

W H E N
T H E
C H U R C H
P R A Y S

21 DAYS OF PRAYER



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Introduction

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness... And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." — Acts 4:29, 31

Throughout the history of God's people, every significant movement of God has been marked by prayer.

Before the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, the church prayed. When persecution threatened to silence the gospel, the church prayed. Before missionaries were sent, churches were planted, and the gospel spread throughout the world, the church prayed. Prayer was never an afterthought or merely another ministry of the church—it was the very heartbeat of a people who knew they were utterly dependent upon God.

The same is true today. No amount of gifted leadership, strategic planning, faithful preaching, or diligent labor can accomplish what only God can do. Only God can save sinners. Only He can bring spiritual life to the dead. Only He can strengthen His church, raise up leaders, empower His people, and advance His kingdom. This is why the church must pray.

These **21 Days of Prayer** are an invitation to seek the Lord together—not merely to pray more, but to become a people who depend more deeply upon Him. Our longing is that God would cultivate within His church a greater love for Christ, a deeper devotion to His Word, a richer life of prayer, a greater boldness in gospel witness, and a renewed passion for making disciples of all nations.

This prayer guide accompanies the sermon series **When the Church Prays**, a journey through the book of Acts that explores what God does through a church wholly dependent upon Him.

Together we will discover that:

- **When the church prays, God gives power.**
- **When the church prays, God gives boldness.**
- **When the church prays, God sends.**

These are not merely historical events recorded in Acts; they reveal God's ordinary pattern for accomplishing His extraordinary purposes. The same risen Christ who built His church in the first century continues to build His church today. The same Holy Spirit who empowered ordinary believers still indwells and empowers God's people. The same gospel that transformed Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and eventually the ends of the earth remains "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

As you journey through these twenty-one days, set aside intentional time each day to read the assigned passage, meditate on God's Word, and pray through the daily focus. Pray individually. Pray with your family. Pray with friends. Pray with your local church. Above all, pray with an eager expectation that God still delights to answer the prayers of His people according to His perfect will.

As we seek the Lord together, may He deepen our love for Christ, renew our delight in His Word, strengthen the unity of His church, embolden us to proclaim the gospel, save the lost, and raise up faithful disciples who will make disciples for generations to come.

One of the beautiful realities revealed throughout the book of Acts is that a praying church becomes a sending church. As you come to the end of this prayer guide, you will find two church-planting families whom Restoration Church has the privilege of supporting through prayer and partnership. Over the next year, the Lord is calling **Austin and Alicia Darrow** to plant a new church in DeLand, Florida. You will also meet **Cory and Chrissy Cooper**, who are being sent by our sending church to plant a gospel-centered church in East Orlando. We encourage you to learn about their families, rejoice in God's calling on their lives, and faithfully pray for them. Included are specific prayer requests to help you intercede for them as they prepare for this work. May the Lord strengthen them, provide for every need, open wide doors for the gospel, and establish healthy churches that will make disciples for the glory of King Jesus.

May these twenty-one days become more than a seasonal emphasis. May they help cultivate a lifelong dependence upon God through prayer. And may the Lord be pleased to do what only He can do—empower His people, embolden His church, send laborers into His harvest, and cause the gospel of Jesus Christ to spread for the glory of His name.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Daily Prayer Pattern

- **Praise. Confess. Read. Pray. Go.**

This devotional is intended to help us do more than complete a daily reading. Its purpose is to lead us into communion with God through His Word and prayer and then send us into the day ready to live faithfully for Christ.

Each day, use the following pattern as a simple guide. Do not feel pressured to rush through it or to make every prayer lengthy. The goal is not performance but dependence—to draw near to our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- **Praise**
- **Worship God for who He is and what He has done.**

Begin by turning your attention away from yourself and toward God. Praise Him for the attributes revealed in the day's passage. He may be displaying His sovereignty, holiness, mercy, faithfulness, wisdom, power, or saving grace.

Thank Him for the gospel—for the perfect life, atoning death, victorious resurrection, and present reign of Jesus Christ. Praise reminds us that prayer begins with God's glory, not merely our needs.

You might pray:

“Father, You are sovereign, holy, merciful, and faithful. Thank You for saving me through Jesus Christ and for building Your church according to Your perfect will.”

- **Confess**
- **Confess known sin and rejoice in the forgiveness found in Christ.**

Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal where your thoughts, desires, words, or actions have not conformed to His Word. Confess your sin honestly, specifically, and without excuse.

Do not remain in condemnation. Everyone who is united to Christ has been fully justified by grace alone through faith alone. Jesus has borne the guilt of His

people and secured their forgiveness. Confession is not an attempt to earn God's acceptance; it is the response of children who know they are loved and desire restored fellowship with their Father.

Ask the Spirit to help you put sin to death and walk in renewed obedience.

- **Read**
- **Read and meditate on the day's passage from Acts.**

Read the passage slowly, preferably more than once. Notice what the text reveals about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, the gospel, and the mission of God.

Consider asking:

- What does this passage teach me about God?
- What does it reveal about the human heart?
- Is there a truth to believe, a sin to confess, a promise to trust, or a command to obey?
- How does this passage point me to Jesus Christ?
- What would faithful obedience look like today?

Read the devotional reflection after spending time in the biblical text. The devotional is meant to help you understand and apply Scripture, never to replace Scripture.

- **Pray**
- **Pray through the daily focus.**

Allow the passage to shape the content of your prayers. Pray the truths of Scripture back to God. Ask Him to accomplish in us what we have seen Him do throughout Acts.

Pray for your own spiritual growth, your family, and the people God has placed around you. Pray for Restoration Church—our elders, deacons, ministry leaders, members, children, missionaries, and church planters.

Pray specifically for Austin and Alicia Darrow as they prepare to plant in DeLand and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare for East Orlando. Ask

God to protect their families, provide for their needs, open doors for the gospel, save sinners, make disciples, raise up leaders, and establish healthy churches.

Whenever possible, pray with others. Pray with your spouse, children, friends, discipleship group, or fellow church members. These twenty-one days are not merely an individual exercise; they are an opportunity for the church to seek the Lord together.

- **Go**
- **Respond to God's Word with faithful obedience.**

Prayer should never become a substitute for obedience. After seeking the Lord, ask Him to show you how to live out what you have read.

Consider one simple response for the day:

- Encourage a discouraged believer.
- Confess sin or seek reconciliation.
- Meet a practical need.
- Invite someone into your home.
- Pray with a coworker or neighbor.
- Share the gospel with someone who does not know Christ.
- Contact one of our church-planting families with encouragement.
- Invite someone to gather with the church.

Ask the Lord: *"Who have You placed before me today, and how can I love, serve, or point that person to Christ?"*

Then go in humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit, trusting that God delights to use ordinary acts of faithfulness for His extraordinary purposes.

A Simple Daily Rhythm

Praise — Fix your heart upon God.

Confess — Bring your sin into the light of the gospel.

Read — Listen carefully to God through His Word.

Pray — Ask Him to work in you, through the church, and throughout the world.

Go — Obey what you have read and make Christ known.

May this rhythm help us become a people who do not merely talk about prayer, but who increasingly live as a praying, bold, and sending church.

Day 1

Waiting on God's Promise

Scripture: Acts 1:1–11

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." — Acts 1:8

Devotional

The book of Acts begins with a church that does something many of us struggle to do—it waits.

Jesus had accomplished redemption through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection. He had appeared to His disciples over forty days, teaching them about the kingdom of God. Their mission was clear: they would be His witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Yet before they were to go, Jesus gave them an unexpected command:

"Wait."

He told them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for "the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). The disciples were eager for the kingdom to come in its fullness, even asking, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (v. 6). But Jesus gently redirected their attention away from speculation about God's timing and toward confidence in God's promises.

The mission of Christ would not be accomplished through human enthusiasm, clever strategies, or natural ability. It would advance only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Before the church could go, it first had to learn to depend.

This has always been God's way.

Throughout Scripture, the Lord often prepares His people in seasons of waiting before sending them into seasons of ministry. Waiting is never wasted in the kingdom of God. It teaches us that God's work must be accomplished by God's power and according to God's perfect timing.

The same is true for us today.

We live in a culture that prizes speed, productivity, and immediate results. Yet Christ calls His church to something far deeper than activity—He calls us to dependence. Before we rush into serving, speaking, planning, or leading, we must first seek the Lord. Prayer is not an interruption to the mission; it is preparation for the mission.

As Restoration Church begins these twenty-one days of prayer, we do so with grateful anticipation. We long to see the Lord save sinners, strengthen His church, make disciples, and plant healthy churches throughout Central Florida and beyond. Yet we also recognize that none of these things can happen apart from His gracious work.

This is especially true as we prepare to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to plant a church in DeLand and as we pray for Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare to plant a church in East Orlando. Church planting is not ultimately sustained by gifted leaders or strategic planning. It is sustained by the power of God working through the prayers of His people. Before churches are planted, churches must pray.

May the Lord teach us to wait upon Him—not with passive resignation, but with confident expectation that He always fulfills His promises in His perfect time.

Reflect

- Am I more eager to act than I am to pray?
- Where is God teaching me to trust His timing instead of my own?
- How can I faithfully support those whom God is calling to plant churches through my prayers?

Pray

Father,

Thank You for Your faithfulness to every promise You have made in Christ. Forgive us for the many times we rely upon our own strength instead of depending upon You. Teach us to wait upon You with confidence, trusting that Your timing is always perfect and Your purposes are always good.

As we begin these twenty-one days of prayer, captivate our hearts with the mission of Christ. Fill us with a greater love for the gospel and a deeper

dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Prepare us to be the kind of church that prays before it plans, seeks before it speaks, and trusts before it acts.

Today we especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Continue to prepare them for the work You have called them to. Strengthen their marriages, guard their families, provide for every need, and give them wisdom, humility, and joyful perseverance. Even now, prepare hearts in DeLand and East Orlando to receive the gospel. Raise up faithful disciples, establish healthy churches, and glorify Your Son through the work You have entrusted to them.

Build Your church, advance Your kingdom, and teach us to depend upon You every step of the way.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 2

United in Prayer

Scripture: Acts 1:12–14

“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.” — Acts 1:14

Devotional

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and gathered together. They had received a clear mission: they would be Christ’s witnesses to the ends of the earth. Yet their first recorded action was not to develop a strategy, organize a campaign, or begin preaching. They prayed.

