

GROW 2026

Lenten Devotion

2.18.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Matthew 6:6 - *“But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”* (NRSV)

Playing high school basketball taught me an important lesson: practice the way you expect to play in the game. It was easy to go hard under the bright lights—with cameras recording and the crowd cheering. But giving that same energy in practice, when no one was watching, was something entirely different. The discipline, focus, and effort required when no one is watching is what truly shapes success.

In the same way, it can be easy to appear holy when eyes are on us. It’s easy to pray powerfully when surrounded by a crowd of witnesses. Many of us knowingly and unknowingly perform our spirituality for others, when our true aim should always be to please God alone. We must ask ourselves honestly: “Am I fasting to please people or to please God?” We know the areas in our personal walk with God where we struggle. We see ourselves in the mirror daily in ways others cannot. So, we must wrestle with this truth: Is my prayer life driven by being seen, or by being sincerely connected to the God who sees me?

When recognition becomes our motivation, it’s time to pause and reevaluate our hearts. Are we committed to living, looking, and loving like Jesus—even when no one applauds? Are we willing to follow Him without expecting the praise He received?

We are vessels of God’s glory; He alone deserves the credit. What’s in it for us? The humbling reminder that we are nothing without God, and the assurance that even if we never receive public recognition, God sees our effort—and our true reward comes from Him.

PRAYER

God, as we strive to live, look, and love like Jesus, remind us that we are not Jesus—and that all glory belongs to God. Amen.

2.19.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

Stay in the Race

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1st John 1:9

Sometimes the stress and chaos in this world can cause people to forsake their faith. Sometimes we may just stop believing and turn back to our old ways. Maybe our old way of thinking, our old way of acting, our old way of living. We are living in "trying times". If we are not truly rooted in the Lord and his word our rock, we will give up our faith and turn away from God. Stay close to the Lord, no matter the situation. Let us encourage one another and help each other stay on the path of righteousness.

Lord we admit sometimes the race is hard and it seems the finish line is beyond our reach. We ask for your guidance as we place our trust in you to guide us and protect us and to help us stay on the path of faith and truth that keeps us in your will. Amen

2.20.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Isaiah 58:6-9a - *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice... Is it not to share your food with the hungry... Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer...”* (NIV)

Fasting is not the absence of food; it is the presence of focus. Too often, fasting is reduced to what we give up, when its true power is found in what we give ourselves to. Scripture reminds us that spiritual clarity comes when the heart is intentionally aligned with God. Fasting sharpens that alignment. It strips away distractions and calls our attention back to the One who sustains us beyond what we consume.

To fast without focus is to practice ritual without transformation. God is not impressed by our hunger if our hearts remain scattered. The fast God honors is one that centers the mind, disciplines the will, and recalibrates our desires. When distractions are silenced— noise, excess, and self-indulgence—space is created for discernment, humility, and obedience. Focus becomes the doorway through which divine direction enters.

In a world pulling us in a hundred directions, fasting confronts divided loyalties. It asks us to slow down long enough to hear God clearly and to sit honestly with what the Spirit reveals. Focused fasting exposes what has been controlling us, what we have leaned on more than God, and where our trust has drifted. It is not comfortable work, but it is holy work. When focus leads the fast, hunger becomes prayer, discipline becomes devotion, and sacrifice becomes surrender. God uses that focused posture to reshape priorities and deepen faith. Fasting, then, is not escape from the world’s demands; it is preparation to engage them with clarity and courage.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to fast with focus and intention. Remove distractions from my heart and mind, and draw me closer to You. Teach me to surrender fully, align my desires with Yours, and hear Your voice clearly. May my fasting lead to deeper faith, humility, and obedience, so that my devotion honors You in every way. Amen.

2.21.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Ephesians 2:8-10 - *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* (KJV)

God’s grace is revealed most fully in His willingness to give His own life, showing that grace is far more than forgiveness after failure. Grace is the active power of resurrection that restores and transforms. Ephesians 2:8-10 mentions that salvation is presented as something entirely given, not earned. A friend of mine used a great analogy for this. Humans, like a dirty or warped fork, cannot repair or cleanse themselves. We cannot fulfill God’s purpose for us while we are in sin, and no effort on our part can produce saving grace. Thankfully, God gives us hope.

The fork analogy illustrates both dependence and purpose. Just as a fork cannot clean itself, people cannot earn grace. Yet once restored, the fork’s value lies not in itself but in its usefulness to others. In the same way, salvation should naturally result in good works, not as a means to earn grace, but as its outcome. These good works are lives and actions that make God’s goodness tangible and visible in the world.

Grace flows entirely from God’s will, love, and action. Even faith is received rather than achieved, leaving no room for boasting or self-glory. Still, grace does not stop at salvation. Believers are described as God’s workmanship, created in Christ for good works already prepared by Him. Grace both initiates salvation and directs purpose. Living in grace means trusting that God moves first and walking faithfully in what He has already accomplished, confident that grace begins, sustains, and completes the work.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for continuously showing up for me. I know that there is nothing I can do to earn the outpour of love you give me each day. Please help me to be a good reflection of your love and character. Let every step I take and every interaction I have be in alignment with your perfect will. I pray and proclaim all these things in the matchless and mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

2.23.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Psalm 42:1-3 - *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, ‘Where is your God?’”* (NKJV)

“You are what you eat.” Just as physical health depends on nutrition, our spiritual health depends on our intake. Feasting on fears or worldly temptations leaves the soul malnourished; feasting on the Word satisfies the Spirit.

Some scientific studies indicate that the foods we choose to eat or avoid may influence what we perpetually have a taste or yearn for in the longer term. For example, reducing our sodium intake may decrease our desire for salty foods and vice versa. Likewise, the more we feast on spiritual food, such as the Bible and regular prayer, the greater our hunger for the things of God. When we, like the psalmist in this passage, feast on our own tears, fears, depression, or the temptations of this world, however, our soul gradually becomes malnourished. But like the deer, believers know from whence our true source of strength and spiritual nourishment comes. Our soul induces hunger pangs that only the Holy Spirit may satisfy.

