

# 21 Days

## Prayer & Fasting

for a  
“Miracle for Marriage”

20 July – 9 August 2015

Prayer Plan & Devotional Guide



**“If my people,  
who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves  
and pray and seek my face  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then will I hear from heaven  
and will forgive their sin  
and will heal their land.”**

**2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV**

# 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

## Welcome

Thank you for responding to this call to pray and fast for a “Miracle for Marriage” in Australia.

The foundational theme of **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”** is for an awakening - a personal new love for God and others which will result in an awakening of faith and practice for the people of Australia.

Mother Teresa said so beautifully, “*Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God himself.*” A personal awakening will lead to a national awakening.

In this booklet you will find a number of helps to praying and fasting during this important season of prayer.

On the following page you will find some background into the **Seriousness of the Situation** we currently face. Keep an eye on daily news for latest developments from Christian news sources like Australian Christian Lobby, Australian Family Association, Australian Marriage Forum, Australian Prayer Network, Canberra Declaration, Culture Watch, Endeavour Forum, Family Voice, Salt Shakers to help you pray.

Following this you will find a **Daily Prayer Plan**. These five prayer points are at the heart of this call to prayer. On the same page are some brief comments on **Fasting** and where to find some practical helps on planning how you will fast.

On the next two pages are an **Australian Marriage Prayer** and an **Australian Marriage Declaration** prepared by a cross-section of Christian leaders. These were especially written to be used daily or at any time at any time as God leads including **MARRIAGE SUNDAY**.

Finally you will find **Daily Devotions** for each of the 21 Days. These focus on personal awakening.

If you are married, please use this time to pray on a daily basis together with your spouse. We also encourage you to use this time to pray together as a family, at least on a weekly basis, as you are able.

May God, on the basis of 2 Chronicles 7:14, use our collective prayer and fasting to usher in a Miracle for Marriage for Australia.

### NOTES

1. Much of the content of these devotions is taken and adapted from ‘*Awakening*’ by Stovall Weems, WaterBrook Press © 2010 <http://godfirstlifeforum.com/free-resources/detail/awakening/255>.
2. For More Information Contact: Warwick Marsh 0418 225 212 or David Rowsome 07 3422 0969 [www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au) or [info@nationaldayofprayer.com.au](mailto:info@nationaldayofprayer.com.au)

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### The Situation is Serious

**Marriage is under attack again with the threat of a cross-party Bill** to redefine marriage to be introduced on the 11 August 2015 into the Federal Parliament. This is deeply concerning as our children always pay the price when we move away from our biblical foundations. The scripture says in Philippians 4:6, *“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

Australia's Constitution says, *“Humbly relying on the blessings of Almighty God”*. Alfred Deakin, one of the fathers of Australia's Constitution and Australia's second Prime Minister, offered the following prayer after the Constitution was finally ratified. *“We pray that it may be the means of creating and fostering throughout all Australia a Christ-like Citizenship.”*

Henry Parkes, known as the Father of Federation (1901), had a vision for Australia as *“one people with a destiny... we are pre-eminently a Christian people - as our laws, our whole system of jurisprudence, our constitution... are based upon and interwoven with our Christian belief...”*

We are thankful for our strong Christian heritage and that is why it is important for people of faith to pray and speak up on the issues of our day.

After much consultation with Christian leaders, prayer movement leaders and numerous representatives from many different denominations, it was decided to call for **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage from 20 July to 9 August**.

We are asking according to 2 Chronicles 7:14, for a **“Miracle for Marriage”**. We need a miracle of God's unmerited favour. We need an outpouring of the Grace of God! **Our prayer will be for Revival and Transformation for Australia starting in the Church and reaching the whole community and changing the nation.**

We call for ministers, priests and Christian leaders to celebrate **MARRIAGE SUNDAY** on the 9 August 2015 by preaching on marriage, sharing homilies on marriage and praying for marriage on the last Sunday of this 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting.

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Daily Prayer Plan

These five prayer points are at the heart of this call to pray and fast for a “Miracle for Marriage”. We ask that you pray through all of them or at least one of these on each of the 21 Days as God leads.

1. Pray that marriage will remain in our nation's laws as a lifelong covenant mutually entered into between a man and a woman according to God's Word. We ask for a **“Miracle for Marriage”**. 2 Chronicles 7:14
2. Pray for a true spirit of humility and repentance for the Body of Christ and restoration of sexual purity for the Church and that this restoration in the Church would then affect the nation. Ephesians 5:32
3. Pray that the voice of our children and our Indigenous First Nation people will be heard at this important time. We pray for people of faith and others to be inspired to speak up for marriage and for our children's future. We pray that they will contact their local Federal Member of Parliament and State Senators and become an active part in the democratic process. We pray for the ability to speak the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15
4. Pray that Sunday 9 August will become a special celebration of Marriage in churches across Australia. Hebrews 13:4
5. Cry out for Revival and Transformation for Australia starting in the Church and reaching the whole community and changing the nation. We pray for a great release of the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ for every boy, girl, man and woman in Australia. John 3:16

### Fasting

Prayer with fasting is an expression of repentance. Jesus said “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (Matt 17:21 NKJV). The word ‘fast’ in the Bible refers to the practice of self-denial especially of food. Some translations use the word ‘afflict’ for fasting (Isaiah 58:3,5 KJV). It means ‘weeping and mourning’. We do not think about eating in an emergency or the death of a loved one. Fasting is an expression of anguish and repentance before God. The people of Israel were called together in Solemn Assemblies, often for long periods, in order to search their hearts, confess their sin and repent (Joel 1:14).

Why do we fast during this prayer call? We ‘afflict’ ourselves to pray more earnestly for the 5 points of the Daily Prayer Plan. We say ‘no’ to our selfish desires and pride and put God first in our lives; we ask him to reveal hidden sins that have crept into our lives just like termites creep into a house and destroy it. Then we confess, grieve and repent.

