

20  24

AWAKEN HOUSTON

A CITY-WIDE MOVEMENT TO UNIFY THE CHURCH TO PRAY AND
FAST FOR PERSONAL RENEWAL, REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCHES,
AND AN AWAKENING THROUGHOUT GREATER HOUSTON.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

DAY 1	Thursday, February 1 · <i>Jeremiah Morris</i>
DAY 2	Friday, February 2 · <i>Patrick Rowe</i>
DAY 3	Saturday, February 3 · <i>Kevin Spivey</i>
DAY 4	Sunday, February 4 · <i>Carol Ham</i>
DAY 5	Monday, February 5 · <i>Dan Aikens</i>
DAY 6	Tuesday, February 6 · <i>Jon Beadle</i>
DAY 7	Wednesday, February 7 · <i>Jason Crandall</i>
DAY 8	Thursday, February 8 · <i>Brandon Forsythe</i>
DAY 9	Friday, February 9 · <i>Ender Palencia</i>
DAY 10	Saturday, February 10 · <i>Kyle Jackson</i>
DAY 11	Sunday, February 11 · <i>Greg Johnson</i>
DAY 12	Monday, February 12 · <i>Jaron Jones</i>
DAY 13	Tuesday, February 13 · <i>Kurt Attaway</i>
DAY 14	Wednesday, February 14 · <i>Drew Knowles</i>
DAY 15	Thursday, February 15 · <i>Rickie L. Bradshaw</i>
DAY 16	Friday, February 16 · <i>DelTraffanstedt</i>
DAY 17	Saturday, February 17 · <i>David Hill</i>
DAY 18	Sunday, February 18 · <i>Mitch Maher</i>
DAY 19	Monday, February 19 · <i>John Wills</i>
DAY 20	Tuesday, February 20 · <i>Guy Caskey</i>
DAY 21	Wednesday, February 21 · <i>Reid Squires</i>
DAY 22	Thursday, February 22 · <i>Dayo Adeyefa</i>
DAY 23	Friday, February 23 · <i>Mary Ann Bridgewater</i>
DAY 24	Saturday, February 24 · <i>David Humphrey</i>
DAY 25	Sunday, February 25 · <i>Paul Cockrell</i>
DAY 26	Monday, February 26 · <i>Josue Sanchez</i>
DAY 27	Tuesday, February 27 · <i>Victor Marte</i>
DAY 28	Wednesday, February 28 · <i>Emmanuel Paulpeter</i>

OVERVIEW

For the past eight years we have coordinated a season of prayer called Awaken Houston. It has given us a time to pray in unity for our mission as the Church in Houston, revival in our churches, and a spiritual awakening in our city. Awaken Houston has provided impactful seasons while praying together for movement of God in our city.

This year's Season of Prayer will be from February 1st—February 28th, 2024. Our focus when praying during Awaken Houston will be in the acronym: **HOUSTON**.

HOT HEARTS & HOLINESS

OUR CHURCHES

UNITY

SPIRIT'S POWER

TOP 5

OUR CITY

NEW BIRTH

During the 28 Days of Prayer, we hope our 2024 Devotional with daily devotionals and corresponding prayers written by pastors and leaders from across the city would be a helpful resource. We encourage you to pray daily through these seven themes.

We will kick *Awaken Houston* off at our HCPN Gathering on January 31st and conclude it together at our February 28th *Plant Houston* event.

In addition, we are encouraging individuals to consider fasting in a way that is appropriate for them during these 28 days. To see more on fasting go to:

www.awakenhouston.org

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Please consider joining us during this season of prayer and fasting while we continue to pray for a spiritual awakening here in Houston.

To pray with us, visit: www.awakenhouston.org or follow along: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#) for links to the daily devotional.

ARTICLES:

- » [Why Do Christians Fast?](#)
- » [Fasting for Beginners](#)
- » [Sharpen Your Affections with Fasting](#)

SERMONS:

- » [Fasting From Food to Feast On God](#)

BOOKS:

- » [A Hunger for God by John Piper](#)
- » [Revival Starts Now by Dave Clayton](#)

PRAYER WALK:

- » [Prayer Walking, Guide Example 1](#)
- » [Prayer Walk, Guide Example 2](#)
- » [Prayer Walk by WayMakers, Guide Example 3](#)

WWW.AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

DAY 01

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 1
2024

"How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights." Psalm 36:7-8

HOT HEARTS & HOLINESS

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ENJOY AND LOVE GOD DEEPLY AND HAVE A PROFOUND SENSE OF SIN THAT SETS US APART TO WALK IN HOLINESS.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Dwelling in God's presence is not boring. Holiness is not a threat to your happiness. No! Life fully lived is holy life.

If you are deeply committed to living a life flowing with delight and joy, then the order of the day is to situate yourself perpetually under God's mighty wings. Nestle in. Stay a while.

Today marks the beginning of an invigorating season of unified prayer in Houston. We are asking God for awakening. For revival. Ultimately, we are requesting God to lead every one of our hearts to delight in his presence. Simply stated, if we all have hearts hot for him, we will experience a move of God that our grandchildren will be telling stories about someday.

*"It is one thing to have a lot of information about God, but it is another thing to bask in the warmth and reality of His presence."
—A.W. Tozer*

Friends, you are invited. The God of endless, steadfast love is beckoning you into real and full life. Run to him. Hide away in him. Find your heart strangely warmed in the shadow of his wings.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord God, forgive us for our weak and misplaced affections. Our hearts will not be satisfied until they are at rest in you. Lead us as a city to drink deeply from the river of your delights. For your glory, for our joy and in the name of Jesus I ask it! Amen.



