Luke 24, two brokenhearted disciples walked to Emmaus, convinced all hope was gone. Jesus walked beside them, but they didn't recognize Him—until their eyes were opened at the table, and they realized He had been with them all along.

Both stories ask the same question: What are you not seeing? Fear sees only what is. Faith sees what God can do. Fear asks, "What if things get worse?" Faith asks, "What if God shows up?"

The Christian life begins, continues, and grows through faith. So today, ask God to do what Elisha asked: open your eyes. Ask Him to help you see His presence, His promises, and His possibilities. Fear keeps you stuck. Faith helps you grow.

PRAYER – Father, open my eyes today. Help me see as You see. Amen.

Day 2: Fear always finds a “but”

"The people living there are powerful, and their cities and towns are fortified and very large... We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" — Numbers 13:28, 31

Israel had watched God split the Red Sea, rain bread from heaven, and pour water from a rock. Miracles stacked on miracles. Then they stood at the edge of the Promised Land—the dream in front of them—and ten spies came back with a report that began with a promise and collapsed with one word: but.

"The land is amazing... but the people are powerful. God brought us this far... but we can't take it." Fear always finds a "but." It makes every obstacle loom larger than it really is—lying awake replaying a worst-case scenario until the problem in your mind is twice the size of the one in reality.

Here is the irony. Forty years later, the next generation discovered that the people Israel feared had been terrified of them the whole time. The giant was afraid of the grasshopper. How many opportunities have you missed because fear made the obstacle look bigger than it was? Fear exaggerates your problems. Faith magnifies God.

When your report fills with "buts," pause and ask: Am I seeing through the eyes of fear, or the eyes of faith? The God who parted the sea stands with you at the edge of your promised land.

PRAYER – Lord, silence every "but" fear has spoken over me. Help me magnify You. Amen.

Day 3: You're not a grasshopper

"We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." — **Numbers 13:33**

Notice the wording. They didn't say, "We are grasshoppers." They said, "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes." The battle wasn't out there. The battle was in their minds. Israel had been physically free for two years, but mentally they were still in Egypt. Four hundred years of slavery had rewired their self-image. Pharaoh no longer controlled them, but the labels still did.

Many of us live that way. Someone spoke words over your life that simply weren't true—a parent, teacher, coach, spouse—and you believed them. "You're not smart enough. You'll never amount to much." The tragedy? That person may not even be in your life anymore, yet you carry their words and let them shape your identity.

Then there's the projection: "We looked the same to them." How did they know what the enemy thought? They didn't. They assumed everyone saw them as they saw themselves. Insecurity imagines an audience.

Listen carefully: you're not in Egypt anymore. If you belong to Jesus, your past and failures don't define you. Other people's opinions don't define you. God defines you. Fear says, "I can't." Faith says, "With God's help, I can." Fear focuses on your weakness. Faith focuses on God's strength. Let the One who made you have the final word about who you are.

PRAYER – Father, replace every false label with Your truth. I am who You say I am. Amen.

Day 4: Safe isn't the same as free

"We'd be better off going back to Egypt!" — Numbers 14:3

Think about how absurd that sounds. Israel wanted to go back to slavery. Back to the bricks. Back to the whip. Why? Because slavery was familiar. Predictable. It felt safer than trusting God for an uncertain future.

Before we're too hard on them, we do this all the time. We stay in unhealthy relationships because they're familiar. We cling to destructive habits because they're comfortable. We nurse old bitterness because, after carrying it so long, we don't know who we'd be without it. Like Israel, we confuse slavery with safety.

Maybe you're there now: "I know this isn't God's best, but at least I know what to expect." But there is a difference between being safe and being free. God didn't bring Israel out of Egypt to spend their lives looking back. And He didn't save you to spend your life hiding in fear. Fear will always tempt you to settle, to play it safe, to stay where you are. But healthy things grow. Thriving things grow. And growth always requires faith.

The heartbreak of Numbers 13 and 14 is that an entire generation missed God's best—not because God wasn't faithful, but because they chose fear over faith. Don't let that be your story. Step forward. The God who brought you this far will not abandon you now.

PRAYER – Lord, I won't trade Your best for what's familiar. Give me courage to walk forward. Amen.

Day 5: The mountain you're facing

"Have faith in God... you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen... if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours." — Mark 11:22–24

What mountain are you facing? What have you quietly concluded will never change? Your marriage. Your health. Your finances. A child who seems far from God. A situation that feels too far gone. Jesus' words aren't a slogan. They're an invitation. He's asking you to name your mountain and bring it to Him.

Faith opens the door for a miracle. Study Scripture and history and you see a pattern: when God moves miraculously, it is almost always in response to someone who believed Him. Faith doesn't manipulate God—He is in charge, we are not—but it positions us to receive what He wants to do. "According to your faith it will be done to you" (Matthew 9:29).

That's also why Jesus "did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith" (Matthew 13:58). Not because He was unwilling, but because they were. The question was never whether God still does miracles. It's whether we see with eyes of fear or eyes of faith.

What feels impossible to you is never impossible to God. "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Name your mountain today. Bring it to Jesus.

PRAYER – Jesus, I bring You my mountain. I believe You can do what I cannot. Amen.

Week 2:

Prepare for a miracle

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

– Corrie ten Boom

Day 1: Bring the need

"Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." — 1 Peter 5:7

Some mornings, your to-do list is awake before you are. A difficult conversation, a financial decision, a health concern, or simply the feeling that you are carrying too much can sit heavily on your heart.

The disciples faced a hungry crowd and an impossible situation. Their best first step was not finding the perfect plan—it was bringing the need to Jesus. That is still a wonderful place to begin.

You do not have to make your problem sound polished in prayer. You can simply say, "Lord, I need You here." God is not startled by what concerns you, and He is never annoyed by your dependence on Him. He welcomes it.

Today, resist the urge to carry everything alone. Name the need. Hand it to Jesus. Then take the next faithful step with the confidence that the One who cares for you is already present in the situation.