God has made ready a table for you and me. Let us accept the invitation and exercise the discipline necessary to partake of the quality food prepared with divine ingredients, such as healing, peace, wisdom and love, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we may become more like Him. After all, we are indeed what we choose to eat.

Prayer

Gracious God, quench my thirst and satisfy my hunger for Your wisdom and peace. May my life glorify You. Amen.

2.24.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

1 Kings 9:11-12 - *“The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”* (NKJV)

Times Square is one of the most frequent places to visit. It confirms that NYC is THE CITY that never sleeps. It is full of stores, restaurants, businesses in high rises, and theaters adjacent on side streets. If you have never been, it is a sight to behold—full of electronic high-definition billboards and messages coming from all directions. At street level there are the food vendors, performing groups, people in costumes, and tons of tourists. The cacophony of sounds can be overwhelming: dancers, singers, actors, life-sized action figures, vendors yelling, buses, cars, honking horns, and subway noise. It is bright, colorful, and yes noisy!

The times I have been, I am in awe of the diversity of people that gather in this place. I also note that there are people giving papers offering and selling things at a great price— show tickets, bus tours, even religion for free. Amidst the organized mayhem that is Times Square there are also faithful Christians among the commotion. Yet these disciples for Christ are hard to hear from the noise. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, if we don't train our ears to hear God's voice amidst the noises of life, we can/will miss God. This is because God most often speaks to us in a “still small voice.” This divine voice can be confirmed by God's Word. As we grow in knowledge of the scriptures we can be clear when God is speaking as it will align with God's word.

Prayer

Lord your word tells us your sheep hear your voice, and you know your sheep and they follow you (John 10:27). God, we come to you seeking more than ever to know your voice. But even more, the ability to discern your voice from among the noisiness of life. God help us to train our ears to be attentive to the voice, to follow the urgings and corrections of your Spirit. Amen.

2.25.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Psalm 46:10 - *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”* (NKJV)

What do you do when heaven seems silent? Do you get scared? Do you worry? Do you get angry? Do you give up? Or do you take matters into your own hands? As a believer, having questions is a natural part of our life experience. However, how we respond to heaven’s silence may be an indicator of our maturity and our faith in God. Sometimes we can’t hear God’s voice because what we really want is just too loud. If our true desire is to please God, we must continue to seek God’s will even when it seems that we can’t hear God’s voice. We must remind ourselves that Psalm 46:10 tells us to, “Be still and know that I am God.” When the direction we should take isn’t obvious, let’s “get still.”

Being still isn’t a passive act, it’s a posture we take anticipating that God will speak when we really listen. We must remain open to God speaking in ways that are not conventional or obvious. Let’s pray & continue to talk with God. Let’s read our bibles to become better Christians. Let’s wait on God and accept God’s invitation to the journey of understanding. Lastly, let’s remember what God has already said so that we can be reminded that God is always speaking.

Prayer

God, thank you for always speaking. Help us quiet the loud desires of our heart, so that we may hear Your voice. Amen.

2.26.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

“Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” Galatians 4:7

We all want to belong. I thank God for the opportunity and freedom I have to live as his child. If we are in Christ, we are children of the most high. He is the kindest, loving, forgiving, and richest father I know. The best thing about this, we are his heirs. In Christ, we have a right to all that he has promised. We become servants of this world when we give in to the lies, the hate, the immoral acts. Live in your true identity, a child of the living God.

Oh how wonderful it is to know I belong to you Lord. I claim my identity as your child and acknowledge you as my Father. Thank you for the certainty of receiving your love despite my shortcomings. Only you Father can love and forgive like you do. Because of your love and acceptance, I am a child of the King. Amen

2.27.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Luke 11:9 - *“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”* (NKJV)

When I was in college, I attended a campus ministry meeting where we were placed into small groups and invited to share what we were carrying. I remember one woman speaking honestly about her struggles and just as honestly about how she took those struggles to God.

She said her prayer life often sounded like a phone conversation with one of her girlfriends. She was raw, real, and unfiltered. She did not hide her frustration. She did not edit her disappointment. She even admitted that sometimes she prayed while upset with God. I remember being stunned, not by her honesty, but how unfamiliar it felt. Growing up, I had been taught that prayer required a certain posture, tone, language, and structure. God was to be addressed properly. Questions, frustrations, and fears felt like evidence of weak faith and things I needed to work through before approaching God. Prayer, as I understood it, was less about relationship and more about performance.

That woman disrupted that theology. She shared that her mother always told her to see God as one of her best friends. The same way we rush to tell our friends the latest news, the same way we vent, cry, celebrate, and complain, this is how we can come to God. Yes, God is our heavenly Mother and Father. But God is also near, attentive, and relational. In the words of American feminist and theologian Sallie McFague – who reminds us that the metaphors we use for God shape not only our theology, but our lives – God is also a friend.

This matters when we read Luke 11. Jesus teaches his disciples to pray not to a distant ruler, but to a God who invites intimacy and audacity. If our prayers reveal what we believe about God, then they also reveal how we understand ourselves in relation to God. Are your prayers rigid and guarded? Are you performing reverence rather than practicing trust? Or are you honest, raw, and unfiltered? Sometimes prayer doesn't begin with “Dear God.” Sometimes it begins with, “God, I am tired.” And that, too, is holy.

Prayer

God, shape my prayers until they reflect the truth of who you are and who I am before you.
Amen.

