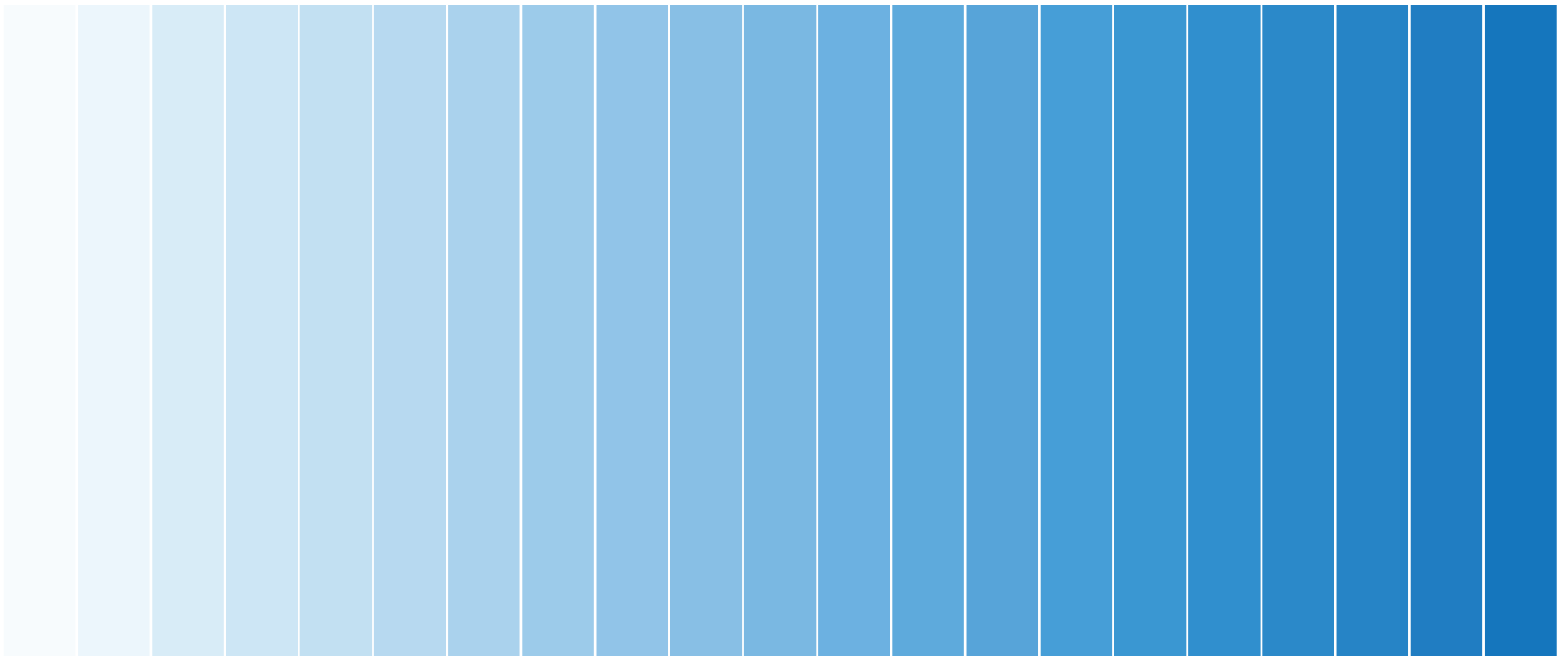


A 21-day prayer guide to:



Shifting the Spiritual Climate



About this 21-day prayer guide:

As discernment teams were praying for The Alliance Canada in how to prepare the spiritual soil for God's work among us, they sensed that many leaders and churches are experiencing barriers to God's presence and that many are feeling weak, weary, insecure, paralyzed, and full of grief. They sensed that the Enemy has been seeking to cause chaos and division by leading us into criticism and comparison with others. These are challenging times and there is a great need for a shifting of the spiritual climate, first and foremost in all of our hearts. We believe God is calling us to enter his presence full of praise and with a willingness to contend in prayer for our fellow brothers and sisters.

This prayer guide is an invitation to join in the prayer of Psalm 139:23-24:

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

As we allow the Spirit to examine our hearts and give him permission to shift us from unhealthy places so that we align more fully with the values of God's kingdom, we are then able to join him in interceding for others to make those same shifts. We do so out of humility, as those who share in the brokenness of others, and who are on the same journey toward ‘the way everlasting.’ As we freely receive God's restoration and the realignment of our

souls through work of his Spirit shifting us from death to life, we freely give that same gift to others through our intercession on their behalf.