Luke tells us that they were gathered “with one accord” and were “devoting themselves to prayer.” Their unity was not based on personality, preference, background, or shared ambition. They had been united by Christ. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus had created a new people who now approached the Father together in His name.

This is one of the great blessings of the gospel. Christ does not merely reconcile individual sinners to God; He gathers the redeemed into His church. Those who were once separated from God and divided from one another are brought near through the blood of Christ. Therefore, corporate prayer is not simply several Christians praying in the same room. It is the family of God approaching their Father together through their one Mediator, Jesus Christ.

The disciples also devoted themselves to prayer. Their prayer was not occasional or casual. They continued in it. They knew the mission before them was far beyond their natural ability. They needed divine power, wisdom, courage, and grace. Their shared helplessness drove them to shared dependence.

The same must be true of Restoration Church. We cannot manufacture conversions, spiritual growth, unity, or fruitful ministry. We cannot build Christ’s church through human strength. Christ alone builds His church, and He has appointed prayer as one of the gracious means by which His people participate in His work.

As we prepare to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to DeLand and support Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare for East Orlando, we must remember that sending begins with praying. These families do not merely need encouragement from a distance; they need a church that consistently carries them before the throne of grace. Their marriages, children, provision, endurance, preaching, relationships, and future congregations all depend upon the Lord's sustaining mercy.

May God make us increasingly united in prayer—not merely gathered around common plans, but joined together in humble dependence upon Him.

Reflect

- Do I view corporate prayer as essential to the life and mission of the church?
- What keeps me from praying consistently with God's people?
- How can I faithfully pray for Austin and Alicia, Cory and Chrissy, and the communities to which they are being sent?

Pray

Father, Thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ and gathering us into Your church. Forgive us for relying on our plans, abilities, and resources more than we rely upon You. Make Restoration Church a people united in faith, love, and prayer.

Teach us to seek You together with humility and perseverance. Strengthen our elders, deacons, ministry leaders, families, and every member of our church. Guard us from division and make us one in Christ.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Protect their marriages, shepherd their children, provide for their needs, and surround them with faithful partners in ministry. Prepare the people of DeLand and East Orlando to hear and receive the gospel. Establish healthy churches that are devoted to Your Word, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

Make us faithful not only to send, but also to pray.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Day 3

Trusting God's Sovereignty

Scripture: Acts 1:15–26

“You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen.” — Acts 1:24

Devotional

The disciples were waiting for the promised Holy Spirit, but waiting did not mean neglecting obedience. As they gathered, Peter stood and explained that the betrayal and death of Judas had not placed God's plan in jeopardy. Even this painful chapter had unfolded according to Scripture. What appeared chaotic and tragic from a human perspective remained under the sovereign rule of God.

The disciples now faced an important decision: someone needed to take Judas's place among the Twelve. They established biblical qualifications, considered two faithful men, and then prayed. Their prayer revealed a settled confidence: “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen.”

They did not believe the future of Christ's church rested ultimately on their wisdom. They acted responsibly, used the light God had given, and trusted the Lord to direct the outcome. God's sovereignty did not make them passive; it made them prayerful, careful, and confident.

This is how the church should make decisions. We search the Scriptures, pursue wisdom, examine character, pray earnestly, and then rest in God's providence. We do not possess perfect knowledge. We cannot see every motive, anticipate every trial, or control every result. But the Lord knows every heart, rules over every circumstance, and faithfully leads His church.

This truth is especially important as we prepare to send church planters. Austin and Alicia Darrow, along with Cory and Chrissy Cooper, will face decisions that cannot be answered by strategy alone. They will need wisdom about locations, relationships, ministry partners, finances, leadership development, and countless unseen details. Yet their confidence—and ours—must not rest in flawless planning. It must rest in the sovereign Christ who builds His church.

God's providence does not promise an easy path, but it assures us that no difficulty can frustrate His purposes. The Lord who called these families is able to guide them, sustain them, correct them, and use even unexpected circumstances for His glory.

May we become a church that plans carefully, prays humbly, and trusts deeply. Our wisdom is limited, but our Shepherd is not.

Reflect

- Where am I struggling to trust God's wisdom or timing?
- Do I seek Scripture and prayer before making important decisions?
- How can I pray specifically for God's guidance over the Darrow and Cooper families?

Pray

Sovereign Lord,

You know every heart, govern every circumstance, and lead Your church with perfect wisdom. Forgive us for trusting our understanding more than Your providence. Teach us to search Your Word, seek godly counsel, pray faithfully, and rest in Your rule.

Guide Restoration Church in every decision before us. Give our elders wisdom, courage, humility, and unity as they shepherd Your people. Protect us from self-reliance and lead us according to Your truth.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Direct every step as they prepare to plant churches. Provide the right ministry partners, open the right doors, close the wrong ones, and give them discernment in every decision. Strengthen their families and assure them that Your purposes cannot fail.

Build Your church according to Your wisdom and for the glory of Christ.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 4

Filled with the Spirit

Scripture: Acts 2:1–13

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” —

Acts 2:4

Devotional

Pentecost was a decisive moment in redemptive history. The risen and ascended Christ poured out the promised Holy Spirit upon His church, just as the Father had promised. The sound of a mighty rushing wind, the tongues as of fire, and the proclamation of God’s mighty works in many languages revealed that a new era had begun. The gospel would no longer remain within the borders of Israel but would go forth to the nations.

This event was unique and unrepeatable, yet its message remains essential for the church today: Christ’s mission cannot be accomplished through human strength.

The disciples were ordinary people with no power to convert sinners, unite nations, or build Christ’s church. They needed the Holy Spirit. He alone could give them courage, clarity, endurance, and effectiveness in witness. The Spirit did not come to draw attention to Himself but to glorify Christ and empower His people to proclaim the gospel.

Every true believer has received the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ. We are not waiting for another Pentecost or seeking a second conversion experience. Yet we are continually called to walk by the Spirit, depend upon His power, submit to His Word, and resist the temptation to minister in the strength of the flesh.

Self-reliance can appear in many forms. We may trust our giftedness, experience, programs, finances, personality, or planning. These things may have a proper place, but none can produce spiritual life. Only the Spirit can open blind eyes, convict hearts of sin, grant repentance and faith, sanctify believers, and equip the church for faithful witness.

This truth should shape the way we pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Church planting requires careful preparation, but no strategy can replace the Spirit's work. They need more than wisdom and resources; they need the Holy Spirit to strengthen them, empower their preaching, sustain their families, and awaken sinners to the glory of Christ.

May Restoration Church never confuse activity with spiritual power. Let us labor faithfully while confessing that unless the Lord works, our labor is in vain. A Spirit-filled church is not marked by spectacle, but by deep dependence, holy living, Christ-exalting worship, and bold gospel witness.

Reflect

- Where am I most tempted to rely upon my own strength?
- Does my life display dependence upon the Holy Spirit through prayer and obedience to God's Word?
- How can I pray for the Spirit's work through the Darrow and Cooper families?

Pray

Father,

Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit through Your risen Son. Forgive us for relying upon our wisdom, giftedness, and strength. Teach us to walk by the Spirit, submit to Your Word, and depend upon Your power in everything You call us to do.

Fill Restoration Church with holy courage, Christlike love, and faithful obedience. Empower our preaching, discipleship, worship, service, and witness so that Jesus Christ is made known and treasured.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Strengthen them by Your Spirit. Guard them from self-reliance, empower them to proclaim Christ clearly, sustain their marriages and families, and prepare hearts in DeLand and East Orlando to receive the gospel.

May Your Spirit glorify Christ, save sinners, sanctify Your people, and establish healthy churches through their ministry.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Day 5

Christ Proclaimed

Scripture: Acts 2:14–41

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” — Acts 2:36

Devotional

When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples at Pentecost, Peter stood before the crowd and proclaimed Jesus Christ. He did not entertain his hearers, offer vague spiritual encouragement, or draw attention to himself. He opened the Scriptures and declared the mighty saving work of God accomplished through the crucified and risen Christ.

Peter explained that the outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled God’s promise. He then showed from the Psalms that Jesus had been delivered up according to God’s definite plan, crucified by sinful men, raised from the dead, and exalted to the Father’s right hand. The heart of Peter’s message was clear: the Jesus whom they crucified is both Lord and Christ.

Faithful preaching must always lead people to Christ.

The church does not possess the power to awaken spiritually dead hearts. Eloquence cannot produce conversion, emotional pressure cannot create genuine faith, and clever methods cannot make sinners alive. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Yet God has chosen to save His people through the proclamation of the gospel. By His Spirit, He takes His Word and pierces the heart, granting repentance and faith to those whom He calls.

When the crowd heard Peter’s message, they were “cut to the heart” and asked, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter called them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Those who received the Word were baptized and added to the church. Gospel preaching did not merely produce private spiritual experiences; it brought repentant believers into a visible community devoted to Christ.

This is what we must pray for in our church and in every church plant we support. We need pulpits that clearly proclaim the whole counsel of God, center every hope in Christ, call sinners to repentance and faith, and lead believers into obedient discipleship.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare for ministry in DeLand, and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that Christ would remain central in everything they do. Programs may gather people, but only the gospel saves. Personalities may attract attention, but only Christ deserves worship. Healthy churches are planted where the Word is faithfully preached, sinners are called to repent and believe, believers are baptized, and disciples are gathered into covenant fellowship.

May God make us a church that longs not merely for larger gatherings, but for true conversions—men and women brought from death to life through the faithful proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Reflect

- Is Christ central in the way I speak about my faith?
- Do I pray regularly for faithful preaching and genuine conversions?
- Who in my life needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Pray

Father,

Thank You for accomplishing salvation through the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Your Son. Give us confidence that Your gospel is powerful to save all who believe.

Strengthen those who preach Your Word at Restoration Church. Guard them from fear, pride, compromise, and distraction. Help them proclaim Christ clearly, call sinners to repentance and faith, and teach the whole counsel of God with courage and compassion.