You can choose how you will fast – fluids, Daniel Fast, one meal a day, certain foods, other things. For practical help on how to fast go to [www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au/resources/fasting/](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au/resources/fasting/)

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Australian Marriage Prayer

*Our Father in Heaven, we pray for Your continuing grace upon our nation Australia. We pray that marriage will remain in our nation's laws as a lifelong covenant mutually entered into between a man and a woman according to God's Word. We ask for a “Miracle for Marriage” and an outpouring of the Grace of God according to 2 Chronicles 7:14.*

*We dedicate ourselves afresh to be filled with the life, light, truth and love of God, asking You to soften our hearts, minds and wills. We repent of any wrong attitudes shown to those who want to redefine marriage. We want to walk in love with all people. Give us the desire to follow Your ways through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.*

*We pray for a revival of Sexual Purity in our nation. We pray that all Australians may live under the blessings of the New Covenant made possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.*

*We also pray for the voice of our children and our Indigenous First Nation people to be heard at this important time. We pray for people of faith and others to be inspired, firstly, to speak up for marriage and the rights of our children to a mother and a father, and secondly, to go and see their local Federal Member of Parliament and State Senators and to become an active part in the democratic process. We pray for the ability to speak the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15*

*We pray that Sunday 9 August will become a celebration of Marriage in churches all across Australia.*

*We thank You that Your mercy will triumph over judgement. James 2:13 We thank you for a ‘Tower of Babel Intervention’ as found in Genesis 11:9. We cry out for Revival and Transformation for Australia starting in the Church and reaching the whole community and changing the nation.*

*We pray for a great release of the Gospel of God’s love in Jesus Christ for every boy and girl and man and woman in Australia.*

*We ask You to deliver us from our sins and iniquities and restore our marriages. We pray for a marriage revolution in Australia and a revival of love in Australian families. We pray that Australia may become the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit; a holy nation living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We pray this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Australian Marriage Declaration

We declare that marriage is a holy covenant given by God. Hebrews 13:4 The Bible begins in Genesis with the gift of marriage and ends in Revelation with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Genesis 2:24, Revelation 19:7-9

The scriptures show that marriage between a man and a woman is a great mystery and an insight into the relationship between Christ and His Bride, which is the Church. Ephesians 5:22-33

The beauty of sexual complementarity of the male and the female is at the heart of marriage. Jesus said *"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said that for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?"* Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31, Genesis 2:24

We live in a time of great challenge to marriage. We declare the sovereignty of God in the midst of this challenge and give praise to God as Jehoshaphat did when he called a fast and instructed the singers who went before the army to say, "Give thanks to God for his mercy endures forever". Jeremiah 32:17, 2 Chronicles 20:21

We ask, through the blood of Christ, that our nation be spared from every attempt to distort the true meaning of the Holy Covenant of marriage. Forgive us for our sins. Revelation 12:11

We invoke the blessing, mercy and healing love of God over all marriages, families and all the children of Australia in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### *Day 1 – Monday 20 July 2015*

## **Return to Me**

#### **Focus:**

As we begin this time of prayer and fasting, let's turn our hearts toward God. Make a commitment to seek Him daily. Pray that your love for Christ will be increased and your passion for Him will be reignited over the next twenty-one days.

#### **Scripture:**

*“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Joel 2:12, NIV*

#### **Reflection:**

If we look at the kind of fasting that took place in the Old Testament, it would be easy to assume that the reason for fasting is to gain forgiveness. In the book of Joel, the Israelites had wandered far from God, and their sinfulness had resulted in famine and pestilence in the land. Through the prophet Joel, God called them to repentance, ordering them to declare a sacrificial fast, which along with mourning and weeping, would show God the sincerity of their repentance. In return the prophet said that perhaps God would *“turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing”* (verse 14, NIV). Such a fast of repentance is seen in the Old Testament time and again, because under the Old Covenant, man had to rely on his works and sacrifices to avert the wrath of God. But under the New Covenant, we don't have to fast for forgiveness.

**Every wrong we have done and will do was forgiven at the cross, and when we accept Christ, we live under the New Covenant of grace and forgiveness!**

First Thessalonians 5:9 tells us that *“God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (NIV). So then, why do we, as people under the New Covenant, devote ourselves to fasting and prayer?

As we walk with God, there are times that we feel far from Him or disconnected. Joel's words resonate with us, even if we live in a context of grace: *“return to me with all your heart.”* There are times we realize that though we have chosen to follow Jesus, the flame of our love for Him has grown cold.

Your time spent in prayer each day of the fast can result in a new richness, a rewarding connection with the Father. No matter where you are on your journey with Jesus, you can always take a step closer toward Him.

**I believe the power of fasting as it relates to prayer is the spiritual atomic bomb that our Lord has given us to destroy the strongholds of evil and usher in a great revival and spiritual harvest around the world. Bill Bright**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, I dedicate the next 21 days to You. I turn my heart toward You and seek Your face. May the love of Christ as demonstrated by His death on a cross compel me to give myself wholeheartedly to this time. Take this time of prayer and fasting for marriage and produce an awakening in my personal walk with You. In the Name of Jesus. Amen

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 2 – Tuesday 21 July 2015

## Tune In

#### Focus:

In this time of fasting, what is your mind tuned to? What distractions do you need to remove so that you can focus on God? Prepare your heart to hear the voice of God, and ask Him to help you remove distractions that keep you from focusing on Him and hearing His voice clearly.

#### Scripture:

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:27*

#### Reflection:

Have you ever tried to tune in a radio station only to be frustrated by finding static rather than music? And when you fiddled with the dial again, suddenly you hear a clear signal. The fact is that clear signal always existed on the airwaves.

The difference is that now you have adjusted your tuner to the right frequency.

