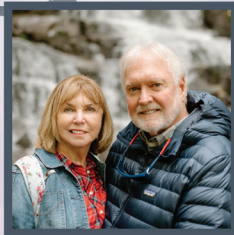


Journey CHURCH

MULTIPLY

YOUR FAITH

31 DAY DEVOTION



PASTOR JAMES GREER

Many times, every year I ask God to give me a word and this year that word was **Multiply**.

One of the reasons I'm so excited about this devotion is most people don't realize we were born to multiply.

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply;" ...

One of God's first blessings and commandments is to multiply.

The second thing that excites me about multiplying is when we learn the truth about it and apply it, it brings joy!

Matthew 25:23 (NKJV) His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

The third thing that really excites me about multiplying is that we can't out give God!

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

What we keep is all we have. What we give, God will multiply.

Pastor James Greer
Ephesians 3:20

DAY 1

Serving Through Hospitality

One of Jesus' main ways of evangelizing, sharing, and multiplying the Good News was through hospitality or fellowship. **Luke 7:34, TEV** "The Son of Man came, and He ate and drank, and you said, 'Look at this man! He is a glutton and wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!'"

Hospitality, a friendly reception and treatment of strangers, is manifested when one offers to identify with outsiders, and make them feel like insiders. We show hospitality when we welcome and fellowship with believers and non-believers out of truth and love for Jesus Christ.

If you care about someone's eternity, show them by serving them in reality. Kingdom Principle: when you bless those who persecute you, it will bring Heaven to earth. Jesus wants you to have an attitude of serving with hospitality.

Matthew 6:10, NKJV "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Today's Challenge: Jesus' goal was to connect the sinner to the Savior. When was the last time you helped connect the sinner to the Savior? What ways can you serve by being hospitable to the lost around you? If you multiply your sharing, it will multiply salvation.



DAY 2

The Light Multiplies Joy by Reducing Darkness

If you want to enjoy the Light, you have to understand who He is. He is Jesus, the Light, and Life.

John 1:1-5, NKJV “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

Jesus is the Light that gives life worth living and drives out the darkness.

Kingdom Principle #1: Whatever comes into your life that is dark, heavy, or sad cannot last when you shine God's light on it.

How can you shine the Light in those dark times? All things have to obey God's Word, including darkness. **Genesis 1:3, NKJV** “Then God said, Let there be light, and there was light.”

Kingdom Principle #2: Learning to speak God's Word in faith to the darkness causes it to have to leave.

Today's Challenge: We multiply joy by shining God's light on what is dark and speaking God's Word to the darkness. What is your mountain right now? What is a dark area in your life that needs Light? Speak God's Word in faith to command these areas to leave now.



DAY 3

How Hopes and Dreams Come True

Hope is the confident expectation of a positive future despite your present circumstances. Biblical hope is absolute confidence in something you haven't seen or received yet, but you're confident that whatever God has said will come to pass.

Romans 5:5, NLT "And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

Every hope and dream you have could be reached if you apply these two things:

#1 Be teachable over a long period of time.

#2 Apply God's Word.

What are you hoping for today? A better marriage? Better finances? Are you hoping for a girlfriend/boyfriend? Are you hoping to get married? Are you hoping for your child to return to the Lord?

Today's Challenge: Hope multiplies your dreams. Your faith and dreams only limit your hope. Pick one of these areas and apply God's Word consistently over a long period of time and watch your hopes and dreams come true.

DAY 4

Abide in Jesus

John 15:5, NKJV “I am the vine, and you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for, without Me, you can do nothing.”

Jesus invites us to abide, and abiding multiplies much fruit. When you fulfill your purpose in life, which is to bring honor and glory to God, you also enjoy life like never before by bearing much fruit.

How to abide in Jesus' love:

- #1** Connection with Jesus. When we abide in Jesus, we have a life-giving connection to Him. If there is no connection, there is no life, fruit, or joy.
- #2** Dependence on Jesus. The branch is dependent on the vine. Without the vine, the branch is useless, lifeless and powerless.
- #3** Continuance with Jesus. To abide is to continue, stay, and remain.