We pray for those in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and city who do not know Christ. By Your Spirit, open their hearts, convict them of sin, grant them repentance and faith, and bring them into the fellowship of Your church.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Make Christ the center of their lives, families, preaching, and church-planting efforts. Prepare people in DeLand and East Orlando to receive the Word. Save sinners, raise up disciples, and establish churches devoted to Scripture, baptism, fellowship, the Lord's Supper, and prayer.

May Jesus Christ be faithfully proclaimed and gladly received.

Through Christ our risen Lord,

Amen.

Day 6

Devoted to the Ordinary Means of Grace

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” —

Acts 2:42

Devotional

The believers who received the gospel at Pentecost were not left to follow Christ alone. They were baptized, added to the church, and gathered into a shared life of worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission.

Luke tells us that they “devoted themselves” to the apostles’ teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers. Their devotion was not casual or occasional. These practices shaped the regular rhythm of their life together. The early church understood that spiritual health does not ordinarily grow through novelty or spectacle, but through God’s appointed means.

The apostles’ teaching points us to the ministry of God’s Word. Through Scripture, Christ feeds, corrects, comforts, and sanctifies His people. The fellowship describes more than social connection; it is the shared life of those united to Christ and therefore united to one another. The breaking of bread includes their shared meals and especially the Lord’s Supper, where the church remembers and proclaims Christ’s saving death. The prayers reveal a congregation that continually depended upon God together.

These practices are often called the **ordinary means of grace**. They are ordinary not because they are weak or unimportant, but because they are the regular means Christ has appointed to strengthen His church. Through the preaching and reading of Scripture, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, prayer, and the fellowship of the saints, God nourishes His people and conforms them to the image of His Son.

The fruit of this devotion was visible. The believers worshiped with gladness, cared for one another generously, shared life together, and enjoyed favor with those around them. Yet Luke makes clear that the growth of the church

ultimately came from the Lord: “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (v. 47).

Restoration Church does not need to invent a new way of forming disciples. We need deeper faithfulness to the means Christ has already given. The same is true as Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare to plant in DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando. Healthy churches are established when God’s people are gathered around His Word, ordinances, prayer, fellowship, worship, and mission.

May the Lord make us a devoted church—steadfast in the ordinary means through which He accomplishes His extraordinary work.

Reflect

- Am I devoted to the life of the church or merely attending when it is convenient?
- Which of God’s ordinary means have I been neglecting?
- How can I help cultivate a culture of biblical devotion, fellowship, generosity, and prayer?

Pray

Father, Thank You for gathering us into Your church through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank You for the gracious means You have appointed to nourish our faith and strengthen us together.

Give Restoration Church a growing hunger for Your Word. Make us faithful in prayer, joyful in worship, generous toward those in need, committed to fellowship, and grateful as we gather around the Lord’s Table. Guard us from chasing novelty while neglecting the simple and sufficient means You have provided.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Help them establish churches devoted to the faithful preaching of Scripture, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, corporate prayer, meaningful membership, loving fellowship, and biblical discipleship. Provide faithful brothers and sisters who will labor alongside them and preserve these future congregations in sound doctrine, holiness, unity, and mission.

Through these ordinary means, strengthen Your people, save the lost, and display the beauty of Christ.

In Jesus’ name, **Amen.**

Day 7

Compassion in Jesus' Name

Scripture: Acts 3:1–10

**“I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”**

— Acts 3:6

Devotional

As Peter and John went to the temple for prayer, they encountered a man who had been unable to walk from birth. Each day, he was carried to the temple gate to ask others for help. He was surrounded by worshipers but remained outside, dependent upon the generosity of those passing by.

Peter and John did not ignore him. They stopped, looked at him, and responded with compassion. Yet they gave him something far greater than what he expected. He asked for money, but through the power and authority of the risen Christ, he received healing.

This miracle was an extraordinary apostolic sign that testified to the identity and saving authority of Jesus. The apostles did not possess healing power in themselves. Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” The man’s restoration came entirely through Christ. His strengthened feet and ankles displayed visibly what only Jesus can do: restore what is broken and give life where there was helplessness.

The church today is not promised that every physical affliction will be miraculously removed. Until Christ returns, sickness, suffering, disability, and death remain part of life in a fallen world. Yet the compassion of Christ must still shape His people. We cannot proclaim a Savior who showed mercy to the suffering while remaining indifferent to the physical and practical needs around us.

Christian compassion cares for the whole person. We feed the hungry, assist the vulnerable, comfort the grieving, and serve those in need because every person bears God’s image. But we must never separate mercy from the message of

Christ. Material assistance can provide temporary relief, but only Jesus can forgive sin, reconcile us to God, and give everlasting life.

As Restoration Church seeks to make Christ known, may we become increasingly attentive to those whom others overlook. May our mercy be sincere, our service generous, and our witness clear. The goal is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to lead people to praise God, just as the healed man entered the temple “walking and leaping and praising God.”

Pray also that Austin and Alicia Darrow in DeLand, and Cory and Chrissy Cooper in East Orlando, would plant churches known for both gospel clarity and Christlike compassion. May they see people not as projects, but as neighbors to love, serve, and point to Jesus.

Reflect

- Am I attentive to the physical and spiritual needs of the people God places before me?
- Have I separated acts of compassion from the clear proclamation of Christ?
- Who can I intentionally serve and encourage in Jesus’ name this week?

Pray

Merciful Father, Thank You for the compassion You have shown us through Jesus Christ. When we were helpless in sin, You did not pass us by. You came near, gave Your Son for us, and brought us into fellowship with You.

Open our eyes to the hurting, vulnerable, and overlooked people around us. Keep us from empty words and self-centered living. Make Restoration Church generous, hospitable, and ready to meet practical needs. As we serve, give us courage and wisdom to point people to the greater hope found in Christ alone.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Give them genuine love for the people of DeLand and East Orlando. Help them listen carefully, serve humbly, and proclaim Christ faithfully. Raise up churches that care for suffering people, defend the vulnerable, practice generosity, and hold forth the word of life.

May our compassion display the character of Jesus, and may our words direct all glory to His name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

WEEK TWO

When the Church Prays, God Gives Boldness

Theme: Power Produces Boldness

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” — **Acts 4:31**

The early church did not pray for an easier mission. They prayed for courage to remain faithful in the mission Christ had already given them.

When opposition came, the believers did not retreat, soften the message, or depend upon their own strength. They gathered together, remembered the sovereignty of God, and asked Him to help them continue speaking His Word with boldness. Their confidence was not in their personalities, training, or circumstances, but in the risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical boldness is not harshness, arrogance, or fearlessness by nature. It is Spirit-given courage to speak the truth of Christ with clarity, humility, and love, even when doing so is difficult. The same God who empowered the church in Acts continues to strengthen His people today through His Word, His Spirit, and prayer.

This week, let us ask the Lord to free us from the fear of man, deepen our confidence in the gospel, and give us opportunities to make Jesus known. May He make Restoration Church a people who do not shrink back, but who speak the Word faithfully and compassionately wherever He has placed us.

Weekly Prayer

Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and make us courageous witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Day 8

Exalting Christ Alone

Scripture: Acts 3:11–26

“The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus.” —

Acts 3:13

Devotional

After the man who had been unable to walk was healed, a crowd gathered in amazement around Peter and John. It would have been easy for the apostles to accept the attention or allow the people to believe that the miracle had happened through their own power and godliness. Instead, Peter immediately redirected every eye toward Jesus.

“Why do you wonder at this,” he asked, “or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?” Peter refused to take credit for what Christ alone had done. The miracle was not ultimately about the apostles. It was a sign pointing to the risen and reigning Lord Jesus.

Peter then proclaimed Christ clearly. Jesus is God’s promised Servant, the Holy and Righteous One, the Author of life whom God raised from the dead. Though the people had rejected Him and delivered Him over to be crucified, God had fulfilled what He foretold through the prophets. Peter did not minimize their guilt, but neither did he leave them without hope. He called them to repent and turn back so that their sins might be blotted out.

This is the heart of faithful Christian witness: Christ must be exalted, sin must be confronted, and grace must be freely offered.

The church is always in danger of drawing attention to personalities, methods, accomplishments, or ministries. Yet no preacher, pastor, missionary, or church planter can save a single sinner. Only Jesus purchased redemption through His blood. Only Jesus rose victorious over death. Only Jesus grants repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. Therefore, He alone must receive the glory.

As Restoration Church prepares to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to DeLand and supports Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare for East Orlando, let us

pray that Christ remains central in every part of their work. May their preaching, discipleship, mercy ministry, leadership, and church life continually direct people away from human personalities and toward the sufficiency of Jesus.

A healthy church is not built around an impressive leader but around the glorious Savior revealed in Scripture. May everything we say and do make it clear that salvation belongs to the Lord and that Jesus Christ alone is worthy of our trust, worship, and praise.

Reflect

- Am I more concerned with receiving recognition or directing attention to Christ?
- Does the way I speak about the gospel clearly exalt Jesus and call people to repentance and faith?
- How can I pray for our church planters to remain humble, faithful, and centered on Christ?

Pray

Father, You have glorified Your Son, the Holy and Righteous One, whom You raised from the dead. Forgive us for the ways we seek attention, praise, or credit for what only You can accomplish. Guard us from trusting in personalities, programs, or human strength.

Make Restoration Church a people who proclaim Christ clearly and exalt Him alone. Give us courage to speak honestly about sin and tenderly offer the forgiveness found through repentance and faith in Jesus.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Keep Christ at the center of their marriages, families, preaching, leadership, and church-planting work. Protect them from pride, comparison, discouragement, and the pressure to build ministries around themselves. Grant them humility to serve, courage to speak the truth, and confidence in the sufficiency of Your Word.

Prepare hearts in DeLand and East Orlando to receive the gospel. Blot out sins, grant seasons of refreshing through Christ, gather faithful disciples, and establish healthy churches where Jesus alone is treasured and praised.

Through Jesus Christ, our risen and reigning Lord, **Amen.**

Day 9

Faithful Under Pressure

Scripture: Acts 4:1–22

“We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” —

Acts 4:20

Devotional

Peter and John had proclaimed that the man born unable to walk had been healed through the risen Jesus Christ. Many who heard the Word believed, but the religious authorities were greatly disturbed. They arrested the apostles, questioned them, and demanded to know by what power or name they had acted.