2.28.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (NKJV)

Beloved, we are living in an age drowning in information but starving for transformation. News cycles refresh by the minute, opinions flood our screens, and voices compete to tell us what to think and who to fear. Yet in the middle of the noise, Paul reminds Timothy—and reminds us—*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

The Word of God was never meant to simply inform our intellect; it was designed to form our lives. We can quote verses and still be unkind, know Scripture and still be unfaithful, recite theology and still resist obedience. But when the Word is allowed to do its holy work, it shapes how we love, how we lead, how we forgive, and how we stand in the middle of chaos with unshakable faith.

In a world being disciplined by fear, outrage, and self-interest, Scripture becomes God’s counter-formation. It trains us when we are tempted to react, corrects us when we drift, and equips us to live as faithful witnesses in turbulent times. The Word does not merely give us answers; it gives us endurance. It doesn’t just tell us what is right; it trains us to do what is right.

When we open our Bibles, we are not just reading ancient words—we are submitting to living voice that is shaping us for God’s purposes right now.

Prayer

Father, let Your Word shape my heart and guide my actions. Help me live with faith, love, and obedience, allowing Scripture to transform me, not just inform me. Amen.

3.2.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

2 Corinthians 3:18 - *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* (NKJV)

Many believers live with spiritual potential far beyond what they are currently experiencing. It is like owning a car with a 480-horsepower engine but never pressing the accelerator. The power is present, designed to move us, but unless we engage it, we remain stuck where we are.

Paul reminds us that transformation does not come from human effort but from beholding Jesus. As we turn our attention toward Him: His character, His compassion, His obedience, and His sacrifice, the Holy Spirit releases power within us that we could never produce on our own. The Spirit is not an optional accessory to the Christian life; She is the engine of true transformation.

Too often, we attempt to navigate life in our own strength. We try to overcome habits, heal wounds, or grow spiritually through effort alone. But self-effort is like pushing a high-powered vehicle uphill. Grace invites us to stop striving and start yielding. To take our foot off human effort and trust the Spirit to move us forward.

The more we behold Jesus, the more we become like Him. Transformation is not forced; it is released. The Spirit changes our desires, aligns our attitudes, and strengthens our walk. Today, press the spiritual accelerator by turning your gaze fully toward Christ and let the Holy Spirit do what only He can do.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me to behold Jesus with an unveiled heart. Release your transforming power in me. Move me from effort to surrender, from striving to becoming. Make me more like Christ day-by-day. Amen.

3.3.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Mark 8:34-35 - *“When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, ‘Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.’* (NKJV)

Jesus’ words in Mark 8 invite us into the tension at the heart of discipleship: the life we desire cannot be found through self-preservation, but through self-surrender. The cross He calls us to carry is not merely a symbol of suffering—it is the instrument through which our false selves are stripped away so that our true identity in Him can emerge.

Self-denial is not the rejection of our humanity but the refusal to allow ego, pride, or fear to determine our direction. The cross confronts the parts of us that cling to control, demand comfort, or resist transformation. In carrying it, we allow Christ to challenge every instinct that competes with His lordship.

The paradox Jesus offers is profound: it is possible to appear spiritually busy while still protecting the very life He seeks to reshape. Discipleship becomes authentic when we stop negotiating with God about what we will surrender and allow Him to name the parts of our lives that must die for Christlikeness to live.

Losing our lives for Christ does not diminish us; it liberates us. The cross is not an end—it is an entry point into a life formed by His courage, His compassion, and His sacrificial love.

Prayer

Crucified Christ, disrupt every pattern in me that resists surrender. Teach me the freedom of losing my life in You. Shape me through the cross until Your character becomes my own. Amen.

3.4.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Luke 9:23 - *“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”* (NKJV)

I’ve always struggled with the theology of redemptive suffering, the idea that we must suffer in order to be saved, or that enduring pain and struggle is somehow proof of our faithfulness to God. For many of us, this theology was not just taught, it was lived. We were encouraged to stay silent and remain in harmful situations in the name of obedience. We learned to call endurance faithfulness, even when it cost us our safety, dignity, or joy.

But that isn’t what Jesus means when he says, “Take up your cross daily and follow me.” Jesus is not asking us to pursue suffering or to remain in situations that cause us to self-abandon our dignity or voices. The cross is not an endorsement of harm. It shows us love that stands up to injustice, even when it’s costly.

The suffering of Jesus is not redemptive because pain itself saves. It’s redemptive because Jesus refuses to abandon love, truth, and solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. And that distinction is critical. A theology that glorifies suffering without naming its source often protects systems of abuse and harm rather than the people of God.

To live a cross-shaped life is not to erase ourselves and accept harm in the name of obedience. It’s to follow Jesus into a way of love that is courageous, truthful, and life-giving. Discipleship shaped by the cross doesn’t demand self-abandonment. It calls us to resist evil, to practice faithful love, and to trust that God’s way leads toward liberating wholeness.

The cross does not teach us how to disappear. It teaches us how to love without turning away from truth, justice, and one another.

Prayer

Loving God, heal what has been wounded by misused theology and lead me into Your life-giving way of love. Amen.

3.5.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

"The Lord is my Shepard; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1

At some point in our lives, we have found ourselves in thought about our provisions. Those thoughts have lingered into the night and kept us awake. The words "only if" I have circled around and around in our minds. Psalm 23:1 provides a personal reassurance. It gives power to the fact that the Lord is my provider, I don't have to want. Trust the Lord to be your Shepard. He already knows your needs and he never gets tired of providing for his children.