Prayer: Just say "Jesus, I give You the thing I cannot solve today. Help me trust Your care more than my own ability. Amen."

Day 2: Count what you have

"And he said to them, 'How many loaves do you have? Go and see.' And when they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.'" — Mark 6:38

When life feels demanding, it is easy to focus on what is missing: not enough time, money, energy, experience, or confidence. But Jesus asked His disciples a different question: "What do you have?"

Five loaves and two fish did not look impressive beside a massive crowd. Yet they were enough to begin because they were about to be placed in Jesus' hands.

Try a joyful inventory this morning. What has God already given you? Perhaps it is a kind word, a listening ear, a skill, a friend, ten available minutes, or the courage to take one small step. Do not dismiss small resources. A seed may be tiny, but it carries a future harvest.

God often begins His work with what is already in your hands. You do not need to have everything figured out. You only need to faithfully use what He has entrusted to you today.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to the gifts and opportunities already around me. Show me how to use them for Your glory. Amen.

Day 3: Offer your lunch

"And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all." — Luke 6:38

The little boy in the feeding of the crowd did not bring a feast. He brought lunch. But what he offered became part of a miracle because he willingly placed it in Jesus' hands.

Your "lunch" may be your time, talent, encouragement, resources, creativity, or willingness to serve. It may feel ordinary to you. That is okay—Jesus has always loved doing extraordinary things through ordinary people.

Imagine the joy of watching Jesus use something small that you freely gave. A brief text could lift a discouraged friend. A simple act of generosity could meet a real need. A willingness to help could make room for someone to encounter God's love.

Do not wait until you feel more prepared, more gifted, or more important. Give God what you have now. He is not asking you to supply the miracle; He is inviting you to participate in it.

Prayer: Jesus, I offer You what I have today. Use my small yes for a purpose greater than I can see. Amen.

Day 4: Expect more than enough

"And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish."

— Mark 6:42-43

Jesus did not merely provide a snack for the crowd. Everyone ate, everyone was satisfied, and twelve baskets remained. God's provision was personal, generous, and abundant.

Sometimes we approach God expecting barely enough strength for the day. But His grace is not a tiny emergency ration. He gives what we need for the moment and often leaves us with reminders of His faithfulness.

That does not mean every day unfolds exactly as we would choose. It means God remains trustworthy in every season. He can multiply a little patience into peace, a small act of service into encouragement, and one prayerful decision into a lasting change.

Look for "leftover baskets" today: evidence of God's goodness that remains after the immediate need is met. Notice the answered prayer, the unexpected encouragement, the fresh strength, or the opportunity you did not create for yourself.

Prayer: Father, help me recognize Your generous care today. Teach me to expect Your faithfulness in every need. Amen.

Day 5: Take the next step

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5

Faith is not having every answer before you move. Faith is trusting God enough to obey the next thing He places in your heart.

The disciples could not see how five loaves and two fish would feed thousands. The little boy could not predict the outcome of giving away his lunch. Yet each person had an opportunity to respond to Jesus with obedience.

What is your next step today? Perhaps it is making the call you have delayed, forgiving someone, giving generously, joining a group, asking for prayer, or simply pausing long enough to listen to God. Do not let overthinking steal the joy of obedience.

You may not see the entire path, but God does. You are not responsible for controlling the outcome; you are responsible for saying yes to Him. Small obedience is never wasted in the hands of Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, make me willing and quick to obey. I trust You with the steps I can see and the ones I cannot. Amen.

Week 3:

Giving God my best

*"Faith is a living, daring confidence in
God's grace..."*

– Martin Luther

Day 1: Surrender through sacrifice

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” — 2 Timothy 2:3-7

In 2 Timothy 2:3-7, Paul writes about three different people: a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer in order to describe what it looks like to live wholeheartedly for Christ. Each story carries the same theme, that nothing worth having comes without cost. The soldier endures hardship and can't get caught up in the issues of everyday life. The athlete can't win the prize unless he competes according to the rules, which means saying no to shortcuts. The farmer must work hard before he ever gets to enjoy the harvest.

Giving God our best is never only about doing more. It's not about just praying more, just serving more, or just giving more. It is also about subtraction. It's about identifying what entangles us: the distractions, compromises, and comforts that quietly pull us away from our purpose. A soldier who tries to carry his civilian business onto the battlefield won't be able to focus on the mission.. In the same way, we cannot carry every worldly piece of our life into the life God has called us to and expect to walk it faithfully.

This is the fight that every believer lives faces on a daily basis. It's the struggle of sacrifice, the struggle of elimination. We give things up not because they are worthless, but because they take away from something greater. We add discipline, devotion, and patience, while we remove comfort, ease, and compromise.

Paul closes this section by telling Timothy to reflect on what he's said, trusting that the Lord will give him understanding. That's an invitation for us too. Living the life God has called us to isn't just an $a+b=c$ formula; it's a posture of our heart. It's ongoing surrender, lived out one choice at a time. What's a choice you could make right here and now to surrender meow of yourself to God?

Day 2: Live with purpose

"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

— 2 Timothy 2:4

In verse 4 of our passage in 2 Timothy 2, Paul tells Timothy to remember that no soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, because his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. A soldier's life is defined by purpose. Every action, every piece of training, every sacrifice points toward a mission. He doesn't wander through his service; he moves with direction, because he answers to someone above him.

This is a picture of intentionality. A good soldier doesn't ask "what do I feel like doing today?" He asks, "what does my commanding officer require of me?" His life isn't accidental — it's focused. It's directed. And that direction shapes what he says yes and what he says no to.

Many of us drift through their faith the way a "civilian" drifts through life. We react to whatever happens to come our way. We chase comfort. We let circumstances set our agenda. But God has enlisted us for a purpose. We are not called to aimlessly wander. We are called to serve with one specific direction and be aware that our choices either advance the mission or entangle us in things that have nothing to do with it.