In our hectic lives, there are so many signals bombarding our senses that it can become difficult to distinguish God’s voice from the deafening static noise of life. **Fasting enables us to tune out the world’s distractions and tune in to God.** As we fast, we deny our flesh. When we deny our flesh, we become more in tune to the Holy Spirit and can hear

God’s voice more clearly. If you truly listen for God’s voice, you will hear it. And when you hear it, your faith will increase.

If you desire to tune out the static of life and really tune into the voice of God, come to Him first and foremost with ears willing to listen and a heart ready to obey what He says (Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 66:2). The more we practice being in His presence, the clearer and more recognizable His voice becomes.

**Fasting is more important, more important perhaps than many of us have supposed.... When exercised with a pure heart and a right motive, fasting may provide us with a key to unlock doors where others may have failed; a window opening up new horizons in the unseen world, a spiritual weapon of God’s provision, mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. —Arthur Wallis**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, renew my heart, cleanse my mind, remove any obstacles to a closer walk with you. Help me hear your voice because I want to pray in accordance with your will. With all that is being said in the media about the redefinition of marriage give me discernment to tune out all the lies and twisted truths and false claims. Give me a spirit of wisdom and revelation to more fully appreciate the importance of marriage and what is at stake. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 3 – Wednesday 22 July 2015

## Fasting Removes Unbelief

#### Focus:

What do you need faith to believe for? Align yourself with God’s Word and will during this fast. Release your unbelief. Pray with confidence, knowing “nothing will be impossible” for you.

#### Scripture:

*“Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Matthew 17:18–21*

#### Reflection:

**When we pray and fast, we don’t do so to change God or His will; by praying and fasting, we are the ones changed.**

Coming into alignment with God helps us curb our doubts and fears. When we pray and fast, the thing that leaves—the thing that goes out—is our unbelief. It is when we have faith to believe that we can pray with confidence and know that *“nothing will be impossible.”*

Ask God to strengthen your heart to fully believe Him and His Word. It is okay to recognize and acknowledge if you struggle with unbelief. That’s the first step in allowing God to strengthen your faith and bring you into alignment with His plan for your life.

**Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect...“above all that we ask or think.” — Andrew Murray**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, You ordained marriage as between a man and a woman at creation and immediately the enemy of our souls came as a serpent to Adam and Eve. Help us to come against the devil who has been out to destroy marriage ever since. We take up the weapons of prayer and fasting in Jesus’ Name to do this. You are the Almighty God who can do above all we ask or think. Help us to align ourselves to Your perfect plans and purposes for marriage. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

#### FASTING TIP

*On the third day of your fast, you may experience a headache, flu-like achiness, intense sugar or carb cravings, slight nausea, or fatigue. This is a normal response to detoxification, so make sure you allow yourself some time to rest and keep your fluid intake high. The fourth day is usually much better physically, so hang in there!*

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 4 – Thursday 23 July 2015**

### **Agreement with the Will of God**

#### **Focus:**

Pray today that you can walk in agreement with God and enjoy the life He desires you to have in Christ.

#### **Scripture:**

*“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” Amos 3:3*

#### **Reflection:**

In the heart of every believer is the desire to walk closely with God. We know that He, too, desires a close relationship with each one of us. A key to having a strong level of spiritual intimacy with God is living in agreement with His will for your life.

In Genesis 5:22, we read of Enoch and see that his life modelled a long journey, walking consistently with God, for it says, *“Enoch walked with God three hundred years.”* Enoch lived a powerful life. He was a man who walked in agreement with God’s will and lived a life pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:5).

It is one thing to know God’s will for our lives; it’s another to live in agreement with His will. In order to enjoy the best life that God has for us, we must first understand that God does not change, but we sometimes must. Let’s earnestly seek to know and agree with God’s will. **The level of our agreement with God will determine the degree of closeness in our walk with Him.**

**I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God’s law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled. — D.L. Moody**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, even as Adam and Eve walked and talked with You in the garden in the cool of the day prior to their fall into sin, help me to enjoy a close intimacy with you. Empty me of pride and selfishness or anything that is contrary to your plan and purpose for my life. Help husbands and wives in Christian marriages today have an intimacy with each other that flows out of an intimacy with You. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### **Day 5 – Friday 24 July 2015**

# **When Grace Comes Down**

#### **Focus:**

Have you been looking at God through the veil of legalism and religion? In Jesus, we see the full revelation of the nature of God: His love and holiness, mercy and justice, compassion and power all perfectly and beautifully expressed. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you see God through the eyes of grace and truth given to us in Jesus Christ.

#### **Scripture:**

*“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17*

#### **Reflection:**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a personal visit with God? What would He say about the state of humanity? about religion? about our propensity toward sin? There is no need to wonder about what God is like or would say, because to know Him, we have only to look at Jesus. In Jesus we have received grace, but there is even something more we have received: truth. The kind of truth John spoke of in today’s scripture is not a list of laws and rules such as were given to Moses.

Make no mistake—the revelation of God through the word of the Law was glorious. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai after receiving the ten commandments, his face shone so brightly with the glory of God that he had to wear a veil (Exodus 34:33-35). But the word of the Law cannot compare with the word of life that has been revealed through Jesus Christ!

In John 1:18 we learn that no one, not even Moses, has ever seen God. But Jesus has not only seen God—He is God. The truth that John was speaking about is a clear and unveiled vision of the true nature of God.

Looking at God through the lens of legalism and religion is like looking at Him through a veil. Only when we see Him through Jesus Christ can we truly get a glimpse into His heart. **It is from a state of grace, not legalism, that we will find real and lasting transformation (2 Corinthians 3:7–18).**

**I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am. — John Newton**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, Your Word says that Your Son Jesus Christ came to this earth full of grace and truth. Thank You that it is Your grace and truth that makes marriages and families strong and lasting. Fill me with Your grace and truth as I speak to those with differing views - even those who viciously oppose true marriage. Open their eyes to the beauty and wonder and uniqueness of Your plan for marriage. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 6 – Saturday 25 July 2015

## *The Spirit is Willing*

#### Focus:

Are there areas in your life causing an internal struggle? Make a decision today to yield to the Holy Spirit and lean on His strength, not your own, and to overcome obstacles of sin and selfishness in your life. Surrender and release those areas to God, knowing He will help you.