Contributed by Jeremiah Morris, Pastor of Preaching and Vision | Seven Mile Road Houston
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HOUSTON

DAY 02

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 2
2024

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth I desire besides you." Psalm 73:25

OUR CHURCHES

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL TO YOUR CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

What do we most desire for our churches? We don't have to waste words describing all of the temporal and silly things we sometimes wish our churches could have or be. The question is about the longing, thirsting, groaning of our spirits. When we envision our churches being all that Jesus wants them to be and our hearts swell and ache with hope and desire, isn't it simply that we would be absolutely enamored with Jesus himself? Isn't the most acute hunger pang of our

"Lord, revive the Church at large throughout the whole earth. Spirit of revival, come upon us, now, for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen."
—Charles Spurgeon

soul really just to know him and the power of his resurrection as Paul told the Philippians? Isn't it to live every day in his presence, see his face, and hear his voice as David sang in his Psalms? Greater still, isn't it the too-deep-for-words groaning of the Spirit in us to love and trust the love of Jesus without reservation? As we seek the Lord in this month of prayer, let's seek from him the revival and strengthening of our desire for his presence and power and glory in our churches.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, we humble ourselves before you. Please renew and revive our love for you. Will you fill our churches with honest, wholehearted desire for you and lead us into deeper fellowship with you? Oh how desperately we need you to fill, lead, and empower your church, Jesus. Have your way in us!

HOUSTON



Contributed by Patrick Rowe, Pastor | Open Doors Church
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DAY 03

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 3
2024

HOUSTON

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21

U UNITY

IN A SEASON MARKED BY DIVISION, PRAY THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AND CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY WOULD BE RADICALLY UNIFIED!

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jesus last recorded prayer before his crucifixion is found in John 17 known as "The High Priestly Prayer." What was Jesus praying for? Unity. A unity that can only be forged in and through agape love. This unity will become a witness and a testament to the world that God sent Jesus. The world does not know Jesus has come because Jesus' people are not one. There are many factors as to why this is occurring within the Body of Christ...sin, theology, social injustice, wars, mandates, economics, political sides, isolation, but the list goes on and on. Ultimately, our sin towards man is a lack of love towards man. God chose to reveal His love to the world through the way we love others. "Love each other," commanded Jesus. "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:34-35). Remember practicing love requires confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

*"I have never yet known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people were divided."
—Dwight L. Moody*

TODAY'S PRAYER:

We know that we love because you first loved us. Thank you for rescuing us from that domain of darkness. Holy Spirit create in us a clean and undefiled heart, so that our love for God and love for one another would shine bright amid darkness. We ask this in Jesus' mighty name.



Contributed by Kevin Spivey, Minister of Prayer & Connection | Houston's First Baptist Church
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DAY 04

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4
2024

"Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17

SPIRIT'S POWER

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN BRINGING PERSONAL RENEWAL, REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCHES, EVANGELISTIC FRUIT, AND A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TO HOUSTON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

My faith took flight in one of the darkest seasons of my life. As a young couple with a nine-month-old daughter, my husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Desperate and fearing his young departure, prayer became our refuge. Through continuous communion with my Heavenly Father, fear transformed into a peace that surpassed understanding. The Holy Spirit became my comfort, strength, and peace; the Word of God, my guiding light. Miraculously, my husband's health was restored, cancer defeated, and our faith forever changed.

"If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great. God did not create you for this."
— John Piper

In praying for our city, I acknowledge my prayers have been too safe. Imagine the radical transformation if God poured out His Spirit—hospitals empty, churches overflow, broken families restored, and societal issues eradicated. Picture a city where addictions are broken, homelessness ends, and provision abounds. Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, you have done it before; do it again. By your spirit, open deaf ears to the gospel of Jesus Christ and awaken blind eyes to Jesus' extravagant love. Move in power to save, heal, transform, redeem, and provide. Jesus, revive your church and heal our city.



Contributed by Carol Ham, Prayer & Care Pastor | WoodsEdge Community Church
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HOUSTON

DAY 05

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 5
2024

*"For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."
2 Corinthians 4:6, NLT*

T TOP 5

PRAY FOR THE 5 NON-CHRISTIANS THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR HEART. PRAY THAT YOU WOULD LOVE THEM WELL.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Evangelism exposes our powerlessness. How many of our non-Christian friends know all the answers, have been loved well by followers of Jesus, yet still don't trust Jesus? No matter how well-executed our evangelism is, the miracle of salvation is never in our control. God must shine in their hearts to remove spiritual blinders for them to see Jesus as he is, the Lord and Savior of the world.

Where does that leave us with the people in our lives we desire to trust Jesus? Our God is so gracious that even in his ultimate sovereignty over salvation, he invites us in. "Prayer," as Charles Spurgeon said, "is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of Omnipotence." We are only truly powerless when we fail to pray.