Today's Challenge: Abiding leads to multiplying. How do you abide? If abiding involves ongoing daily dependence on Jesus, what does that look like in your life?

DAY 5

Mary and God's Favor

God's favor helps us learn to enjoy the Journey. Jesus' mother, Mary had God's favor. **Luke 1:28-30, NKJV** "And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!' But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'"

Favor is not always fun. Just because Mary had favor does not mean she did not have pain. She traveled many miles while pregnant on a donkey. Even though she knew her pain had a purpose, the pain was not removed. You can have God's favor, be in pain, and continue to do what God has called you to do. As bad as things may be, nothing is out of God's control. Mary activated her favor and surrender in Luke 1:38b. "Let it be to me according to your Word...."

Today's Challenge: Today, will you activate the favor of God in your life? Will you surrender and be completely dependent on Christ for all your current pain and struggles?

DAY 6

The Promised Life

Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Jesus wants to lead you into the Promised Life, a life filled with abundance.

John 10:10, NKJV “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Make a proclamation. Joshua believed the promise, but he also proclaimed God’s promise. There is a strong connection between God’s promise and what you proclaim. **Numbers 14:8, NKJV** “If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Every proclamation, negative or positive, will greatly determine the outcome. It’s important to make predictions based on God’s promises not problems. Believe in God’s promise and act on God’s promise. Allow God to release hope in your life starting today. God promises an abundant life. He wants to multiply your abundance.

Today’s Challenge: Read and claim a promise daily and then act on it. What habit can you develop daily that will lead to an abundant life?

DAY 7

Allow the Pain to Drive You to Your Purpose

Exodus 16:2-5, NKJV “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain (multiply) bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”

At one point, the Children of Israel went through pain, which drove them to their purpose. At a different point, they allowed the pain to drive them away from the purpose God had for them. They were in pain for years before the time came when they were willing to cry out to God for help. The Children of Israel were ready for change.

Today, some people choose to live in their pain instead of letting the pain drive them to their purpose. It could be emotional or spiritual pain, worry, anxiety, or different kind of pressures that have overtaken you. The purpose is to cry to God for help and ask for forgiveness. Pain drives you to God or away from God. Fear needs to drive you to faith.

Today's Challenge: What are you willing to give up today that is causing you pain and suffering?



DAY 8

Love Your Mate, Teach Your Children

The best thing you can do for your children is to love your mate. Unless you allow the Lord to build your marriage, it will end up empty. Children should be learning from home the truth about love. **Psalms 127:1, NKJV** “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

Speak correctly to one another. Words can minister to emotions and health. They can build up or tear down. The right words multiply life and health to those you speak to. **Proverbs 18:21, NKJV** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Answer correctly. If you apply God’s Word and do what it says, you will get the right results. **Proverbs 15:1, NKJV** “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Show love by listening. Don’t take offense, be quick to forgive. Your mate, and children want you to listen. Other areas to apply in loving your mate and teaching your children are focusing on the good qualities of your mate and children, admit when you’re wrong and apologize, and be united in your discipline.

Today’s Challenge: Are you loving your mate and putting them before the kids, job, and hobbies? Have you been speaking correctly, answering correctly, and taking the time to listen? What areas can you work on today to build a pleasing home to the Lord?



DAY 9

Godly Structure for Parents and Children

Children: Obey your parents. Many youth and children today believe the lies of the devil. The devil tempts you to think you are wiser than God and that your way is better. **Ephesians 6:1-3, NKJV** “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with a promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’”

Fathers: You are an essential part of raising your children. The goal of correction and discipline is to preserve the relationship. **James 1:20, NKJV** “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Mothers: Let your husband be involved in the correcting and raising of your children. You are not meant to be the only one responsible.

For everyone, remember that honor works in 3 ways:

#1 Honor those over you.

#2 Honor those under you.

#3 Honor those next to you.