#### Scripture:

*“And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.” Romans 7:18–20, NLT*

#### Reflection:

There’s an internal war that rages within each of us. Paul described this so well in Romans 7. Though we desire to do the right thing, we don’t have the power to do so in our own efforts and we mess up.

The good news is that we don’t have to rely on our own strength to make right decisions. We don’t have to be dominated by our sinful nature and end up doing the things we don’t want to do. But the only way we can live this kind of life is by yielding to the Holy Spirit and relying on the strength of Jesus Christ, not our own.

**When we’re facing struggles, we must rely on God’s power alive within us through the Holy Spirit.** When we are born again, the Holy Spirit resides in us and places in us the desire to do what is pleasing to God (Hebrews 10:16). The Holy Spirit always wants to do what is right and to uphold the perfect will of God, pleasing the Father in every way.

It is our job to lay down our stubborn fleshly will and yield to the will of God. In that moment, the Holy Spirit will be there to help us. Let’s learn to yield to and become totally reliant upon the Holy Spirit.

**[Prayer] turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God. — Samuel Chadwick**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, fill me with Your presence and power. Inspire me by Your Holy Spirit to pray in power for a “Miracle for Marriage”. Bring a true spirit of humility and repentance in the Body of Christ that will result in the restoration of sexual purity in the Church. Forgive us for looking the other way and tolerating sexual sin in our midst. Lord, I surrender my will to You and ask for Your help as I yield to Your Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### ***Day 7 – Sunday 26 July 2015***

## ***Fervent Prayer***

#### **Focus:**

As you close out this first week, continue to pray fervently for the main areas of concern in your life. Trust God to bring an answer as you journal your thoughts and inspirations through this time.

#### **Scripture:**

*“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” — James 5:16*

#### **Reflection:**

Fervency speaks to our level of intensity, passion, and persistence. **Many times, we can lose our passion in prayer or stop praying for certain things altogether because we lose heart or give up.** But God invites us to keep them before Him and trust Him for an answer in His time (Matthew 7:7–11).

The Old Testament prophet Elijah practiced a lifestyle of fervent, intense prayer and witnessed incredible miracles in his lifetime. In the book of Kings, the story is told of a woman whose only son became ill and died (1 Kings 17:17–24). When Elijah heard the news, he quickly took action and did what he knew best—he fervently cried out to God.

Elijah fully believed that God could bring the boy back to life, and he prayed not just once but three times that the boy’s soul would return to him. He prayed fervently and repeatedly and he wasn’t going to give up. This was the result: *“Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived”* (verse 22).

Elijah’s prayer was answered through his persistence and fervency. God hears your prayers as well and will bring an answer in His perfect timing. But don’t be discouraged or disheartened if the answer takes time to arrive or is not exactly what you expected. Commit to praying to God with passion and persistence, trusting the answer will come in God’s perfect way at the perfect time.

**We must never forget that the highest kind of prayer is never the making of requests. Prayer at its holiest moment is the entering into God, to a place of such blessed union as it makes miracles seem tame and remarkable answers to prayer appear something very far short of wonderful by comparison. —A. W. Tozer**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, the persistent and fervent prayers of Elijah broke a three year drought and brought a boy back to life. Your Word makes it clear that he was a man like us and therefore we also can choose to pray with persistence and fervency. Help us to pray for an ending of the spiritual drought in Australia. May we see new life come to many men, women and children which will cause marriages and families to flourish. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 8 – Monday 27 July 2015

## Hear Him

#### Focus:

How does understanding the New Covenant of grace change the focus of your fast? As you pray and seek after God, let His be the loudest voice you hear.

#### Scripture:

*“This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.”... And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.” Matthew 17:5, 8, NLT*

#### Reflection:

On the Mount of Transfiguration three disciples had an experience that showed us the Father’s plan for the New Covenant. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to the top of a mountain where He was transfigured into His glorified state. Up until this point, the Jews had related to God through the Law—represented by Moses and the prophets, one being Elijah. Inspired by what he was seeing, Peter eagerly offered to erect three tabernacles—one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Then a loud voice from heaven was heard: *“This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.”*

When the disciples looked up, they saw only Jesus.

On that mountain God made it clear that we will only discover His pleasure by following Jesus. God’s grace is freely given to those who receive new life in Him. Sometimes, though, there are areas of our lives where we do not fully embrace God’s grace. There may be circumstances or areas where we still try to earn our way to the Father.

**You cannot earn God’s pleasure, but you can experience it to a greater degree as you follow Jesus Christ.** As you seek God today, ask Him for a greater revelation of Jesus in your heart. Then will you be reminded that you are a beloved child of God. And that He finds pleasure in you.

**If heaven were by merit, it would never be heaven to me, for if I were in it I should say, “I am sure I am here by mistake; I am sure this is not my place; I have no claim to it.” But if it be of grace and not of works, then we may walk into heaven with boldness. —**

**Charles H. Spurgeon**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, help me not to give up praying and fasting for marriage and family. For Your Beloved Son Jesus set us an example by praying and fasting during the days of His life on earth. And he assumed His followers would also fast by saying “When you fast ...”. Give me a fresh revelation of Jesus so I can say with Paul, *“It is no longer I that live but Christ who lives in me”*. Help me to listen to Him. So much is at stake for our nation. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 9 – Tuesday 28 July 2015

## Clean House

#### Focus:

As you pray and fast today, ask God to show you any areas where you could use a refreshed spiritual focus. Pray as David did in Psalm 51:10–12 that God will cleanse your heart, renew your spirit, and restore the joy of your salvation. Pray with confidence, knowing that He wants to fill you with His life and peace.