*"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of Omnipotence."
— Charles Spurgeon*

Would you prayerfully consider your Top 5—five people in your life who you will pray for daily? Let us pray for our Top 5 with passion and perseverance that they may be saved by Jesus.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, we acknowledge that you are sovereign. You are orchestrating history so that Jesus is Lord over all. We also grieve that people we love do not yet know Jesus. Please move by your Spirit to shine in their hearts so they could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus. Amen.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Dan Aikins, Pastor of Evangelism | Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
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DAY 06

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 6
2024

HOUSTON

"Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off. Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.' The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was."
Exodus 20: 18, 20-21, ESV

OUR CITY

PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN HOUSTON THAT OUR WHOLE CITY FEELS AND WE WILL TALK ABOUT IN ETERNITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

In Joy Davidman's work on the Ten Commandments ("Smoke on the Mountain"), she begins by telling a story about a frustrated missionary. He explained to the native chief that being a Christian meant you would not murder, commit adultery, or any other activity that breaks the Big 10. In response, the chief claims that he is too old to do those things anyway, so that to be a Christian must be the same as being old!

"To be Christian is to be reborn, and free, and unafraid, and immortally young."
—Joy Davidman

This story serves as a reminder for anyone who seeks to lead a city into renewal: if it were enough to follow rules, God would not have put smoke and fire as a crown on Mt. Sinai at the giving of the Law. A religion of Do's and Don'ts cannot and will not save anyone. It's just old, stale, and sad.

Jesus disrupts this system by telling us to be reborn. Enter the arena of the Kingdom with passion for Houston, and people will want the same for themselves: to be young. Effective leaders have a passion for their work. Let us give them a passion for God.

God is young.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Oh Lord, give us courage! May we not let fear rule our hearts, nor worry or anxiety to be masked as wisdom. You have commanded that we approach you with the certainty that we will find grace. Speak to us today, and help us to enter the mystery of the Gospel revealed to Houston.



Contributed by Jon Beadle | Rector, All Saints & Canon for Church Planting, Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast
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DAY 07

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 7
2024

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" John 15:11, ESV

N NEW BIRTH

PRAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE BORN AGAIN IN THE COMING SEASON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Pastors, Planters, Christians: we share a burning desire - to see lives transformed through Jesus. Why? We crave their rebirth, not for numbers, but for JOY.

Jupiter Hammon reminds us: "We are all by nature, sinners...slaves to sin and Satan, and that unless we are...born again, we must be miserable forever." But the new birth blooms with "joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

*"Now the Bible tells us that we are all by nature, sinners, that we are slaves to sin and Satan, and that unless we are converted, or born again, we must be miserable forever."
—Jupiter Hammon*

A year ago, a church member brought his best friend. He didn't believe but he kept coming because people were kind, and he needed some friends. Over the course of 9 months, he trusted Jesus. Before his baptism he shared, "I never understood what joy was, but now I do. NOW I HAVE IT!"

That's it! We want them to understand the symphony of joy that resonates in surrendered hearts. Christ followers let's be megaphones, calling souls to the Vine.

Go with joy blazing in your hearts and eyes. Light the path for others, and witness the Vine weave His masterpiece, one joyful blossom at a time.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, thank you for joy inexpressible and filled with glory. We pray for people far from you to be reconciled to you by your grace. We pray for salvation so that people wouldn't spend life and eternity miserable but filled with indescribable joy.



Contributed by Jason Crandall, Lead Pastor & Church Planting Leader | CityView Church & Send Network SBTC
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HOUSTON

DAY 08

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 8
2024

"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good." Psalm 25:4-7

HOT HEARTS & HOLINESS

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ENJOY AND LOVE GOD DEEPLY AND HAVE A PROFOUND SENSE OF SIN THAT SETS US APART TO WALK IN HOLINESS.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

The Israelite King David wrote Psalm 25. I appreciate David's willingness to acknowledge his own shortcomings and admit his need for God's help. In Psalm 25 we see that David knows he has a rebellious streak – do you have one of those? (I know I do!) He can get distracted. He can get knocked off track. David knows he needs help to be who God designed him to be. So, he asks for that help. He prays - "Show me your ways. Teach me your paths. Guide me to your truth." He then reminds himself – "God is forgiving. God is good. God is faithful to those who follow Him." There is so much power in that prayer!

*"Truth is timeless. Truth does not differ from one age to another, from one people to another from geographical location to another...the great all-prevailing Truth stands for time and eternity."
– Billy Graham*

We also need to remind ourselves about who God is daily. That is the fuel we need to set our hearts on fire for God's purposes. King David didn't know we would be reading his psalm 3,000 years later, but across space and time he invites us to join him in passionately pursuing God. I hope you will join me in praying a simple prayer that rings with echoes of Psalm 25...

TODAY'S PRAYER:

God, help me to see with Your eyes. Help me to love with Your heart. Help me to walk in Your better way. Help me to serve as Your hands and feet in the city of Houston today. God, I believe You are loving and faithful to those who follow You, and I will live like I believe that truth. Amen.



Contributed by Brandon Forsythe, Lead Pastor | Northside Christian Church - Spring, TX
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HOUSTON

DAY 09

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 9
2024

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew..." Isaiah 6:1-8

OUR CHURCHES

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL TO YOUR CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

September 4th, 2014, marks one of the most difficult days of my life. On that day, my wife and I entrusted our four-month-old daughter to a heart surgeon so he could perform open heart surgery to repair her congenital heart defect. As difficult as that was, I knew that for her to live the life we wanted her to live, her heart needed to be fixed.

Similarly, to live the life that God wants for us, we must entrust our hearts into the hand of The Master Surgeon for Him to repair our spiritual heart defect, sin. Only He can give us holy hearts passionate to live for His glory. Isaiah answered God's call to live for Him with the famous words in Isaiah 6: 8: "Here am I. Send me!". While I love Isaiah's response to God's invitation, what happened before that response completely captures my attention.