Today’s Challenge: When we learn to honor those over us, under us, and next to us, God then multiplies His blessing towards us. Young people, are you obeying and honoring your parents? Fathers, are you correcting in love or anger? Mothers, are you allowing your husband to help, and are you following him as the head of the home? What area do you need to pray about improving today?



How a Family Can Live in Today's Environment

We are now living in times populated by people who are selfish and who are blasphemers. Selfishness destroys relationships and robs our joy, while blasphemy is verbal abuse and slander towards God. **2 Timothy 3:2, TLB** "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good..."

Five descriptive terms that highlight the damage families may face:

- #1** Disobedient to parents; children willfully doing what they want to do.
- #2** Unthankfulness; a lack of gratitude.
- #3** Unholy; lacks respect in the home, school, and even in church.
- #4** Unloving; homes will become harsh and hard places to live.
- #5** Unforgiving; rebellious, stubborn, and hard-hearted.

Christians can walk in the light. Rather than walking in the things listed above, walk in the light.

- #1** Be generous and unselfish.
- #2** Be humble and care more for others than yourself.
- #3** Teach your children from a young age to respect parents and all adults.
- #4** Live thankful lives.
- #5** Show your love and be the first one to forgive.

Today's Challenge: When we walk in the light, we multiply

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Know that You're Truly Saved

The same people who shouted to Jesus, “Hosanna!” shouted “Crucify Him!” a few days later. They knew who Jesus was, but they did not know Him.

Matthew 7:22-23, NKJV “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

If you say you believe... but do not live out your faith, it does not mean you are saved. It means you believe there is a God. Even the devil believes there is a God.

James 2:20, NKJV “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

James 2:22, NKJV “Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works, faith was made perfect?”

Your works help prove that you are saved. Judas saw Jesus do miracles; he traveled and ate with Jesus. Judas was once with Jesus but eventually left Him. If you are saved, you will come back to Him and serve Him. You want to not only say, “I believe God’s Word,” but you also obey and act upon God’s Word.

Today’s Challenge: Are you learning, believing, and acting on God’s Word today? Are you saved? If not, ask God to be the Lord and Savior of your life today!



DAY 12

3 Secrets to Being an Angry Christian

#1 Know what religious anger is. **Matthew 21:12-16, NKJV**

“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.”

Jesus had righteous anger. Jesus was right to stand up for what upset God. Jesus was not a wimp, but a warrior. He was man enough to turn over the money changers' tables and drive them out. He was also humble enough to wash the disciple's feet. Jesus was Tough and Tender.

#2 Know how to respond to it. Most of the time, your responses will not be like Jesus'. Righteous anger may occur when a president invades another country killing innocent men, women and children. That should make Christians very angry with righteous anger. We can respond by giving financially and praying spiritually.

#3 Know when to let it go. God's House is a place of help and healing. When we have God's presence + God's promise + God's people = we have God's power. **Matthew 18:19-20, NKJV**
“Again, I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Let these three secrets to being an angry Christian be multiplied in your life.

Today's Challenge: Pray and ask God for wisdom and courage to stand up for what upsets Him. Where do you need help or healing in your life? Pray with another brother or sister in Christ and ask God to work in that area.



DAY 13

The Cost is Worth It

Matthew 26:6-8, NKJV “Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, ‘Why this waste?’”

Jesus loved what was called unlovable. Jesus chose to rest and dine at the house of Simon the leper. Lepers were considered unclean in that day. It may be that Simon was one whom Jesus healed that day. No matter your condition or past, one touch from Jesus can heal you.

Doing what is right will, many times, make others angry.

When was the last time you had trouble because you tried to do what was right? Has anyone ever stopped you from coming to church or made fun of you and your Lord?

Service is an act of love. Jesus served and showed His love. His death on the cross was the greatest act of servant-hood. The woman pouring the costly oil was another great act of love. Volunteering at church communicates that you love God.

It is important to have your priorities right. Jesus is to come first in our lives. Make sure you don't spend more money than you earn. **Matthew 26:11, NKJV** “For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.”

