

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

I WILL SEEK WISDOM | SET LIKE FLINT

RYAN BRAMLETT | FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Traders Point, how are we doing? Hey, it's so good to be with you as we continue in our series Set Like Flint.

And if you are new around here, you might be thinking what most of us were thinking when we started this series, "What does that mean?" Right? You're not alone. But I think once you get the context for where this came from it's going to make a lot of sense. Okay?

So, I just want us to look at Isaiah, chapter 50, verse 7. This is the prophet Isaiah speaking he says:

"Because the sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint. And I know that I will not be put to shame. (NIV)

So, that's where it comes from. Right? Isaiah is going through so much in his life. He's being attacked, persecuted, but he has this moment of clarity where he's with the Lord and he says, "Hey, I know no matter what is out there, as long as I have God, and more importantly, He has me, I'm going to be okay. And I've decided to set myself like flint, like a stone. I am going to be unmovable no matter what happens. God, I'm going to keep my face locked on to Yours, trusting that You will be with me."

This has been such a powerful series where God has been doing so much. I just want to take a moment here at the top and just celebrate the stories that are flooding in. We are hearing people give their life to Jesus. Can we celebrate all of the baptisms we got to see this morning?

And I hope you were here last weekend when Pastor Aaron did a beautiful job leading us through what it looks like to let go of an offense. As people left they dropped those rocks into the trash cans and that sound echoing out and they were leaving in freedom for the first time. Can we celebrate what God did last week? And we believe that He is not done yet.

Every week in this series we've said, "As we start this year, we don't want it to just be, "Hey, I hope this works out." Or, "I wish this would change." We said, "No, no, no. We want to be set like flint. We want to make some vows, some declarations that this is what we are going to do."

So, every week is an, "I will," statement. And this week is:



I Will Seek Wisdom

I will seek wisdom, which is needed. Right? We all need more wisdom. We all have situations that we don't necessarily know how to handle, or we wish we would have handled better.

And it becomes harder and harder as more information gets added. Things that were once wise are no longer wise. Like, "Oh, I didn't realize that we weren't doing that anymore."

If you can go back with me, there were things that used to be wise back in the 1900s. If you go back for a second, there were truths that we all lived by and everyone accepted them. If you went against them, you were a fool.

For example, everyone started off their day the same way, because it was the most important meal of the day, and it was breakfast. You would have offended someone if you told them that you didn't have breakfast that morning. Now? Most of us aren't even eating it. When did that change happen? Most of us are just skipping past breakfast. That was the most important meal of the day.

And go back now, even the foods that we used to eat are in question. We don't even know if they are good for us or if they are not? Chances are what you are eating for breakfast is either going to help you live to be 120 or it's going to kill you today. You're probably already dead and you don't even know it yet.

We don't agree on it. Right? What about bacon? Oh, we want it to be true, but do we know? We don't know. Eggs—which part? I didn't even know that there were different parts, just scrambled or scrambled with cheese. You can separate these things. The one that I knew that we were in trouble with is oatmeal. That's up for debate. We don't even know if oatmeal is good for us anymore.

That's what I'm saying. We need to take a step back and say, "We're in a world where wisdom is constantly changing," and if the world can go against oatmeal, it can go against you too.

But, in all seriousness, in a world that is overflowing with information, why is wisdom so scarce? In a world where we have all of this information at our fingertips, why is there a shortage of sages? Why is it not translating to wisdom?

And where can we really go for timeless truths that aren't going to change, that we can actually build our lives on? That's what we're going to be looking at today. I just want to keep it super simple while I'm up here. I'm going to answer two questions:

What is wisdom?

How do I seek wisdom?

Right, if you're taking notes, and I hope you are: what is wisdom and how do I seek wisdom? Wisdom is a big word. Over and over again it's used in the Scriptures. And I got a lot out of it. I got really excited the more I learned about wisdom. And now is that moment when I'm going to share with you what I learned, and I hope you get as excited as I did.

It's like that moment... Have you ever seen something that you really enjoyed? You thought it was funny? Then you wanted to share it with your spouse or a friend. And you are waiting for them to respond like you did, but then they don't laugh and you're like, "Oh my gosh. This is awkward." Let's not have an awkward moment. Okay? Let's all enjoy what God's word has to say about wisdom.

WISDOM = HOCHMA

The first thing that I want us to see is that wisdom in the Hebrew the word is hochma. And I think if you want to say it right you've really got to taste your breakfast. It's a big word. You just enjoyed hearing it. If that's all you get today, you're welcome.