*"It is impossible to live pure lives until we have pure hearts."
—Billy Graham*

In verses 1-3, he saw God's sovereignty, power, and holiness. This is summarized in the words of the Seraphim as they declared: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." In verses 4 and 5, Isaiah was confronted with his heart problem, sin. He declared, "I am a man of unclean lips." In Hebrew culture, there was a connection between the lips and the heart. So, in verses 6 through 7, when the seraph touched Isaiah's mouth with burning coal, it was a sign that God was fixing the problem in his heart. It was a picture of what God does in our hearts through Jesus. You see this in the words of the angel: "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." This spiritual heart surgery led Isaiah to say, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah's response of total surrender to God's invitation could only come after his spiritual heart surgery. In the same way, for people in our city to experience the life God has for them, they must realize who God is and understand their heart problem and their inability to fix it themselves. Therefore, entrust their hearts to Him, the Master Surgeon. Spend time asking God to work in the hearts of those around us and do what He can do in them.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

God, please work in the heart of the people around me who need the gospel and use me to bring the Good News to them. Continue transforming hearts in our city for your glory; in Jesus' name, amen!



Contributed by Ender Palencia, Pastor of Multi-Site and Missions | Sugar Creek Baptist Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON

DAY 10

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10
2024

HOUSTON

"That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." John 17.21-23

U UNITY

IN A SEASON MARKED BY DIVISION, PRAY THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AND CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY WOULD BE RADICALLY UNIFIED!

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

We live in a divided time. Everyone has a HOT TAKE on just about everything. Disunity is the first byproduct of sin in the scriptures. Our sin leads to separation from God, and in that separation, the enemy attacks. We see God's people arguing over their preference in music, leadership style, Bible translations, politics, racial justice, women's roles, and so much more.

"When the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first."
—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Disunity is rooted in preference. Jesus didn't give his life for our preference. He came, died, and rose to rescue us from our preferences and remind us that the mission of God is to SEEK and SAVE the LOST! When we focus our attention on preference over mission, we see our culture no longer look to the church for guidance and answers. Disunity is what ruins our witness in this broken world.

The enemy is running free while we are fighting one another. What Houston needs is to see a united church. We have to stack hands on the mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost. God is ONE. The church must also be ONE.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, Son, & Spirit, help us to be one as you are one. Reveal to us the preferences that are pulling us away from your mission. Give us the courage to lay them down at your feet and grow our capacity to resist picking them back up again. Help our unity shift the cultural climate. We need you.



Contributed by Kyle Jackson, Church Planter & Lead Pastor | 3rd Coast Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 11

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 11
2024

"My message and my preaching are not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

SPIRIT'S POWER

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN BRINGING PERSONAL RENEWAL, REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCHES, EVANGELISTIC FRUIT, AND A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TO HOUSTON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

I have an electric drill at home. It is handy for the occasional odd job. But I rarely re-charge the battery, so I have to grab a screwdriver and tackle the job manually. It is only as good as the power source. Without it, it's worthless.

Is it possible that the church is losing ground in our culture because it lacks the power source? The church was formed by the power of the Spirit, and exists today because of the Spirit over centuries. If we are not honoring the Spirit in our churches, then we are producing and sending a version of "Christians" outside the walls that "have a form of godliness but deny its power." (2 Timothy 3:5) When

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference."
—A.W. Tozer

the Spirit is leading, transformation is in his wake. Lives are radically transformed. Communities are changed.

Let's connect to the power source, and repent of any area where we are operating out of our own wisdom and power. Let's individually "walk in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25), so that we will collectively witness his POWER!

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Spirit, I want to know you intimately. Please show me any area of my life where I am operating in my own strength, and give me the courage to release it to you. I want to experience a full demonstration of your POWER in my church and in our city, so show me how to walk in step with you.



Contributed by Greg Johnson | Restoration Church Woodforest
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HOUSTON

DAY 12

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 12
2024

"The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!" John 1:43-46

T TOP 5

PRAY FOR THE 5 NON-CHRISTIANS THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR HEART. PRAY THAT YOU WOULD LOVE THEM WELL.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

God uses strategic relationships to accomplish his mission in the Earth. We see this play in the text. Phillip has an encounter with Jesus and recognizes him as the Messiah. Phillip then finds Nathaniel to tell him about Jesus. Nathaniel was skeptical, but eventually came around to believe and follow Jesus.

God has placed skeptics and non-believers strategically in our lives. They are in our neighborhoods, on our jobs, serving us in restaurants and even in our churches! God desires for us to use those relationships as a bridge to introduce them to Jesus.

We want to encourage everyone to write down their "Top 5." These are people are non-Christians in your circle that you have some type of relational connection to and that God places on your heart. After identifying them, we want to pray that they would be open to a relationship with Jesus. As we are praying, we encourage you to love and serve them well. Share your testimony of Jesus' work in your life, as opportunity allows.

*"Witnessing is that deep-seated conviction that the greatest favor I can do for others is to introduce them to Jesus Christ."
—Paul Little*

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, I thank you for the privilege to share in the ministry of Jesus. Continue to show me those in my circle that I should cultivate intentional relationship with for the sake of bringing Jesus to them. Amen.



Contributed by Jaron Jones, Lead Pastor | Shine Bible Fellowship
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON

DAY 13

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 13
2024

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matthew 9:35-36, NIV

OUR CITY

PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN HOUSTON THAT OUR WHOLE CITY FEELS AND WE WILL TALK ABOUT IN ETERNITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

When you look at your city what do you see? Considering all its people, places, and priorities, what do you see?