Living with a soldier's focus means asking, regularly, "Is this pulling me toward the purpose God has for me, or is it entangling me in something that doesn't matter in light of eternity?" It means being willing to endure hardship without demanding an easy path, because we know who we are ultimately serving. There is always an area of our lives that we could live with more intentionality towards God's plan for our lives. Where is yours?

Day 3: Train for faithfulness

"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." — 2 Timothy 2:5

One of the analogies that Paul uses to talk about constantly giving God our best is that of an athlete. He says how an athlete cannot receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. Athletic success is something we know is never accidental. Behind every strong finish is a long history of unseen discipline — training, restriction, repetition, and the refusal to take shortcuts.

This is a perfect picture of what it means to grow into who God has called us to be. We often want the crown without the training. We want spiritual maturity, biblical knowledge and a life that bears fruit, yet we neglect the disciplines that actually produce those things. An athlete who skips training but still expects to win has misunderstood the sport entirely.

The Christian life includes its own disciplines: prayer, reading scripture, worship, fasting, generosity, serving. None of these earn salvation. That is given freely through faith in Christ. But they are the "training" through which we become the people God has already called us to be. Just as an athlete's body and skill is shaped over time by consistent practice, our character is shaped over time by consistent devotion.

Discipline is unglamorous. It's the early mornings, the moments of self-denial, the choice to stay faithful when no one is watching. But it's also the only path to becoming who God intends — spiritually strong, steady, and useful for His purposes. What spiritual discipline have you been neglecting lately that would help you become the person God has called you to be?

Day 4: Sow for the harvest

"It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops." — 2 Timothy 2:6

Paul's third image in 2 Timothy 3:3-7 is a farmer. Farming and the growing of crops has been one to reward the passive. A farmer who plants sparingly, or who holds back seed out of fear or convenience, can't expect an abundant harvest. The size of the harvest is directly connected to the generosity of the sowing.

This principle runs throughout Scripture: we reap what we sow, and we reap in proportion to how we sow. God has planned a harvest for our lives. He's planned one for our relationships, our character, our influence, our ministry. However, that harvest depends on our willingness to plant seed now, before we can see any results.

Generous sowing often feels risky. Seed placed in the ground looks like loss before it ever looks like gain. Time given in prayer, resources given in generosity, time and energy given through serving; none of it shows an immediate return. But the farmer trusts a process he cannot rush and a harvest he cannot manufacture on his own. All he can do, is prepare the ground and scatter the seed faithfully.

God is asking us to sow generously into the life He's called us to. He calls us to trust Him for the increase. That might mean generosity with our time, our resources, our forgiveness, or our faith. And it does mean we have to plant now for a harvest we may not see for a while. What seed is God asking you to plant generously right now, even without seeing the harvest yet?

Day 5: Christ above everything

"Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." — **2 Timothy 2:7**

2 Timothy 2:3–7 teaches us that the soldier needs his weapons. It shows that the athlete needs his training and discipline; the farmer needs his seed, his soil, and a season of labor. Each picture in this passage points to something essential — something that cannot be skipped if the mission, the race, or the harvest is going to succeed. Life is full of things we're told we can't live without: security, comfort, approval, control, even good things like health or provision.

But underneath all three of Paul's pictures is a deeper reality. It's that none of it matters apart from the one who called us into it. The soldier serves to please the one who enlisted him. The athlete competes for a crown that only has value because it is given by another. The farmer's harvest still depends on forces outside his own strength — sun, rain, and favor. In every image, the outcome ultimately rests on something greater than the person doing the work.

For us, that "something greater" has a name. Jesus is the one we're enlisted by. He is the one we run toward. He is the one whose life produces fruit in ours. We can survive the loss of comfort, plans, health, or approval; as painful as it is. But apart from Christ, none of the sacrifice, discipline, or sowing means anything at all. He is not one priority among many; He is the ground every other priority stands on.

So, the message is simple. Give God your best; not because effort earns His love, but because He is the one thing, above all others, that you truly cannot live without.

Week 4:

Seeing what God sees

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Day 1: God sees the path

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your paths. — Proverbs 3:5-6

How often our own instincts mislead us. It seems that old adages about "going with your gut," regularly result in disappointment. This passage serves as a reminder that God's oversight and His wisdom are not only available resources – they are a necessity.

Imagine walking through a wooded forest. The path is winding, and what is ahead is unclear. Faith is walking forward, trusting the Lord's guidance to make the curving road into a straight path. God's perspective is a bird's eye view. He sees the path in its entirety, and He needs no map. He is a perfect guide because He also created the trail!

Making sacrifices can also resemble that winding road. Giving regularly, serving, and prioritizing spiritual growth is a path that we cannot see the end of. However, God has shown in his Word over and over that He will be present, and that He can make a crooked path straight.

This is an especially precious reminder because it's something that you can start right now. Rather than leaning on your own understanding of your circumstance, trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him.

Prayer: God, teach me to trust You with all my heart, and remind me that You will make my paths straight.

Day 2: God sees the final product

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." — **Philippians 1:6**

In his letter to the Church of Philippi, Paul shares this sweet encouragement. He is expressing gratitude of the church while also reminding them that God was not finished with the work He had started.

Like a seed that is planted, God is growing us spiritually. We are being watered, nurtured, grown through our circumstances. While sanctification is a process, we can trust that the good work will be brought to completion. Because of this, we can trust that if we're still breathing, God is still working in us.

A.W. Tozer once wrote, "When I understand that everything happening to me is to make me more Christlike, it resolves a great deal of anxiety." Everything we experience is intended to make us resemble Christ. This is a part of the sanctification process, and we can trust that the process will be brought to completion.

What would life be like if we held that perspective? What if we truly believed that God was working for our good and His glory? As this truth sinks in, begin to reflect on the ways that you have already grown in this season. How has the Lord continuously shaped you as you walked with Him?

Prayer: God, remind me that You're not finished with me yet.

