

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).

It is so important that this series not become something that causes division. Over and over in the New Testament, the importance of unity within the Church is emphasized. We need to take an honest look at our church and be willing to consider and change the areas where we have fallen short. But we need to do it out of hearts of genuine love for the Church and respect for the church leaders. It is easy to point fingers from the outside looking in, but that's not how change occurs. We need to come at this with an attitude of humility and not fall prey to the temptation to criticize or become defensive. It would be better for you not ready any further than for it to become a tool for feeding pride and causing division. Nothing will destroy the Church faster than that kind of attitude.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *YOUR INTIMACY WITH GOD IS DIRECTLY TIED TO YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH.*

Pray: God, show me where my connection to your church needs to change.

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).

We have all had hurts in the Church because it is filled with people who aren't perfect. But the challenge is to handle them well. Sometimes we can use those hurts as an excuse to speak against people or undermine people's confidence in our church leaders. We may think we are looking for support, but we are actually causing people to view others negatively. This is a big issue we must avoid. If you are hurt, it's important to go to the person who hurt you. If that person doesn't receive your words well, you can tell one other person in order to have them go with you. If they still don't receive what you are saying, then you include leadership at the church. This is what Jesus laid out in Matthew 18 as the process for dealing with sin. Any behavior outside of this quickly becomes divisive.

So often we are busy thinking about what we or others want while neglecting what God wants in His Church! And it's not as though we have to go around guessing about what God wants. God gave us Scripture to guide us in our pursuit of Him, and we need to start obeying what it says, even when it is difficult to accept.

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Pray: God, show me where my connection to your church needs to change.

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