But hochma is this word that is really complex. And a lot of times with ancient words it shows up in slightly different ways. So, what is wisdom? Well, we see sometimes in the Bible wisdom teaches us how things work. Like in the book of Proverbs, it's pretty black and white. You do these things; they will make you wise. You do these things; they will make you a fool. Right? It's teaching us how things work.

Wisdom makes sense out of chaos. That's another way we see that it shows up. Picture a detective or Sherlock Holmes. Where most of us walk into a room and it just looks like a mess, we can't make sense of it heads or tails, but Sherlock Holmes could walk in and just notice the tiniest details and distinctions of what was going on and he could know what was happening in that space. That's another way of applied wisdom.

And then, finally, we see that wisdom teaches us and guides us how to respond in all situations. And no matter where we find ourselves there is wisdom that will lead us to know how to respond in a godly way.

But if we even just go from there for a second and just zoom out, wisdom is even bigger than how it shows up in our lives. Wisdom, we see from the book of Proverbs was actually used to design the world, the universe, everything within the created order.

The unique thing about Proverbs is that wisdom becomes personified. It takes on the identity of lady wisdom. And she is speaking as wisdom to all of us. Okay? Take a look at what it says in Proverbs, chapter 8, verse 29. It says:

"And when he marked off the earth's foundations," so when God marked off the earth's foundations, "I, 'wisdom,' was the architect at his side." (NLT)

Here's why that is important. As God was creating the world and the universe and everything that exists, wisdom was at his right side. Wisdom is woven into the fabric of reality. There is order. There is logic. There is a purpose to all of it. It began here. God has a plan to see it all the way through and it will end over here.

Think of it in the sense of wood grain. The universe has wood grain and you can either go with the grain or against it. And the Bible would say that those who are wise go with the grain of God and that fools go against it.

This is what Dr. King was talking about when he said:

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

What he was saying is that he had a wisdom that is from above. Even though he was in this time, and what he was pushing for—things like unity, things like mercy, things like reconciliation, things like justice—even though it wasn't being met with acceptance, even though it didn't seem possible that it was going to happen, he was looking beyond this earth to God's plan and he said, "I know this universe, this arch, it is long but it bends toward justice."

Even though it's hard in this moment, I am going to be set like flint. I am going to pursue what God is going to call me to do because I know that's where I need to be.

That is wisdom. Wisdom is recognizing the path God has carved out and choosing to walk in it. It's to see that there is a plan for all of this. There is a design. And God has called me and you to live it.

How does it show up though? It's one thing to be in the universe, but let's go here. Who do you think of when you think of someone who is wise? Chances are we all have a similar picture of that person.

Let me see if I can give it a shot. You're picturing someone with a silver streak in their hair. Right? She moves just a little bit slower than everybody else. She sits down and has her tea and she's dipping the tea bag into the tea, and she is the only person who knows how many times you're supposed to dip it in there before it's ready to go. Then, as she takes a sip, she offers you words of wisdom. Right?

When we think of wisdom, a lot of times we think of an intellectual. Someone who is really smart. Someone who has a lot of information and speaks words of wisdom. And that's probably a part of it, but it's a very small part. And it's not really the way that the Bible talks about what wisdom looks like when it shows up in our lives.

James does an unbelievably job describing what wisdom is. He says:

"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere." James 3:17 (NLT)

This is true wisdom. This is God's wisdom. And what James makes clear is that wisdom is inseparable from a godly life. To be wise is to be righteous. To be wise is to be holy, to be merciful.

And I think sometimes where wisdom gets a bad rap is that those people who we think of as wise, they are brilliant, but they are also jerks. They are kind of arrogant. They are pompous. But the Bible says you can't have both. To be wise—did you see what it added in there? It is willing to yield to others.

That's the scary part. The more we grow in wisdom and the smarter we get, the harder it is to listen to other people, the harder it is to lay down what we want and what we desire, because it's what's best.

But wisdom takes this into account, and it knows when it needs to speak and when it needs to be silent. When it needs to push and when it needs to yield. It's this applied wisdom. It can't just live up here [in our heads] it shows up in our lives and it is fruit. We do something with it.

I think one of the best ways that I've heard it described is the difference between knowledge and wisdom is this: knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing that you don't put a tomato in a fruit salad. Right? It's being able to apply information rightly, which is so difficult and so complex.

I know when I first became a Christian I was on fire and I just wanted to help, I wanted to serve, I wanted to do all of those things, but I didn't know where to start. Where do you go and how do you help, what's actually helpful, and what hurts more than it helps? It's so hard to know that I should do something, but how do I do it and what do I do?