Day 3: God sees our thoughts

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. " — **Psalm 139:1-2**

To be known by God is a treasured gift. However, it can also be a sobering thought. The Psalmist is acknowledging that our thoughts are not hidden from God. In fact, He discerns them "from afar."

God is well aware of what is taking place in our minds. It must be for this reason that He tells us in His Word to be sober-minded (1 Peter 5:8) and to take thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5). Our minds are constantly a spiritual battleground.

While God sees our thoughts of delight, joy, excitement, and righteousness, He also is privy to our negativity, doubt, cynicism, and malice.

So what should we do? How can we ensure the thoughts in our minds are pleasing to God? First, we saturate our minds with His Word. By filling our minds with Scripture, we are using God's own words as a defense against the enemy. Secondly, we must invite the Holy Spirit to reign in our thought lives.

As we continue through the Thrive campaign, we can allow God to grow us in our thought life. Through submission to God's Word and the Holy Spirit, the "meditation of [our] hearts, " can be pleasing to Him (Psalm 19:4).

Prayer: Father, I know that you see every thought I have, and I ask that you help my thoughts be pleasing to you.

Day 4: God sees our sacrifice

"And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. " — Mark 12:43-44

In this passage, Jesus the sacrifice of a woman who is giving all she has. In a crowd of people that are giving from abundance, this poor widow gives from poverty.

Do you ever feel like you don't have anything left to give? This could be financially, yes, but also spiritually, emotionally, or physically. It appears as if this poor widow understood something that we often forget: it is never a waste giving your all to the one who can replenish it. And while Scripture does not give us updates on her financial state, we know that the state of her heart was to give what she had.

Remember Jesus at the well in John 4? He promised that those who drink the water He gives will never be thirsty again. That guarantee extends to us

We can be reminded during this time of giving and growth that God is not concerned with the quantity of our gift, but the quality. Is there anything that you are holding tightly to? Is there anything that you are withholding from God? Everything we have was given by God and belongs to Him. Are we willing to return the blessings He has given back to Him?

Prayer: God, give me a heart of surrender and sacrifice.

Day 5: God sees us

"So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing, " for she said, "Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me. " — Genesis 16:13

Hagar gets a bad rap. After all, it's not often that a woman conceives a child with her mistress' husband (after being told to do so, of course). She looks with contempt on her mistress, is treated fiercely, then flees. The dysfunction in this situation is unmatched.

In the wilderness, the angel of the Lord speaks to Hagar. The angel says, "The Lord has listened to your affliction," and provides promises concerning her future son. Hagar then becomes the first person in Scripture to acknowledge that our God is one who sees. In her moments of feeling hopeless and lonely, she has a realization that the God of the universe sees and acknowledges her.

While Hagar's situation is niche, her desperation isn't. It is not uncommon in this life to feel like the surrounding environment is a desert – and it is desolate. The testimony of Hagar serves as a reminder that God sees our circumstance, and He sees the path forward. When we feel hopeless, we can rest assured that God sees us.

During this season, as we are challenged to give and grow, we must be reminded that we are seen by God. Because He is omniscient, He sees us in the moment and He sees what is to come.

Prayer: God, may I remember that in this season of growing and stretching, You see me.

Week 5:

All in

"If God tells us to do a thing we are to do it; if He tells us to believe a thing, we are to believe it; we are to have faith in God. Have faith in God, and if God tells you to believe a thing believe it, and then you will have peace and confidence and joy."

– Dwight L. Moody

Day 1: God gives us everything we need

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have what I need."

— Psalm 23:1

How frustrating would it be if you were instructed to bake a cake with provided ingredients, but one ingredient was intentionally withheld to make the task impossible? The recipe would never turn out right, would it? Thankfully, God doesn't call us to do life without equipping us.

Psalm 23 describes God as a shepherd who provides everything His sheep need. God doesn't call us to follow Him completely and then leave us to figure everything out on our own. He provides what we need to live for Him.

God provides rest when we are weary. He provides peace when we walk through difficult valleys. He provides goodness and faithful love that never fails. Ultimately, He provides a place in His Kingdom for those who trust in Him.

2 Peter 1:3 reminds us that God's power has given us "everything required for life and godliness." God is calling our church family to some incredible next steps, and He isn't withholding what we need to follow Him.

So, what are you facing right now that makes you feel like you don't have what you need to go all in? Maybe you need strength, peace, wisdom, or simply rest. Instead of trying to provide everything for yourself, run to the Shepherd. You don't have to have it all together. You can trust the God who provides.

PRAYER: God, thank You for being my Shepherd. Help me trust You to provide everything I need to follow You completely. Help me trust You and go all in. Amen.

Day 2: Commitment is both inward and outward

"Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart." — Psalm 119:2

We are told to “commit” all throughout our lives. We’ve heard people say, “Commit to your sport. Commit to your studies. Commit to your job. Commit to your investments.” The list could go on.

In many of these things, we’ve mastered the ability to fake our true level of commitment. We might look like we’re going all in on the outside while thinking, “I hate this. I’d rather be anywhere else.” Is this really commitment? I’d argue it’s not. Commitment isn’t just outward; it’s inward as well.

We might be doing all the right things on the outside, but God sees beyond our outward performance. To God, your devotion to Him matters just as much as your doing for Him.

Psalm 119 teaches us that when we go all in the way God calls us to—both outwardly and inwardly—we find true joy! It’s not about simply “doing stuff” for God. It’s about growing closer to Him, because He is the source of everything good, wonderful, and beautiful.

Take a few moments to commit your heart to God. Ask Him to help you go all in, both inwardly and outwardly. Ask Him to remove anything in you that might get in the way of loving Him completely.

PRAYER: God, thank You for loving me and proving Your love when You died on the cross for the sins of the world. Help me go all in for You, not just by what I do outwardly, but in how I love You inwardly. As I grow closer to You, help me experience the joy only Your presence brings. Amen.