Lord, I am so thankful I can count on you for the peace and joy you give to sustain me when I am in need. Your provisions are as endless as your love you have for us. Help us to trust you in every area of our lives. You are the "Good Shepard" and we are your sheep. Amen

3.6.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

1 Peter 1:6-7 - *“In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* (NKJV)

When we think of fire, we think only of damage or loss, because what remains no longer resembles what it once was. When we first choose to follow Christ, there is excitement—joy—in knowing someone is looking out for us, working things out on our behalf. That promise is real. Yet the cost of following Christ may come with heat, even flames, and still God is with us in the fire. Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 1:6–7 that the fire itself is part of the process. At some point, we all find ourselves surrounded by flames—maybe you’re there now—but Peter says the trials last “for a little while,” what the fire produces outlives the flames: a faith that survives pressure, a faith that tells the truth, a faith that knows God without pretending pain didn’t happen. Gold is tested by fire not because it might fail, but because it can endure. Hear this clearly: your suffering is not proof of God’s absence; it may be evidence of God’s careful investment. God does not refine what God does not treasure, and God does not test what God plans to discard. If you are in the fire, it is not because you are disposable— God sees Gold and knows what will shine when the heat is gone.

Prayer

God, stay close as You refine us; remind us when the flames surround us that this is a process, let it deepen our faith and reveal Your power and grace. Amen.

3.7.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety”
Psalm 4:8

Have you ever noticed a sign stating “DANGER KEEP OUT”. Danger is all around us, seen and unseen. As children of God, he provides wisdom to help us avoid dangers. Believers understand that it may not be safe to speak our mind towards every person crossing our path or boast our ability to physically take down a perceived threat. God wants us to take shelter in his arms. He knows the dangers and he expects us to know his great power.

Powerful and Mighty God, what danger can overtake us? We move, surrounded by danger daily but you God see it all and protect us. So many times our worries have been unnecessary because your protection was there. Help us to enjoy our lives, living under your protection and love. Amen

3.9.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Isaiah 64:8 - *“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.”* (NKJV)

In another life, I studied History While my studies focused on Italy, one of my favorite sculptors was actually a French artist: François-Auguste-René Rodin, the Impressionist master best known for *The Thinker*.

I loved Rodin’s work—but even more than his sculptures, I was fascinated by how he signed them. Most artists leave a traditional signature. Rodin did something different. He signed his work with his thumbprint.

A fingerprint is profoundly personal—something so unique that no two are alike. It identifies us. It marks us. It tells the world who we are. When God created us, God etched our fingerprints and molded us just as the potter shapes the clay, as described in Jeremiah 18 and Isaiah 64. God is the potter, and we are the clay—formed in the image of God, Imago Dei. A divine self-portrait, if you will.

We are not God, but we are reflections of God. Not perfect, but perfectly imperfect. And like Rodin, God left God’s signature upon us during the molding—divine imprints, fingerprints pressed into our very being.

Now, molding doesn’t always feel good. In fact, most of the time, it hurts. You might expect it to feel like a soothing massage—but even a good massage hurts a little. It increases circulation, loosens knots of tension, breaks up scar tissue, and moves toxins out of the body so healing can occur.

The same is true of spiritual molding. It may be uncomfortable, even painful, but it is necessary. God continues to work on us because we are works in progress. God re-moves the toxins of this world, heals the wounds we accumulate along the way, and smooths the scars left behind. God declares that we belong to Him—His creation. And people will know that we are His because they will see God’s fingerprints all over our lives.

Prayer

Lord, as You continue to mold us into Your image, may Your praise be continually in our mouths. Amen.

3.10.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. Against such there is no law."

Have you ever thought about how a tree knows which fruit to grow? Naturally, if an apple seed is planted, then it only makes sense for an apple tree to grow from that seed. In the same way, whatever a person chooses to plant in the spiritual soil that constitutes their life will come to fruition. The disciple Paul listed the works of the flesh in verses 19-21. The stark contrast of the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit gives us, as believers, a way to categorize what we are producing.

If a tree is not firmly rooted in the ground and given proper conditions for nourishment, it is not only at danger of making bad fruit, but it is also in danger of dying. Similarly, followers of Jesus must take special care to be rooted in the solid rock of Christ. Only that foundation and relationship will produce love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Oftentimes, when we pray for things like self-control or peace, those things won't just suddenly appear. God may place you in situations that require those fruits, which will urge you to seek Him more each day to produce them. The good news is that Jesus did the hard work for us! Matthew 6:33 reminds us to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first. When producing spiritual fruit feels overwhelming in a fallen world, our call remains simple: stay rooted, keep seeking, and let God bring the growth.

Prayer

Thank you for granting me opportunities to spread your peace, Lord. As I go throughout my life, I ask for the eyes to see, the ears to hear, and the wisdom to apply any revelation that you would have for me. Please use me as an unobstructed vessel for your Holy fruit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3.11.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Judges 11:30 - *“And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, ‘If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,...’”*

Thrifting has always been an adventure to see what people deem disposable. For some items, you can see an imprint or stain documenting use while other items indicate more cavalier owners who discard items with sales tags affixed. As a good friend and I checked out our “finds” on one of our thrifting adventures, I knew what was about to unfold: the checkout area transformed into a bargaining floor. Even more, I knew her reason: I have the choice whether or not to buy the item, and so, I get to decide the value or walk away.

If only Jephthah’s daughter had the same agency to decide whether her life should be bartered in an unwise and unsolicited bargain made by her father with the Lord God. While a disheartening fate for this unnamed girl, time has proved her to be a heroine who illustrates how we can respond to the unacceptable external bargains made that compromise our peace, well-being, and things we hold dear. Upon learning her fate, she responds in a manner reminiscent to Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46) by locating the Lord God in her life’s narrative, accepting the “unacceptable,” and then, she grieved. Similarly, we likely have been or may be in a season where we are tasked to accept difficult realities, but we can press forward like this girl, first seeking the Lord God and allowing ourselves room to grieve and find solace in community.

Prayer

Lord God who knows us and walks with us in situations that we find difficult and “unacceptable.” We look to You as the most important part of our life narrative and submit not to others, but to You. We ask You to tend to our hearts where there is distress and thank You that we do not have to grieve alone. Encourage us, Lord. Amen.