Peter did not retreat. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he boldly declared that the man had been healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—the One whom they had crucified and whom God had raised from the dead. Peter then proclaimed the exclusive sufficiency of Christ: “There is salvation in no one else” (v. 12).

This boldness did not come from natural confidence. The authorities recognized that Peter and John were ordinary, uneducated men. What distinguished them was that “they had been with Jesus.” Their courage flowed from their confidence in the risen Christ, the truth of His gospel, and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

When commanded to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, the apostles answered, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge.” Their allegiance to Christ was greater than their fear of man. They were respectful, but they would not compromise. They understood that Christ alone is Lord of the conscience and that obedience to human authorities must never require disobedience to God.

Faithfulness will sometimes bring pressure. We may face rejection, ridicule, strained relationships, or demands to remain silent about truths Scripture clearly teaches. Biblical boldness does not mean becoming harsh, argumentative, or needlessly offensive. It means obeying Christ with humility and courage, speaking His truth in love, and trusting Him with the consequences.

Austin and Alicia Darrow and Cory and Chrissy Cooper will also face pressures as they labor to plant churches. They may be tempted to soften difficult truths, seek approval, or measure faithfulness by visible success. They need our prayers that they would remain devoted to Scripture, courageous in gospel proclamation, and confident that Christ will build His church.

May God make us a people who cannot remain silent about the Savior we have come to know.

Reflect

- Where am I tempted to fear people more than I fear God?
- Am I willing to speak the truth of Christ with both courage and love?
- How can I pray for our church planters to remain faithful under pressure?

Pray

Sovereign Lord,

You raised Jesus Christ from the dead and appointed Him as the only Savior of sinners. Forgive us for the times we have remained silent because we feared rejection, criticism, or discomfort. Fill us with Your Spirit and give us courage to speak Your Word with clarity, humility, and love.

Make Restoration Church faithful under pressure. Guard us from compromise, pride, and the fear of man. Help us obey Christ whatever the cost and trust You with every outcome.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Strengthen them when ministry is difficult. Protect them from discouragement and the pressure to seek human approval. Give them courage to proclaim the whole counsel of God, wisdom to answer opposition graciously, and endurance to continue serving when fruit seems slow.

Prepare hearts in DeLand and East Orlando to receive the gospel. Save sinners, strengthen disciples, and establish churches that confess without shame that salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone.

Through our risen and reigning Lord,

Amen.

Day 10

Boldness Through Prayer

Scripture: Acts 4:23–31

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.”

— Acts 4:29

Devotional

After being threatened and commanded to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, Peter and John returned to the church. Their first response was not panic, retaliation, or strategic retreat. They gathered with God’s people and raised their voices together in prayer.

Their prayer began with God, not their circumstances. They addressed Him as the “Sovereign Lord,” the Creator of heaven and earth. They remembered what He had spoken in Psalm 2 and confessed that even the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus unfolded according to His predetermined plan. The rulers had acted wickedly and remained responsible for their sin, yet they had not overturned God’s purposes. The cross itself proved that human opposition cannot frustrate the sovereign plan of God.

This confidence shaped what the church requested. They did not primarily ask God to remove the threats or make their lives easier. They asked Him to see their opposition and grant them boldness to continue speaking His Word. Their deepest concern was not personal safety but gospel faithfulness.

When they had prayed, the place was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word of God boldly. God answered their prayer not by immediately removing the opposition, but by strengthening His servants to remain faithful within it.

Biblical boldness is not loudness, harshness, or confidence in ourselves. It is Spirit-given courage to speak God’s truth clearly, lovingly, and without shame. We cannot produce this courage by determination alone. We must seek it from the Lord, trusting that He ordinarily strengthens His people through His Word, His Spirit, and the prayers of the church.

As Restoration Church prepares to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to DeLand and supports Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare for East Orlando, we must ask God to open doors for the gospel and give them courage to walk through those doors. Church planters need boldness to initiate conversations, preach Christ clearly, call sinners to repentance, and remain faithful when the message is resisted.

May God make us a church that prays for more than comfortable circumstances. May we ask Him for opportunities to speak, courage to obey, and confidence that His sovereign purposes will prevail.

Reflect

- Do my prayers focus more on avoiding difficulty or remaining faithful within it?
- Who has God placed in my life who needs to hear the gospel?
- What fears keep me from speaking about Christ clearly and lovingly?

Pray

Sovereign Lord,

You made heaven and earth, and no opposition can overturn Your purposes. Forgive us for fearing people, protecting our comfort, and remaining silent when You give us opportunities to speak.

Fill Restoration Church with the Holy Spirit and grant us boldness to continue speaking Your Word. Open doors for gospel conversations in our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. Give us wisdom, humility, compassion, and courage as we make Christ known.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Open doors for the gospel in DeLand and East Orlando. Give them courage to proclaim Christ faithfully, wisdom to respond graciously to opposition, and endurance when ministry becomes difficult. Gather believers around them who will labor, pray, and speak the Word with boldness.

May Your gospel advance, Your church be built, and Your Son be glorified.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 11

A Gospel-Shaped Community

Scripture: Acts 4:32–37

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” — Acts 4:32

Devotional

The boldness of the early church was not seen only in public preaching. It was also displayed in the way believers loved one another.

Luke tells us that the church was “of one heart and soul.” This unity was not the product of shared personalities, social backgrounds, political opinions, or personal preferences. They had been united by the gospel. Through faith in Christ, they had received the same forgiveness, the same Spirit, and the same heavenly Father. Their common life in Christ reshaped the way they viewed their possessions, relationships, and responsibilities toward one another.

No one claimed that his possessions were his alone. This was not forced redistribution or a rejection of private ownership. Believers freely and generously used what God had entrusted to them to care for brothers and sisters in need. Their generosity flowed from grace. Because Christ had given Himself for them, they were willing to give themselves for one another.

Luke places this remarkable fellowship beside the apostles’ powerful testimony to the resurrection. Gospel proclamation and gospel community belonged together. The church announced that Jesus was alive, and its shared life provided visible evidence that His resurrection power was truly at work among them. Great grace rested upon them, and there was not a needy person among them.

A gospel-shaped community does not mean a church without conflict, disappointment, or weakness. It means a church that responds to these realities through the gospel. Because Christ has forgiven us, we forgive one another. Because Christ welcomed us, we welcome one another. Because Christ bore our burdens, we help carry the burdens of others. Because everything we possess comes from God, we hold our resources with open hands.

Restoration Church must be known not merely for sound doctrine, but for doctrine that produces sincere love, sacrificial generosity, patient forgiveness, and genuine unity. Our life together should make the grace we proclaim visible.

This is also essential as Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare to plant in DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando. New churches need more than gatherings and gifted leaders. They need redeemed people learning to love one another as a covenant community. Pray that the Lord would gather members around them who are humble, generous, forgiving, hospitable, and deeply committed to one another in Christ.

Reflect

- Does my commitment to the church reflect the sacrificial love of Christ?
- Is there anyone I need to forgive, encourage, serve, or pursue?
- Am I using my time, home, abilities, and resources to meet the needs of others?

Pray

Gracious Father, Thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thank You for joining us not only to Christ, but also to one another as members of His body.

Make Restoration Church a people of one heart and soul. Protect us from pride, selfishness, bitterness, gossip, and division. Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven, to welcome as we have been welcomed, and to give as we have freely received. Help us notice needs, carry burdens, practice hospitality, and love one another sincerely.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Gather faithful believers around them who will live as true church families in DeLand and East Orlando. Establish congregations marked by sound doctrine, meaningful membership, generous care, patient forgiveness, biblical discipline, and genuine love.

May the life of Your church make the truth of the gospel visible, and may many see our love for one another and know that we belong to Jesus.

Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Day 12

Holy Before the Lord

Scripture: Acts 5:1–16

“And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.” — Acts 5:11

Devotional

The account of Ananias and Sapphira is sobering because it reminds us that God is not only loving and merciful—He is also perfectly holy.

After Barnabas generously sold a field and gave the proceeds to the church, Ananias and Sapphira sought the appearance of similar devotion without the reality. Their sin was not that they kept part of the money. Peter made clear that the property and its proceeds were theirs to manage. Their sin was hypocrisy. They lied to the church and, more seriously, lied to the Holy Spirit. They wanted the reputation of costly obedience while secretly protecting their own interests.

God’s judgment was immediate and severe. Ananias fell down and died, and later the same happened to Sapphira. This was an extraordinary act of judgment at a foundational moment in the life of the church. The Lord was teaching His people that His church is not a place for religious performance, deceit, or casual treatment of sin.

The result was “great fear” throughout the church. This was not merely terror; it was a renewed awareness of God’s holiness, authority, and presence among His people. The fear of the Lord does not drive believers away from God but leads us to approach Him with reverence, humility, repentance, and faith.

The gospel never makes holiness unnecessary. Christ died not only to deliver us from sin’s penalty, but also to free us from its dominion and purify a people for His own possession. We are justified by grace alone through faith alone, entirely apart from our works. Yet the faith that receives Christ never remains alone. By the Spirit, God progressively sanctifies His people and teaches us to put sin to death.

The church must therefore pursue both doctrinal faithfulness and personal holiness. Hidden sin, dishonesty, pride, sexual immorality, bitterness, and

hypocrisy weaken our witness and grieve the Spirit. We should not pretend to be stronger or more devoted than we are. Instead, we should walk in the light, confess our sins, receive Christ's cleansing, and help one another pursue godliness.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare to plant churches, pray that the Lord would establish communities marked by grace and truth. Church plants do not merely need growth; they need holiness. May their leaders walk with integrity, practice biblical accountability, guard sound doctrine, and lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary.

May the Lord purify us, not so that we boast in ourselves, but so that the beauty and holiness of Christ are displayed through His church.

Reflect

- Is there any sin I am hiding, excusing, or attempting to manage rather than confess?
- Am I more concerned with appearing godly than actually walking closely with Christ?
- How can I encourage greater honesty, accountability, and holiness within the church?

Pray

Holy Father,

You are pure, righteous, and worthy of reverent obedience. Forgive us for treating sin lightly and for seeking the appearance of godliness without its reality. Search our hearts, expose what is hidden, and lead us into sincere repentance.