Day 3: God remains with His people

"The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand." — **Psalm 121:5**

One of my favorite childhood movies was Peter Pan. The movie starts with Peter trying to find his shadow, which had run off. It was a fun idea and my young imagination ran with it.

In reality, our shadows could never leave us. Wherever we go, our shadow remains. That's what Psalm 121:5 illustrates. God tells us that He is our keeper and our "shade." Like a shadow, God promises to be where His children are. That promise is still true today!

Sometimes, we struggle to go all in because we think God will abandon us or leave us alone to fend for ourselves. God promises the exact opposite! His presence will be with us no matter what and Jesus reminded us of this right before He ascended to heaven when He said, "I am with you always."

Today, as you strive to go all in, remember that you're not doing it alone. God is right here with you. Allow this truth to encourage and strengthen you to remain in Him. Let's pray and ask God to help us remember this throughout the day.

PRAYER: God, thank You for never leaving or forsaking me. Thank You for remaining with me no matter what I face. Help me go all in today. When things get difficult, help me rest in You. May Your presence encourage and challenge me to give You my all in every encounter, conversation, and decision I make today. Amen.

Day 4: Going all in doesn't mean perfection

"O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption."

— Mark 4:8

It's so easy to give up. We live in a social media world where we constantly see people's successes and victories. If we're not careful, we can compare our lives—the good and the bad—with what others post: just the good. This creates unhealthy pressure to be as good as everyone else rather than finding our standard in God, who is completely good, merciful, and eager to redeem us.

God calls us to go all in in our relationship with Him. At the same time, He knows we will make mistakes and continue to sin. When we go all in, we need to remember that God already knows we're going to mess up along the way. That doesn't make sin okay, but it should keep us from being consumed by shame when we do.

Here's the point: Don't let the fact that you will still mess up keep you from going all in with God. God is merciful, and His redemption is the very reason we can keep pursuing Him! Don't be discouraged. Embrace the grace and power God has given you through Jesus.

Let's pray that God would help us remain encouraged today, even when we mess up.

PRAYER: God, thank You for being merciful to me. You could have left me in my sin, but You saved me, and I am so grateful. Help me not be defined by my mistakes, but by Your love and power. When I mess up, help me run to You so I can continue becoming who You have called me to be. Help me go all in today, Jesus. Amen.

Day 5: Our commitment has an eternal impact

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." — Matthew 16:24

Commitment to God will cost us something. Going all in means dying to our fleshly desires and wants. It means telling ourselves "no" so we can say "yes" to what God calls us to today. That's hard, but it's absolutely worth it.

Going all in will never be easy, but here are some encouraging reminders. First, we're doing it together. You have your church family right here with you. Second, God has called you to this, so He will give you what you need to accomplish His mission. And lastly, there is an incredible reward at the end of it all: dwelling in the presence and glory of God.

Here's some encouragement: As you pursue going all in, God is using you right now to make an eternal impact. God can and will use you and your story to encourage others to know Him more deeply as you press into Him yourself. So, be encouraged! God is doing something wonderful that may be difficult to see right now, but we know it will be worth it. Rev 21:4 says, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

PRAYER: God, thank You for allowing me to be a part of Your plan for this world. I'm honored to be used by You. Help me be even more committed today, and help me surrender the areas of my life I'm still trying to control. Use me today to make an eternal impact for You. Amen.

Week 6:

Planting In Faith

"Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right."

- Max Lucado

Day 1: Everything starts as a seed

"Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow!" — Galatians 6:7

Throughout Thrive we use the image of a tree. Healthy trees don't just happen—they begin with a seed. And that's how God's Kingdom works. Nothing that lasts begins full-grown. Everything God does starts with a seed.

So what counts as a seed? A seed is anything valuable that you give away. When you give away praise, that's a seed. When you give away your time, your money, your experience to help someone else—that's a seed. Even your words are seeds. The things you say to your spouse, your kids, your friends take root, grow, and bear fruit.

That means planting touches every part of your life—your relationships, your health, your finances, your career. These laws will either work for you or against you. So it's worth asking: what kind of seeds am I planting? Seeds of trust or distrust? Kindness or bitterness? Words that build up or tear down?

You will always reap what you sow. Circle that word always. You can count on it. God delights in starting small. A handful of people, one obedient heart, one generous act—that's how His harvests begin. Don't despise the smallness of the seed you hold. Plant it.

PRAYER – Father, help me see the seed in my hand today. Make me a generous planter. Amen.

Day 2: Nothing happens until you plant

"Unless it dies it will be alone—a single seed. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives." — **John 12:24**

Imagine a farmer who buys a big sack of seed, takes it home, and locks it in the barn. He's afraid to plant it. "What if I don't have enough?" he says. "I'd better hold on to it." We'd call that crazy—because seeds are meant to be planted. A seed kept in a bag does no one any good.

Jesus used this exact principle to explain why He came to die. A kernel of wheat must be planted in the soil. Unless it dies, it stays alone. But its death produces a plentiful harvest of new lives.

Here's the spiritual truth: nothing happens until the seed is planted. And planting is an act of faith. When you give away what you've got—your time, your money, your love—you're saying, "I believe something great is going to come of this."

That's risky, because you can't see what's happening under the dirt. You don't dig up the garden every morning to check on it. You plant, you trust, and you wait.

What are you holding in the barn? What seed have you been too afraid to release? Faith doesn't hoard. Faith plants.

PRAYER – Lord, I don't want to hold back what You've given me. Give me courage to plant, even when I can't see the result. Amen

Day 3: When you have a need, plant a seed

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." — **Luke 6:38**

A farmer looks out at a barren field. He doesn't sit down and complain. He doesn't beg God to make something grow from nothing. He starts planting.

There's a stubborn little conversation in this law. We pray, "God, please make my crop grow." And God asks, "Did you plant any seed?" "No—but make it grow!" "Did you plant any seed?" Nothing comes up from an empty field.

