



21 days
Devotional



DIVERGENT

www.divergentchurch.com/21days

WELCOME TO 21 DAYS OF DEVOTION

We are joining with our Divergent Global family for **21 days of focused prayer and fasting covering every minute and day with intentional and consecrated faith-filled prayer.**

Over the 21 days, we will focus on preparing our hearts, minds and lives to be part of everything God is doing. We will be focused on preparing for everything God has for us and through us, we will be preparing to see breakthrough from our neighbours to the nations.

We encourage all individuals, families and lifecoms to participate over this 21 day period.

There is a prayer journey in terms of focus we will be taking as listed below.

How to get involved?

You can sign up to register the day or days you will fast through
www.divergentchurch.com/21days

Resource yourself to better understand prayer and fasting.

There are a lot of Christian myths around Fasting including the 'Daniel Fast' and 'Fasting' things other than food / drink. What is fasting? What do the scriptures teach?

Check out some of the blog posts such as "Consecration, prayer and Fasting" at
www.divergentchurch.com/21days

21 DAYS OF DEVOTION

Join us as well in our "21 days of devotion" written by the leadership team across the life of Divergent Church.

Read, watch, ponder, consider, meditate.

ADDITIONALLY, you can also join in the journey via

Divergent social media accounts or the whatsapp link on www.divergentchurch.com/21days

Day 1 — The Builder and His Church

Writer: Josh

Scripture:

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18

Theme: Jesus builds; we obey.

Prayer Focus: Surrender control and trust Christ to build His Church.

Reflection: Josh Reading // Divergent Global

It may come as a surprise to many but Ange and I were not at the first Sunday of Divergent Church. We had moved to Canberra to plant what was to become LifeCity Church / Divergent.

At the time we had scheduled in a date for our very first Sunday. All the planning, preparation had been put in and it was on that day that our second son Isaiah was born. As we were driving to Cooma, where we had come from for Isaiah to be born, other friends from Cooma were travelling to Canberra to cover us being missing.

As we sat a number of hours later reflecting on this moment, this day, the birth of Isaiah and the first Sunday of Church, that we missed, we felt a deep sense of prophetic reminder, we are to obey (Matt 28:18-20) but it is his to build the Church (Matt 16:18)

This word, both prophetic in the moment and biblical in it's reminder has become a constant source of comfort and hope. Jesus alone builds what lasts. When we grasp that His Church is His bride, not our project, the pressure lifts and awe returns. Every act of obedience, every seed planted, participates in His eternal work.

Let this 21 days of fasting, prayer and devotion re-centre your heart on the One who builds, and include yourself in the "we" He is forming.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the builder of Your Church. Forgive us for the times we try to do Your work in our strength. Today, we yield our plans and ambitions to You. Build Your Church in us, through us, and beyond us. Amen.

Personal Reflection

Where in my faith or call am I tempted to take control, rather than trusting Jesus as the true builder of His Church?

What would it look like for me to practise simple obedience this season, without needing to see immediate results or outcomes?

How does viewing the Church as Christ's bride, not my project, not a program or 'service' reshape my expectations, pressures, or sense of success?

Day 2 — Do Not Conform

Writer: Phil Thomson

Scripture:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Theme: Kingdom transformation begins in the mind.

Prayer Focus: Resisting quiet conformity and embracing Spirit-led renewal.

Reflection: Phil Thomson // Divergent Church Port Macquarie

We live in a world that constantly applies pressure—sometimes subtle, sometimes overt—to conform.

Conform to urgency.

Conform to comparison.

Conform to fear dressed up as wisdom.

But Scripture is clear: transformation does not begin with external change or increased effort. It begins with renewal—a re-patterning of how we think, perceive, and respond.

Paul does not say, “Do not engage with the world,” but “Do not conform to its pattern.” The danger is not presence; it is imitation. When our minds are shaped by the world’s assumptions, even good intentions can slowly drift from God’s ways.

Renewal of the mind is not achieved by pressure or striving. It comes through obedience—choosing God’s way again and again, even when it feels slower, quieter, or less impressive. Over time, obedience forms a different internal landscape. We begin to see differently. We begin to respond differently.

This is how the Kingdom advances: not by shouting louder, but by living from a mind no longer moulded by the age.

Prayer:

Father, Renew my mind by Your Spirit.

