

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).

As a church, we have conditioned people to be content with so much less than what the Bible promises we can experience. Not many of us would openly disagree with the Scriptures that tell us about the power available to us and at work in us. But often our actions and our church services tell a different story.

Could part of the issue be that we are afraid to fail? In our world today, one mistake can ruin your life. Many of us have read stories about people who posted an insensitive tweet or made one mistake on video and their lives were never the same. We have to be so careful to not make mistakes or people will pounce on us. We live in a culture that makes it difficult to be willing to step out in faith and possibly look stupid. But God has always looked for people like Jonathan who will take on a whole army with just one other guy (1 Sam. 14) or like Noah who will build a huge boat with no rain in sight (Gen. 6) or like Abraham who will set out from home with only a promise (Gen. 12) or like Josiah who will tell the whole country that they are wrong and change everything (2 Kings 22–23). These people all looked incredibly foolish, yet God moved so powerfully.

What would it look like for our church to step out in faith and see God come through in amazing ways?

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *JESUS GAVE THE CHURCH A DNA. WE MUST NOT FIND A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE BUT GO OUT AS FEARLESS WARRIORS!*

Pray: God give me a fresh excitement and vision for what is possible for the Church.

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thursday/Friday/Saturday

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There is a tendency within the Church to assume that it requires years of formal training and equipping to be able to minister effectively, but where do we find that in Scripture? Jesus' method of training was primarily opening up His life to a few people, teaching them along the way, and then throwing them into ministry opportunities and responsibility. Effective ministry does not depend on our qualifications; God has always looked for those who are full of faith, humility, and love. We need to train up believers of all backgrounds and stages in their journey to boldly and fearlessly proclaim the gospel (good news) of Jesus.

The 1st century church was a powerful force. They proclaimed the gospel with such fervor, and led thousands of people to Christ. But they were mostly just a group of uneducated, common people. They didn't have any kind of special training or qualifications other than spending a lot of time with Jesus. What they had was an unshakable confidence in the Holy Spirit. As the world looked on, they knew they were witnessing a supernatural movement of God.

If we start to walk with that kind of faith, we believe we will experience the same kind of power. Yet we can see that if we try to play it safe, keep things under control, not depend on God, and lean a lot on our own efforts and strategies, we won't see God work in power.

So let's be the church. Let's be the church Jesus intended. Let's be the 21st Century Church!

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