Let me be honest: some of us think we're waiting on God. We're not. He's waiting on us. We say we're waiting on God for a job, a breakthrough, a relationship, a miracle—while our hands are full of seed we've never planted. If you don't make a deposit, there's no return.

Here's the principle that turns it upside down: whatever you need more of, give away. Need more energy? Spend energy serving. Need more friends? Be a friend. Need wisdom? Share what you know. Whatever you need more of, plant it.

This isn't a formula to manipulate God. It's how He built the world to work. The harvest is already woven into the seed. Your job is to get it in the ground. What do you need most right now? That may be exactly what God is asking you to give.

PRAYER – Father, show me the seed I've been withholding. I'm ready to plant. Amen.

Day 4: You always reap more than you sow

"Still other seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted." — **Mark 4:8**

There's a law built into every seed: you always reap more than you sow. One seed never gives you back just one seed. It grows into a plant, a tree, a stalk loaded with hundreds—sometimes thousands—of seeds. That's the law of multiplication.

There's an exponential potential in every seed you plant. And here's the catch: it works both ways. Plant gossip, and you'll harvest gossip about you. Plant criticism, and it multiplies right back. But plant kindness, generosity, and peace—and you reap a harvest of goodness far beyond what you gave.

Someone once said, "Anybody can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count the apples in a seed."

This changes how you see every act of faithfulness. That patient answer to your child, that gift you gave when money was tight, that moment you chose encouragement over complaint—it's not just a moment. It's a seed. And God has hidden inside it a harvest you can't yet imagine.

So don't underestimate what you're planting today. Small seeds, faithfully sown, become great harvests in God's hands. He is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

PRAYER – Lord, multiply what I plant. Help me sow good seed, even when the harvest feels far off. Amen.

Day 5: Plant by faith, not by feelings

"Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest." — Psalm 126:5-6

Think about a farmer. Does he wake up every morning excited to work? He's tired. He'd rather sleep in. But if he only planted when he felt like it, nothing would get done.

We're not supposed to live by our feelings, mastered by our moods. We live by faith. And faith often means planting when you don't feel like it—when you're tired, distracted, stressed, or grieving.

Here's a confession: I don't always feel like being kind. I don't always feel like being generous. But I don't live by my feelings. I live by faith. Sometimes the greatest seeds you'll ever plant are planted through tears.

Faith isn't only for when life feels easy. It's for the hard mornings, the heavy seasons, the moments when you sow with a broken heart and trust that God is still at work under the soil. Psalm 126 promises it: those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. The weeping comes first. The singing comes later. But it comes.

So plant anyway. Your feelings are not in charge. Your God is. And He is faithful to bring the harvest.

PRAYER – Father, when I'm tired or hurting, help me plant in faith. I trust You with the harvest. Amen.

Week 7:

Waiting in faith

*"To trust God in the light is nothing, but
trust him in the dark – that is faith."*

– Charles Spurgeon

Day 1: Beautiful timing

"He has made everything beautiful in its time."

— Ecclesiastes 3:11

Some things in life arrive fast: text messages, weather changes, and the urge to check whether the microwave somehow finished early. Other things take longer. Growth takes time. Healing takes time. Clarity takes time. And sometimes God's best gifts arrive on a slower schedule than we would prefer.

That does not mean you are forgotten. It may simply mean you are in a season where God is crafting something beautiful beneath the surface. Just because you cannot see the whole picture yet does not mean the Artist has stepped away from the canvas.

Today, let patience be a form of worship. Instead of rushing the day, receive it. God is not late to your life. He knows exactly what He is doing, and He is not wasting a single moment.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust Your timing today. Teach me to see beauty in the process, not just in the outcome. Amen.

Day 2: The seed is not lazy

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

— Galatians 6:9

A planted seed can look like nothing is happening. No applause. No visible progress. No dramatic soundtrack. Yet underground, quiet work is underway.

That is often how faith feels. You pray, serve, give, forgive, show up, and keep going—and for a while it may seem small. But small does not mean pointless. Faithfulness has roots before it has fruit.

If you have been tempted to think your steady obedience does not matter, think again. Heaven notices the unseen yeses: the kind response, the faithful prayer, the consistent effort, the decision not to quit. In God's hands, your quiet faithfulness is not stuck; it is growing.

Prayer: Father, keep me from growing weary. Strengthen my heart while I wait for the harvest You are growing. Amen.

Day 3: Expectant joy

"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

— **Mark 11:24**

There is a difference between wishful thinking and expectant faith. Wishful thinking shrugs and says, "Maybe." Expectant faith smiles and says, "God is already at work."

That kind of faith changes how you carry yourself. You prepare. You pray with hope. You keep showing up. You leave room in your heart for joy because you believe God is doing more than you can currently measure.

Today, practice cheerful expectation. Thank God before the answer arrives. Praise Him while the situation is still unfolding. Faith is not pretending everything is finished; it is trusting that the Lord is active even now.

A heart full of expectation is lighter than a heart full of dread. So, open the curtains, pour the coffee, and greet the day like someone whose God is still working.

Prayer: Jesus, fill me with expectant faith. Help me live today with joy, hope, and confidence in Your goodness. Amen.

Day 4: Grow while you wait

"Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths."

— Psalm 25:4

Waiting seasons can feel like blank space, but they are often classrooms in disguise. God teaches deeply in the slow places. He forms wisdom there, steadiness there, and a stronger inner life there.

So instead of asking only, "When will this change?" try asking, "What can I learn here?" That one question can turn a frustrating delay into a meaningful morning. Every day becomes a chance to notice what God is shaping in you.

Read a little. Pray a little. Write something down. Pay attention to repeated lessons, gentle nudges, and fresh gratitude. Growth is often less like fireworks and more like sunrise—quiet, steady, and impossible to stop once it begins.

Prayer: Lord, don't let me waste this season. Teach me what I need to learn and grow something strong in me while I wait. Amen.

