

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Monday/Tuesday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

God intends to change the world through the local church. The early church in the book of Acts was such a powerful force because the people were united in their pursuit of God's mission for the Church. They structured the church and their lives around what they understood to be God's greatest desires for His Church. They were devoted to prayer, teachings, one another, and Communion. So many churches have strayed so far from this original vision. This should break your heart. If we want to see the Church Jesus envisioned, we are going to have to love her enough to press into these issues and not compromise when it gets hard.

The church is for electricians, nurses, teachers, kids, homeless people, cops, engineers, stay-at-home moms, church staff, tech people, and city workers. Being passionate about the Church has nothing to do with whether you work for a church. Nehemiah was cupbearer to the king (Neh. 1:11). He was more of a common worker, unlike Ezra, who was a scribe and priest (Ezra 7:11). Yet God burdened Nehemiah for the state of God's people and Jerusalem so much that he went back to rebuild the walls and God used him mightily. On top of that, in the New Testament you are all called a "royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:9). We are all workers in the church. God has called you to a passionate, deep, full commitment to His Church, regardless of age, gender, vocation, or anything else.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *I AM THE CHURCH. IF THE CHURCH NEEDS TO CHANGE, IT BEGINS IN ME.*

Pray: God, what change do you want to make in me?

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thursday/Friday/Saturday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

The experience many Christians have today in church looks very different from what we read in the New Testament. It is a scary thought that this has somehow become okay with us. God desires faith in His people, and it grieves His heart when we live in a way that shows we don't believe His promises and power are for us in the same way they were for the early church. The journey back to faithfulness won't be a quick one, and this 21st Century Church series is not a magic formula to get us to where we are supposed to be. Change is going to require dedication and humility. We will have to lay down some things, like our desires and traditions, but it will be more than worth it. God has so much more for the Church to experience. Hopefully this vision will take root in your heart and push you to take action and pursue it.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *I AM THE CHURCH. IF THE CHURCH NEEDS TO CHANGE, IT BEGINS IN ME.*

Pray: God, what change do you want to make in me?

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD HAS BEEN SAYING TO YOU THIS WEEK ABOUT THE CHURCH?