Thank You that the blood of Jesus cleanses all who confess their sins and trust in Him. Help us rest in Christ's finished work while earnestly pursuing the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. By Your Spirit, put to death pride, deceit, bitterness, impurity, greed, and hypocrisy among us.

Purify Restoration Church. Give our elders wisdom and courage to shepherd faithfully, protect sound doctrine, confront sin lovingly, and restore the repentant gently. Make us humble, accountable, truthful, and quick to confess our sins to You and to one another.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Guard their hearts, marriages, families, and ministries. Surround them with faithful brothers and sisters who will encourage holiness and speak the truth in love. Establish churches in DeLand and East Orlando that are marked by gospel grace, biblical discipline, sincere repentance, and reverence before You.

Make Your church holy, as You are holy, and display the beauty of Christ through our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 13

Rejoicing in Suffering

Scripture: Acts 5:17–42

“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.” —

Acts 5:41

Devotional

The apostles' faithful proclamation of Christ stirred intense opposition. Filled with jealousy, the religious leaders arrested them and placed them in prison. Yet during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors and commanded them to return to the temple and continue proclaiming “the words of this Life.”

Their release did not lead them to safety or silence. At daybreak, they returned to the very place where they had been arrested and began teaching again.

When brought before the council, the apostles were reminded that they had been strictly commanded not to teach in Jesus' name. Their answer was clear: “We must obey God rather than men.” They did not speak with arrogance or contempt for authority. They simply recognized that no human authority has the right to forbid what Christ has commanded. Their allegiance to the risen King was greater than their desire for comfort, approval, or self-preservation.

The council had them beaten and again ordered them to remain silent. Yet the apostles departed rejoicing. They did not rejoice because suffering itself was pleasant, nor did they believe their pain earned favor with God. They rejoiced because they belonged to Christ and had been counted worthy to bear dishonor for His name. Their suffering became another testimony that Jesus was more precious to them than comfort or reputation.

Their joy also produced endurance. “Every day,” Luke tells us, they continued teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. Opposition did not change their message or end their mission.

Christians are not promised freedom from hardship. Those who follow a rejected Savior should not be surprised when faithfulness becomes costly. Yet suffering never falls outside God's sovereign care. He uses trials to strengthen faith,

loosen our grip on the world, deepen our fellowship with Christ, and display the worth of the gospel.

Austin and Alicia Darrow and Cory and Chrissy Cooper will face difficulties as they plant churches. There may be rejection, loneliness, criticism, financial pressure, spiritual opposition, and seasons when visible fruit seems small. They need more than strength to endure; they need joy rooted in Christ and confidence that labor in the Lord is never in vain.

May God make us a church that does not shrink back when obedience becomes costly, but continues proclaiming Christ with joyful endurance.

Reflect

- How do I normally respond when obedience to Christ brings discomfort, criticism, or rejection?
- Is Jesus more precious to me than the approval and comfort I may lose by following Him?
- How can I encourage and pray for believers who are suffering for their faithfulness to Christ?

Pray

Faithful Father,

Thank You for uniting us to Jesus Christ and granting us eternal life through His death and resurrection. Forgive us for loving comfort, approval, and safety more than obedience to You.

Give Restoration Church courage to obey You rather than men whenever human commands oppose Your Word. Keep us from unnecessary harshness, but also protect us from cowardice and compromise. When faithfulness brings suffering, strengthen us to endure with joy, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Comfort believers throughout the world who face persecution because they bear the name of Jesus. Preserve their faith, provide for their needs, protect their churches, and use their witness to bring many to salvation.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Prepare them for the hardships of church planting. Guard their

marriages, encourage their children, provide faithful friendships, and sustain them when ministry feels lonely or fruit appears slow. Give them joy that circumstances cannot take away and endurance to continue teaching and preaching Jesus Christ.

May suffering never silence our witness. Make us faithful until the day we see Christ face-to-face.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 14

The Priority of the Word

Scripture: Acts 6:1–7

“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” — Acts 6:4

Devotional

As the church in Jerusalem grew, a serious problem arose. The Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. This was not a minor concern. The church was responsible to care for vulnerable members, and the unequal treatment threatened both its unity and its witness.

The apostles did not ignore the need, but neither did they abandon their primary calling. They explained that it would not be right for them to neglect the preaching of God’s Word in order to manage the distribution themselves. Instead, the congregation was instructed to select seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, who could oversee this responsibility.

This passage does not place the ministry of mercy beneath the ministry of the Word. Both were necessary. The practical needs of the widows mattered deeply, and qualified servants were appointed to ensure that they were cared for faithfully. Yet the church also recognized that Christ had entrusted the apostles with a particular responsibility: prayer and the ministry of the Word must remain central.

Here we see a pattern that continues to shape healthy churches. Elders must devote themselves to prayer, teaching, and shepherding. Deacons and other faithful servants help meet practical needs, protect the church’s unity, and free elders to fulfill their God-given calling. Every member has a part to play, but not every member has the same responsibility. Christ gives different gifts and offices so that His whole body may flourish.

The result was not merely improved organization. “The word of God continued to increase,” disciples multiplied, and even many priests became obedient to the faith. When the church ordered its life according to Christ’s wisdom, cared for

its members, and guarded the priority of prayer and the Word, the gospel advanced.

Restoration Church must never assume that sound preaching, faithful shepherding, or qualified leadership will sustain themselves. Our elders need prayer. Our deacons need wisdom. Our ministry leaders need humility, endurance, and courage. The church must gladly support each part of the body as it serves under Christ's authority.

Austin and Alicia Darrow and Cory and Chrissy Cooper will also need to establish churches where the Word is central, prayer is essential, qualified leaders are developed, and practical needs are met with wisdom and compassion. Church planting is not simply gathering a crowd. It is the patient work of forming a biblical church under the lordship of Christ.

May God preserve among us the priority of His Word and raise up faithful servants for every good work.

Reflect

- Do I regularly pray for the elders, deacons, and ministry leaders of the church?
- Am I using my gifts to strengthen the body and help meet the needs of others?
- Do I value the ministry of God's Word enough to protect, support, and submit to it?

Pray

Gracious Father,

Thank You for giving Your church everything necessary for her life and mission. Thank You for Your Word, which reveals Christ, feeds our faith, corrects our errors, and equips us for every good work.

Strengthen the elders of Restoration Church. Keep them devoted to prayer, faithful in preaching, watchful in shepherding, and courageous in guarding sound doctrine. Protect their marriages, families, hearts, and ministries. Give them humility, wisdom, unity, and endurance.

Bless our deacons and ministry leaders. Make them full of the Spirit, wisdom, integrity, and compassion. Help them serve faithfully, care for practical needs, preserve unity, and support the ministry of the Word. Raise up more qualified leaders and willing servants from among us.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Help them establish churches centered on Scripture, prayer, faithful preaching, meaningful membership, biblical leadership, and compassionate service. Raise up qualified elders and deacons to labor alongside them. Guard them from building around personality, preference, or human wisdom.

May Your Word continue to increase, may disciples multiply, and may healthy churches be established for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Through Christ our Chief Shepherd,

Amen.

WEEK THREE

When the Church Prays, God Sends

Theme: Boldness Leads to Sending

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” — **Acts 13:2**

A praying church does not remain turned inward. As God’s people worship, fast, and seek Him together, the Holy Spirit directs their attention outward toward the advance of the gospel.

The church at Antioch was marked by faithful teaching, spiritual maturity, and dependence upon God. Yet in the midst of their gathered worship, the Lord called them to release Barnabas and Saul for missionary work. They prayed, fasted, laid hands on them, and sent them out. The men belonged to Christ, the mission belonged to Christ, and the church willingly surrendered faithful leaders for the glory of Christ.

This is the natural movement of a church shaped by prayer. Prayer produces dependence. Dependence produces boldness. Boldness leads to joyful obedience when God calls His people to go. A sending church understands that its healthiest members are not merely gifts to keep, but servants to equip, support, and send into the harvest.

This week, we will pray for the gospel to move beyond our walls—into our neighborhoods, workplaces, cities, and the nations. We will ask God to save those who appear far from grace, strengthen disciple-makers, establish healthy churches, and raise up pastors, missionaries, and church planters.

This emphasis is especially meaningful as we prepare to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to plant in DeLand and pray alongside Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare to plant in East Orlando. Their calling reminds us that church planting is not the work of isolated individuals. It is the work of Christ carried forward through praying, supporting, sacrificing, and sending churches.

May the Lord loosen our grip on comfort, deepen our love for the lost, and make us willing to go wherever He leads. And whether He sends us across the street or across the world, may we gladly spend our lives making Christ known.

Weekly Prayer

Father, send us wherever You desire for the glory of Christ and the joy of the nations.

Day 15

The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped

Scripture: Acts 8:1–8

“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.” — Acts 8:4

Devotional

The death of Stephen marked the beginning of severe persecution against the church in Jerusalem. Believers were driven from their homes and scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. From a human perspective, this appeared to be a devastating setback. Yet what the enemies of Christ intended to silence the church, God used to spread the gospel.

Luke tells us that those who were scattered “went about preaching the word.” The apostles remained in Jerusalem, but ordinary believers carried the good news wherever they went. They did not possess apostolic office, formal platforms, or public recognition. They were simply Christians who knew Christ, treasured His gospel, and spoke His Word in the places God’s providence sent them.

Here we see the sovereign wisdom of God. He is never surprised by opposition, and His mission is never placed in danger. Persecution did not extinguish the witness of the church; it multiplied it. God used suffering to move His people beyond Jerusalem and fulfill Christ’s promise that they would be His witnesses in Judea and Samaria.

This does not mean that persecution was good or that the believers’ suffering was insignificant. Evil remains evil, and those who persecute Christ’s people are accountable before God. Yet the Lord is so sovereign that even the sinful actions of men cannot frustrate His redemptive purposes. He preserves His church and causes His Word to advance according to His perfect will.

Philip’s ministry in Samaria shows the fruit of this scattered witness. He proclaimed Christ, the people listened, and there was much joy in the city. The gospel crossed long-standing social and religious boundaries because Christ was gathering a people for Himself from every nation.