Day 5: Trust, not panic

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

— Psalm 56:3

Fear loves to act like a tour guide. It points at every possible problem, predicts disaster, and then insists you should panic immediately. But fear does not get to lead your day.

David did not say, "When I am no longer afraid, I will trust." He said, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." That means trust is not something you do after all the nerves disappear. It is something you do right in the middle of them.

Today, when anxious thoughts show up, let trust answer the door. You do not need to have a flawless emotional state to walk with God. You simply need to keep turning your heart toward Him.

Take a deep breath. Say a quick prayer. Move forward one faithful step at a time. Peace often arrives that way—quietly, steadily, and right in the middle of ordinary moments.

Prayer: God, when fear rises, help trust rise higher. Steady my heart and guide my steps today. Amen.

Week 8:

What happens when I give

*"Faith literally means 'to give up,
surrender, or commit.' Faith is complete
confidence."*

– Billy Graham

Day 1: Love that gives

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to say, "I love you," but how much harder it is to actually live it out? It's one thing to have the feeling of love towards someone, but it's a different thing to open your wallet, give up your Saturday, or sacrifice something important to you for the sake of someone else. That gap between feeling and doing is exactly where generosity lives, because generosity is love in action.

Scripture doesn't let us separate the two. Love that costs nothing isn't really love at all; it's just a feeling. John 3:16 shows us this truth perfectly: "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Notice the connection; God so loved... that he gave. His love didn't stay as just a statement. It moved to action. It sacrificed. It cost Him everything. The Father gave His only Son, the most precious gift possible, because that's what love does when it's real.

Jesus is the ultimate picture of generosity. He didn't just teach about giving; He became the gift. He gave up glory, gave up comfort, gave His very life, so that we could have what we didn't deserve. That's the pattern we're invited into. So when we ask "what happens when I give?" The answer is that something of God breaks into our world. Generosity in every area of life is simply love refusing to stay theoretical. It shows up. It gives. Just like Jesus did for us. What could you give up be more like Christ?

Day 2: Open hands, faithful stewards

*"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein," — Psalm 24:1*

It's easy to think of giving as a transaction. We often paint this picture of God being up in heaven, keeping a ledger, waiting for our contribution to balance the books. But the more we read Scripture, the more we see how backwards that thinking is. God doesn't need our money. He doesn't need anything we have. So why does He ask us to give?

Psalm 24:1 lays the foundation: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Everything, our paychecks, our homes, our time, our talents, already belongs to Him. We're not owners handing God a slice of our pie. We're stewards, managing what was always His to begin with. That changes everything about why we give. It's not a transaction to earn God's favor or fill some need He has. It's a response. When we hold our possessions with open hands, we're agreeing with what's already true; that God is the source, and we're simply trusted with a portion for a season.

This is where generosity changes our relationship with God. Every time we give, we're practicing trust. We're loosening our grip on what we convinced ourselves was "ours." We're declaring, in a tangible way, that God is enough. We're declaring that we don't need to hold on to our resources like they're our safety blanket. Generosity doesn't move God closer to us. It moves us closer to Him, reminding our hearts who truly owns it all. Is there something you're gripping tightly right now that you're being invited to hold with a more open hand?

Day 3: Loosening materialism's grip

[17] As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

— 1 Timothy 6:17-19

It's tempting to think of generosity as a math problem, a percentage to calculate, a line item in the budget. But Scripture keeps steering us away from the spreadsheet and toward the heart. Generosity was never primarily a money issue. It's a heart issue that happens to show up in our money.

Paul makes this clear in 1 Timothy 6:17-19, instructing the wealthy "not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share." Notice what Paul is after: not just generous actions, but a transformed heart underneath them. He warns just a few verses earlier that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). The danger was never money itself; it's what money can quietly grip in our hearts.

That's why generosity is so powerful. It breaks materialism's grip before materialism can break us. Every time we give freely, we're loosening the hold that stuff, comfort, and financial security try to have on our souls. We're declaring that our identity and security are found in the "living God," not in "uncertain riches."

This is how generosity demonstrates faith. It's not proof God needs our money; it's proof our hearts belong to Him instead of to our possessions. When we give, we're not just changing our bank account. We're loosening materialism's grip and showing, in real time, who, or what, we trust. If someone looked at how tightly (or loosely) you hold onto your money and possessions, what would it reveal about who, or what, you trust?

Day 4: Generosity's ripple effect

"[10] Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." — Malachi 3:10

Have you ever noticed there's only one place in all of Scripture where God invites us to test Him? Not test His patience, not test His power, but test His generosity. And it's tied directly to our own. Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Out of everything God could have invited us to test Him on, He chose generosity. That alone should stop us in our tracks.

But this passage isn't just about what happens in our own lives when we give. It's about "food in mine house," provision for others, resources flowing into a community so that needs are met. When we give, we become part of how God cares for the people around us. Our obedience becomes someone else's answered prayer. Our generosity becomes someone else's provision.

That's the ripple effect Scripture points to repeatedly. Our giving was never meant to end with us. A meal provided, a ministry funded, a family helped, a need quietly met. These are the "windows of heaven" opening, not just over our own lives, but over the lives God has connected us to. Generosity changes us, yes. But it also changes everyone within reach of our open hands. What would it look like this week to test God in this area, giving generously and trusting Him to provide, rather than holding back out of fear?

Day 5: Invest in eternity

"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." — **2 Corinthians 9:11**

Most of us think about generosity in terms of the here and now: this month's budget, this year's giving, this season of need. But God's Word invites us to see something far bigger. Generosity doesn't just meet a need today. It reaches into eternity. Paul captures this in 2 Corinthians 9:11: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." Notice what Paul isn't saying. He isn't saying God enriches us so we can raise our standard of living. He's saying God enriches us so we can raise our standard of giving. The blessing was never meant to stop with us. It was meant to flow through us.