#### Scripture:

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:5–6*

#### Reflection:

Have you ever looked at the top of your refrigerator or in the deep recesses of your couch cushions and noticed the filth that has built up over time? Even though we might clean on a regular basis, there are times when we need to go...a little deeper. We realize that what appeared to be clean on the surface was in all actuality, quite filthy.

The same thing can happen spiritually. As we go about our daily lives, there are things that can build up over time. Even if we worship, pray, and read our Bible regularly, the different temptations, pressures, and cares of this world can build up quietly and end up consuming our lives. Without even realizing it, we can lose our peace, joy, and passion for the things of God. Our service to God, which used to fill us with life and excitement, becomes a tiresome duty that we must fulfil.

**Fasting is the deep cleaning that helps us take our minds off of the things of this world and instead have a refreshed focus on the things of the Spirit.** Fasting offers an incredibly effective way to get into the nooks and crannies of our souls and bring all those dusty old habits, broken mindsets, and rusty attitudes out into the light of God’s truth.

In fasting and prayer, our service to God returns to something we want to do rather than something we have to do.

**One of the reasons for fasting is to know what is in us.... In fasting it will come out. You will see it. And you will have to deal with it quickly or smother it again. —John Piper**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, show me areas of my life that I need to repent and turn from any wicked ways so that You will forgive me and cleanse me of my sin. Help me not to be a stumbling block to fellow believers or a poor witness to unbelievers because of anything they might see in my marriage or family life. In a similar way help the Church to stay true to Your Word and repent of when it has compromised or failed to uphold marriage and family in our society. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 10 – Wednesday 29 July 2015**

### **Unwavering Faith**

#### **Focus:**

What are you trusting God for in this season? How can you line up your expectations with the Word of God when you pray? Find promises in His Word that answer your need and write them down today.

#### **Scripture:**

*“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.” James 1:6, KJV.*

#### **Reflection:**

What do you expect when you pray?

When we pray with earnest expectation, we are exercising our faith. The earnest prayer of righteous people produces powerful results (James 5:16, NLT), and **the most earnest prayers come from us when we recognize our need for God.**

There can be a natural tendency to shrink back when praying for the seemingly impossible, but we must remember that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37). If we know the promises that God has given us, and understand His character and the principles by which He works, we can pray with confidence and trust Him for the answer.

What has caused you to waver in your expectation with God? James reminds us that faith and wavering are actually contradictory—James says *“nothing wavering.”* Know that God never wavers in His love for you. You can trust Him completely.

**There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer. —Jonathan Edwards**

**When we depend upon organizations, we get what organizations can do; when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man, we get what man can do; but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do. — A. C. Dixon**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, during these 21 days of prayer and fasting, let my faith in You never waiver. Help us to believe for a “Miracle for Marriage” for Australia in spite of what is happening in many other Western nations. I pray that the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act *“the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”* will not be changed. You alone have the words of life for me and for this nation. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

*Choosing to start a fast is quite similar to setting goals in life. It is good for us to challenge ourselves and set the bar high. Each time you prepare for fast, set goals that are typically beyond what you did the last time. They can be beyond what you could do in your own strength. When you set the bar high, sometimes the natural result is failure to meet the goal. But that should never stop us from trying to reach as high as we can. So what if you mess up? What should you do then? Proverbs 24:16 says, “For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity” (NIV).*

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 11 – Thursday 30 July 2015**

### **Prayer and the Process**

#### **Focus:**

What prayers of yours are still awaiting an answer? Throughout this fast, thank God for His process at work in you...and trust Him.

#### **Scripture:**

*“Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, “I saw a little cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.” Then Elijah shouted, “Hurry to Ahab and tell him, ‘Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don’t hurry, the rain will stop you!’” 1 Kings 18:43–44, NLT*

#### **Reflection:**

“How do I know God is going to say yes to my prayers?”

This is a common question many people have as they seek a confident prayer life. However, it’s important to recognize that **prayer is not just about the answer; it’s also about glorifying God in the process of waiting for the answer.** It is our responsibility to check our motives and believe God hears us.

We see an example of the process of prayer in this story of Elijah (1 Kings 18). Elijah climbed to the top of the mountain to pray for rain to come. As he waited for the rain, he continued to pray, believing God would answer. When he finally saw a small cloud, he told Ahab to get ready because the rain was coming. Elijah knew what to pray for, and God heard him the first time he prayed. But there was preparation that needed to take place in order for Elijah to receive the answer to his prayer.

It is no mistake that God waited until Elijah had prayed seven times before He answered. In the Bible, seven represents completion. In this story, seven represents the completion of God’s process regarding Elijah’s prayer request. God does not want merely to answer our prayers; He wants to spend time with us to prepare us for the answer that will come. Many times we want to skip over the process involved in engaging God in prayer as we wait for our answer. But it is this very process that works maturity in us and prepares us for the answers our prayers bring (James 1:4).

**The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came ... Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory. — R. A. Torrey**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, impress upon me once again how persistent prayer is key to winning spiritual battles. With all the mounting pressures in our society that militate against marriages and families we need breakthrough. Raise up an army of intercessors who will demolish enemy strongholds. Raise up husbands and wives and children who will pray together as families so they can stay together. May You receive all the glory as victories are won. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 12 – Friday 31 July 2015**

### **Praying Boldly**

#### **Focus:**

Do you approach God with timidity or confidence? Seek God boldly today knowing you are fully forgiven and Jesus has made you righteous. When you approach God in prayer, seek a fresh revelation of who He is in your life.

#### **Scripture:**

*“And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant.” 1 Kings 18:36*

#### **Reflection:**

The sacrifice referenced above was a declaration that Elijah was a servant of the Most High God. Elijah belonged to God, and he represented God to the people. However, Elijah’s boldness was not a result of who he was; it was the result of knowing God!