Thanks so much for joining us in these 21 days of shifting the spiritual climate in The Alliance Canada—starting with each one of us.

CREDIT:

This prayer guide was written and developed by Rev. Curtis Peters and Rev. Kathy Klassen.

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 1:

From Weariness to Joy-Fueled Strength

DESCRIPTION:

Jesus said that all of us who are weary and heavy-burdened should come to him for rest. Nehemiah declared that the joy of the Lord is our strength, and Isaiah said that God will give us joy in his house of prayer. The challenges we face easily lead to weariness and can feel overwhelming, but as we enter God's presence our joy is restored, and our burdens become light.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 11:28-30; Isaiah 56:4-8;
Nehemiah 8:7-12

Select one of these scriptures to meditate on it.

LISTENING QUESTION:

Select one of these scriptures to meditate on: How is Jesus inviting you to find joy in him?

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Lord to reveal to you any burdens that are weighing you down.
- One by one, bring these burdens to Him, inviting Him to show you how to lighten your load.
- Take a few moments to give him thanks!

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 2:

From Insecurity to Being Rooted in Our Identity

DESCRIPTION:

The Spirit we have received testifies with our spirit that we have been adopted as God's children. We are no longer slaves to fear but joyfully cry out "Abba, Father!" We rest securely in the Father's love and freely enjoy every spiritual blessing in Christ by God's grace alone. We abide in Jesus (and he in us), and so his joy is in us, and our joy is complete. We become his friends.

SCRIPTURES:

Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:1-10; John 15:9-17

Select one of these scriptures to meditate on it.

LISTENING QUESTION:

- Select one of these scriptures to meditate on: What is the Holy Spirit highlighting for you?

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Lord to bring you fresh revelation of how rooted you are in Him.
- Linger in the picture / words that He gives you, taking them with you into your day.
- Take a few moments to give him thanks!

NOTES:

From a Scarcity Mindset to an Abundance Mindset

DESCRIPTION:

We know who and whose we are, and so we are confident that God will meet all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. We know our Friend's voice as the Good Shepherd, and we willingly follow him as he leads us into the abundant life in which we are filled to the measure of all his fullness—far beyond what we could ask or imagine.

SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 4:10-19; John 10:7-10;
Ephesians 3:14-21

Select one of these scriptures to meditate on it.

LISTENING QUESTION:

- In what ways do you find yourself adopting a scarcity mindset or sense Jesus inviting you into his abundance?

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Lord to give you fresh eyes to see His abundance in your present circumstances.
- Repent for any unbelief, grumbling or discontent.
- Walk freely into your day with a new mindset of expectation.
- Take a few moments to give him thanks!

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 4:

From Worry to Worship

DESCRIPTION:

Our Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and his grace is more than enough to supply all that we need. He is the Ruler of all, and we are seated with Christ at his right hand in the heavenly realms. From this place of absolute security, we worship and rejoice in the goodness of God, and his peace guards our heart.

SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 4:4-7; 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Chronicles 20:13-22

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

LISTENING QUESTION:

- Take a moment to quiet yourself and discern what is most worrying you today.
- Select one of these scriptures to meditate on and ask Jesus what is causing you to worry?

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Lord into that area of worry.
- What is He showing you? How could you shift this worry into worship today?
- Take a few moments to give him thanks!

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 5:

From Doing More to Delighting More

DESCRIPTION:

We can enjoy simply sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to his words of life. We don't need to run around frantically trying to 'make things happen' by our own strength; God has it all under control. He is mighty to save and will strengthen our hands so that they do not hang limp. Amazingly, as we delight in him, he too delights in us, rejoicing over us with singing.

SCRIPTURES:

Luke 10:38-42; Zephaniah 3:14-17

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

LISTENING QUESTION:

- Select one of the scriptures and read it out loud over yourself.
- Linger in its truths and then personalize it: How is the Father inviting you to delight in his love for you?

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Pray that scripture back to your Lord as an act of worship.