Break patterns of fear, pride, and comparison that do not come from You.

Teach me to recognise the quiet pressure to conform, and give me grace to resist it.

Help our community live from a transformed perspective—
seeing as You see and responding as You would.

I offer myself afresh to You today.

Amen.

Personal Reflection

1. Where in my daily life am I most tempted to conform without realising it—through busyness, comparison, or fear?
2. What patterns of thinking might God be inviting me to surrender so that my mind can be renewed by His truth?
3. How could simple, faithful obedience today reshape the way I see situations, people, or myself over time?

Day 3 — Beautiful Surrender

Writer: Noah // Divergent Church Canberra

Scripture:

“She has done a beautiful thing to me.” Matthew 26:10 (NIV)

Theme: True worship flows from grace, not approval.

Prayer Focus: Offering Jesus worship that is free, costly, and wholehearted.

Reflection

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is anointed by a woman who breaks open a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. What appears excessive to others is named by Jesus as beautiful. In this moment, we are given a profound picture of worship shaped by surrender.

First, this woman's worship flows from an understanding of grace. Augustine once wrote in *Confessions*, “My weight is my love. Wherever I am carried, my love is carrying me.” We are always moved by what we love most. To the degree we understand the gospel, and to the degree we grasp Christ's love, sacrifice, and passion for us, is the degree we will respond in worship and adoration. This invites a searching question: am I living out of grace, or have I slipped into a performance mindset in my faith?

Second, her worship is offered without concern for approval or disapproval. Reflecting on this passage, Charles Spurgeon wrote, “Her first and last thoughts were for the Lord Jesus Himself. Seek to do something for Jesus, which will be above all, a secret sacrifice of pure love to Jesus. Do special and secretive work towards your Lord. Between you and your Lord let there be secret tokens of love.” Worship, at its truest, is not shaped by the opinions of others but by devotion to Christ alone.

Third, her worship is costly. King David once declared, “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24, NIV). Yet even the greatest cost we offer pales in comparison to the cross and God's extravagant love already poured out for us. C. S. Lewis captures this well: “If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.” Passionate worship, even when costly, becomes a natural response when we truly see what God has done on our behalf.

Some of the most beautiful expressions of worship I have witnessed have come through radical generosity, particularly in South Asian contexts where believers give despite great personal lack. Likewise, those who love Jesus faithfully even when there is risk or cost to themselves reveal a depth of worship that is precious to God. Often, the most valuable worship carries a price.

Today, consider how your worship might be shaped by grace, freed from the need for approval, and marked by willing surrender, even when it costs.

Prayer:

Jesus, You gave Yourself fully for us before we ever thought of giving anything to You. Free our hearts from the need for approval or reward, and from the fear of others' disapproval.

Teach us to worship not to be seen, but because You are worthy.

Father, rekindle our first love for Jesus, and stir passion and zeal in us through Your Spirit. May our surrendered lives point others to Your beauty.

Amen.

Personal Reflection

1. In what ways might my worship be shaped by habit or performance rather than a fresh awareness of God's grace?
2. Where do I feel pressure to restrain my devotion to Jesus because of others' opinions or expectations?
3. Is there an area of my life where God may be inviting me to offer worship that is more costly, trusting that He is worthy of it all?

Day 4 — God-Breathed Word

Writer: Ange // Divergent Church Global

Scripture:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 1 Tim 3:16 – 17

Theme: The Word of God forms us and sends us.

Prayer Focus: Open our hearts to be shaped by God's Word and led by His Spirit.

Reflection:

At the beginning, all it took was a word and the world was formed. Light separated from darkness. Space, between the waters, heavens and earth. With his voice, seeds sprouted, plants took root, fish filled the seas and every living creature came into being.

The very breath of God breathed into man and gave him life.

It is this breath that continues to speak, shape and move us as we follow the path of righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 says

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

If we allow it, scripture transforms us and prepares us for every task the Lord requires of us. It is the very breath we need, moulding and shaping our being into his likeness and propelling us into a lost and muddled world where we become the bringers of peace and truth. As it forms us we shape our world.

The echo of scripture resounds through our hands and feet as we lovingly serve others, faithfully teach and train disciples and graciously rebuke deception.

His word is the reminder to our world of a forgotten hope.