As children of God under the New Covenant, we don’t have to be timid or fearful when coming to God in prayer. We can approach Him boldly.

*“Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God’s unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].” (Hebrews 4:16, AMP)*

It’s intimidating to think about taking a fearless, confident, bold attitude when coming before God in prayer. Yet this is exactly what we are admonished to do! God has already settled the issue of our access to Him, but we can be assured our access is not because of our own righteousness. It’s because of what Jesus did on the cross.

We can come to the throne in such outrageous boldness because Jesus was outrageously righteous! When we pray, we come to God in the authority of Jesus’ name, and we can be confident that we will find grace, mercy, and perfectly timed help.

**Fasting is not an end of itself; it is a means by which we can worship the Lord and submit ourselves in humility to Him. We don’t make God love us any more than He already does if we fast, or if we fast longer. Fasting involves God in the problem. Then in the strength of God, victory is possible. — Elmer L. Towns**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, I pray boldly and with utter confidence for a “Miracle for Marriage”. You have a plan for the marriages and families of this nation. I am part of that plan by my prayers. I pray especially that You will move many local churches and denominations to take part in MARRIAGE SUNDAY on 9 August. May You be glorified as marriage is celebrated all across Australia. May the truth about marriage be preached with power. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 13 – Saturday 1 Aug 2015**

### **Day 13 – Cultivating Spiritual Hunger**

#### **Focus:**

During this time, you will find that being still before the Lord will set you in a place of increased strength, peace, and hunger for God. Are you disconnected from things that nourish your body and soul? What do you need to deny yourself to make this a powerful time in your life?

#### **Scripture:**

*Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

*Mark 1:12–13*

#### **Reflection:**

Even Jesus disconnected from the world to fast and pray. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell of Jesus going to the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. They also describe other times when Jesus pulled away from the demands of the crowds, His ministry, and even His closest friends to pray.

There are times that we, too, need to pull away from the things of the world and focus on God. “*The things of the world*” can certainly include more than just food. In fact, in our world they are more likely television, movies, Facebook, Twitter, cell phones, and the Internet. None of these things are wrong in and of themselves, but they are avenues for a mental and spiritual crowd to gather around us and drown out the Holy Spirit’s voice.

**Fasting is a means of disconnecting from the distractions of daily life and consciously choosing to bring God into greater focus.** Giving up physical nourishment is the first step in engaging that process. If you think about it, though, in day-to-day life we nourish our souls as well as our bodies. We do so through reading, talking, socializing, playing, and entertainment. When our souls are full of those things, we often don’t hunger for God.

During this time of fasting, we are sure to feel physical hunger, but let’s be intentional about cultivating spiritual hunger as well. Let’s draw away from the crowd and lay aside for a season the activities we use to nourish our souls. Instead let’s enter a state of spiritual hunger, a craving for righteousness. Jesus said that being spiritually hungry is a blessed state, because there we can be sure of being filled with food that truly satisfies our deepest needs (Matt 5:6).

**Prayer is reaching out and after the unseen; fasting, letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepens, confirms the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God. — Andrew Murray.**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days at the beginning of his ministry on earth. Help me follow in his footsteps during this 21 day period. As the distractions of daily life fall away may my desire to love You grow. I pray for my Federal Member and State Senators that in their busyness they will make time to listen to those who speak up for marriage. Help them by Your Holy Spirit to truly understand what is at stake. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### **Day 14 – Sunday 2 Aug 2015** **Alignment with Heaven**

#### **Focus:**

What does God’s will “*on earth as it is in heaven*” look like in your life? Do the desires of your heart line up with the will of God? As we seek God together, let’s pray as Jesus taught us, “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.*”

#### **Scripture:**

“*Even now,*” declares the LORD, “*return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.*” Joel 2:12, NIV

#### **Reflection:**

We have all heard the phrase, “*just like heaven on earth.*” When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9–13, He provided some insight into what “*heaven on earth*” might look like.

In reality, heaven is a place where God’s will reigns supreme. If we want to have a taste of heaven on earth, then our prayer should be like Jesus’: “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done...*” **The purest motivation for our prayers is that God will be glorified and that His will would reign supreme in our lives, just as it does in heaven.**

On a more personal level, we can pray that His will be unhindered in our own life. Rather than imposing His will upon us, God gives us the choice to surrender to it with trust and gladness. As we yield to the Lordship of Christ over every area of our lives, we come into agreement with Him. We experience alignment with heaven and position ourselves to taste a little bit of heaven here on earth.

God’s will then becomes what we desire and the thing we most seek after. We enter into the incredible adventure of participating in God’s plan to move His kingdom forward on the earth. This is where we find the most fulfilling and joyous life, but it all starts with one personal “*yes, Lord*” on our part.

**All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do everything, prayer is omnipotent. — R. A. Torrey**

**Our prayers lay the track down on which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails. —Watchman Nee**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, Thank You for the way Jesus Your Son attended weddings and used wedding banquets in His parables. Thank You for the wedding supper of the Lamb and His bride the Church that will take place in heaven. Your kingdom come! In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

*Maybe you have tried to participate in this fast but have found yourself stumbling along the way. Be encouraged to try it again during this last week. Don’t be discouraged by looking at the times you gave in to hunger or messed up. Remember this: when we draw near to God, He draws near to us (James 4:8). He wants to draw near to you, so keep it up! You will be rewarded and blessed for your perseverance.*

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 15 – Monday 3 Aug 2015**

### **The Spoken Word**

#### **Focus:**

As God continues to fill you through this season of prayer and fasting, He wants to take what is now in your heart and share it with others. How can you use the power of your spoken words to speak God’s truth in the lives of others?

#### **Scripture:**

*“When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” John 11:43, NIV*

#### **Reflection:**

The story of Lazarus’s death and resurrection reflects the power of Jesus’ spoken word. Jesus was so in tune with the will of His Father that He already knew in His heart the miracle that was about to take place, but His words spoke the miracle into existence.