The mission of the church does not belong only to pastors, missionaries, or church planters. Every believer is called to bear witness to Christ. God places us in homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and communities where we can speak His Word and display His love. We may feel ordinary, but the power belongs to God, not to the messenger.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare to plant in DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that God would surround them with ordinary believers who see themselves as sent. Healthy churches are planted when members carry the gospel into everyday relationships and trust God to give the growth.

The gospel cannot be stopped because the risen Christ is building His church.

Reflect

- Do I see the places God has put me as opportunities for gospel witness?
- Who has the Lord placed near me who needs to hear about Christ?
- Am I trusting God to use ordinary faithfulness for His extraordinary purposes?

Pray

Sovereign Father,

Thank You that no opposition, hardship, or human plan can stop the advance of Your gospel. Forgive us for believing that the mission depends upon our strength or influence. Teach us to trust Your providence and faithfully speak Your Word wherever You place us.

Make Restoration Church a congregation of everyday missionaries. Give us courage to proclaim Christ in our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and friendships. Use our ordinary conversations, hospitality, service, and testimony to draw people to Your Son.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Go before them into DeLand and East Orlando. Prepare hearts to receive the gospel and gather faithful believers who will labor beside them. Raise up members who carry the Word into every corner of their communities and make disciples through patient, personal witness.

When ministry is difficult, remind them that Christ is building His church. Turn obstacles into opportunities, strengthen them through every trial, and fill their cities with the joy that comes through salvation in Jesus.

May Your Word spread, sinners be saved, disciples multiply, and Christ receive all the glory.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 16

No One Is Beyond Grace

Scripture: Acts 9:1–22

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.’” — Acts 9:15

Devotional

Saul did not appear to be a likely candidate for conversion.

He hated the church, approved of Stephen’s death, and traveled toward Damascus with authority to arrest followers of Jesus. He was not seeking Christ. He was actively opposing Him. Yet before Saul could reach Damascus, the risen Lord stopped him in his path.

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

These words reveal both the majesty of Christ and His union with His people. To persecute the church was to persecute Jesus Himself. The risen King was not absent or powerless. He was reigning over His church and sovereignly confronting one of its fiercest enemies.

Saul’s conversion was not the result of human persuasion, personal improvement, or a religious decision produced by his natural will. Christ graciously sought him, humbled him, and transformed him. The man who had entered the road breathing threats would soon enter the synagogues proclaiming, “He is the Son of God.”

This is sovereign grace.

No sinner is so hardened that Christ cannot save. No past is so sinful that His blood cannot cleanse. No heart is so dead that the Spirit cannot make it alive. Salvation belongs entirely to the Lord, who grants repentance and faith according to His mercy. This truth should keep us from despairing over those who appear far from God.

Ananias struggled to believe that Saul could truly belong to Christ. He knew Saul's reputation and feared what he might do. Yet the Lord commanded Ananias to go, reminding him that grace can turn persecutors into preachers and enemies into brothers.

We often have our own list of “impossible” people—family members who have rejected the gospel for years, friends who seem indifferent, coworkers who mock the faith, or neighbors whose lives appear hopelessly bound by sin. Acts 9 calls us to pray with confidence, not because we trust in the goodness of human hearts, but because we trust in the saving power of Christ.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare for DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that God would grant conversions no strategy could produce. Church planting depends upon the Lord opening blind eyes, raising the spiritually dead, and gathering sinners into fellowship with Christ and His church.

Never stop praying. The person who seems furthest from Christ may become a chosen instrument for His glory.

Reflect

- Whom have I quietly stopped believing God could save?
- Do my prayers reflect confidence in God's sovereign grace?
- Am I willing, like Ananias, to welcome and disciple those whom Christ saves?

Pray

Merciful Father,

Thank You that salvation does not depend upon human worthiness, wisdom, or willingness, but upon Your sovereign grace in Jesus Christ. Thank You for pursuing us when we were dead in sin and for giving us repentance and faith through Your Spirit.

Forgive us for doubting Your power to save. Renew our confidence in the gospel and teach us to pray faithfully for those who seem far from You. Today, we bring before You unbelieving family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Open their eyes to the glory of Christ. Soften their hearts, expose the emptiness

of sin, grant them repentance and faith, and bring them into the fellowship of Your church.

Make Restoration Church a people who welcome repentant sinners with wisdom, patience, and joy. Help us remember that every Christian is a trophy of grace.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. As they labor in DeLand and East Orlando, grant conversions that can only be explained by Your mercy. Save skeptics, prodigals, the religiously self-righteous, and those deeply enslaved to sin. Raise up disciples and future leaders from among those who once opposed or ignored the gospel.

Display the power of Christ to save, and receive all the glory.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 17

Every Nation Needs Christ

Scripture: Acts 10:34–48

“To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

— Acts 10:43

Devotional

When Peter entered the home of Cornelius, he crossed a barrier that had separated Jews and Gentiles for generations. God had already prepared both men: Cornelius through an angelic message and Peter through a vision declaring that he must not call unclean what God had made clean. The Lord was revealing that the saving grace of Christ would extend to people from every nation.

Peter began by declaring that “God shows no partiality.” This does not mean that every person is automatically accepted by God regardless of faith. Cornelius was devout, generous, and prayerful, yet he still needed to hear the gospel. Religious sincerity, moral effort, and good works cannot reconcile sinners to a holy God. Forgiveness is received only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Peter therefore proclaimed the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Christ is Lord of all, the One appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. Yet He is also the Savior promised throughout Scripture: “Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles who heard the Word. God made unmistakably clear that Gentile believers were received into His people by the same grace and through the same faith as Jewish believers. They were then baptized upon their credible profession of faith, publicly identifying with Christ and His church.

The gospel does not erase every cultural distinction, but it creates one redeemed people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. No ethnicity possesses a privileged path to God, and no people group lies beyond the reach of His mercy. Every nation shares the same need: reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ alone.

This truth must enlarge our prayers. Christ's commission extends beyond our families, neighborhoods, and cities to the ends of the earth. Thousands of people groups still have little or no access to faithful gospel witness. We must pray that God would send laborers, translate Scripture, establish healthy churches, and save worshipers for His Son among every people.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare for DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that the churches they plant would reflect the breadth of Christ's kingdom. May they welcome people from every background without compromising the truth that salvation is found in Christ alone.

Reflect

- Do my prayers reflect God's heart for every tribe, language, people, and nation?
- Am I tempted to believe that morality or religious sincerity can save apart from Christ?
- How can I participate more faithfully in global missions through praying, giving, sending, or going?

Pray

Father of all nations,

Thank You for sending Jesus Christ as the only Savior of sinners. Thank You that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness through His name. Forgive us for narrow hearts, cultural pride, and indifference toward those who have little access to the gospel.

Raise up missionaries, translators, pastors, and church planters to carry Your Word to unreached peoples. Protect those laboring in difficult places, provide for their needs, strengthen their families, and grant them enduring fruit. Open hearts to receive the gospel and establish healthy churches devoted to Scripture, the ordinances, prayer, fellowship, and mission.

Make Restoration Church faithful in praying, giving, sending, and going. Give us a vision of the redeemed multitude Christ is gathering from every nation.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Help them proclaim Christ to people from every background in DeLand

and East Orlando. Build churches where cultural differences are overcome by gospel unity and where Jesus alone is trusted, treasured, and proclaimed.

May the earth be filled with the knowledge of Your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Day 18

Strengthening the Church

Scripture: Acts 11:19–26

**“And a great many people were added to the Lord.” — Acts
11:24**

Devotional

The persecution that scattered believers after Stephen’s death did not silence the gospel. Those who were dispersed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the Word wherever they went. At first, many proclaimed Christ only among fellow Jews. But some believers crossed cultural boundaries and began preaching the Lord Jesus to the Greeks as well.

Luke tells us that “the hand of the Lord was with them,” and a great number believed and turned to Christ. The fruit did not come from human creativity or persuasive skill. God worked through the faithful witness of ordinary Christians to save sinners and gather them into a new church.

When news of this work reached Jerusalem, the church sent Barnabas to Antioch. He did not arrive suspicious of grace or threatened by growth. When he saw the evidence of God’s work, he rejoiced and encouraged the believers to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose.

Barnabas understood that conversion is the beginning of discipleship, not its completion. New believers need to be gathered, taught, encouraged, corrected, and strengthened within the church. Gospel advance requires more than professions of faith; it requires healthy congregations where disciples are formed through the faithful ministry of the Word.

Recognizing the size of the task, Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Saul. Together they spent an entire year teaching the church. Antioch became more than a place where many people had believed. It became a mature, doctrinally grounded, increasingly diverse congregation—and eventually a church that would send missionaries to the nations.

This is the goal of faithful church planting. We do not merely desire new gatherings, exciting launches, or increasing attendance. We pray for biblical

churches: congregations centered on Christ, governed by His Word, led by qualified elders, served by faithful deacons, committed to meaningful membership, practicing baptism and the Lord's Supper, exercising loving discipline, and making disciples who make disciples.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare to plant in DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that the hand of the Lord would be with them. Ask God not only to save many, but also to establish healthy, enduring churches. May these congregations become places where believers are strengthened, leaders are raised up, missionaries are sent, and the name of Christ is treasured.

Healthy churches do not appear through strategy alone. They are planted and sustained by Christ through His Word, His Spirit, and the faithful labor of His people.

Reflect

- Do I pray only for conversions, or also for believers to be gathered and strengthened within healthy churches?
- How am I contributing to the health and maturity of my own church?
- What specific needs can I bring before the Lord for churches and church planters throughout Central Florida?

Pray

Lord Jesus,

You promised to build Your church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Thank You for saving sinners and gathering them into local churches where they can be taught, shepherded, encouraged, corrected, and equipped for Your mission.

Strengthen Restoration Church. Keep us steadfast in the gospel, submissive to Scripture, devoted to prayer, united in love, and faithful in making disciples. Give our elders wisdom and courage, our deacons humility and diligence, and every member a growing commitment to the health of the whole body.

We pray for churches throughout Central Florida and beyond. Revive weak congregations, protect faithful churches, reform unhealthy churches according to

Your Word, and plant new churches where Christ is not yet faithfully proclaimed.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. May Your hand be upon them. Save many through their witness, gather believers into covenant fellowship, raise up qualified leaders, and establish churches marked by sound doctrine, biblical worship, meaningful membership, loving discipline, generous fellowship, and missionary zeal.

