

Monday, April 15th

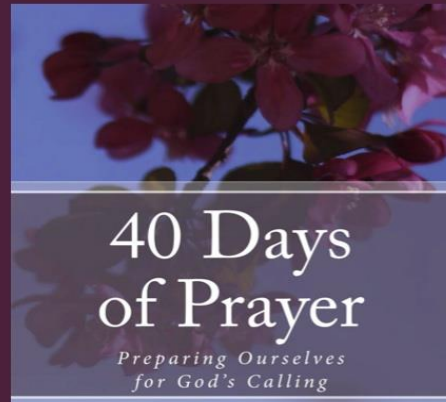
Day 35 – Living In The Zone

Matthew 11:28-30

How can God's calling for us be easy? Or God's burden be light? When I was a runner, we would plan our training to help us "peak" at just the right time in the season. We all experientially knew what it was to "peak." This is the zone...it's the time when we feel like we could run forever, when running seems almost effortless, when we can accelerate into a higher gear, when we are almost floating or flying. This is the time when personal records are set...we are in the zone.

When our lives and our churches are aligned with God's intentions and purposes, we find the zone. We are living at our "peak" so to speak. Following Christ seems nearly effortless and everything flows. This is when we get a "sneak peek" into what heaven must be like.

Prayer Thought: We can't make peak experience happen. On the other hand we can participate with God to ready ourselves. Ask God to lead you and your church into the future with courage and faith.



 Mark Tidsworth

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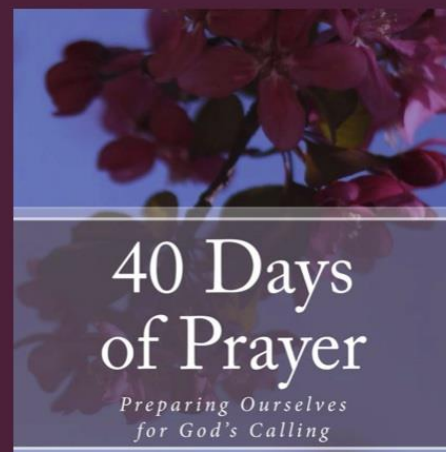
Tuesday, April 16th

Day 36 – Courage To Go There

Joshua 1:1-9

"You don't want to go there." – A common warning that you are about to get into unpleasant territory. When it comes to discerning God's vision, the motto is, "You do want to go there!" Though it may seem expansive, scary and daunting at first, following God into the future is exhilarating and fulfilling. Yes, you will serve at a higher level and you will face challenges. The challenges we face when we are in the center of God's will are very acceptable. God will provide the courage you need. Go there!

Prayer Thought: Consider what you need to go there. Ask God for the courage.



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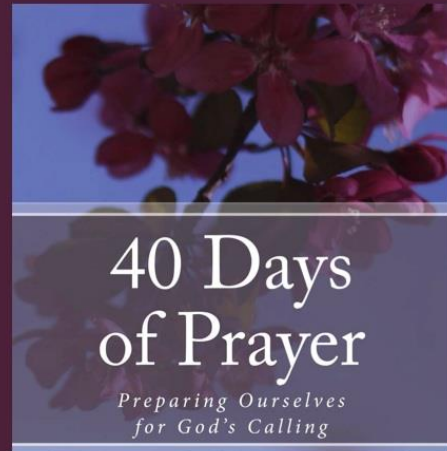
Wednesday, April 17th


Day 37 – Come To Macedonia

Acts 16:6-10

There are people in this world who actually need you and your church to discern the Vision for moving ahead. They need this because they are spiritually seeking, personally hurting or in need in some other way that you and your congregation can address. Discerning the Vision is not simply so you will know what to do. Discerning the Vision is so that God's kingdom will be implemented and real people with real needs will be saved and helped.

Prayer Thought: Ask God to help you and your congregation remain focused on God's mission rather than your comfort.



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Thursday, April 18th Maundy Thursday

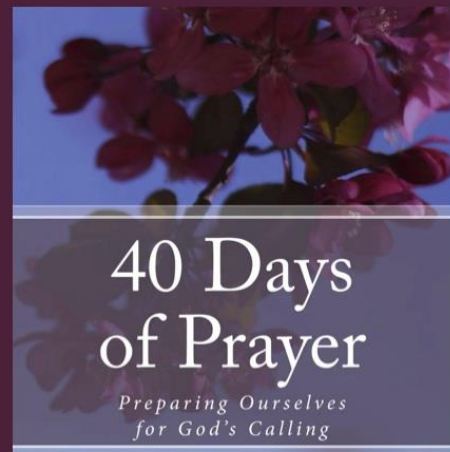
Day 38 – A Time To Work


Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it..” There is a time for everything. You are nearing the time for your congregation when the Vision will be identified and celebrated. Then comes the most vital part – implementing. There is real work to be done.

Are you motivated by a challenge? If the challenge is too high, it can be demotivating, leading to apathy or resignation. If the challenge is too low, we grow lethargic. When the challenge is on target, God's people rise up and fulfill their calling to be the people of God in this place at this time.

Prayer Thought: Ask God for willingness to roll up your sleeves and get busy with God's calling for your congregation!



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Friday, April 19th Good Friday

Day 39 – Are We Done Already?

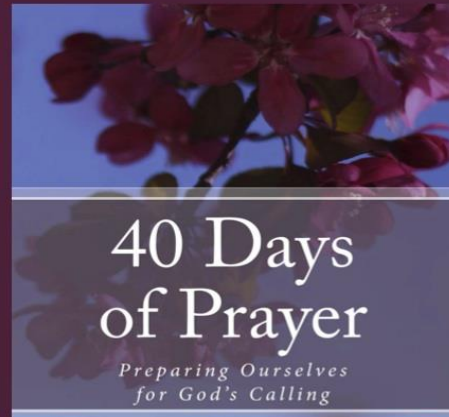
I Thessalonians 5:1–11


When I was a child, I heard older people talking about how quickly life goes. I thought they had lapsed into insanity or dementia. Did they realize how long it took for Christmas to roll around each year; or one's birthday? It's funny how a few years can change one's perspective.

The way time goes, soon we will all be reflecting back on our lives. What did we do? What contribution did we make? What was our contribution to God's kingdom and God's movement in the world?

How were we church to one another and to our part of the world?

Prayer Thought: This is your time, your moment, your opportunity to go for it. Ask God for a compelling vision and for the resources to live it out day by day.



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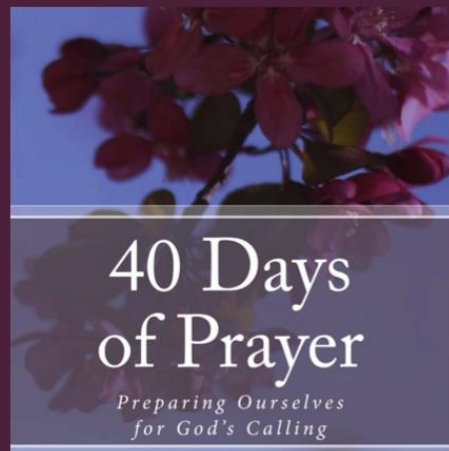
Saturday, April 20th Holy Saturday

Day 40 – Naming, Claiming, Being, Doing

Acts 2:14–21

Later in the Visioning process, the time will come to articulate the congregation's Vision, to Claim it as your own and then to live into it. That will be the time to set the hesitancy aside and serve with spiritual vigor. Prepare yourself now to embrace God's calling for you and your congregation.

Prayer Thought: Consider committing yourself to God's calling for you and your church right now... even before you know exactly what it looks like.



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