Today's Challenge: Do you have your life in order? Do you have your priorities in order? Are you allowing Jesus to use you?



How to Pray the Most Powerful Prayer

It's easy to celebrate and enjoy answered prayers, but it can be difficult and sometimes hurtful when you feel God does not answer your prayers. Jesus went through the most significant need ever faced at the Garden of Gethsemane, and He teaches how to pray when you are in the greatest need in your life.

#1 Ask God to remove the problem, hurt, and pain. There is nothing too hard for God, and there is nothing wrong with asking Him to remove the problem. **Mark 14:36, NKJV**, "And He said, 'Abba Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me.'"

#2 Believe God is your Father. Your Father can remove whatever you are going through. Jesus raised the dead, made the blind see, and even fed 5000 with a small amount of bread and fish. Believe that all things are possible. **Luke 1:37, NKJV**, "For with God nothing will be impossible."

#3 It's not always God's will to remove the problem. Just like He did not remove the problem for Jesus, He will often not remove it for you. Though you may not understand until you get to Heaven, believe that God is good and He wants what is best. **Mark 14:36b, NKJV**, "...nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

#4 Recognize that even those who love you will not completely understand what you are going through. It will sometimes be just you and God who will have to go through it.

Today's Challenge: James 4:2b says, "...You do not have because you do not ask." What have you not asked for that you need to ask today? Do you believe and understand that God can do the impossible?



Are You Part of the Cancel Culture?

Cancel culture is the modern social attitude that controversial speech or behavior must be punished through public shaming, silencing, boycotting, etc. The result is that the offender's influence, presence, and reputation is "canceled out."

Whom do you say Jesus is? Is He a good teacher? A nice person? A good example? Or is He the total, end-all, be-all in your life? Is He the risen Savior who has set you free from sin? Is He the King of your heart and the reigning ruler of your life?

Romans 10:9-10, NIV, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With your heart, you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

In Matthew 27:12-14, Pilate marveled at the calmness and quietness of Jesus in the midst of the storm. Only God can multiply our calmness during the storms. Jesus had self-control. He knew His Father was really in control, and He knew God was using Pilate to bring about His plan. Sometimes the best thing to do is do and say nothing. **Romans 12:19, NKJV**, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

We are a type of Barabbas. We have all sinned, and the only One who could ever save us is Jesus Christ. Watch out for jealousy. The Chief priests and elders were jealous of Jesus' popularity. Jealousy is when you have all you ought to have, but you still want what someone else has. Jealousy is birthed out of our lack of trust and faith in God. Doing nothing doesn't free you from God's judgment. Doing nothing does not eliminate your sin or free you from your God-called responsibility.

Today's Challenge: Cancel Culture is happening today in

politics, people, and power of which God does not want us to be part. What are some things you can do for Jesus to change the cancel culture movement?

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Unhealthy Security Leads to Unhealthy Decisions

Matthew 27:66, NKJV “So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” The chief priests and Pharisees were trying to find their security in people, places, and things. The real reason they wanted to crucify Jesus was because of His popularity, which made them insecure and jealous. When you are trying to find your security in anything but Christ, you will always be insecure.

Insecure people: Worry and get upset about what others say about them. Biblical security: Knowing who you are and whose you are. **2 Peter 1:3-4, NIV** “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

Find your security in who you are in Christ. Find your security in God's great and precious promises. True security and worth do not come from what you have, how you dress, where you live, what your I.Q. is, but in who you are in Christ. You no longer have to get your worth and security from others! You are accepted, forgiven, significant, fearfully and wonderfully made. Multiply your security in Christ.

Today's Challenge: Are you getting your worth and security from Christ? Or circumstances and people? When your circumstances change, your security and worth will change.



Doing God's Will Can Bring Joy and Fear

Matthew 28:7-10, TLB “And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there. That is my message to them.’ The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened but filled with joy, and rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel’s message.” If you don’t override the fear, you will never be filled with joy. This joy has nothing to do with where you work or go to school. It’s learning Who you are doing it for.