3.12.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”
Galatians 6:9

Twenty-Four hours still represent one day. So why does it feel like we just don't have enough time and energy to get things done that really matter. We have all had those “I will do it tomorrow” but tomorrow only creates another tomorrow. Are we seizing the opportunities God is providing to be “well doers”. Are we doing for name sake or are we seeking God for help to do well towards others in need despite our feelings of weariness or limited means. Maybe we sometimes feel that we are the one in need. God gives promise that we will receive our reward if we are true in well doing.

Lord keeps us from growing weary in doing good for your name sake. We pray that your name will be glorified in all that we do to help someone in need as you provide the opportunities. Help us to seek your guidance for the who and the how. As you meet our needs, let your Holy Spirit show us where we can be of use and equip us to do your will. Amen

3.13.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

James 1:12 - *“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”*

There are moments when the weight of life presses so heavily that surrender seems like the only option. Trials, disappointments, and unmet expectations can erode faith, leaving the soul weary and questioning. Yet Scripture reminds us that endurance is not merely stubborn persistence—it is a posture of trust in the unseen, a commitment to God’s purposes when our emotions scream “enough.”

James 1:12 tells us, “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” Endurance is not passive; it is active faith in the midst of struggle. It requires anchoring our hearts in God’s promises, even when circumstances suggest failure. Spiritual endurance is cultivated through prayer that refuses despair, obedience that defies doubt, and hope that persists despite setbacks.

To endure spiritually when you want to quit is to acknowledge your human limits while surrendering fully to God’s sufficiency. It is saying, “Lord, I am weary, but I trust You to carry me through.” In these crucibles, God refines resilience, deepens intimacy, and shapes character that cannot be manufactured by ease or comfort.

Faithful endurance does not always change the immediate difficulty, but it transforms the one who endures. It turns trials into testimony and weariness into worship

Prayer

Lord, I am weary, but I trust You to carry me through. Strengthen my heart to endure trials with faith, hope, and obedience. Help me to surrender my struggles to You, knowing that in Your hands, weariness becomes growth, and trials become testimony. Amen.

3.14.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

In John 14:27, Jesus speaks a word that feels like balm to anxious souls: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." These words are offered when the disciples are overwhelmed, afraid, and unsure about what to-morrow will bring-relate? Jesus doesn't dismiss their emotional storm; He looks into it and offers something deeper, steadying, and sustaining: His peace.

The Greek word Jesus uses, εἰρήνην (eirēnēn), pronounced ay-RAY-nay-meaning peace, reaches beyond our modern idea of calm and the temporary space modernity often offers. It speaks to wholeness, integration, and inner alignment with God. This is not conditional or fragile peace-the kind dependent on circumstances or emotional stability. Christ's peace remains even when the heart trembles, when emotions rise, and when life becomes unpredictable.

To "walk in peace, not emotions" does not mean dismissing our emotional experience. The voice of Christ encourages tender transformation-inviting us to honor the sacred data our emotions provide and courageously tell the truth about our internal land-scape. Jesus Himself experienced grief, holy rage, righteous anger, and deep sorrow. His emotional life testified to His humanity, yet He did not allow His emotions to become His compass. Rooted in the Father's presence and purpose, He shows us that emotions can inform without leading-an essential lesson for today's anxious, reactive world.

Christ's eirēnēn steadies us when anxiety tightens, grounds us when fear whispers, and reminds us that peace is not the absence of emotion but the presence of God. His peace is both a gift to receive and a practice to cultivate through trust, prayer, community, emotional awareness, and the anchoring truth of God's Word.

Prayer

Holy God, Center my heart in Your peace today. Quiet the noise within me, steady the emotions around me, and help me walk in the deep, grounding εἰρήνην that only Christ gives. Let Your peace hold me, guide me, and restore me. Amen.

3.16.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Isaiah 43:18-19 - *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* (NIV)

Life can feel overwhelming. Days blur together, expectations weigh heavy, and constant uncertainty can make it difficult to know which way to turn. Sometimes, the very routines and habits we rely on need a refresh—they need a reset. A reset is not a failure; it is a spiritual opportunity to pause, reflect, and realign with God’s purposes.

The resilience of a reset comes from understanding that God uses interruption as preparation. Just like a tree pruned in winter grows stronger in spring, moments of pause and redirection can cultivate growth, depth, and clarity. A reset allows us to ex-amine our priorities, release what is unhelpful, and embrace the practices that nurture our soul. It is in these pauses that God reshapes our hearts, clarifies our vision, and strengthens our faith to endure what lies ahead.

Resetting is rarely easy. It asks us to release control, to let go of familiar patterns, and to trust God’s guidance even when the path is unclear. Yet Scripture reminds us that God equips those who seek Him, giving wisdom and perseverance for every season of life. Resilience is not simply bouncing back—it is being transformed by the process, learning to rely on God more deeply, and stepping forward with renewed strength and purpose.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of reset. Help me to pause, release what no longer serves me, and realign my heart with Your purposes. Give me wisdom, strength, and trust as You guide me through change, and let this season of pause cultivate resilience, growth, and renewed faith. Amen.

3.17.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Romans 12:2 - *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Beloved, we are living in a season where the ground feels like it’s shaking beneath our feet. Nations are raging, communities are divided, truth feels negotiable, and fear has become a daily companion. The world is working overtime to shape how we think—teaching us to react instead of reflect, to protect ourselves instead of trusting God. But Paul steps into the noise and declares, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

That’s a word for right now. Because before God changes the world through us, God must change the way we see the world. The mind of Christ does not mirror the chaos around it; it challenges it. Where the world chooses arrogance, Christ chooses humility. Where the world demands to be served, Christ kneels with a towel. Where the world grasps for control, Christ obeys the will of the Father.

A renewed mind is not shaped by social pressure or cultural trends—it is shaped by surrender. It dares to believe that obedience is still powerful, that servanthood is still holy, and that humility is still God’s way forward. When our minds are renewed, we stop asking, “How do I survive this moment?” and start asking, “How can God be glorified through me in this moment?”