NOTES:

From Being Critical to Being Compassionate

DESCRIPTION:

Jesus was filled with compassion for the crowds because he recognized that they were ‘harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.’ Likewise, he wept over Jerusalem, even though they had rejected him. He could easily have been angry and critical of the people, but instead his heart was tender and concerned. He did not compromise or condone their wrongdoing, but he never failed to be ‘gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.’ We must be careful to not ‘strike the rock’ as Moses by losing compassion for people.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 19:41-44; John 11:32-37; Number 20:1-12

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Spirit to bring to mind anyone(s) who has been especially burdensome.
- Invite Jesus to give you eyes to see this person the way He does.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 7:

From Cursing (judging) to Blessing

DESCRIPTION:

Jesus exhorted us to be like our heavenly Father by loving our enemies, blessing those who curse us and praying for those who persecute us (and he practiced what he preached when he confronted Saul on the road to Damascus). He told us not to judge or to condemn, but to forgive, and we would be forgiven. Likewise, Paul urged us to bless and not curse, and to be willing to associate with those of low position. Even the worst of sinners (like Saul) has incredible potential for transformation when they experience the blessing of God. We are called to release that blessing in the authority of Christ.

SCRIPTURES:

Romans 12:14-21; Matthew 5:43-48;
Acts 9:1-19

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Is there anyone the Lord might be inviting you to speak blessing over today?
- Ask the Lord what blessing they need.
- Offer yourself to Him today as an act of worship, ready to step out as He opens the door for you to bless.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 8:

From Taking Offense to Offering Forgiveness

DESCRIPTION:

Jesus not only taught us to forgive our brother 'seventy times seven,' but he modelled forgiveness on the cross. He recognized that they did 'not know what they were doing' and prayed to his Father for their forgiveness. Stephen followed this example in his dying breaths when he too cried out: 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' There is no place for offense in the kingdom, only forgiveness.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 23:32-43; Acts 7:54-60

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Is there anyone you are holding an offence against today?
- Gently place that offense on Jesus' broken body, and release the person who committed it against you into your full forgiveness and freedom.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 9:

From Praying Against to Praying For

DESCRIPTION:

When we find ourselves in 'Babylon' (or post-Christendom), we pray for the peace and prosperity of the people who have carried us into exile. We pray for those in authority, even when we are harmed by their policies. We wrestle in prayer for those who are struggling to stand firm and mature in all God's will. We see the potential in all people, God's image stamped upon them, and we pray that all God's purposes for their lives would prevail.

SCRIPTURES:

Jeremiah 29:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8;
Colossians 4:12-13

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Is there a people group or political party or a gathering of folk in your life today that you need to start praying for, instead of praying against?
- As you picture this group, invite Jesus to join the group. What is His posture?

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 10:

From Going it Alone to Doing it Together

DESCRIPTION:

The task to be witnesses for Jesus “in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth” is simply too much to accomplish by our own wisdom or in our own strength. Like the early believers we must gather constantly with others in prayer to seek the will of Jesus and the filling of the Holy Spirit. We need to fellowship with one another, and through prayer and fasting discern God’s will together. None of us is “the only one left” (even though, like Elijah, we sometimes feel this way). We need to seek out community and listen expectantly to Jesus together.

SCRIPTURES:

Acts 1:8-14; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 13:1-5; 1 Kings 19:9-19

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Invite the Spirit to reveal to you the place in your life where you are most prone to go it alone.
- With that in view, take a few minutes to read and meditate on the scripture of your choosing.
- Ask Jesus to show you who He might be wanting you to partner with and how?
- As you move forward be expectant for Him to open the way for this to happen.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 11:

From Dread and Despair to Curiosity, Hope, and Wonder

DESCRIPTION:

What might Jesus be up to? What awesome deeds from the past is he wanting to renew in our time? How might he want to meet us in those places where there are “no grapes on the vine” or “sheep in the pen”? In what extraordinary ways does he want to arise and light up the dark with his magnificent presence? What masterpiece might he be wanting to craft out of the ashes of our despair? These are the curious questions that need to occupy our hearts, full of hope and wonder at how Jesus will meet us when we call to him.

SCRIPTURES:

Habakkuk 3:1-2, 17-19; Isaiah 60:1-3;
Matthew 4:12-17

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Is there anything looming ahead that you are dreading? Sit with Jesus with it in silence. After a few minutes linger in one of the texts.
- Sit again in silence, this time looking into His face.
- Go on your way in His glow, confident that He is ushering in fresh hope and wonder in your heart.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 12:

From Being Paralyzed by Impossibilities to Being Expectant of God's Wisdom and Intervention

DESCRIPTION:

When Goliath-sized challenges threaten us, it is easy to shrink back in fear and paralysis; however, we need to call to the Lord to show us 'great and unsearchable things' beyond our comprehension. He wants to lead us and empower us to experience supernatural breakthrough—to make a way when it seems there is no way. He bids us to open our eyes and not just see the enemies that come against us but the angel armies who protect us.