Learn to love what you do and serve others while you’re doing it. **1 Corinthians 10:31, NKJV** “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

When you do what Jesus asks you to do, you have nothing anything to fear. The fears you overcome to do what God has called you to do is what will bring joy on a day-to-day basis. Multiply your joy by learning to love what you do while serving others! Jesus is always in front and has already worked things out for your good.

Today’s Challenge: Ask God what He would have you do to begin to experience the joy He has for you.



Women's Needs

Women need openness and honesty. Being honest and open with your wife gives them a sense of security. This builds trust and trust builds intimacy. Your first trust must be in the Lord. The right trust gives you the right direction. It helps with physical health, strength, stamina, and finances.

Love is given, but lasting intimate trust is built over time through the right behavior and actions. The greatest thing you and your mate could ever do is trust in the Lord and then in each other.

Proverbs 3:5-10, NKJV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Women need intimate conversation. This is real conversation that focuses on personal interests, problems, events, and other specific things you would only tell your mate. Everyone needs a mate they can talk to about personal information just between each other. Multiply trust with the right actions over time. Conversation becomes a great part of meeting each other's emotional needs.

Today's Challenge: Men, if you are married, start an intimate conversation with your wife by reading to her Song of Songs 4:1-5, 7.



God Turns Sorrow into Joy

Psalms 31:9-10, TEV “Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in trouble; my eyes are tired from so much crying; I am completely worn out. I am exhausted by sorrow, and weeping has shortened my life. I am weak from all my troubles; even my bones are wasting away.”

Emotional pain and suffering can turn into physical pain. When you are having great times of emotional pain and suffering, be careful not to allow it to turn into physical pain and suffering. Remember that God knows and what He knows, He restores!

1 Peter 5:10, ESV “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

During suffering, God wants to use that time to equip you to do his will with a new power you have never understood before. God might not remove the hurt immediately. Most of the time, God does not remove the hurt. Most of the time, God doesn't remove the hurt, but He always brings comfort! Don't focus on the hurt being removed, focus on the comfort offered by God. **2 Corinthians 1:3, NKJV** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.”

No matter what you're going through, God's Word to you is cheer up! Allow God to handle your problems and He will turn your sorrow into joy. Allow God to multiply your joy! **Psalms 30:5b, NKJV**, “Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”

Today's Challenge: Read Psalms 31:19 out loud and declare God's promises and blessings over you today.



The Key to a Great Marriage

Women are very delicate, like a fine piece of China. You must be gentle and take good care of her; otherwise, you may break her apart. You must see to her needs emotionally as well as physically. Men are simple. They only have two significant needs in marriage, sex and respect. Wives must learn to fulfill their God-given duties to their husbands sexually and respect their husbands in private and public.

Husbands and wives are not to withhold sexual intimacy from their spouses. This is scriptural. **1 Corinthians 7:3, NLT2** “The husband should fulfill his wife’s sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband’s sexual needs.”

The key to a great marriage is for the husband to love his wife like he loves himself and put her before himself. The wife’s duty is to respect her husband and make him feel like a hero. You can have a great marriage by multiplying love and respect for your mate. **Ephesians 5:33, NKJV** “Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Marriage is an example of our relationship with Christ and a glimpse of how great intimacy and love will be in heaven with Him. **Ephesians 5:31-33, NKJV** “For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Today’s Challenge: What is one specific way to communicate love or respect to your spouse?



Affair-Proof Your Marriage Physically and Spiritually

If you are married or single, and a Christian, you are called the BRIDE of Christ, and He is coming for you. Jesus does not like His bride having affairs. **2 Corinthians 11:2, NCV** “I am jealous over you with a jealousy that comes from God. I promised to give you to Christ as your only husband. I want to give you as his pure bride.”

God considers what you put before your relationship with Christ as you are having an affair.. As a Christian, an idol is looking to anything or anybody other than Jesus to meet your every physical, emotional, and spiritual need. We must flee sexual immorality. Flee anything or anybody that may cause you to commit immorality against your mate and Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:17-20, NKJV “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

Magnify the consequences. Remind yourself of the destruction that sexual sins will cause you, your family, and your relationship with Christ.