**While prayer is our declaration of our dependence on God, our spoken words can be the manifestation of what’s happening in our hearts.** There is power in our spoken words, whether they are used to build up or tear down. It is important to keep our heart filled with the truth from God’s Word so that our words will produce good fruit.

As you seek God in prayer ask Him for discernment to know a need and the words to help someone today. Pray that your words would be encouraging, edifying, and aligned with the truth of God’s Word. Building others up around us with our words allows us to be God’s instrument to accomplish His good work.

**The key to praying with power is to become the kind of persons who do not use God for our ends but are utterly devoted to being used for His ends. — John Piper**

**I am persuaded that love and humility are the highest attainments in the school of Christ and the brightest evidences that He is indeed our Master. — John Newton**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, please heal, revitalize and renew marriages and families by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Help husbands and wives to be faithful to the spoken words of the vows that they made before You. Help them to pray and speak blessing over their marriages and children and family life. May they always be in conversation with You. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

*For many, week three feels like a breakthrough week! By now your body should be thoroughly detoxified, and if you successfully navigated that metabolic shift that happened in week two, you’re likely to find yourself coasting until day twenty-one.*

*As your body has become used to less food, you are more than likely experiencing fewer hunger pangs. Since your body has detoxified, you are most likely also experiencing less achiness and headaches. Because your body is not using as much energy to digest food, it can devote more energy into the restorative processes. During this last week you may also find you are sleeping better too.*

*Spiritually speaking, this week can be really powerful as you find yourself in your Fast Zone and your mind has made the leap to focusing more on God.*

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### **Day 16 – Tuesday 4 Aug 2015** **Taking Off the Grave Clothes**

#### **Focus:**

Who in your world is still walking around in grave clothes? Think about friends and family or those you know who may not know God. What part has God called you to play in the life change He wants to bring them?

#### **Scripture:**

*Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” John 11:44, NIV*

#### **Reflection:**

**When it comes to the transforming power of God working in someone’s life, God often uses people to bring about divine life change.** The story of Lazarus in John 11 illustrates how it was the power of Jesus’ prayer and spoken word that resurrected Lazarus from the dead, but the disciples played a role in this miracle too.

Lazarus was bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face had been wrapped with a cloth during his time in the tomb. When he arose from his death and came out of the tomb, Jesus called on the disciples to help in the transformation process. Jesus said to them, *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”* The disciples needed to help

Lazarus. Likewise, we all have a part to play in the lives of those around us.

God has done some incredible things around us during this fast. Could it be that someone around you is still walking around in grave clothes? What do you need to help them let go of?

**Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.**

**—E. M. Bounds**

**True prayer is measured by weight—not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.**

**—Charles H. Spurgeon**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, take the grave clothes off marriage in Australia. Revitalise, renew and preserve this sacred bond between a man and a woman. Bring healing to families that have been damaged by no-fault divorce, legalised prostitution and the poison of pornography. As part of a family help me to love my family. If I am married help me to love my spouse as Jesus loved the church and gave up His life for it. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### *Day 17 – Wednesday 5 Aug 2015*

## *Alignment with Heaven*

#### **Focus:**

Prayer is a posture of humility. Humble yourself before the Lord each day and bring your cares to Him. He wants to meet you where you are and answer your every need. Pray, too, that God will help you with the disappointment and discouragement that we all face along the way. Is there discouragement in your heart today? Write it down and release it to our perfect God.

#### **Scripture:**

*“And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.” Matthew 17:14–16*

#### **Reflection:**

What a great example of humility: this man approached Jesus and knelt before Him in the midst of a crowd. As the father approached, he believed that Jesus would bring his son relief. But even in his belief, his approach was humble and submitted to what Christ would choose to do.

Looking further into the story, we find the father was also persistent and resisted taking offense. Though the disciples were not able to help him, he set aside his temporary disappointment in their failure and continued to seek after Jesus—the solution to his circumstance, the source of relief through his trial.

Being humble before God is realizing our need of Him, submitting to His will, pursuing Him, and being confident the outcome will occur in God’s perfect timing.

Be encouraged that approaching God with a heart of humility will always position you to find relief in Jesus. Don’t be ashamed to humble yourself before God, even in the presence of others. Though offenses and disappointments may come, continue in your pursuit of Jesus. You may not get relief right away but know this: **God is never late and His solution is always perfect!**

**The higher a man is in grace, the lower he will be in his own esteem.**

**—Charles H. Spurgeon**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, I pray for over one million fatherless children of Australia. I pray that you would be, *“Father to the fatherless and the protector of widows in your holy house.”* – Psalm 68:5. I pray you will protect children from any future consequences of not knowing who their biological mother or father are because of being raised in relationships that are not according to Your pattern and plan. I pray against new laws that would result in the creation of another Stolen Generation. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 18 – Thursday 6 Aug 2015

## Pray Instead

#### Focus:

What consistently causes you to worry? Today, recapture each worried thought and send it to God as a prayer. See how dramatically your outlook improves when the peace of God is activated through prayer!

#### Scripture:

*Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life. Philippians 4:6-7, MSG*

#### Reflection:

Worry seems inescapable in modern life. No doubt there is plenty to worry about: our kids, the economy, global warming, war, disease... Sometimes it might seem that worry has even replaced Jesus as the focal point of our lives. Jesus Himself admonished us several times not to worry. And the apostle Paul told us that there is an antidote to worry...prayer.

When we worry about something, we are spending energy on it, wondering what might happen, rehearsing the “if onlys” and “what ifs” in our mind. Why not take that same energy and refocus it on prayer instead? When we worry, we are simply talking to ourselves about our fears, but when we pray, we are taking those fears to God. We can't control the future, but as Anne Graham Lotz said throughout her book *Fear Not Tomorrow, God Is Already There*, **our timeless God owns the future. He knows exactly what is going to happen, and He promises to be with us every step of the journey.**

As we are nearing a close to this season of prayer and fasting, let's heed Paul's words to “*let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers.*” Then the peace of God will guard your heart.