SCRIPTURES:

1 Samuel 17:1-11, 34-50; Jeremiah 33:1-11; 2 Kings 6:8-17

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Are there any similarities in this narrative to your present reality?
- Could the God who never changes do something similar in your circumstances? Step out in faith inviting the God of the ages to shift things in your world this very day.
- Give Him thanks.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 13:

From Working Harder to Working Smarter

DESCRIPTION:

Because of our confidence in God's wisdom and his divine empowerment, we can shift from working harder to working smarter. We don't have to figure it out on our own or do it in our own strength—we just need to access the mind of Christ and do what he shows us! We need to walk in holy alignment with his will, not letting any disobedience keep his favour from resting upon us. We need to confidently march into spiritual battle armed with his divine strategy, and we need to look for how he wants to “take our little and make it more.” We don't need to feed the multitudes with our own resources; we just need to access the King's resources on their behalf!

SCRIPTURES:

Haggai 1:1-11; Joshua 6:1-7;
2 Kings 4:38-44

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Look specifically for God's divine intervention. God defines Himself as our helper.
- Invite Him to help you where you need it most today.
- Go on your way expectant for things to shift, because your God is more than able!

NOTES:

From Complacency to a Passionate Pursuit of the Deeper Life and Mission

DESCRIPTION:

We refuse to be content with what we have already achieved; instead, we press on in pursuit of the fullness of life in Christ. His love burns in our hearts and compels us to be ambassadors who proclaim his gospel of reconciliation. It lights a fire in our souls to go to those places where few or none have heard, to fully proclaim the gospel of Christ, and to complete the task he has given us. We desperately cry out with Moses: “Show us your glory!” ... and we give ourselves to revealing that glory to the world.

SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 3:7-14; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Romans 15:17-21; Acts 20:22-24

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Take a moment this morning to tend to the fire in your own heart. What is it in need of: do dying embers need stirring? Ashes blown away? New logs put on it?
- As you read the passage of your choosing, invite God’s Spirit to ignite your heart a fresh. Don’t rush away. Sit with Him around the fire of your heart in silence.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 15:

From Half-Hearted to Wholehearted

DESCRIPTION:

With all our hearts we long for him! We are never lacking in zeal but always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. We intercede for our churches and our world like watchmen on the walls, refusing to rest or to give God rest until his people radiate his glory with absolute holiness and beauty so that all can see the wonders of Christ. We heed the Lord's cry to "wake up"! We give ourselves to "strengthen what remains" of the church so that she thrives in the empowerment of the Spirit.

SCRIPTURES:

Romans 12:9-13; 1 Corinthians 15:56-58; Isaiah 62:1-7; Revelation 3:1-3

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Come to the table today expectant, curious as to what delicacies your Lord has prepared for you to feast on.
- Select one of these passages and read it out loud.
- Read it one more time, as the living WORD of God that cuts through soul and spirit, judging the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Pause, closing your eyes and savour what you've read. What is sticking with you? Respond as the Spirit leads.

NOTES:

From Pursing Our Own Interests to Pursuing the Interests of Others

Description:

We embrace the attitude of Christ, who laid down his divine glory and made himself nothing to die on our behalf. We refuse to lord it over those we serve but instead pour ourselves out for their well-being. We aren't greedy for money but are eager to bless others. We simply long for the goodness of Christ to be experienced by others, just as we have experienced it ourselves. We receive all we need from Him, and so we joyfully lay ourselves down for others.

SCRIPTURES:

Philippians 2:1-11; Mark 10:35-45; 1 Peter 5:1-4

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Take a moment to thank the Lord for setting aside His interests ahead of yours. Linger in that thought as you meditate on one of the texts below.
- Where has Jesus put your needs ahead of His own as He came to earth?
- Where is He asking you to follow His example in your own life and ministry?
- Ask Him to help you become like Him in this regard.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 17:

From Being Entitled to Being Sacrificial

DESCRIPTION:

We rejoice in the privilege of sacrificing for the sake of others, that they might know the mystery of Christ, and we “strenuously contend” that they might become fully mature in Him. We choose to love with actions, not just with words, laying down our lives for those in need just as Jesus did for us. We actively pursue those under the Enemy’s influence to rescue them from destruction, no matter the cost to ourselves. Whatever it takes, we are all in for the mission of Jesus.