Maintain your marriage—plan how to respond when you are upset with your mate. The best way to do this is to prepare before the storm.

Manage your mind. Control what you think about, control what you look at, and control what you listen to. **Proverbs 23:7, NKJV** “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he....”

Multiply thinking about good things that will bring good results.

Today’s Challenge: What are some ways you can maintain your emotional relationship with your mate and God?



How to Fight with God and Win

Genesis 32:24-26, NKJV “Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And he said, ‘Let me go, for the day breaks.’ But he said, ‘I will not let you go unless You bless me!’”

Very few significant changes come about without significant pain. Don’t give up. Enduring the right pain brings the right change that leads to lasting blessing.

Jacob had prevailed and was blessed by God. **Genesis 32:28, NKJV** “And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’”

Some of your battles must be fought alone. During those times, learn to depend on God, fight with God, and trust in God. Push past your pain to God’s plan.

Psalms 118:8-9, TLB “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men. It is better to take refuge in him than in the mightiest king!”

Multiply your trust in the Lord! Let your past pain remind you of God’s planned future. Pain can have a purpose. Pain, with a purpose, is always worth the pain. Pain can be wasted. Pain wasted always worsens the pain. Choose to allow the pain to have a purpose, or it will worsen. Many times our greatest ministry comes from our greatest pain.

Today’s Challenge: What change might you make to bring about God’s purpose for your life? What past pain have you gone through that God might want you to use to help others?



Allow the Lord to Fight Your Battles

Ephesians 6:13, NKJV “Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Don't wait until you are in the midst of the battle to prepare for the battle. Don't fight personally. Relax and stop trying to fight every battle. It takes a lot of emotional energy. God often does not fight for you when you fight first or fight back. God wants you to wait until He tells you to fight.

Learn to position yourself. Exodus 14:13, NKJV, “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Don't be afraid or discouraged if you have waited and positioned yourself correctly. God is with you and has never lost a battle. One of the main reasons we as Christians don't experience more of God's power and presence is that we don't wait on Him.

Psalms 46:10-11, NKJV “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.”

David allowed God to use him. God prepared David when no one was watching. Most of our training by God comes when no one is watching. What we do in private greatly determines our victories in public. David knew it was not the earthly king who would have victory, but the King of kings.

1 Samuel 17:32, 34-36, NCV “David said to Saul, ‘Don't let anyone be discouraged. I, your servant, will go and fight this Philistine!... I, your servant, have been keeping my father's sheep. When a lion or bear came and took a sheep from the flock, I would chase it. I, your servant, have killed both a lion and a bear!’”

Multiply encouraging others.

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The Truth About Being Transparent

Transparency is the state or property of a body that suffers rays of light to pass through it, so that object can be distinctly seen through it. **Philippians 1:10, TLB** “For I want you always to see clearly the difference between right and wrong, and to be inwardly clean, no one being able to criticize you from now until our Lord returns.”

When clay is broken or cracked, what’s on the inside comes out. Attempting to relate to someone is a good reason for transparency. Sharing what you think about others should be kept quiet and is an unhealthy reason for transparency. Know when to be transparent. Jesus teaches us that it’s okay to hurt and weep when we lose a loved one or when a loved one hurts us. It’s okay to be transparent with God.

Psalms 22:1-2, NKJV “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime but you do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent.”

Confess with the right person at the right time. You don’t want to be transparent and confess your sins to the wrong person at the wrong time. Some people think your confession is to make them feel and look better, not to help and heal you. Use this transparency with wisdom.

Today’s Challenge: Is there something you need to be transparent with God about? Tell Him what is on your heart and mind. What’s on your mind is what’s on God’s heart.



Giving and Receiving Feedback

Feedback is to help each other grow. Correction is to change wrong behavior. Feedback is ongoing; correction should not be.