In a world addicted to conformity, transformation becomes an act of faith. When we allow God to renew our minds, our lives become sermons—preaching hope, humility, and holy obedience to a watching world.

Prayer

Father, renew my mind with the mind of Christ. Help me choose humility, obedience, and servanthood in a world of fear and chaos. Let my life reflect Your love and glory. Amen.

3.18.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [a]robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Nobody could tell me anything in college when my parents sent me a little money. I was receiving payments from them, a drumming gig, and an on-campus job. I was living the life, in college! Oh, but when I became an adult. Any adult who's had to start taking care of yourself knows nothing will humble you like getting grown. Bills arrive. Safety nets disappear. Life exposes how fragile our sense of control really is. Maybe that's why humility isn't always something we choose—sometimes it's something life enforces. That's also why humility must be practiced as a daily discipline. Life has a way of crushing inflated egos. We are not as rich as we think. Not as secure as we think. Not as untouchable as we think. What feels stable today can unravel tomorrow.

That truth helps us better understand Philippians 2:5–8. Jesus, though fully God, does not leverage his divinity to dominate, protect himself, or assert power. Instead, he empties himself. He humbles himself. And he does so not for personal benefit, but for our sake. His humility leads all the way to obedience—even obedience unto death on a cross.

Jesus' humility doesn't only secure our redemption; it models how love functions in real relationships. Coexistence requires humility. Genuine love relinquishes pride and self-importance. No relationship—spiritual, communal, or personal—can survive arrogance and self-centeredness. When everything is about you, loneliness is inevitable. But if love and relationship matter to you, Scripture extends an invitation: choose humility.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach me to walk in humility like Your Son, Jesus. Help me relinquish pride, let go of self-importance, and serve others with a loving and obedient heart. Show me where I need to trust You more and control less, and give me the grace to practice humility daily. May my life reflect Your love and draw others closer to You. Amen.

3.19.2026 - Bro. Randy Tyson

“So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her” John 8:7

The simplest way I know not to be the first to cast the stone, don't pick it up. There are plenty of times we wished we were first but there are just as many times we should be thankful that we were not the first. Jesus makes it plain, if you are without sin cast the first stone. There are plenty happenings in this world that are sinful. There are plenty of stone throwers. How blessed we are to have the love of Jesus there to forgive us each time we threw a stone.

Lord, help us to understand the harm throwing stones can bring. Fill us with love and nonjudgemental thoughts. It gets hard sometime because of the chaos in the world. Help us to feel safe in knowing that it is your world and you are the true judge of all that is done. Amen

3.20.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Mark 10:45 - *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Jesus redefined greatness in a world that measures success by power, position, and recognition. In Mark 10:45, He declares, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” These words reveal the heart of our Savior – A King who kneels, a Lord who lays down His life.

The disciples struggled to understand this upside-down kingdom. Like us, they were tempted to seek status and importance. Yet Jesus pointed them—and us—to a different way. True greatness is not found in being noticed, but in being faithful. It is not about climbing higher, but about stooping lower in love.

Jesus’ service was not passive or weak. It was intentional, sacrificial, and courageous. He touched the untouchable, welcomed the overlooked, and ultimately gave Himself on the cross. His service flowed from love and obedience to the Father. When we fix our eyes on Christ, our hearts are reshaped to reflect His humility.

Cultivating a servant’s heart begins with daily surrender. We ask God to help us notice needs around us and respond with compassion—at home, at school, in church, and in our communities. Small acts of kindness, done with love, become powerful testimonies of Christ’s presence in us.

As followers of the Servant King, we are invited to live differently. May we seek not to be served, but to serve. And as we do, may others catch a glimpse of Jesus—the humble King whose love transforms hearts and lives.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach me what it truly means to have the heart of a servant. Help me grow in compassion for those around me and to care deeply for the things you care about. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a steadfast spirit within me, In Jesus name, Amen.

3.21.2006 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

John 15:5 - *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* (NKJV)

One of my favorite passages in the Gospels is John 15—the entire chapter. It contains one of Jesus' well-known "I AM" statements: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." In verse five, Jesus goes on to tell us that we are the branches of that vine. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of connection.

Connection allows for an exchange of energy—a symbiotic relationship. And that kind of connection can be either life-giving or life-draining, depending on the source to which we attach ourselves.

According to this passage, we are connected to Jesus—and to take it even further, we are an extension of Him. Branches flourish when they remain connected to a healthy vine. But once they are cut off, they only survive for a short time.

Think about a bouquet of flowers. They are cut from the ground or the bush, beautifully and perfectly arranged. We place them in water, add the nutrient packet from the florist, and admire their beauty. But even with all of that care, they last only about a week—maybe ten days at most. Why? Because they have been severed from their true-life source. They are no longer part of the ecosystem where nutrients flow freely—where there is giving and receiving, abiding and dwelling with the source.

The same is true for us. We must remain connected to our source—God—who provides everything we need. Jesus makes it plain: apart from Him, we can do nothing. But if we stay connected, if we abide in the Lord, we bear much fruit. We bear love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—the fruit of the Holy Spirit. And we are also used as instruments of evangelism, living in such a way that God is glorified and others are drawn in, asking, "What must I do to be saved?"

Our connection to God places us within God's ecosystem—one that stretches farther than we can see, wider than we can imagine, and deeper than we can comprehend. It is vast. It is life-giving. And it is eternal.

Prayer

Lord, we pray that you will continue to call us back to you when we stray. Amen.

3.23.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Luke 23:34 - Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots."

Colossians 3:13 - *"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."*

Forgiveness is counterintuitive. Our hearts naturally seek justice, closure, or even revenge when we are wronged. Yet Jesus, suspended between heaven and earth, demonstrates a divine paradigm: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Here, forgiveness is not transactional or conditional; it is an act of spiritual sovereignty that releases both the offender and the offended into God's redemptive care.