SCRIPTURES:

Colossians 1:24-2:3; 1 John 3:16-22; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- What strikes you concerning the spiritual sacrifices required?
- As you read pay attention to your inner heart posture.
- Invite Jesus to shift your heart where necessary, without judgement or condemnation.
- Thank Him for His kindness and companionship as you journey together into the new. He will show you what is next!

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 18:

From Fear to Courage

DESCRIPTION:

We embrace the mission Jesus has given us in obedience to his Word, and we trust that he will deliver us from all who threaten and oppose us. We refuse to compromise our loyalty to Christ, confident that he will defend us (and that even if he does not, he is still worthy of our wholehearted allegiance). We nurture courage by being with Jesus and by gathering in prayer for the fullness of the Spirit, confidently expecting that God will stretch out his hand to heal and bring transformation to those around us.

SCRIPTURES:

Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Chronicles 32:1-21;
Daniel 3:13-18; Acts 4:13, 18-31

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Where do you need the most courage today? With that awareness, lean into God's Word with expectation.
- Select one of the texts below. Read it slowly to yourself.
- Now place the situation that came to your mind into the text, inviting Jesus to shift your fears to courage as you read it again.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 19:

From Covering up Sin to Coming into the Light

DESCRIPTION:

Put another way, it helps us shift from self-protection to vulnerability. We humbly confess our sins to God and to others. We refuse to let our “bones waste away” under the weight of unconfessed sin. We choose not to hide our sin; instead, we acknowledge our failures and humbly ask forgiveness from those we have harmed, whether intentionally or unintentionally. We take off all deception and put on truth, even when it hurts.

SCRIPTURES:

1 John 1:5-10; Psalm 32:1-7; Psalm 51;
Colossians 3:1-14

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Take a moment to invite the Spirit to give you a fresh understanding of the kindness of God. With that in mind select a scripture, allowing the Spirit of God to probe your heart. His kindness is the safest refuge you will ever find.
- Ask Jesus if there is anything that is hidden in your heart, that He wants to bring into the light.
- Follow His lead as He reveals; repenting, forgiving, and receiving His cleansing grace.

NOTES:

SPIRITUAL SHIFT 20:

From Our Strength to God's Strength

DESCRIPTION:

We believe that when we are weak, God is strong—and that his divine resources are available for us. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength! His grace is more than sufficient for us, and we delight in depending on him instead of ourselves. We courageously trust that through the prayers of God's people and the provision of his Spirit, God will redeem our weakness for the advance of the gospel. We patiently endure the hour of trial because we are confident that even though we cannot rescue ourselves, Jesus holds the keys to our deliverance.

SCRIPTURES:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 1:12-20; Revelation 3:7-13

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Where do you especially feel in need of strength today? Realize that shifting over to God's strength is a step of faith.
- Choose one of the passages and invite the Spirit of God to fill you with faith to lean on Him to carry you through. He's got this!

NOTES:

From Self-confidence to Confidence in God

DESCRIPTION:

Peter knew that he could not walk on water; his confidence to ‘get out of the boat’ was 100% based on the trustworthiness of Jesus. The same is true for us. We know that we don’t have what it takes to build the church and advance the kingdom in our own strength. We know that we are “in over our heads,” and that on our own we will fall far short of all God has for us. Our confidence is in the blood of the Lamb who has opened “a new and living way” for us into God’s presence. Jesus alone is the source of our confidence, and we hold unswervingly to the hope we profess in him. We do not shrink back from our calling—not because we believe that we have what it takes, but because we trust our confidence in him will be richly rewarded.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 14:22-31; Hebrews 10:19-39

Select one of these scriptures and meditate on it.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Select a text to praise through! As you read, stop occasionally and give God praise for His goodness made manifest in the truths you are reading.
- Thank Him for helping you make these shifts to live in the fullness of His Kingdom. Acknowledge Him afresh as your All in All!
- Pray that everyone at your church would experience these shifts as well.

NOTES:



O' God, with all our hearts,
we long for you.
Come, transform us to be
Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered,
Mission-focused people,
multiplying disciples everywhere.