Questions to ask when giving and receiving feedback: Am I doing this out of love? Do I have peace about it? Do I want the best for the other person? Am I doing what's best for the overall organization or church?

Philippians 2:3, NKJV "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Why someone will not receive or give feedback. Pride is thinking you and your opinions are more important than others. It's reserving for yourself the right to make final decisions, that you achieved what God and others have done for you. If you don't give feedback, you may think the other person will not receive it, you don't think your opinion is valuable enough, or you fear confrontation.

Definition of EQ: Emotional intelligence (otherwise known as emotional quotient or EQ) is the ability to understand, use, and manage your own emotions in positive way.

4 emotional skills to improve EQ.

- #1** Self-Awareness – leaning into discomfort – learn what you can improve.
- #2** Self-Management – using awareness of your emotions to choose what you say and do to positively direct your behavior.
- #3** Social Awareness – knowing what the other

#4 Relationship Management – use the first 3 skills together – adjust behavior to impact other people to develop relationships.

Today's Challenge: Which of these emotional skills is the one you need to work on the most? Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, or Relationship Management?

[illegible]

Why You Feel Inadequate

There is a big difference between feeling inadequate and feeling inferior. To feel inadequate means to feel lack of necessary qualities. To feel inferior is a lower state of dignity, value or worth.

Reasons many feel inferior: Consistent disapproval: some people received negative messages throughout childhood. Being controlled: A person can develop feelings of inferiority if they have been controlled by someone consistently for a long period of time. A good example is Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:4-9, NKJV “Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.’ Then said I: ‘Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.’ But the Lord said to me: ‘Do not say “I am a youth,” For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.’”

When God tells you to do something, don't tell Him you can't do it. The main key to overcoming inferiority is knowing God is with you and for you and will deliver you. Jeremiah's feelings of inadequacy and inferiority drove him to the Lord. If God call us to it, He will empower us to do it.

Our past can make us feel inferior and inadequate. Our past failure sometimes holds us back. God is kind and loving. He is eager to pardon us. He will then give us all we need for our present situation. The way we feel about ourselves can make us feel inferior or inadequate. (Exodus 3:11-12, NKJV) Our intellectual abilities can make us feel inferior or inadequate. (Exodus 4:10-15, NKJV, TLB)

Today's Challenge: The cure for inferiority is knowing who you are in Christ. Visit www.jameswgreer.com and read out loud the Who I Am in Christ resource.



Addressing Internal Conflict

Song of Songs 2:15, NKJV "... the little foxes that spoil the vines..."

The longer you avoid the problem, the bigger the problem gets. Pain is part of the progress. Often, the pain you're willing to endure is the difference between where you are and where God wants you to be.

Remember the reason to confront the conflict. Confrontation that brings the right pain will produce gain for both parties and is for the church's good. Remember that if you don't handle the conflict confrontation the right way, it will bring offense.

Offenses come because of unfulfilled or wrong expectations. Offenses cause you to have a clouded view of those you feel have offended you. It's easy to be deceived when you have been offended. When it's you it's circumstantial; when it's them, it's character. Offenses not dealt with lead to bitterness. The cure for offense is to learn to be quick to repent/forgive. If you think you did the offending, be quick to ask the person to forgive you. If that person asks you to forgive them, be quick to forgive. If they don't ask, be quick to forgive them.

Luke 23:34, NKJV "Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And they divided His garments and cast lots."

Personal internal conflict. This is an internal conflict that you have not handled personally. When a person has not handled their internal personal conflicts, they often cause conflicts with others they don't even understand. When the enemy can't seem to win with external force, he will result to internal conflict. Rejection is one of the greatest struggles of personal internal conflict.

Ephesians 6:11-12, NKJV “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Today's Challenge: Do you have a personal internal conflict you have not handled? Do you have a conflict with another person that you have not yet dealt with? Ask God to reveal the next step to handle the confrontation the right way.

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How to Make Great Decisions

How to make great decisions in every invitation, every opportunity, every relationship, and every major purpose will multiply your accomplishments in life according to God's will.

