

Monday, March 25th

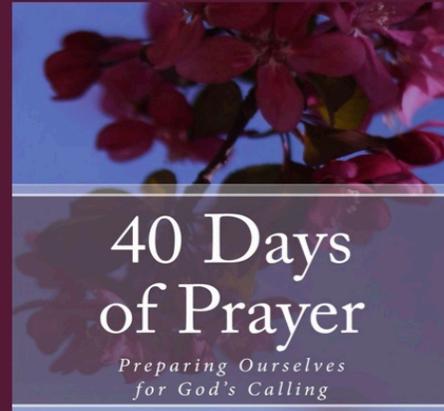
Day 17 – Building On The Sand

Matthew 7:24–27

“If you find the perfect church, don’t join it...you will ruin it for everyone else.” We are imperfect people, so when we get together in groups, we form imperfect groups. Church is no exception. Hopefully we manage our imperfections in the life of the church with more grace than other organizations, but we will never be perfect in church.

Given this awareness, what is it about our church that really does not reflect Christ’s spirit or mission? What are the attitudes or expectations that are not based in Christ? What do we do that may be nice, or enjoyable, or interesting, but really does not advance God’s kingdom? These things are built on the sand. We may need to let them go, preventing them from draining our resources as God’s people.

Prayer Thought: What in our church life may be built on sand?



 Mark Tidsworth

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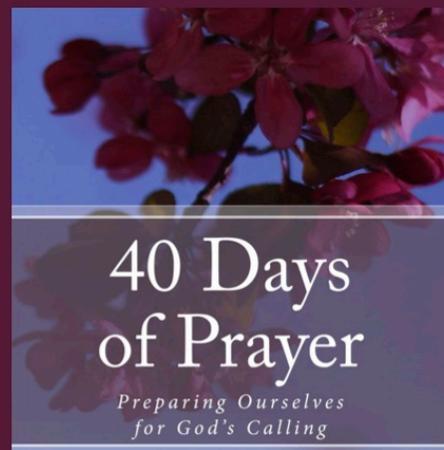
Tuesday, March 26th

Day 18 – Listening More Than Talking

I Kings 19:11–13

How does God speak to you? God speaks in many ways. How are we supposed to hear, understand, or discern God’s voice when we do all the talking? Sometimes God speaks in a still, small voice. The breezes of the Spirit are sometimes soft and subtle, just brushing the face. God may be whispering, or blowing, or otherwise communicating to you today.

Prayer Thought: Consider quieting your soul, and then spending your prayer time today in silent listening. Whenever a thought intrudes, take note of it, and then let it pass on through. Make space for God’s voice.



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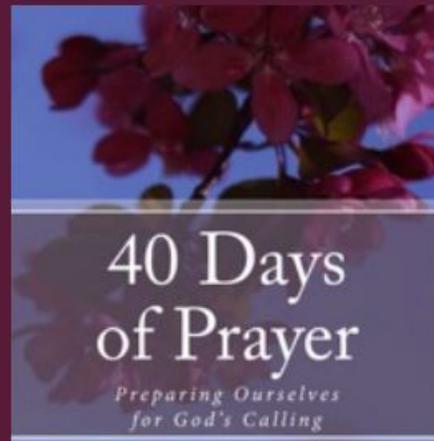
Wednesday, March 27th

Day 19 – Being Sure Whose You Are

1 Corinthians 3: 22-23

God has laid claim to you. God has adopted you into his family. God has put his seal on you (branded you so to speak), and has given you his Spirit. It is unmistakable whose you are. Rest in this awareness. Realize this reality. Know that nothing can take you away from God once God has made you his own.

Prayer Thought: Remember the loneliest time in your life...know now that you will never be alone. God is always with you and has given you the church as his earthly presence. Thank God.



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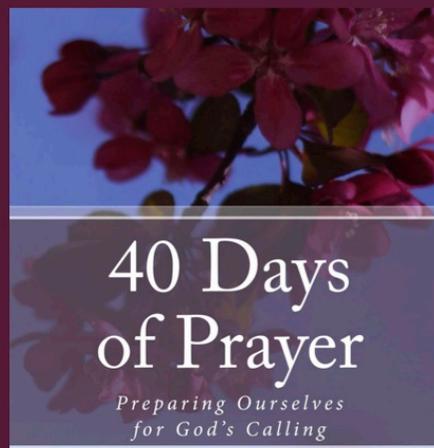
Thursday, March 28th

Day 20 – God Loves You.....Period.

John 3:16

Phillip Yancey reminds us that we cannot do anything to influence God to love us more. And, we cannot do anything to make God love us less. God's love is not based on how good or bad we are. God's love is based on the character of God. So, receive it. Quit trying to earn it or rebelling to prove you don't need it. Stop, and receive God's love deep down in your bones.

Prayer Thought: God, to receive your love at a deeper level, I have to let go. Help me to trust you that much.



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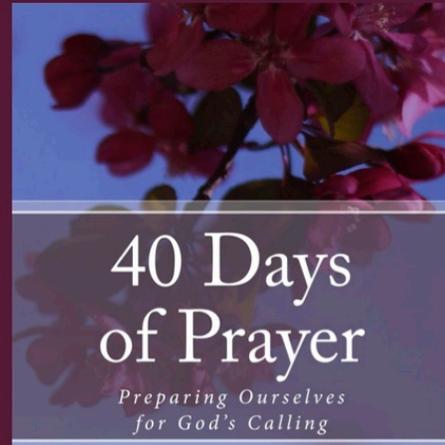
Friday, March 29th

Day 21 – God Has A Calling For You To Fulfill

Ephesians 2:10

“Luke, it is your destiny.” Before Luke Skywalker and Star Wars came along, we Christian disciples have known about destiny...calling, we call it. Yes, God loves and accepts us, just as we are...and then God has something for us to do. You have a calling as an individual. Your congregation has a calling to be the church in its particular place and time. Part of “working out your salvation” is to discover this individual calling and congregational calling.

Prayer Thought: Ask God to give you the eyes to see and the ears to hear his calling for you and for your congregation.



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Saturday, March 30th

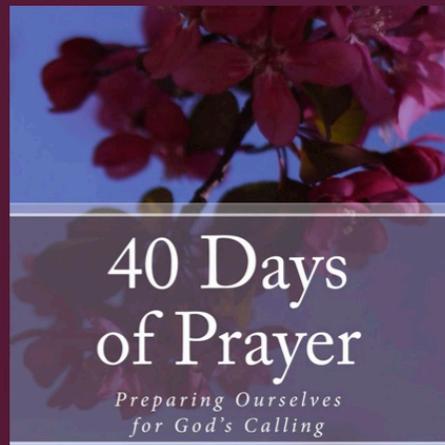
Day 22 – The Organizing Principle

Philippians 3:12-14

Successful corporations, educational institutions, and other organizations are gathered around at least one Organizing Principle. This principle gives direction to activities, decisions and goals. When times get tough or when stress is high, this principle gives guidance and provides stability.

When being formed as disciples who live in the Way of Jesus Christ, the call of God in Christ Jesus becomes our Organizing Principle. We orient our lives around Jesus Christ. Our family, career, finances, and relationships reflect this Organizing Principle. Is this too much to ask of Christian disciples?

Prayer Thought: Is Jesus Christ my Organizing Principle? How much is Jesus Christ the center of my life and my church? Ask God to help you orient your entire life more around Christ.



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