

BREATHE

7 DAY DEVOTIONAL

JUNE 5TH - 11TH, 2017




BREATHE

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READY

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12

As we start our seven days prayer and fasting, we want to go deeper than church activities and ministry. While our worship and church activities are crucial in our walk with God, they must line up with how we live our lives. The words we speak must be reflected in the lives we lead. For we do not lead an easy life; a life that is not fitting for powerless Christians. That is why we have been given and have authority. It is an authority over our finances, marriage, future, and all our personal circumstances.

And how do we do that? We need to know how to live in the spiritual to affect the natural. We need to speak and declare life upon the situations we are in. We need to see Christ for more than just a savior but as Lord. This season God is inviting us to be more proactive in His Kingdom, to not live a boring routine life Christianity but a real active and ready lifestyle.

These next few days we will take time to pray and seek Him both personally and corporately. Ask Him to search your heart and remove everything that's hindering you from allowing Christ to be Lord. Ask Him to breathe life upon different areas of your life as your surrender those areas to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I, in my walk with the Lord?
2. What are some things in my life that I feel like God doesn't have authority over?
3. Am I accountable to Christ, our Pastors, and leaders?

Prayer

Lord prepare my heart for this week, to be ready for whatever you have in store for me.

MY WALLET

DAY
2

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

Hebrews 13:5

Matthew Chapter 20 tells a parable about several workers who worked in the vineyard. There were workers who were hired in the morning that had agreed to get paid a standard wage for working a set amount of hours, then there were also workers hired later in the afternoon that had also agreed to work for that standard wage. When it came to receiving their pay, both morning and afternoon workers received the same wages. However, the workers that were hired in the morning were outraged and complained to the landowner. They thought the landowner wrong to give equal wages to both sets of laborers. The morning workers had entitled themselves for a higher wage than they had received.

Sometimes God allows things to happen in our financial life because He wants to see where our hearts are. Will you complain to the landowner of the vineyard when he doesn't pay you accordingly? Or will your heart be full of joy to see your friends as blessed or even more blessed than you?

When you set your heart right, blessings will flow automatically. A prosperous life is inevitable. It is His heart's desire to see all His children blessed with a life free from debt, a life where you can be the support system in your community, in your church, and of course, in His kingdom. Be generous, be content, be mindful of our expenses, be a good steward of what He has entrusted to us.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is your heart currently at?
2. Do you believe that God is able and willing to bless you?

WHOLENESS

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

Psalm 139:13-14

The word “healthy” has been thrown as a fad in our culture today. Everywhere you look, there are people out there willing to eat plain chicken breast, Whole Foods, or even sign-up for a gym membership pass that they won't even use in order to be healthy and stronger. On the other end, there are also others who only focus on the mental or in the spirit, but disregarding the previous. Our body, spirit, and soul are all connected and it is important to learn how to treat them well.

In Jeremiah chapter 1, it states that we are called to glorify God*, not just by our words and actions, but through our lifestyle - a lifestyle that is aligned in the physical and in the spiritual. We represent Christ in everything we do, so we should do everything, as though we're working for the Lord rather than for people.*

When we have our lives aligned with Christ, the effect and the outcome will be different. You will feel different, because you have allowed your body, spirit, and soul to be aligned with Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. What part of your life is lacking in order for you to be aligned and live a healthy lifestyle?
2. What changes do you need to make to have a balanced lifestyle of the natural and the spiritual that is aligned and glorifies God?

HOME

DAY
4

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:15

Take a minute to breathe. You don't have to have it all together. Your family does not have to have it all together. Your marriage does not have to have it all together. When Joshua declared that he and his household would serve the LORD, they probably didn't have it all together either. Yet Joshua spoke and declared with authority because he had faith to establish a culture and a lifestyle in his family that represented the God he served. He didn't allow what was happening in his culture and society to dictate how he and his household would live for Christ.