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. He saw the need and had compassion. Jesus believed the work of God was available in all the towns and villages. Jesus proclaimed good news and brought healing where there were hurts and illness. It's a beautiful and hope filled reality. We need God's kingdom to come!

As we pray for our cities, we must reflect on our own heart. Do we love our cities? Do we have compassion for the people who seem harassed and helpless?

Today, let's remember it is Jesus we follow. We follow Jesus into every town, village, and city. Let's ask the good shepherd of John 10 and of Psalm 23 to lead us in this season. Let's cry out for God's kingdom to come with spiritual awakening. Let's ask God for his loving kindness to fill our cities...and let it start in me!

TODAY'S PRAYER:

God, you are the maker of heaven and earth. Your heart is full of unfailing love and compassion. Give us eyes to see our cities the way you do. Give us grace to love our cities the way you do. We ask that we would see a move of God across the cities we love. Let your kingdom come.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Kurt Attaway, Lead Pastor | The Vineyard Church Pearland
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 14

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14
2024

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." 2 Peter 1:3-4

N NEW BIRTH

PRAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE
BORN AGAIN IN THE COMING SEASON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Today is Ash Wednesday, which begins a 40-day fast called Lent. When Christians fast, we consciously abstain from certain things. But there's a flip side to fasting, and it's worth reflecting on.

2 Peter 1 tells us that God has "called us to His own glory and excellence" (3). We are not merely invited to bear witness to His glory and excellence; we are invited to live up into His glory and excellence, to become "partakers of the divine nature" (4). As participants in the divine life of God, we are called to "make every effort" to cultivate divine qualities — virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (5-7).

This is the flip side to fasting. We don't just give things up; we also put things on. We forego good things to make room for great things, such as glory and excellence and full participation in the shared life of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In short, we fast because we refuse to settle for less than God's grace could make us.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart: that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Drew Knowles | Oak Forest Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 15

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 15
2024

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

HOT HEARTS & HOLINESS

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ENJOY AND LOVE GOD DEEPLY AND HAVE A PROFOUND SENSE OF SIN THAT SETS US APART TO WALK IN HOLINESS.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

In his letter to the seven churches in revelation, John, the in-prisoned revelator, was commanded to extend an invitation from the risen Christ to the Angels (messengers, pastors, Bishops, etc...) of the Church in all of the seven regional churches in Revelation Chapter 2 & 3. God's invitation was for them to repent, remember and return to Him in complete obedience. They were to return to His holiness without compromise. Within the invitation there was given a warning to those Spiritual Leaders and His Bride who would not respond to the invitation. Failure to repent was fatal. To the messengers in Ephesus, He said that He would remove their lampstand if they refused to return to their first love. But if they would Repent, Return and Remember, they would experience the privilege of eating from the tree that is in the midst of Paradise. Imagine, the tree in Paradise being placed in the midst of Greater Houston for abundant revival and spiritual awakening amongst the lost. We would reap a harvest that we have not sown. On the book end of this invitation, the messengers of the Laodicean Church were told that He would vomit them out of His mouth if they failed to open the door to let Him in when He knocks. But if they would repent and open the door, He would let them sit on the throne that the Father granted Him to sit on. Imagine the privilege and spiritual power we would experience when He brings His throne from Heaven to Greater Houston for you and I to sit on. Don't just imagine but BELIEVE!

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Restore us again, our God and Savior, and put away Your displeasure towards us. Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation. We will listen to what our God and Lord will say; for You promised the Kingdom of Heaven to Your people. As we return to You, surely Your salvation is near, that your glory may dwell in our land.
In Jesus Name, Amen!



Contributed by Rickie Bradshaw, Pastor | First Southwest Baptist Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON

DAY 16

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 16
2024

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the Grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV

OUR CHURCHES

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL TO YOUR CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Grace is what we receive from God through Christ, usually defined as "unmerited favor." However, through the Gospel, grace is unmerited favor actualized. Paul wants Timothy to be strengthened by Christ's grace, leading to sharing what Paul taught him. Grace operating in our lives leads us to share what we have learned. According to Paul, Grace's impact on one believer's life is also multigenerational and exponential.

The grace you need to flourish is already present in your life if you are in Christ. The operation of Grace leads to sharing your faith in ways that lead to the creation and growth of other disciples. Generational discipleship is natural for the church and the believer and is a marker of revival.

So, how does grace deliver revival? Because revival is essentially an unveiling of the grace of God already present in the church. We have everything we need for revival in Houston; ask the Lord to shred our restraints and let us display the treasure of His grace.

*"The grace you need to flourish is already present in your life if you are in Christ."
—Del Traffanstedt*

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, revive us by unveiling what you have already given us: grace. Help us as a church to lean into the reality that we are here fundamentally for your glory and the good of others, and our joy is hearing about spiritual growth in others we have loved and poured into.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Del Traffanstedt, Pastor | Cross Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 17

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 17
2024

HOUSTON

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

John 17:20–21, NASB

U UNITY

IN A SEASON MARKED BY DIVISION, PRAY THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AND CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY WOULD BE RADICALLY UNIFIED!

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Each year in the month of January, our church along with a small urban community hosts a day of service and unity on MLK day. What started as just a community event has now become something we have invited people from all over the city to participate in. Every year it's incredible to watch believers from many different denominations, cultures, communities, and ethnic backgrounds come together for the sole purpose of serving one another and walking in unity. This event is

"Christians are people who are drawn together because they owe a common debt to the goodness and grace of God."

