

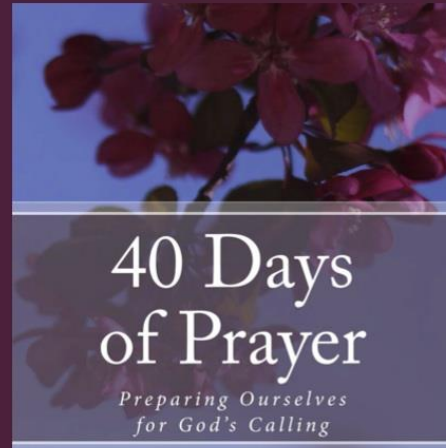
Monday, April 8th

Day 29 – Follow The Energy

Acts 2: 1–4

The Holy Spirit first came to disciples as a rushing wind, filled with energy. The Holy Spirit still enlivens us for service and ministry. Where is the energy rising up in you when it comes to following Christ? Where is the energy rising up in your church these days? These are clues to God's guidance and direction.

Prayer Thought: Look for the energy in you and your church rising up. Ask God if these are clues to God's calling.



 Mark Tidsworth

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Tuesday, April 9th

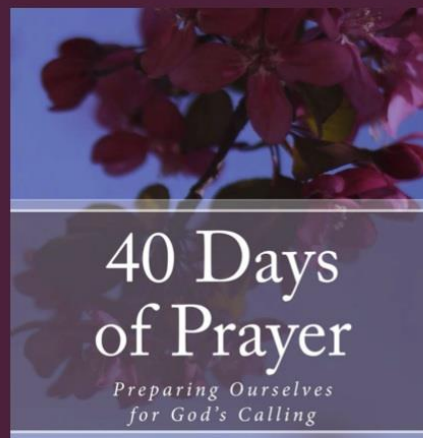
Day 30 – Gathered Community of Disciples

Acts 2:43–47

When Jesus' disciples band together in groups, what do they do? How do they relate to each other? What distinguishes who they are as a group? What do they do with their combined resources? What's their purpose for being? What's their mission?

In this scripture, it is apparent that our faith began as a movement, with minimal institutionalization. Through the course of history, the movement took on structure, professional leadership, and property. Sometimes it's difficult not to confuse these structures with the actual purpose for the church. What is essential to being a church? What can we learn from the early Christian movement?

Prayer Thought: Ask God what is essential for your church to be, do, and become. If you don't do anything else, what 3 activities must you do to fulfill your calling as a church?



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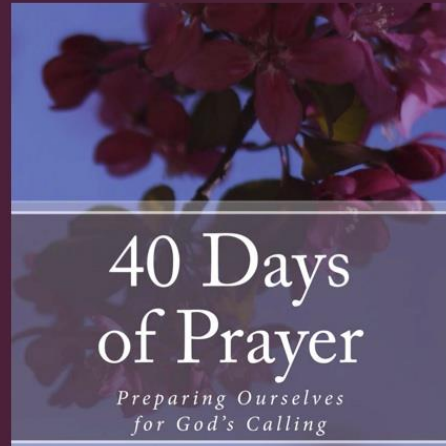
Wednesday, April 10th

Day 31 – Consistent With Holy Scripture

II Timothy 3:16–17

It is possible for a church to follow its desires and do something inconsistent with God's mission in the world. When our desires are not shaped by Christ, they can lead us onto tangents. One purpose of the Scriptures is to provide a check and balance for us. Is the vision we are seeing consistent with what we see in the Bible? Is this vision lining up with the Great Commandment and the Great Commission? Is this vision congruent with the ministry and teachings of Jesus in the Gospels?

Prayer Thought: Ask God for insight into the meaning of scripture as compared with the emerging vision for you and your congregation.



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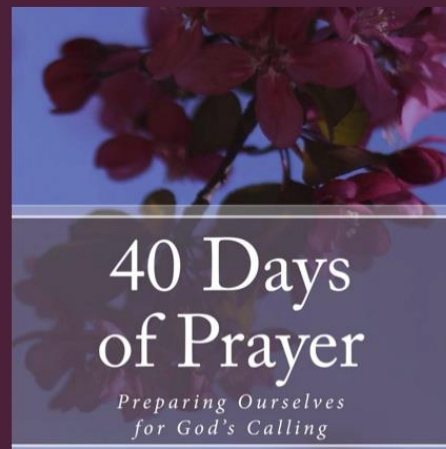
Thursday, April 11th

Day 32 – Your God Is Too Small

Psalms 148

J.B. Phillips wrote a book by that title (Your God Is Too Small) in 1961. He describes how we have limited God – making God “man-sized.” Our temptation is to make God in our image, rather than vice-versa. Consider the vision that's developing for you and for your church. How expansive is it? Is it something you and your church can do without God's intervention or power? If it can be done by human strength alone....then it is too small.

Prayer Thought: Ask God if you are unconsciously limiting the Vision by your small thinking about God's capacity and intervention.



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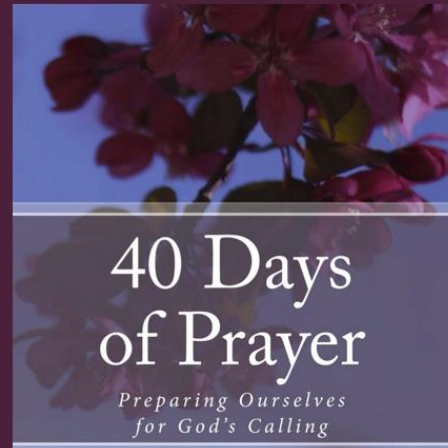
Friday, April 12th


Day 33 – On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Matthew 6:9–15

Did he mean it? Did Jesus actually want us to pray, with faith and trust in the possibility, that God's kingdom could come on earth as it is in heaven? Evidently, God wants his kingdom of peace, justice and love to be enacted right here, right now. What would it mean for God's kingdom to come more fully through you? Through your church?

Prayer Thought: Ask God to help you focus on kingdom work. Ask God what your church can do to help the kingdom come more fully.



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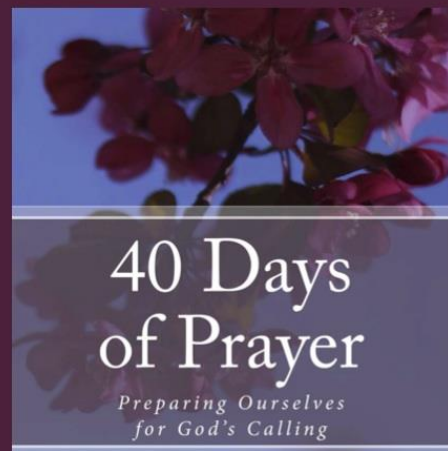
Saturday, April 13th

Day 34 – God's Hopes And Dreams

Matthew 6:9–15

God's Will...in essence...God's desires, hopes, dreams, wishes for this world. What does it look like when a disciple lives life according to God's desires for him/her? What does it look like for your church? Your church cannot be everything to everyone, nor can it meet every need in your community. It is also true that your church has an identity, and has a God-given purpose in your community. Identify your congregation's God-given identity and its purpose....and you are very close to discerning God's vision for your congregation.

Prayer Thought: What, if taken away, would make this church no longer who it is? What is our congregation's unique opportunity in our community?



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