As we read and share his word today may the Holy Spirit breath on us, not just for our sake but so that we may be co-creators, building others into the kingdom and shaping lives into the image of our heavenly Father.

Prayer:

Lord God, thank You for Your living and God-breathed Word. Let it shape our hearts, renew our minds, and guide our steps today. Breathe Your Spirit on us again, that we may carry Your truth and hope into the world around us. Amen

Personal Reflection:

1. Where have I allowed, or resisted God's Word shaping my thinking, character, or actions?
2. How can I create intentional space in this season to let Scripture breathe life into me daily?
3. In what ways is God inviting me to carry His Word into a world that needs hope, peace, and truth?

Day 5 — The Foolishness of the Cross

Writer: Cathy // Divergent Church Queanbeyan

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18; Philippians 3:10; Romans 1:16

Prayer Focus: A life that reflects the cross

Reflection:

I'm feeling like a bit of a fool, asking the headmaster if I can start a scripture program in his high school. Our region is full of the affluent and educated who scoff at old ladies teaching outdated ideas. I feel their scorn: "We don't need religion, just better education." What was I thinking??

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing..."

The cross is not pretty. It's an instrument of torture and humiliation and death. Why would the Creator of the stars allow himself to be degraded by it? It makes no sense.

The cross is foolishness...

But when we are honest, there is no other way. Even on our best days, we break our own rules, let alone God's. Who can say they have never had an unkind thought, or a selfish motivation? To accept the cross, I must pour contempt on all my pride.

Only then can I see the cross as good news. Though I fail to make the grade, Jesus took the test for me, handing me his exam paper in place of my own dismal effort. Every day I get to rest in the righteousness that is by faith in Christ. And the more I rest in it, the more it changes me.

"... to us being saved, the cross is the power of God."

So, "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection ..."

Yes, Lord send power!

"... and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ..."

To live out the cross is to live sacrificially. Preferring others. Being obedient to God whatever the cost. Allowing the wounds of this life to be taken up and wrapped in his wounds if it will serve his glory. Knowing that every act of self-giving love makes the gospel visible and powerful.

We are a cross-shaped people. We are defined by the truth that God came and died for us because he thinks we are worth it. And the cross fashions our lives and mission.

Prayer:

Thankyou Jesus for the cross, where love triumphed over sin. Empower us to take that message to every street and nation. And strengthen us to live truly defined and formed by the cross. Help us embrace the way of joyful sacrifice. May we live unashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

Personal Reflection:

1. Where do I feel tempted to shrink back or feel foolish for living out or sharing my faith in Christ?
2. In what ways is God inviting me to lay down pride and more fully rest in the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus?
3. What might it look like for me to live a more cross-shaped life this week—marked by sacrifice, obedience, and love for others?

Day 6 — Spirit and Truth Worship

Writer: Noah // Divergent Church Canberra

Scripture:

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” John 4:23–24

Theme: Spirit and Truth

Prayer Focus: Anchoring our lives in him.

Reflection:

Many people feel a tension between truth and emotion, or, ‘the mind’ and ‘the heart’. However, in the Bible, this is a false dichotomy. Our emotions are neither our highest authority, nor are they to be ignored — they are to be presented to God and processed in prayer and worship. In the same way, intellectual knowledge reveals some truths, but many truths are experienced too — “may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully...” (Eph 3:18–19). The reality, like so many things in the Bible, is that both are balanced together. The Father seeks worshippers who worship in Spirit and in truth.

True worship comes from truth. There is sometimes a tendency to detach emotional experience from truth. However, as J. I. Packer notes, “Truth becomes hard if it is not softened by love; love becomes soft if it is not strengthened by truth. [We are called...] to hold the two together, which should not be difficult for Spirit-filled believers, since the Holy Spirit is himself ‘the spirit of truth,’ and his first fruit is ‘love.’ There is no other route than this to a fully mature Christian unity.” Take a moment to reflect — are there any areas where I have been hiding from truth? Avoiding truth? Have I been living with a facade in any areas of my life?

True worship flows from the Spirit. The good news is not simply an idea ... but a reality that has seized us and a Person we have encountered. The Holy Spirit continues to pour God’s love into our hearts, and this becomes the basis for true worship. The challenge of the Christian walk is to let this reality ‘seize us’ on a day-to-day basis ... to be filled ... so that our desires, and then our actions, are bound up with His. Am I consciously aware of the Holy Spirit in my worship?