Strengthen Your church and multiply healthy churches for the glory of Your name.

Through Jesus Christ, our Chief Shepherd,

Amen.

Day 19

Set Apart and Sent

Scripture: Acts 13:1–3

“Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” — Acts 13:3

Devotional

The church at Antioch was a remarkable congregation. Its leaders came from different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds, yet they were united in Christ and devoted to His mission. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

The missionary work belonged first to God. Barnabas and Saul were not pursuing personal ambition, building their own platforms, or inventing a mission for themselves. The Holy Spirit called them for a particular work in the advance of the gospel.

Yet this calling did not take place apart from the church. The Spirit made His will known in the context of a worshipping, fasting, praying congregation. The church then recognized the call, laid hands on these men, and sent them out. In Acts, missionaries were not independent individuals accountable only to themselves. They were known, tested, affirmed, commissioned, and supported by a local church.

This remains an important pattern for Christ’s church. God raises up pastors, missionaries, church planters, elders, and deacons from among His people. Through Scripture, prayer, godly desire, demonstrated character, recognized gifting, and the affirmation of the church, qualified servants are identified and entrusted with ministry.

Sending always requires sacrifice. Barnabas and Saul were valuable leaders in Antioch. The church could have focused only on its own needs and attempted to keep them. Instead, the congregation released them for the work of Christ. A sending church understands that its leaders, gifts, and resources belong ultimately to the Lord.

This passage speaks directly to the season before us. Restoration Church has the privilege of preparing to send Austin and Alicia Darrow to plant in DeLand and to partner in prayer for Cory and Chrissy Cooper as they prepare to plant in East Orlando. We are not merely watching their ministries from a distance. We are called to pray, encourage, give, support, and remain faithful partners in the gospel.

We should also ask the Lord to raise up more laborers from among us. Our prayer is not only that God would bless those already called, but that He would form future missionaries, church planters, pastors, elders, deacons, and faithful ministry leaders within Restoration Church.

May we never become so concerned with keeping people that we are unwilling to send them. A praying church listens to God's Word, recognizes His servants, and gladly releases them for the glory of Christ.

Reflect

- Am I willing for God to use my life wherever and however He desires?
- How can I faithfully support those being sent through prayer, encouragement, generosity, and partnership?
- Am I praying for God to raise up future pastors, missionaries, church planters, elders, and deacons from among us?

Pray

Lord of the harvest,

Thank You for calling and equipping servants to proclaim Christ, shepherd churches, make disciples, and carry the gospel to new places. Teach us to seek You through worship, fasting, prayer, and submission to Your Word.

Give Restoration Church wisdom to recognize, develop, affirm, and send qualified leaders. Raise up faithful pastors, missionaries, church planters, elders, deacons, and ministry leaders from among us. Give them godly character, sound doctrine, humility, courage, and love for Your church.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow. Prepare them to be sent to DeLand. Strengthen their marriage, shepherd their children, provide faithful partners, and establish the work of their hands. We also pray for Cory and

Chrissy Cooper as they prepare for East Orlando. Grant them wisdom, endurance, provision, and fruitful gospel relationships.

Make us faithful partners who pray consistently, give sacrificially, encourage personally, and remain committed for the long work ahead. Send laborers into Your harvest, plant healthy churches, and make disciples who will carry the gospel to others.

For the glory of Jesus Christ and the joy of the nations,

Amen.

Day 20

Making Disciples

Scripture: Acts 14:21–28

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.” — Acts 14:21

Devotional

Paul and Barnabas did not measure the success of their mission merely by how many people heard the gospel or made an initial profession of faith. They preached the gospel, made disciples, strengthened believers, appointed elders, and entrusted newly formed churches to the Lord.

The mission Christ gave His church is not simply to attract attenders or produce decisions. It is to make disciples—men and women who repent of sin, believe in Christ, are baptized into the fellowship of the church, learn to obey everything Jesus commanded, and help others follow Him.

After preaching in Derbe, Paul and Barnabas returned to cities where they had previously faced hostility and persecution. They went back because new believers needed encouragement, instruction, and shepherding. They strengthened the souls of the disciples and urged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that perseverance often includes suffering.

True discipleship is therefore more than transferring biblical information. It is helping one another follow Christ with enduring faith. Disciples need God’s Word, prayer, encouragement, correction, godly examples, and the ordinary life of the local church. Christ ordinarily preserves His people through these gracious means.

Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. New believers were not left as isolated Christians or loosely connected gatherings. They were formed into ordered congregations under qualified shepherds. This reminds us that disciple-making and church-building belong together. We make disciples through the ministry of the Word within healthy churches, and mature disciples are equipped to serve others and carry the gospel forward.

Every Christian has a role in this work. Pastors are called to equip the saints, but disciple-making is not reserved for pastors or ministry professionals. Older believers should invest in younger believers. Parents should disciple their children. Members should open their homes, study Scripture together, pray for one another, confess sin, offer encouragement, and help others obey Christ.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare to plant in DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that their ministries would produce more than large gatherings. Ask God to raise up genuine disciples who are rooted in Scripture, committed to the church, persevering in faith, and prepared to disciple others.

A healthy church does not merely count disciples. By God's grace, it multiplies them.

Reflect

- Who is intentionally helping me grow as a disciple of Jesus?
- Whom has God placed in my life whom I could help follow Christ?
- Am I committed to making disciples through the ordinary life and ministry of the church?

Pray

Father,

Thank You for calling us out of darkness and bringing us into fellowship with Your Son. Thank You for using Your Word, Your Spirit, and Your church to preserve and mature us in the faith.

Make Restoration Church a disciple-making church. Give every member a desire to help others know, love, and obey Jesus. Teach us to open our Bibles, homes, schedules, and lives to one another. Make us faithful in prayer, encouragement, correction, hospitality, and patient instruction.

Strengthen those who are young in the faith. Restore those who are wandering. Give endurance to those who are suffering, and help us remind one another that Christ is worthy of every cost.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Through their witness, save sinners and make many disciples in DeLand

and East Orlando. Gather those disciples into healthy churches, establish qualified elders, and raise up members who will faithfully disciple others. Guard these churches from shallow growth and build them through Your Word into mature, enduring, and multiplying congregations.

May disciples make disciples, churches plant churches, and the gospel advance from one generation to the next.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Day 21

The Word of God Prevails

Scripture: Acts 19:11–20

“So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.” — Acts 19:20

Devotional

The gospel entered Ephesus, a city deeply shaped by idolatry, superstition, and spiritual darkness. Through Paul’s ministry, God performed extraordinary miracles that confirmed the apostolic message and demonstrated Christ’s authority over sickness and evil spirits. These signs were never meant to exalt Paul or provide a method others could imitate. They directed attention to the unrivaled power of Jesus and authenticated the Word being proclaimed in His name.

The seven sons of Sceva failed to understand this. They treated the name of Jesus like a spiritual formula that could be used for their own purposes. But Christ’s name is not a technique, and His authority cannot be borrowed by those who do not belong to Him. Their humiliating defeat exposed the emptiness of counterfeit religion and caused the name of Jesus to be held in high honor.

The gospel then produced visible repentance. Many who believed confessed their former practices and publicly burned books associated with magic. Their repentance was costly. These materials were worth a great sum, yet the believers understood that following Christ required a decisive break with their former way of life.

True faith bears fruit. We are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone—not through the value of our sacrifices or the sincerity of our repentance. Yet the grace that saves also transforms. When Christ becomes precious, idols lose their power. Hidden sins are confessed, former allegiances are abandoned, and obedience becomes more valuable than whatever must be surrendered.

Luke summarizes the entire scene by declaring that the Word of the Lord increased and prevailed mightily. The gospel prevailed not because Ephesus

became less hostile, but because God's Word proved stronger than the darkness surrounding it. Human opposition, false religion, spiritual bondage, and deeply rooted sin could not stop Christ from gathering and transforming His people.

This is our confidence as we pray for Sanford, Central Florida, and the nations. We do not trust in cultural influence, persuasive personalities, or ministry techniques. We trust in God's powerful Word, proclaimed faithfully and applied by the Holy Spirit.

As Austin and Alicia Darrow prepare for DeLand and Cory and Chrissy Cooper prepare for East Orlando, pray that God's Word would prevail through their ministries. May false hopes be exposed, sinners be converted, idols be abandoned, disciples be formed, and healthy churches be established for generations to come.

Reflect

- Is there anything in my life that genuine repentance requires me to confess and forsake?
- Do I trust the power of God's Word, or am I tempted to rely on human methods?
- Where am I praying for the gospel to overcome spiritual darkness and bear lasting fruit?

Pray

Sovereign Lord,

Your Word is living, powerful, and able to accomplish every purpose for which You send it. Thank You that the gospel of Jesus Christ is stronger than unbelief, idolatry, false religion, and the deepest bondage of sin.

Search our hearts and expose every rival allegiance. Grant us sincere repentance and faith. Help us abandon whatever competes with Christ and walk in joyful obedience to Your Word.

Cause Your Word to increase and prevail throughout Sanford and Central Florida. Save sinners, restore families, strengthen churches, raise up leaders, and make disciples who faithfully proclaim Christ to others. Send the gospel to unreached peoples and gather worshipers from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

We especially pray for Austin and Alicia Darrow and for Cory and Chrissy Cooper. Let Your Word run swiftly through DeLand and East Orlando. Guard them from trusting in personalities, programs, or techniques. Give them confidence in Scripture, dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and courage to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Through their ministries, bring many to repentance and faith, destroy idols, form faithful disciples, and establish healthy, multiplying churches.

May Your Word increase, prevail, and bear lasting fruit until the earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of Christ.

Through Jesus Christ our victorious King,

Amen.

[illegible]

From Our Knees to the Harvest

As we conclude these twenty-one days, my prayer is that this devotional would not simply leave us more informed about prayer, but more devoted to prayer—and more willing to obey whatever the Lord may ask of us.