—William Barclay

an earnest effort to model to a divided and hurting world the unity of God's kingdom people. This was the encouragement given by Jesus in John 17:20-21 that his disciples and all who believed in him would be one. Today, let us all examine our hearts and see where unity has escaped us and remember to walk in oneness.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord help us this day to walk in the oneness you prayed would be ours. In our most challenging moments may the unity of Christ never be beyond our reach. Amen



Contributed by David Hill, Pastor | Restoration Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 18

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 18
2024

"... you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching..." Acts 5:28

SPIRIT'S POWER

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN BRINGING PERSONAL RENEWAL, REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCHES, EVANGELISTIC FRUIT, AND A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TO HOUSTON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

In Romans 15:19 Paul writes, "from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." How could he say this? Surely there were thousands who had never heard the gospel throughout those regions. Harrison says, "The statement... is not intended to mean that he had preached in every community between the two points mentioned, but that he had faithfully preached the message in the major communities along the way, leaving to his converts the more intensified evangelizing of surrounding districts." Stott concurs, "His strategy was to evangelize the populous and influential cities, and plant churches there, and then leave to others the radiation of the gospel into the surrounding villages." Since Houston's founding in 1837 God has planted thousands of churches across our city; and yours! Why? One reason is so that you and your church family would own the lostness of your place, mobilize for evangelism, and help "fill Houston with your teaching!"

"So what is the strategy for the completed Great Commission from Romans 15? It is apostolic ministry of planting strategic churches and then those local churches mobilize to penetrate their region." —Dave Harvey

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, by Your Spirit please burden Your people across Houston to own the lostness of their geographies (Katy, Pasadena, Humble, Galveston...). Empower Your people to boldly share Christ where we live, work, and play. Use us together, scattered across our city, to fill Houston with the gospel!

HOUSTON



Contributed by Mitch Maher, Lead Pastor | Redeemer Community Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 19

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 19
2024

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish." John 1:14

T TOP 5

PRAY FOR THE 5 NON-CHRISTIANS THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR HEART. PRAY THAT YOU WOULD LOVE THEM WELL.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Confession, I once worked at a church for a few years and we were so busy taking care of guests who visited the church and the folks at the church that I never met my neighbors in all that time! I say this to my shame and regret.

In 2005, I was given a book called "Radical Reformation" by Mark Driscoll. My wife and I read statements like this one and were convicted to the core:

"I cared more about how I appeared to people than about whether I share the passion of Jesus for those who are lost." That night, I learned that Reformation requires that Christians and their churches move forward on their knees, continually confessing their addictions to morality and the appearance of godliness, which does not penetrate the heart and transform lives. In the end, I learned that God's mission is not to create a team of moral and decent people but rather to create a movement of holy loving missionaries who are comfortable and truthful around lost sinners and who, in this way, look more like Jesus than most of his pastors do."

We were so convicted. From that time on "we moved into the neighborhood"! We worked with a simple formula:

Meet Needs – How could we find creative ways to regularly bless our neighbors?

Build Relationships – We started "doing life" with our neighbors. We became friends, we loved them unconditionally, we went on vacations. We lived our faith before them.

Share Jesus – We lived a life that caused people to ask questions about faith.

We weren't trying to "get them"! They were people, not projects. Have a "Top Five" of folks who are far from Christ and consider these questions prayerfully:

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1—Do you (The way you live your life, The way you walk & Talk, especially to non-Christian people) make it hard for people to believe in God?
- 2—Does your Church make it hard for people to believe in God?
- 3—Who's your one? Start with 1.
- 4—Who's your five? Not hard to work up to – "The harvest is plentiful"!



Contributed by John Wills, Missions Pastor & Residency Program Director | Champions Forest
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON

DAY 20

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20
2024

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7

OUR CITY

PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN HOUSTON THAT OUR WHOLE CITY FEELS AND WE WILL TALK ABOUT IN ETERNITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

A very popular verse that is often quoted is Jeremiah 29:11. When you Google search Jeremiah the first verse to come up is 29:11.

"For I know the plans I have for you"

While in exile God still had a plan to reconcile the world, but a prerequisite to reaching the world involved reaching the city. The welfare of Israel is found in the welfare of Babylon.

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7

What does it mean to seek the welfare of our great city?

To seek the welfare of our city involves seeking out those that are far from God and sharing with them the Good News. Our goal is to see our city saturated with the Gospel.

Jesus Himself cried out for Jerusalem.

Will you cry out for our city?

TODAY, PRAY FOR:

- Christ to encourage our hearts to pray with renewed hope and persistence
- God to invigorate new seasons of prayer in our families, churches, and city
- The Gospel to be shared with those in your sphere of influence
- Gospel saturation and multiplication



Contributed by Guy Caskey | M4 Network and The Table Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON

DAY 21

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 21
2024

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. . . "
Colossians 2:6-15

N NEW BIRTH

PRAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE BORN AGAIN IN THE COMING SEASON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Paul tells us in Colossians 2 that through Christ we who were far off were "circumcised" into a new body, Then Paul correlates this to conversion baptism, reminding us that the old self symbolically dies in baptism and is raised to walk in new life. We were dead, and now we are alive. A new people of God in turn live new lives: they do God's work!

I struggle to see my unbelieving neighbors as dead. After all, they walk and breath. The Bible is clear: we must be made alive and cut into new life. Salvation in Jesus has always been bloody. Sacrifices, the cross, circumcision; Dying and rising in new life is bloody; primarily it occurs through the blood of Jesus, but a death still takes place. It hurts to die.