It costs you giving your time and energy. The best investment made in people is growing leaders. Leadership is influence, and greater your influence for Jesus, the greater you will have for the church. God does not want us to be unwise and wants us to understand His will. **Ephesians 5:17, NKJV** "Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Wisdom is knowing the mind of God in a matter, while understanding is knowing how to apply it to day-to-day situations. Wisdom is birthed out of life experiences and learning from them. You might have all the money and fame in the world, but without wisdom and understanding, you can't enjoy it. You might be married, but you sure can't enjoy that marriage without understanding and wisdom. The right question is, "Is this the right thing to do?" **Proverbs 4:7, NKJV** "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

Before you make a major decision, decide if you are willing to work for that decision.

Today's Challenge: Do you have a major decision pressing you? First, pray and ask God what His will is on the matter. Second, ask, "Is this the wise thing to do?". Third, seek counsel from those who have been in the same position.



Serving it Up

There is a great reward in serving the Lord. **1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

To serve is an act of love. Jesus came to serve. When Jesus healed the sick, made the blind to see, and fed 5,000 people, He served and showed His love. His death on the cross was the greatest act of servanthood. When you attend Sunday morning service, you communicate your love for God to the church, Him, and yourself. You can only give out of what you get. Make sure you are taking time for God.

#1 I will prosper.

#2 I will be a success.

#3 I will be strong.

#4 I will be courageous.

#5 I won't be afraid.

#6 I won't get discouraged.

#7 The Lord is with me wherever I go.

Joy is a by-product of service. Those who serve should be the happiest people in the church. If you are not serving with joy, there is something wrong spiritually.

Psalms 100:2, NKJV “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.”

2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Today's Challenge: Which of the seven listed above do you need to claim over your life right now? Write them down and say them aloud.



The Greatest Need in Your Life

Mark 12:30-31, NKJV "...And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The greatest need for everyone is relationships. You need relationship with God, your mate, your kids, and with friends/staff. When we get these out of order, we have disorder.

Relationship are more important than riches, rules, school, reputation, recreation, ambitions, politics, and even ministry. When your relationship with God is right, it helps you get through all other relationships, providing the fruit of the spirit, which will get you through the rest of your life.

Relationships are built on trust, respect, security, love, communication, honesty, loyalty, and respect. The #1 thing a man needs from his mate is respect. The #1 thing a woman needs from her mate is love and security.

Ephesians 5:33, NKJV "Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

You can have your greatest need met. Get your love and security from God and then your mate. Give your mate love, respect, and security.

The most important thing in life:

Matthew 6:33, NKJV "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Many people think you find the most important thing in life

by hanging on to it, but the truth is we find and keep the most important things in life by giving them away. You can't out give God. You can't out give your mate.

Luke 6:38, NKJV “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Today's Challenge: If you are not plugged into a small group, do so today! You can't do life alone! To find a small group visit www.MyJourneyGroup.com

[illegible]

Do It Again Lord

Joshua 13:1, NKJV “Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: ‘You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.’”

Dry up whatever is stopping you from going forward. You are only old when God tells you that you're old.

Stages of life: NOT enough – the children of Israel are a good example. JUST enough – the children of Israel wandered in the desert and wilderness for 40 years, why? MORE THAN enough – What you need and then some.

The age you are now; ages 0-30, you need to learn all you can. For ages 30-40; you need to plan all you can. Ages 50-60, you need to work the plan all you can. Ages 60+, you need to give all you can.

The Lord can remove your problem. The water of the Jordan is a type of impossible problem you or the church might be facing. God uses people like the children of Israel and Joshua, but we must be willing to do what God would have us do. God blessed the children of Israel cooperatively and then gave them land individually. The important thing about stages is to learn what stage you are in and how to live and enjoy each stage.

Proverbs 29:18, NKJV “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.”

Often, life is not so much about the age as it is the stage. 3 stages:

#1 Movement of God.

#2 Museum of God.

#3 Mausoleum of God.

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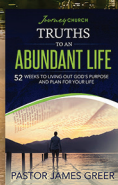


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