God is looking for worshippers. James K. A. Smith writes, “Worship works from the top down, you might say. In worship, we don’t just come to show God our devotion and give him our praise; we are called to worship because in this encounter God (re)makes and molds us top-down. Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and re-habituates our loves. Worship isn’t just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.” If worship is the medium through which God forms us, v24’s phrase that “these are the kinds of worshippers that the Father seeks” is a reminder and challenge that God desires worship, not just for Himself but for our own re-formation in His image. Have you ever considered that God is seeking your worship?

I am sure you have had times that have felt profound experiences in worship at some point. However, while God works through our emotional experiences, the risk is that we can seek an experience rather than seeking Him. Reflect on the thought — when have been the times that I have used worship to seek an experience? When have I sought Him for Himself?

Prayer:

Father, before we reached for you, you came for us. Make us into the worshippers you are seeking, and forgive us for the times we wanted nearness without surrender, or truth without transformation. Too easily, our hearts drift towards what feels familiar or impressive instead of simply wanting You. Let our worship be honest, humble and full of joy. And teach us again and again ... and again ... that to be found by You is better than to be admired by others. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the true Worshipper. Amen.

Personal Reflection:

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas of my life where I have been avoiding truth or substituting emotional experience for genuine surrender to God?
2. How consciously aware am I of the Holy Spirit's presence and work when I worship, both privately, corporately and in my every day life?
3. In this season, what might it look like for my worship to be less about seeking an experience and more about seeking God Himself?

Day 7 — The Holy Spirit Builds What Flesh Cannot

Writer: Josh // Divergent Global

Scripture:

*“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty. — Zechariah 4:6
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8*

Theme: Dependence on the Spirit

Prayer Focus: Yielding control to the Spirit's work

Reflection:

In the life of faith, there is a temptation to trade dependence on the Spirit for self-determined effort. We plan, we organise, we strive in our flesh and yet still there is a sense of trying to carry a load that was never meant to rest on our shoulders.

Over and over, the Scriptures call us back from this tendency and bring us to an awareness of God's steadfastness, His provision, and His refusal to leave us to our own strength.

Through Zechariah, the Lord issues a counter-cultural invitation to a people weary from attempting to rebuild His Temple: *“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.”*

Not by “Might” (Hebrew: *ḥēš*) and “power” (Hebrew: *gibbor*) refers to human strength, military force, or political influence. God is telling Zerubbabel that the Temple will be rebuilt not by human effort or political/military strength, but by God's Spirit working through him. How often do we turn to human mechanisms to build what God alone can do?

This is not a statement against hard work, planning, or careful obedience to the tasks before us. Rather, it is putting our trust in the One who began all of this and will finish all of it.

Jesus repeats this declaration to His disciples as they await His departure. They have been with Him, heard His teaching, watched Him raise the dead, yet, He still tells them to wait:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

Mission is an inevitable fruit of the Spirit's work, but first there is dependence. The movement of the early Church was not a result of their zeal, strategy, or initiative but of yielding to the Spirit's timing and power.

The Holy Spirit builds what flesh cannot. To live by the Spirit is to refuse the tyranny of our own safety and full understanding. It is trusting that God is at work in ways we may not see. This is not passivity but faithful obedience marked by humility. We are to walk in obedience and leave the rest up to Him.

If we trust Him, the Spirit leads us to a deeper, broader confidence. He is with us, He is at work, and His power extends beyond our efforts. When we surrender control, we make space for a work that has eternal weight.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, we recognise that our tendency is often to trust our own understanding and to labour at the work that only You can do. We confess our lack of dependence on You to our God, who delights in changing our hearts. Bring to mind the times when we have been striving, trying to get things done in our own strength and timing. May we learn, again, to wait on You. Where we are striving, bring rest. Where we are controlling, bring surrender. Work in us and through us what only You can, for the glory of Jesus. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of my life or ministry am I relying more on effort than on the Spirit's leading and power?
2. How might I begin to practise restraint and waiting, rather than rushing to produce results?
3. What is one practical way that I could intentionally yield control to the Holy Spirit in this season and trust Him to do what I cannot?