What would Houston look like if we remember that our neighbors are dead and need life? That we were dead and raised? What if remembered the cost Christ gave his broken body and shed blood to raise dead people? What if we told them that Jesus rose and can raise all who come to him?

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, give life to the dead. By your Spirit, call my neighbor, my friend, my family, my coworker, all who don't know you, to awaken in new life. Use me, if it pleases you, to declare your salvation to dead men. And raise me up in new life daily, as I die to myself and put on the new. Amen.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Reid Squires, Lead Pastor | Sojourn Montrose
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 22

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 22
2024

"Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to a land of flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people and I might destroy you in the way. When the people heard this sad word, they went into mourning." Exodus 33:3-4

HOT HEARTS & HOLINESS

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ENJOY AND LOVE GOD DEEPLY AND HAVE A PROFOUND SENSE OF SIN THAT SETS US APART TO WALK IN HOLINESS.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

The children of Israel were in a time of transition between the wilderness and the Promised Land that God had long promised to take them. However, in Exodus 32 while Moses was up in the mountain communing with God, the children of Israel would violate the very first two commandments. As a result, God would tell Moses, "The deal is off I cannot go with you into the Promised Land." God would essentially say to the people of Israel, "I will give you what you want: economic and military success, prosperity, real estate, etc. You can have it all, but

"It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us" —C.S. Lewis

you won't have Me." In response, they mourn and repent and Moses would pray desperately "Lord, if you won't go with us, please do not send us forth". Moses in his prayer was acknowledging in that instant, that nothing else outside of God himself could ever satisfy the deepest longings of their hearts. It is precisely this heart's posture of desiring to love and enjoy God most deeply that the soil of holiness is grown.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, we acknowledge that we often turn to other things but You to give us a sense of significance and security. We repent of our sin and idolatry and ask that you would help us to be a people who enjoy and love You deeply more than anyone or anything else. We pray this in Jesus' name.



Contributed by Dayo Adeyefa, Lead Pastor | King's City Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

HOLY

DAY 23

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 23
2024

HOUSTON

"Come and sleep with me," she demanded. But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." Genesis 39:7-9

OUR CHURCHES

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING A SPIRIT OF REVIVAL TO YOUR CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Prayerfully reading and meditating in God's Word from Genesis 39 I was filled with the awareness while Joseph personally experienced great hardship, suffering, and tribulation the ALMIGHTY, LOVING, FATHER GOD who brings REVIVAL was with him!

Joseph was conspired against, tempted, betrayed, mocked, laughed at, rejected, deserted, forgotten, sold into slavery, isolated, put in prison, judged, and hated by his brothers.

Joseph was a God-fearing young man who had been taught and given the knowledge of God by his own father. He did not just know who God was, but he sought the face of God. He willfully chose to listen, trust, serve and obey God wholeheartedly despite all the worldly circumstances and temptations that came against him. It is written Joseph succeeded in everything he did for Potiphar. He noticed the Lord was with Joseph and appointed him to be his personal attendant, giving him authority over everything he owned. The Lord blessed Potiphar's house because of Joseph.

Potiphar's wife is an acute example of the *...adversary the devil who is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking someone he can devour*. She was an adulteress woman who was consumed with lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes set on Joseph. She was demanding, and persistent in ushering an invitation of temptation to Joseph, that escalated by her grabbing and clasping his cloak one day saying, "Come on, sleep with me!"

Joseph spoke forcibly and wholeheartedly God's Truth. "How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." Joseph ran immediately from the house and was released from committing sin against God! Hallelujah! *You who love the Lord, hate evil! He protects the lives of His godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked.* Psalm 97:10

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, I pray we wholeheartedly bend our hearts and knees, fleeing from sin, and crying out to you for Revival and Spiritual Awakening that brings healing and hope to our city and beyond. Amen



Contributed by Mary Ann Bridgwater | Pray the Word Ministries
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 24

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24
2024

HOUSTON

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21

U UNITY

IN A SEASON MARKED BY DIVISION, PRAY THAT FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AND CHURCHES ACROSS THE CITY WOULD BE RADICALLY UNIFIED!

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Knowing that the cross was just around the corner, Jesus spent time with His best friends over a meal where we have John to thank for taking down Jesus's longest recorded prayer in John 17. In what theologians have called His High Priestly Prayer, He takes time to pray for His present and future disciples.

Yes. On His way to the cross, Jesus prayed for you and me.

His prayer was as profound as every other word that He said, and He asked that we'd be one. Jesus's intimate relationship with the Father was the model for our unity that's based on holy love for one another.

*"Unity has never meant uniformity."
—Martin Luther King Jr.*

The church across the city has many different expressions, but our unity comes in the fact that we are all in the same Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the more we focus on Jesus, the less our differences matter after all.

This is unity with a purpose: that the world would believe that Jesus was sent from God.

As we reach out our hands up and out to love and serve and pray for the city, may He make us one.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, make the church across the city one as you and Your Son Jesus are one so the lost people you've sent us to will fall down with us before the unimaginable beauty of King Jesus and spread His kingdom throughout the earth!



Contributed by David Humphrey, Pastoral Care/Missions Pastor | United City Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 25

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 25
2024

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." Ephesians 3:14-16

SPIRIT'S POWER

PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN BRINGING PERSONAL RENEWAL, REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCHES, EVANGELISTIC FRUIT, AND A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TO HOUSTON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Men assigned to help Moses were filled with the Holy Spirit and He gave them great wisdom. The Holy Spirit empowered Joshua to lead Israel with courage. The Holy Spirit clothed Gideon in power. King David was anointed king and the Holy Spirit rushed upon him. The Holy Spirit enabled Ezekiel to prophesy. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit showed up. The Holy Spirit became a great teacher to the disciples after Jesus' ascension. The early church was ignited by a mighty work of the Holy Spirit.

