

40 DAYS of PRAYER



**WEEK
TWO**

Theme: Humility and Brokenness

Song for Reflection: “Nothing Else” (Cody Carnes)

Suggested Video: www.bit.ly/RCC40DAYSWK2

Day 8 – Wednesday, July 24

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV)

God promises us that He'll respond to our prayers, and send forgiveness and healing to us...*but all of this is predicated on whether or not we will humble ourselves.* Our state of heart is mission critical to God. And the state of a humble heart will turn away from sin & wickedness, and toward God to seek Him above all. Today, talk to God in prayer. Determine what you should turn away from...and then turn to Him again. Humble yourself as you seek Him. He promises to hear you and to bring healing.

Day 9 – Thursday, July 25

Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? (Isaiah 58:4-5, NIV)

God isn't too impressed when we “act spiritual” for a moment's time, in some outward display of spiritual activity...“Humbling ourselves for a day” doesn't get his attention when we turn right back to an attitude of arrogance, pride and conflict. He's looking for something that lasts for more than an emotional moment.

Where is your heart at in all the moments of the day? Is there some element of quarreling, strife or conflict that you need to own responsibility for, that you need to bring to God and repent of? Talk to Him and humble yourself before God.

Day 10 – Friday, July 26

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a

distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' (Luke 18:9-14, NIV)
If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. (Galatians 6:3, NIV)

God doesn't make much room for people who think they're above others, or try to impress Him by how much more they've done than the rest. What he's looking for is a heart that genuinely understands that it can't stand before the judge of all the earth – and has no response except to humble itself before Him and appeal to His mercy alone.

Which person have you been lately – the humble & broken, or the self-righteous? Talk to God about it, and don't deceive yourself - be honest before Him. Allow Him to challenge & change your heart.

Day 11 – Saturday, July 27

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. (Matthew 12:20, NIV)

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. (Psalm 51:17, NIV)

Brokenness means “having been fractured or damaged and no longer in one piece or in working order.”

Doesn't seem like a path to wholeness – unless we understand it in spiritual terms.

Because brokenness also means “having given up all hope; despairing,” and a spiritually *broken* person is made whole because they've given up hope *in their own* self-righteousness, and they've turned to the God who only makes things whole *through* humility and brokenness. Think about it...God's ultimate demonstration of spiritual strength and wholeness for this world...was when He was *broken* on a cross.

A broken & contrite heart is one that has reached the end of their self, and has turned to God for mercy in light of their sins. That kind of “bruised reed,” or “smoldering wick,” He will NEVER harm!

Go to God and with a genuine broken and contrite spirit, talk with Him about the things in your life. Trust Him to help you.

Day 12 – Sunday, July 28

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:3-11, NIV)

As God continues to shape the mind of Christ in us, we see even more deeply how that looks – Jesus humbled himself in every way. He didn't reach for authority or power, even the kind that was rightly his. Instead, he values others above Himself, and sacrificed Himself for their good. And that ended up being God's path to wholeness, strength, and ultimately His victory.

God wants us to learn about this path and to walk it. Our mindset *should be the same as Christ Jesus*. In what ways is our mindset opposite – thinking of ourselves ahead of others, selfishly seeking our own promotion or recognition, unwilling to sacrifice for the good of others? Talk to God about it in prayer.

Day 13 – Monday, July 29

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, NIV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6, NIV)

Do you ever feel like you have to be “strong” in life? “Tough”? “Ultra-confident”? Does strength translate to “flawless” or “always right” in your mind? Or do you wonder what purpose there could possibly be in the hardships and difficulties that you struggle through? Let these Scriptures sink in as you pray and talk with God, and let him change your perspective on what it means to be strong.

Day 14 – Tuesday, July 30

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2, NIV)

Humility and gentleness are close friends, and when they're around, patience and “bearing with one another in love” should not be far behind. Are you patient with people and with their faults or shortcomings, even as you would hope that they are patient and loving toward you in your shortcomings? These should be the marks of those who walk closely with Christ.

A prayer to seek with God today: That God would reveal to us our impatience, our harshness, or our judgment of others that we need to repent of, that He might replace those things in our hearts with humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