That shift changes everything. If more resources simply mean a bigger house, a nicer car, or a more comfortable life, the impact ends the moment we're gone. But if more resources mean a wider reach of generosity, the impact multiplies far beyond our lifetime. Paul reinforces this in 1 Timothy 6:18–19, urging believers to "do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." Notice the language: storing up treasure, laying a foundation for the future. Paul is describing an investment in his kingdom that outlasts this life entirely. Every generous act becomes a seed planted in eternity; one whose harvest we may not see until we're standing in it. If you truly believed your generosity was planting seeds for eternity rather than just meeting a need today, how might that change what you're willing to give?

Week 9:

What I'm thankful for

*"Faith means trusting all that God
promises to be to us in Christ Jesus."*

– John Piper

Day 1: Rejoice in God's thankfulness

"Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth." — Psalm 105:4-5

When I was a child, my parents would pass out notecards at Thanksgiving for my siblings and me to write down everything we were thankful for. It usually started with a few eye rolls from the older siblings, but it quickly became a competition to see who could compile the biggest list. For some of us, it wasn't about how much we remembered, but about finding something "different" or "unique" that no one else had thought of.

This morning, If our church seriously competed to see who could make the biggest list of things we're thankful to God for, we would be sitting there for quite a while. That's how good God has been to us!

Today, let's take some time to reflect on God's goodness. Psalm 105:4-5 shows us that rejoicing in God's faithfulness begins with "seeking" and "remembering." God wants us to find our joy in Him as our provider but we cannot thank God for things we haven't taken the time to notice. So, let us take a few moments to sit in silence and remember God's blessings. Then, pray and give Him the thanks He deserves for all He has done.

PRAYER: God, thank You for Your many gifts. I could never remember them all. I rejoice in You today because my greatest treasure isn't the possessions You've given me, but the relationship I have with You through Jesus. Amen.

Day 2: Rejoice in biblical community

"Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind," — Acts 4:32

Here's a classic conversation starter: "If you were stranded on a deserted island and could bring one thing with you, what would it be?" One of the best responses to this question is not a specific item. It's when someone would rather have their best friend with them. For some, having a friend would make any experience a blast! Community is a gift from God. A biblical picture of community is found in Acts, where believers were united in Jesus and were of one heart and mind.

At Coastal, God has brought together some of the most gifted, compassionate, and servant-hearted people for this exact moment in time to make a difference for His Kingdom. That is worth thanking Him for!

Throughout the New Testament, authors wrote to churches and gave thanks for specific people and groups because of the relationships they shared. Today, take a moment to think about the community God has given us at Coastal. Think of a few people who have encouraged you, served with you, or prayed for you, and thank God for them. Perhaps you could even send them a text letting them know you're grateful for them!

PRAYER: God, thank You for my church community. I'm grateful for each person who makes up Coastal. Help us work together to bring You glory so others may know You. Amen.

Day 3: Rejoice, there is still room to grow

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel," — Philippians 1:27

Being part of a team is a rewarding experience. If you've been a part of one, then you've probably heard your team captain remind the group that you lose and win "as a team." Recently, our church has witnessed a lot of team wins and it's worth celebrating!

As we rejoice in what God is doing through our church community, we must remember that if we are going to accomplish our God-given mission as a family, it will take all of us working together beyond this point! Philippians 1 shows us that we are called to "strive together" for the work of the Gospel.

Striving together can look like serving and working as a team, but sometimes striving together means growing personally so that when you're united with the team, you're ready to contribute. Your personal growth matters just as much as what you do when you're surrounded by your church family. Growth is not personal or communal. It's both.

Today, take a few moments to reflect on where God is calling you to grow personally. Ask Him to give you the strength and courage you need to take your next steps of obedience, whatever they may be.

PRAYER: God, thank You for calling me to grow beyond what I could ever think or imagine. Help me take my next steps personally so I can go all in with what You're calling our whole church family to do together. Amen.

Day 4: Rejoice in the trials to come

"Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance." — James 1:2-3

This week is all about thankfulness. There's been so much to thank God for, and today we're going to thank Him for one more thing. On Monday, when you were asked to think about God's blessings, trials probably weren't at the top of most people's "things I have to rejoice about" list.

Yet, that's exactly what James challenges us to do in James 1:2-3. James wasn't a glutton for punishment. He wasn't telling Christians to be excited about trials themselves, but to rejoice in what God (who is in control of all things) can produce through them: endurance.

The truth is, life isn't always going to be easy. God never promises that it will be. But He does promise to use what we go through to shape and mold us into His image. Even our most difficult seasons can be used by God to make us more like Him.

Here's the point: We can expect trials, but we can also rejoice knowing that God will use them to grow us. If you're walking through something difficult right now, remember that God is in control. Seek Him and ask Him to use whatever you're experiencing to help you become more like Him.

PRAYER: God, thank You for calling me to look more like You and for using every season of life to shape me. Use whatever I face today to make me more like You. Amen.

Day 5: Rejoice and magnify God

"Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" — Psalm 40:16

One of the most helpful things to do when making a big purchase is to read a few reviews. Reviews are helpful because real people take the time to share their experiences, helping you decide whether something is worth buying. Some reviews make us think, "Wow, I need to buy that right now and it's on sale!" Other reviews make us think, "Wow, it's on sale because it's really bad!" The point is: Reviews matter.

What you have to say about God matters even more. It's important to privately rejoice over God's work in your life and in this world. There are also times when we should tell others about what God has done. Our testimony matters.

Psalm 40 shows us that when we rejoice in God, He is magnified in our lives. We shouldn't just magnify God privately; we should magnify Him throughout all our lives. What you say (or don't say) about God matters to the people around you. You truly can make an eternal impact through the things you say about Him! The question is, will we magnify Him the way He has called us to?

Today, take a few moments to magnify God privately. Then, ask Him for the strength and courage to magnify Him throughout the rest of your day.

PRAYER: God, thank You for Your love and salvation. Help me magnify You in every area of my life so that others may know You as I do. Amen.



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