"What we need is not more learning, not more eloquence, not more persuasion, not more organization, but more power from the Holy Spirit." —John Stott

Just a cursory glance over these examples brings a measure of conviction upon my heart. Additionally, it begs a question: how much ministry do I do in my own strength and giftedness? Oh, that I would be a pastor who lives and works through the strength that the Holy Spirit supplies. Oh, that we would be a generation of Pastors and Network Leaders who seek to live and minister

through the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT. What we need most is the Holy Spirit fueling us for ministry.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, empower your leaders through the strength of the Holy Spirit to minister to others in Houston. Apart from You, we can do no good thing. Invade, invigorate, and agitate our souls with Your power to accomplish Your purposes through the strength of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus Name, Amen!

HOUSTON



Contributed by Paul Cockrell, Lead Pastor | Waypoint Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 26

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 26
2024

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'" Mark 1:17, ESV

T TOP 5

PRAY FOR THE 5 NON-CHRISTIANS THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR HEART. PRAY THAT YOU WOULD LOVE THEM WELL.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

You've been called to be stinky. Have you ever stopped to consider what a fishing boat smells like? Those on boats have grown to be comfortable with the uncomfortable because of their goal: one more catch. Their long hours on the waters are spent doing a lot of the same thing, patiently trusting something will happen beneath the surface and their nets will come up full.

Our lives as disciples of Jesus are no different. The one we follow has given us a new purpose: fishers of men. This way of life will require us to spend many hours on the "waters" (coffee shops, restaurants, game nights, baseball field, dining tables...) with those that are far from Him. We'll get uncomfortable, tired, maybe even anxious, but it's all worth it when someone comes out of the dark, deep waters, into the light.

"If you live gladly to make others glad in God, your life will be hard, your risks will be high, and your joy will be full." — John Piper

As we follow, we become. Might we become people who smell of the waters God has already placed us in, to consistently cast the Good News, and may we always joyfully anticipate one more catch.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, we pray for the Top 5 in our lives that are still in dark waters. Help us intentionally pursue them, with patience, hope, and joy for the day they cross from death to life. Help us love them as you have loved us and be a people passionate and committed to reaching those far from you.

HOUSTON



Contributed by Josue Sanchez Pastor/Planter | Koinonia Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 27

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27
2024

HOUSTON

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."
Luke 4:18-19, NASB

OUR CITY

PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN HOUSTON THAT OUR WHOLE CITY FEELS AND WE WILL TALK ABOUT IN ETERNITY.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jesus enters the synagogue of his city, reads Isaiah. In so doing, he's saying the gospel is good news for the marginalized. (Poor, captive, blind, oppressed) this emphasis at the beginning of his ministry is key, because the centering the margins is what marks the mission of the church.

Houston is a city of forests and deserts, of affluence and margins. It's a place where the suburbs have the best schools, finances... Meanwhile, the center of the city where most of the subdominant culture lives, is the opposite. There, we see terrible schools, poverty, crime...

Unfortunately, this division is also evident in the way the church functions. Ex: the greatest # of churches are being planted in the forests (dominant culture)

"We need to rediscover the fullness of the gospel that addresses the full range of human problems. If we only do cultural discipleship between dominant culture, we end up worsening the marginalization of sub-dominant culture. This would be an affront to the biblical gospel of Christ." —Carl Ellis, Jr.

while at the same time we allow churches in the inner city to close.

It's time for a more holistic vision for our city. It's time to centralize the margins and collaboration to see the dignity not only in the dominant culture, but also in the subdominant culture.

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Father, I ask that you make us sensitive to the call and mission of all the churches in Houston to the centrality of the margins (Poor, captive, blind...). May our differences be the catalyst for our collaboration, that with integrity and sincerity of heart we seek together to reach them.



Contributed by Victor Marte, Church Consultant | Union Baptist Association
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

DAY 28

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28
2024

"On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home." Acts 16:12-15a

N NEW BIRTH

PRAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE
BORN AGAIN IN THE COMING SEASON.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

What is the wise place to be when we start new things?

The wise place to be when we start new things is on our knees.

When Paul traveled to Philippi, for the first few days it does not seem that anything notable happened. But on Sabbath there is a shift. Following the model set by our Lord Jesus (Mark 1:35), they went out of the city to pray by the river. Then something new happens!

At the river, Lydia a wealthy merchant, who likely was a worshiper of Yahweh opens up to the message of the Gospel as proclaimed by Paul. Text is clear that it is the Lord who opened her heart. Paul and his team stayed at Lydia's house, which commentators believe likely became the first house church in Philippi. This new thing happened because Paul and his faithful team were on their knees.

*"The wise place to be when we start new things is on our knees."
—Emmanuel Paulpeter*

It is human nature to not want to go to our knees before the Lord. But if we bow our stubborn knees, then new life shall begin!

TODAY'S PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for putting people [names] in my heart. I pray for miraculous opportunities for them to hear the Gospel, have an encounter with you and experience your healing love. May your people show up in prayer before your presence in a way that creates new life. May we pray in obedience!



Contributed by Emmanuel Paulpeter, Associate Pastor of Outreach | First Presbyterian Church
AWAKENHOUSTON.ORG

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