Joshua, as the head of the family, did make the decision for his whole family but we all know that this may not necessarily mean that his family members will follow him. This decision calls for him to live a life daily in such a way that his family members will follow.

How are you with your family? Are your family members “serving” the LORD? Serving doesn't only mean serving during Sunday's; serving God is way deeper than that. If the answer is “NO”, how are you living your life in service to God?

All this will have to start with you. Joshua set the example, and so should you. Joshua was a warrior, he fought for his family. Are you willing to fight for your situation?

Act of Declaration:

So take the first step to improve the relationship with your loved ones. Write down the changes that you will make to better serve God by serving your family.

FAST FORWARD

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’”

Psalm 32:8 (NLT)

Either it's short term or long term; your dreams might change as easy as the wind. The overwhelming uncertainty of the days to come might put you in a state of fear or anxiety. Where does my life go from here? Have I done enough to leave a mark? Will my kids, my career, my future be okay? You might narrow down the question to what is my purpose?

The idea of the unknown is unpleasant, unstable, uncertain, but don't let the unknown hold you down or stop you from achieving the promises that God has prepared for you. Bill Johnson once stated, “When your dream make you anxious then it disturbs the lordship of Jesus Christ.”

So don't be afraid to step out in faith and surrender your dreams to God. He has BIG plans for you, and He sees the bigger picture. Why not surrender your future to the one who has created you? Mistakes are bound to happen, do not let that get you down. Just like in Psalms 32, He will watch over you.

See things in His perspective (Col. 3:2) and enjoy the adventure with the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to guide you in a step by step process and let His dreams, become your dreams. When you partner with Him, with the Holy spirit, your future and dreams will shift upon to what He desires.

Reflection Questions

1. Am I living in fear and doubt in this season?
2. Have I surrendered my dreams and future to God?
3. What are some steps that I can do to allow God to be lord over my future?

GO

DAY
6

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me, To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”
Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon YOU. You are free. You are anointed. You are sent. You have been formed, fashioned, consecrated, and appointed to transform the community around you. Yes, YOU! You have been empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit to partner with Christ in setting your family, friends, co-workers, classmates free.

So stop questioning whether you are capable or able to reach out. Start doing it. Know that the Spirit of the Lord God has given you the authority to do it. Stop questioning and giving power to your doubts, but start surrendering them to God; allowing Him to renew your mind with confidence and boldness.

Really ask the question, *“How can I allow God to breathe life into me, so that I can reflect Christ into my community?”* Your community needs you to reflect Christ to them, because in reality you may be the only “Jesus” they may see. So go and set the captives free, but be sure to take time and listen to what He has to say.

Reflection Questions

1. Who are the people around me that God wants me to show His love and reach out to today?
2. What are some lies that I have allowed myself to believe that are stopping me from sharing the gospel to my community? What are some truths that I need to declare to renew my mind?

Prayer

Thank you God for your Spirit that is upon me. and for setting me free. Lord Jesus, teach me to love the community that I am in and to represent you in my life. Give me boldness to share the gospel and to bring people into your family. In Jesus Name, Amen.

EVERYDAY

“...And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”
2 Corinthians 3:18b

In these past devotionals, we have allowed God to be Lord over various areas of our lives. We have allowed God to be Lord over our finances, health, family, and community, but this journey wasn't just for this time of praying and fasting. This journey is everyday.

In 2 Corinthians it states that we become more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. The process of change requires a daily decision of surrendering ourselves to Christ. This means surrendering our attitude, actions, wants, needs, desires and asking ourselves in the daily mundanes --

“What would Jesus do?”

“Where does He want me?”

“Who does He want me to talk to today?”

This does not mean we sit in the back burner and do nothing, but this means partnering with God in the daily's. It's time to accelerate. No more compromises. Deny yourself, commit, and really seek a life with God as Lord.

Prayer

Lord search my heart and heal me. I surrender my life to you. No longer I that lives, but Christ that lives in me. May I become more and more like you.



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