

Bless Lifestyle

Preamble

- Don't forget to reflect on all the Lord has spoken to you during the 21 days
- Some things he has spoken and others he has done in you
- Talking time to reflect, journal and even share with others will help you greatly not to lose the progress made
- Also you may want to think about how you nurture a deeper spiritual life moving forward
 - If you haven't been fasting before - could you fast one day a week
 - Or if you have been fasting could you do two operate days a week
 - Or if you have enjoyed the benefit of not being on social media, why not make it more permanent or at least your time on it. And perhaps the same for television?

Introduction - God's way is always to bless to be a blessing

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **Genesis 12.2**

- I bless you and you live to bless others
- It's always God's way - we are to overflow his goodness to the world around us

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." **Jeremiah 29.7**

Paul's Heart and Desire

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. **1 corinthians 9.19-23 NIV**

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: **20** religious, nonreligious, **21** meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, **22** the defeated, the demoralised—whichever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. **23** I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it! **1 Corinthians 9.19.23 MSG**

- Paul was free - I am free from the demands and expectations of everyone

- He chose to add value to others - I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all - He wants to bless and value to others
- He didn't compromise his Integrity - I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ - but I entered their world
- One purpose - I serve in order to lead those I meet into a God saved life
- For Christ and his cross - For the sake of the Gospel - I want to share in its blessing

Conclusion - Our Takeaway

- Make Blessing a lifestyle
 - Live to add value to other people
 - Love on them - People are valuable and precious, they are not a project
1. **Begin with Prayer** - I will pray for the people in my life and the places I am in.
 - Make this your default position
 - Pray not only for yourself but for others
 - Have a short list of those you are believing God to save.
 2. **Listen** - I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work
 - Learn to listen -
 - Ask questions about others and not just speak about yourself
 - Silence your own heart to truly listen to other people - Be a friend
 3. **Eat** - I will share meals and spend time with people
 - Sharing food is so powerful
 - It creates a bond - invites somebody into your world
 - It's quite a personal and intimate thing
 4. **Serve** - I will respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways
 - Look for ways to serve others, to add value for their lives
 - Make servanthood your life posture

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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." **Mark 10.42-45**
 5. **Share your story** - I will share the story of Jesus and he is doing in my life with others
 - Speak Jesus when and where appropriate
 - We do need clear sensitive and yet unashamed explanation of the goodness and saving power of Jesus
 - Share your personal story - what Jesus has done for you