Over the next two Sundays, we will have the privilege of hearing from **Austin Darrow** and **Cory Cooper**. They will preach God's Word, share what the Lord is doing in their families, and give us a clearer vision for the churches they are preparing to plant in DeLand and East Orlando.

I want to encourage each of us to listen prayerfully and with open hands.

Church planting is not merely the work of a planter and his family. It is the work of Christ carried forward through churches that are willing to pray, sacrifice, give, support, and send. Not everyone will be called to move to DeLand or East Orlando, but every one of us should prayerfully consider how the Lord may be calling us to participate.

Perhaps God is calling you to **go**—to join one of these families and help establish a healthy, gospel-centered church in a new community.

Perhaps He is calling you to **give**—to sacrifice financially so that these families can devote themselves to preaching the Word, making disciples, developing leaders, and gathering churches.

Certainly, He is calling all of us to **pray**—not casually or occasionally, but fervently, specifically, and faithfully. Pray for their marriages, their children, their provision, their endurance, their preaching, their future members, and the people who do not yet know Christ but will one day be reached through these churches.

And perhaps the Lord may lead some of us to do all three.

Do not assume this calling is for someone else. Ask the Lord honestly: **“How would You have me participate in what You are doing?”**

Church, Christ is worthy of our comfort, our resources, our plans, and our lives. May we become more than a church that celebrates sending. May we become a church that gladly goes, generously gives, and fervently prays until healthy

churches are planted, disciples are made, sinners are saved, and Jesus Christ receives the glory He deserves.

With love and great hope in Christ,

Pastor Arthur Goncalves

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven,

Teach us to be a praying church.

Forgive us for the many times prayer has become our last resort rather than our first response. Forgive us for trusting our plans, abilities, resources, and experience more than we trust You. Deliver us from self-reliance and from the quiet pride that believes we can accomplish spiritual work through human strength.

Remind us that apart from Christ we can do nothing. Only You can save sinners, awaken dead hearts, sanctify Your people, preserve Your church, and cause the gospel to bear lasting fruit. Make us deeply aware of our weakness so that we might depend more fully upon Your sufficient grace.

By Your Holy Spirit, cultivate in us a steadfast devotion to prayer. Teach us to seek Your face in seasons of joy and sorrow, confidence and uncertainty, fruitfulness and waiting. Make prayer the heartbeat of our homes, our ministries, our leadership, and our life together as a church. Unite us as we come before Your throne of grace through Jesus Christ, our one Mediator and faithful High Priest.

Keep us devoted to Your Word. Guard us from chasing novelty, trusting human wisdom, or measuring faithfulness merely by visible success. Give us confidence in the sufficiency, authority, clarity, and power of Scripture. May Your Word shape our worship, govern our church, form our discipleship, correct our errors, comfort the afflicted, and equip us for every good work.

Fill us with holy boldness to proclaim Jesus Christ. Free us from the fear of man, the love of comfort, and the shame that so often keeps us silent. Give us courage

without harshness, conviction without pride, and compassion without compromise. Open our eyes to the people You have placed around us—family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers who need the hope of the gospel.

Grant us open doors for the Word, and when those doors open, help us speak clearly of Christ's perfect life, atoning death, victorious resurrection, and present reign. Call many from darkness into light. Grant repentance and faith. Bring prodigals home, rescue those enslaved to sin, and save those who seem far beyond hope.

Strengthen Restoration Church in love, holiness, and unity. Protect us from bitterness, gossip, selfish ambition, and division. Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven, bear one another's burdens, practice hospitality, meet practical needs, and display the love of Christ in tangible ways. Make us a covenant community shaped by the gospel we proclaim.

Strengthen our elders. Keep them faithful in prayer, preaching, shepherding, and guarding sound doctrine. Protect their hearts, marriages, families, and ministries. Give them wisdom, courage, humility, tenderness, and endurance.

Strengthen our deacons and ministry leaders. Make them full of the Spirit, wisdom, integrity, and compassion. Help them serve faithfully, preserve the unity of the church, care for the vulnerable, and support the ministry of the Word.

Raise up more laborers from among us. Call pastors, elders, deacons, missionaries, church planters, and faithful disciple-makers. Give us wisdom to recognize, develop, affirm, and send those whom You have prepared. Make us willing to release our people, resources, and plans for the advance of Christ's kingdom.

We especially pray for **Austin and Alicia Darrow** as they prepare to plant a church in DeLand. Strengthen their marriage and deepen their friendship with one another as they carry the joys and burdens of ministry together. Shepherd their children—**August, Isla, and Bowen**. Guard their hearts through every season of transition, give them deep roots in Christ, provide meaningful friendships, and help them experience the sweetness of belonging to Your church. May they never feel overlooked by the demands of ministry, but know that they are dearly loved by their parents, cherished by the church, and held securely in Your fatherly care.

We also pray for **Cory and Chrissy Cooper** as they prepare to plant in East Orlando. Strengthen their covenant of marriage, preserve their unity, and give them patience, joy, and endurance. Shepherd **Maggie and CJ** with tender mercy. Protect them from loneliness, discouragement, and the pressures that can accompany ministry life. Surround them with faithful friends and mature believers who will love, encourage, and disciple them. May they see the beauty of Christ in their home and in the church being planted, and may they grow to treasure Jesus above all things.

Give both families wisdom to establish healthy rhythms of worship, rest, hospitality, discipleship, and family life. Protect their homes from spiritual attack, unhealthy expectations, and the temptation to sacrifice their families upon the altar of ministry success. Help Austin and Alicia, Cory and Chrissy, to shepherd their children before seeking to shepherd a congregation. May their homes be places of repentance, forgiveness, laughter, prayer, and deep confidence in the gospel.

Provide for every physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual need. Surround them with faithful gospel partners who will share the work, carry burdens, speak truth, and offer encouragement. Grant them humility, courage, endurance, doctrinal faithfulness, and sincere love for the people You are calling them to serve.

Go before them into DeLand and East Orlando. Prepare hearts to receive the gospel. Save sinners, make disciples, raise up qualified leaders, and establish healthy churches marked by faithful preaching, baptism, the Lord's Supper, meaningful membership, biblical discipline, loving fellowship, generous mercy, and missionary zeal.

Father, may Your kingdom come and Your will be done. Cause Your Word to increase, multiply, and prevail throughout Sanford, Central Florida, and to the ends of the earth. Strengthen faithful churches, revive weak churches, reform unhealthy churches according to Your Word, and plant new churches where Christ is not yet faithfully proclaimed.

Use Restoration Church to make disciples, care for Your people, strengthen pastors, support missionaries, and plant churches. May we never seek a name for ourselves, but gladly spend our lives for the fame of Jesus.

Do among us what only You can do. Empower us by Your Spirit, embolden us through Your Word, and send us into Your harvest. Preserve us in faithfulness until Christ returns or calls us home.

May the earth be filled with the knowledge of Your glory as the waters cover the sea. May every tribe, language, people, and nation hear the good news, bow before King Jesus, and rejoice in His salvation.

We ask all these things through Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen, reigning, and returning King—our faithful Savior, our great High Priest, and the Chief Shepherd of His church.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Cory and Chrissy Cooper have been married for eight years and are the grateful parents of their five-year-old son, CJ, their three-year-old daughter, Maggie, and another precious child on the way.

Cory earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling and Theology from Liberty University. He was called into full-time ministry in 2016 and has faithfully served as the executive pastor of Orlando Baptist Church since 2018. Cory also serves on the board of Freeway Orlando and as the financial administrator of World Hope.



On July 31, 2024, the Lord began stirring within Cory a clear burden to serve as a lead pastor. Through many months of prayer, wise counsel, and careful discernment, God confirmed a specific calling in April 2025: to plant a new church in Orlando. Cory and Chrissy are pursuing this calling through the North American Mission Board's Send Network, with the prayerful goal of launching the church in the fall of 2027.

The Coopers desire to establish a healthy, gospel-centered church that will faithfully proclaim Christ, make disciples, serve its community, and join God's mission of reaching the nations. Their calling is not theirs to carry alone. Church planting requires the prayers, generosity, encouragement, and partnership of God's people.

As you pray, ask the Lord to strengthen Cory and Chrissy's marriage, protect and encourage their growing family, provide a faithful core team, open doors throughout the Orlando community, and prepare hearts to receive the gospel. Pray that God would grant Cory wisdom, courage, humility, and endurance as he prepares to shepherd this new congregation. Above all, pray that Christ would build His church and receive all the glory through their obedience.



Austin and Alicia Darrow have been married for six years and are the grateful parents of three wonderful children, ages five, two, and one.

Austin currently works as an engineer for Comcast. He first sensed a call to full-time pastoral ministry as a teenager, but he did not begin actively pursuing that calling until 2020. Through Alicia's faithful encouragement, the Lord renewed that burden and directed Austin toward further ministry training.

Austin entered a pastoral residency under Pastor Melo at One Family Church in Apopka, where he received training in preaching, theology, pastoral ministry, and church planting. During that time, he also completed the Orlando Church Planting Network Foundations Residency.

In 2020, Austin began sensing a call to plant a church in Sanford, Florida. In 2025, he and Alicia moved their church membership to Restoration Church of Sanford so that they could serve the city and pursue additional training through the church's Pastoral Residency. As they prayed, served, and sought counsel, however, the Lord redirected their hearts toward DeLand, Florida.

The Darrows have since purchased a home in DeLand and are intentionally building relationships, praying for the city, and seeking opportunities to share the hope of Christ with their neighbors. Austin is now officially part of the North American Mission Board's Send Network Church Planting Residency and desires to plant through the Send Network, with the prayerful goal of launching the church in the winter of 2027.

Lord willing, upon completing Restoration Church's Pastoral Residency, Austin will be examined, ordained, and sent out by the pastors and members of Restoration Church of Sanford. Their desire is to establish a healthy, gospel-centered church that will faithfully proclaim Christ, make disciples, and bring the hope and life of the gospel to the people of DeLand.

As you pray, ask the Lord to strengthen Austin and Alicia's marriage, protect and encourage their young family, and give them endurance throughout this season of preparation. Pray that God would provide a faithful core team, open doors for gospel relationships, and prepare the hearts of people throughout DeLand. Above all, pray that Christ would build His church, save the lost, and receive all the glory through the Darrows' faithful obedience.

WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