**Growing an unshakeable trust in God as you face your tomorrow is not about self-improvement or mastering your circumstances, but about God—who He is, what He does, and how we can trust Him. —Anne Graham Lotz**

**We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties. —Oswald Chambers**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, I pray that you will turn the tide of fatherlessness in Australia that contributes to increased levels of crime, drug taking, violence in the home, immorality, sexual perversion and sexual abuse. As the scripture says, “*Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. If they refuse I'll come and put the land under a curse*” Malachi 4:6. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 19 – Friday 7 Aug 2015**

# ***Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit***

### **Focus:**

Today as you worship God in prayer, let Him know that you refuse to go into the future without His power and that you want all the spiritual resources He has for you.

### **Scripture:**

*Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. Luke 4:14*

### **Reflection:**

After praying and fasting for forty days, Jesus returned to Galilee empowered to do all the Father had called Him to do. **Jesus was so powerful in public because He was so prayerful in private.**

To accomplish the assignments God has for our lives, we also need the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. God does not expect us to go through the challenges of life without this power.

Prayer and fasting bring us to the place where we can power up. Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit is living with a comprehension of the God-given strength and authority in our lives to walk out His will.

Through prayer and fasting, God can prepare us for what lies ahead. We might not know what obstacles we're going to face, but we can know that God will be faithful to us. He will never leave us (Hebrews 13:5) and He will empower us to meet whatever challenges life may bring.

**Every movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure. —D. L. Moody**

### **Prayer:**

Dear God, Forgive us for immorality as a church and as individuals because we have not spoken for the truth or lived out the truth of your Word as we should. Forgive us for our attitude to anyone who doesn't have the same views on marriage as we do. Help us to show grace and love to them while at the same time not compromising your truth. There are so many divorces inside the church. Please forgive us. Heal us that we might be healed and deliver us that we might be delivered. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

**Day 20 – Saturday 8 Aug 2015**

### **A New Wineskin**

#### **Focus:**

What has caused you to shrink back in your expectation of what God wants to do in your life? Are you ready to be expanded beyond recognition? That’s what God’s new wine will do in and through you. Pray that the Lord will expand your life to glorify Him, giving you boldness to step out and be used by Him.

#### **Scripture:**

*“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins.”*  
*Luke 5:37–38, NLT*

#### **Reflection:**

Two things that do not mix are new wine and old wineskins. The reason is simple: old wineskins cannot grow and stretch to hold the new wine.

The new wine God wants to fill you with is a picture of God’s Spirit, and this wine is expansive. A container that is dead, dry, stiff, and shrinking cannot be trusted as a storehouse for God’s valued treasure. Our vessels must be prepared for the fresh, dynamic, living presence of God, because everything we do will flow from that.

This preparation comes through prayer and fasting, during which we produce a container that is ready for the new thing God wants to do. **God’s new wine always changes us by expanding our faith, enlarging our purpose, and bringing renewed vision.**

God is not into old wineskins; it is up to us to shed them. As we seek Him in this season, let’s shed the old wineskin and ask God to fully prepare our hearts for what’s to come.

As we are nearing a close to this season of prayer and fasting, let’s heed Paul’s words to *“let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers.”* Then the peace of God will guard your heart.

**God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. —C. S. Lewis**

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God, We stand against the move to redefine marriage in this nation and pray that marriage will remain just as You made it. Children need a mother and a father. I ask you to move on behalf of our children. I pray the voices of our children and our Indigenous First Nation people will be heard at this important time. Cause the truth, of the harmful consequences that will result from homosexual ‘marriage’, to come to the light. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Continue in prayer using the Prayer Plan, Prayer and Declaration on pages 4-6.**

## 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”

### Day 21 – MARRIAGE SUNDAY - 9 Aug 2015

## What’s Your Assignment?

#### Focus:

Are there areas of your life that need more clarity? Are you walking in the power of the Spirit and living in God’s purpose for your life? Write down those things God is speaking to you. As you conclude your fast, pray that God continually reveals His purpose and gives you ever-increasing clarity and strength to walk it out.

#### Scripture:

*“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.... Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.” Luke 4:1–2, 14–15, NIV*

#### Reflection:

**Fasting and prayer are essential to receiving a clear vision of God’s specific path for our lives.** Many times after a season of prayer and fasting we have a more defined understanding of the part we play in the body of Christ, as well as a greater sense of our particular spiritual giftings (1 Corinthians 12).

We learn a lot from observing the circumstances surrounding the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (Luke 4). Notice that He went into the desert “full of the Holy Spirit.” However, He returned to Galilee *“in the power of the Holy Spirit.”* Being full of the Spirit is to know God and His character; walking in the power of the Spirit is when we know that we have the God-given strength and authority in our lives to walk out His will.

The power of the Spirit is essential for us to accomplish the assignment God has for us. God could be leading you to fast so that you can receive His specific instructions for your life. He will empower you not just to know Him but to walk in His power to accomplish what He has called you to do.

That’s exciting!

**A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough for the next six months, or take sufficient air into his lungs at one time to sustain life for a week. We must draw upon God’s boundless store of grace from day to day, as we need it. —D. L. Moody**

#### Prayer:

Dear God, It has been wonderful to meet with You to intercede for a “Miracle for Marriage” in Australia over the last 21 Days. I look to You for miracles from our prayers. I love You and praise you with all my heart. I bow my knee before you. Send an awakening of your Spirit. Start your work in me, because You alone are our only hope. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Pray the ‘Australian Marriage Prayer’ and declare the ‘Australian Marriage Declaration’.**

## **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for a “Miracle for Marriage”**

# **Notes**