Colossians 3:13 deepens this teaching: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Paul reframes forgiveness as a posture of the soul—a deliberate alignment with God's mercy rather than a mere response to human wrongdoing. It is less about the other person's repentance and more about the liberation of our own spirit. Resentment, left unchecked, corrodes our capacity for empathy, clouds our discernment, and diminishes our witness of God's love.

Freeing forgiveness requires intentionality and courage. It demands that we relinquish our desire to control outcomes, surrendering judgment to God. In doing so, we mirror Christ's own surrender, stepping into a rhythm of love that transforms relationships and restores inner peace. Forgiveness is not an event but a process of spiritual formation, reshaping our hearts into vessels of grace, resilience, and freedom.

Prayer

Lord, we come before You with open hearts, asking for the grace to forgive as You have forgiven us. Release us from the weight of anger, bitterness, and unresolved pain. Teach us to surrender judgment to You and walk in the freedom that only Your mercy can bring. Renew our spirits, restore our peace, and shape our hearts to reflect Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3.24.2006 - Bro. Randy Tyson

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” Psalm 119:105

Consider the darkness. A time when we may feel vulnerable because we can't see what is surrounding us or where we are going. Confusion and fear may set in as we try to establish a sense of direction. God declares to those in darkness his word will be a lamp guiding us and a light to lead us through this path of life. We may stumble and sometimes fall but our faith will be what keeps the lamp burning. God will be “The Lighthouse” to those who are lost and walking in darkness.

Dear God, your light is so bright. Fill us with this light. As you continue to be our lighthouse, help us to be a lighthouse for others who have lost their way. We all need your your guidance and love. Amen

3.25.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Luke 6:27-28 - *“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”* (NRSV)

Jesus speaks these words to those willing to be undone by them. In a world trained to react, retaliate, and rehearse grievances, His command exposes how little self-control we often call love. What we name passion is frequently impulse. What we defend as honesty is often unrestrained anger. In an age of reckless tweets and viral outrage, we see every day how quickly words can wound and divide. Luke 6 does not invite reflection alone—it also demands restraint in our response.

To love our enemies is to govern ourselves when every instinct urges release. It is the refusal to let outrage dictate our behavior or pain write our response. This love disciplines the tongue before it disciplines others. It pauses long enough to ask whether our reaction reflects Christ or simply mirrors the violence of the moment.

Self-control is not emotional suppression; it is spiritual authority. It is the decision to place our anger, our words, and our power under the lordship of Christ. When Jesus tells us to bless those who curse us and pray for those who wound us, He is calling us to resist the seduction of becoming what we oppose.

This kind of love is costly because it feels like loss. It denies the satisfaction of the last word. It relinquishes the illusion of control. Yet it is precisely here that freedom is found. A restrained soul cannot be easily manipulated.

In a wounded world, unrestrained reaction is easy. Reckless tweets, offhand comments, and impulsive outrage are everywhere. Disciplined love is rare. And that rarity is what makes it holy.

Prayer

Lord, teach me the discipline of love that restrains, humbles, and honors You above my impulses. May my words and actions bear witness to Your kingdom, even amid a world that rewards reaction over restraint. Amen.

3.26.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Romans 13:8 - *“Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”* (NRSVUE)

Paul is telling us that love is the fulfillment of the law. The teachings of Jesus encourage us to shift our thinking around the commandments in recognition that the fulfillment of the law is to do no harm to those around us, to our neighbor. Love of neighbor is material. Love is an action word. If to love our neighbor is the fulfillment of the law, is how we seek the kingdom here on earth; what does love look like? How might Jesus’ teachings guide us in our daily steps and interactions so that we might be the light? It is through active love for one another that we recognize that Jesus unified everything on earth and in the heavens. It is the same Greek work for unify – to bring into unity and harmony – that is used when Paul states that all of the other commandments are unified, are summed up in the word “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” To allow our neighbor to hunger, to hoard the blessings that God has placed in our lives, is violence, is to do harm. We fulfill the law, we seek completion in the law, through love of neighbor.

Prayer

Creator God, we come to you in gratitude for this day, this breath, this moment. As we find comfort in your unending love for us, remind us and guide us as we seek to love our neighbor, to live out your command and to seek completeness in your kingdom. Guide us to act as your hands and feet, loving those with whom we interact each day. Strengthen us to persist when challenged by the actions of others. Give us the wisdom and the faith to love out loud, to love as Christ, to be a witness to your unending love through each of our interactions with our neighbor. In the name of your loving Son, we pray. Amen.

3.27.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

I recently found myself in a conversation with my supervisor about distributing additional resources to a program. The decision was made not to provide the resources as they had not participated fully in the training connected to the resources. I am afraid I did not do a good job of masking my emotions and the expression that briefly came across my face. After some time to reflect I realized that my irritation with the decision, and the overall approach projected by my supervisor, was theological. It is abundance versus hoarding. My supervisor chose to be punitive over generous. My emotion was based in offense at our tendency to hoard materials and resources. Jesus explicitly teaches us not to store up treasures on earth (Matt. 6:19-21). I find myself wondering how do we live out love of neighbor in our daily conversations and decisions?

Jesus tells us that as he loves us, we should love one another. It is through our love of one another that we enact the love of God. We strive to be a disciple of Jesus by loving like Jesus – by living like, looking like, loving like Jesus.

Prayer

Gracious and Kind Father, we pray to you in continuous love and gratitude. Thank you for all that you have provided and continue to provide. Help us to trust in your never-ending love, to recognize that it is through our love towards one another that we demonstrate our trust in you, our willingness to submit to your command. We seek to live out the example of your Son, to embody unselfish concern for one another. Help us to be known by our love, by our desire to live in a way which exemplifies the teachings of Jesus. We evangelize the good news of the Gospel when we are known by our love. Give us the strength to love, even in moments of frustration, and to persist when we inevitably miss the mark. Remind us that seeking to be perfect is to strive for completeness, wholeness and maturity in love, not flawlessness. In the name of your loving Son we pray. Amen.

3.28.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Matthew 5:14-16 - *“You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”*

Ever noticed someone with a statement piece—a sharp haircut, fresh nails, a well-fit-ted suit, a stunning smile... or even that subtle, glorious-smelling cologne that lingers just long enough to catch your attention? You might not know them, but something about them pulls you in. You want to know more.

That’s how our faith should move. It should be our ultimate statement piece—subtle yet unforgettable, gentle yet powerful. It doesn’t need to shout; it just needs to be real. Jesus calls us to humility, yes—but never to hide our faith. Let it shine in every class-room, office, coffee shop, or corner you occupy. Let your life radiate like that unforgettable presence, drawing people toward Him.

Prayer

God, let my faith be like a beautiful fragrance that leaves a lasting impression—subtle, real, and unmistakably You oh, God. Help me move with bold humility, letting Your love and light shine through me in every space I enter. May my life draw people closer to you. Help me to leave traces of Your love wherever I go. Amen.

3.30.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Matthew 28:18-20 - "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

I recently learned how to play spades. I know you just judged me, but spades isn't for the weak. When I sat down at the "beginner's table," they chose a partner that was better than me so I could learn. My first hand was good and I promptly talked my stuff, but my second hand... humbled me. That second round forced me to see the value of a good partner. It made me recognize that there are some things I can't handle on my own. I didn't know what he had, but I had to trust that he would hold me down when I literally had nothing to bring to the table. Verse 20 comes at the end of Jesus' appeal to go out and make disciples. It is a reminder that whatever God is asking us to do isn't a solo venture. Jesus reminds the disciples that even if they have a bad hand, they have a great partner. We keep counting ourselves out because we are looking at our hand but forget our partner always holds the Big Joker. You will not always know what's in God's cards, but you know God's playing record. This GROW I want you to stop under-bidding. I want you to live as if you believed that God never planned to leave you or forsake you in the classroom, the interview, or the doctor's appointment. In verse 20b, God said as long as there is time, I have time.

Prayer

God, remind me that I'm not alone. Teach me to trust in your hand and to seek to learn how to play mine. Amen.

3.30.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

1 Peter 1:15-16 - *“but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

“Be holy, for I am holy.” Peter’s words have often been misunderstood as a demand to abandon culture or deny who we are. For a long time, I wrestled with that misunderstanding myself. I love hip hop. Yet hip hop—its music, language, and culture—has often been labeled as unholy, profane, or incompatible with faith. The unspoken message was clear: holiness meant distance.

But holiness is not about rejecting culture; it is about redemption within it. Jesus did not avoid the messy places of life—He entered them. God has always shown the power to take what is dismissed or deemed profane and make it sacred. Holiness is not sterilization; it is transformation.

To be conformed to Christ is to allow God to shape how we live, look, and love right where we are. Hip hop, like any cultural expression, can reflect brokenness—but it can also carry truth, lament, hope, and prophetic critique. When submitted to God, even what the world labels unholy can become a vessel for His purpose.

Peter calls us to holiness in all our conduct, not to cultural exile. Holiness means our values, motives, and loves are shaped by Christ, even as we remain present in the world. God does not merely pull us out; He sends us in—transformed. When God is at work, the sacred can rise from the profane, and our lives can bear witness to the Christ who makes all things new.

Prayer

God, I thank you for your continued redemptive and transformational power in me. Amen.

3.31.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Paul's words speak directly to the tension I felt when I sensed God's call on my life. When I went to seminary and later toward ordination, I questioned God: Are You sure? I didn't feel especially set apart. I knew myself well enough to know I was a bit of a cutup— far from the image of who I thought a minister was supposed to be.

Yet Galatians reminds us that God's call is not rooted in our self-perception, but in union with Christ. The call is not about God finding flawless people; it is about Christ living in real people. "It is no longer I who live" does not mean erasing personality or history—it means surrendering them to Christ's life at work within us.

I came to realize that God could use even my questions, my humor, and my rough edges to reach people who might never connect with polished religiosity. My story—uncertain, imperfect, still in process—became part of the witness. Union with Christ means God works through who we actually are, not who we pretend to be. To be conformed to Christ is not to become someone else, but to allow Christ to live fully in us. As we live by faith, Christ's life takes shape through our lives, making room for grace, honesty, and encouragement for others who are still asking, "God, are You sure?"

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for grace toward me, for understanding my flaws and still choosing to work in me. Amen.

4.1.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Joel 2:12-13 - *“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”* (NIV)

Lent begins with an invitation: *“Return to Me.”* God is not waiting with condemnation but compassion. Spiritual drift happens quietly — through busyness, distraction, and pride. This season calls us to come back wholeheartedly.

True repentance is not outward performance but inward surrender. When we return to God, we rediscover grace that has been waiting for us all along.

Prayer

Lord, I return to You with my whole heart. Cleanse what is impure, soften what is hardened, and restore what has drifted. Amen.

4.2.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Luke 9:23 - *“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”*

Jesus teaches that discipleship requires daily surrender. Fasting during Lent is not about food alone — it is about focus. What we deny physically helps us depend spiritually.

Taking up our cross means choosing obedience over comfort and faithfulness over convenience.

Prayer

Jesus, teach me to deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow You faithfully. Amen.

4.3.2026 - Rev. Dr. Jerret C. Fite

Mark 14:38 - *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

In Gethsemane, Jesus asked His disciples to stay awake and pray. Lent sharpens spiritual alertness. Temptation thrives where prayer is absent.

When we pray, we gain strength to stand. When we neglect prayer, we grow spiritually drowsy.

Prayer

Father, keep me spiritually awake. Strengthen me through prayer so I will not fall into temptation. Amen.