This is what I love so much about our Outreach Team. They work so hard to partner with people in our city and around the world in a way that is wise, in a way that builds relationships, in a way that really helps and doesn't just hurt, in a way that doesn't just give us something to do so we can pat ourselves on the shoulder but in a way that really advances God's kingdom and helps us love people.

Right now, can we just celebrate everyone on our Outreach Team? All the people who are serving there. Volunteers. You are applying the wisdom of God.

And if you're here today, and you're like, "I've always wanted to help, I've always wanted to serve, I've always wanted to get outside these walls," stop by Info Central and ask them about outreach. They will help get you plugged in.

Before we move on to how we seek wisdom, I just want to say what wisdom is not. I think a lot of times we think that wisdom is going to be another one of those things that will shield us from a bad life. That if we could just have more wisdom then we could somehow remove ourselves from suffering. And that's just not the case. Wisdom is not



a get out of life pain free card. I wish I could offer you that. I wish I could tell you that.
But:

Wisdom doesn't remove suffering from our lives; it transforms suffering into more wisdom

And that is far more helpful because... Three people are excited that that is helpful. Another 2,000 are wishing it would be the other thing. Here's what happens. So often in our life we strive after perfect circumstances and the perfect family and the perfect health. Very few of us ever get those circumstances. And none of us get to keep them.

So, what we've said in this series is instead of trying to find the perfect circumstances or trying to avoid everything that could possibly harm us or bring us any kind of suffering, what if God could use us? God could transform us, God could set us like flint so that no matter what we experience we are able to stand in it, to take it to absorb it, and to come out wiser.

Isn't that a better picture of how we could live? And more realistically, helpful for where we go from here. That's the kind of life that I know I want, I say I want until I step into that dessert season, until the persecution comes, until the trials hit.

But here's the truth we also have to wrestle with. The wisest people you know have probably experienced the most suffering. And the shallowest people that you've ever met have probably experienced none of it and it shows. The only way to get one is to go through the other.

So, we have to be willing to say, "God, wherever You lead me, if it means that I'm following Your voice, if it means that I'm in that carved out path of where You are leading me, no matter what comes, God, I'm going to trust You and I'm going to go with You no matter the consequences, no matter the circumstances.

Number two:

HOW DO I SEEK WISDOM?

How do I seek wisdom? We talked about what it is, that it is this big thing that was used to design the whole universe and it's also an attribute of God that is accessible to me and you. But how do we seek it?

Architect your life with wisdom

I think I would start simply by just saying architect your life with wisdom. If God created His natural order with wisdom, if it's flowing, if it's following the work that He wants to do, then let's architect our lives with the same wisdom. Let's build our life with wisdom.



Look to God's word and say, "Who does He say is wise? Where do they start? What do they do?" And then, "How am I going to build my life with that wisdom? I want to make it as easy as possible to be as wise as I can."

There are things that all of us can do this week. So, what I've done is just pulled a few of those and I'm going to offer them to you. And like I said, I would just challenge you, "Is this true of me? And if not, what do I need to do for it to be true of me?"

The place where we are going to start if we want to seek wisdom, this is the beginning, this is the foundation that shows up over and over again through the Scriptures. This is it. This is where we start. Proverbs, chapter 9 verse 10. It says:

"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10 (NLT)

Here's what it is. The fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom because it brings you to a spot of humility where you are going to come before a holy and perfect God and say, "I'm not You. You know things that I don't. Your ways are higher than my ways. And I'm going to trust that what You say is good and right and true really is. And if I come into conflict with that I'm going to humble myself and choose your ways over mine."

But to choose humility means we have to die to pride, which is a problem because it's been our problem from the very beginning. Go all the way back. God designed everything. He created the Garden, placed Adam and Eve in it, gave them a mission, "Be fruitful, multiply. I'm going to be with you. We're going to partner together in this whole thing. Just trust Me."

They trust Him for about 45 minutes. And then there is this talking snake that comes to them and says, "What if you didn't need to lean on Him? What if you didn't have to go to Him for what is good and what is right and what is true? What if you could decide? Here's the way that you can do it. There is this tree in the Garden, and I know that God said not to eat of it, but did He really want you to? I'll leave that up to you."

Here's the thing. It was the tree of what? Knowledge of good and of evil. So, in a moment they said, "Okay, what if we didn't have to lean on God. What if we could decide for ourselves what is good and what is true?"

A quick summary of the story, the talking snake goes, they're crunching on some apples, eyes are open. It doesn't work out the way that they thought it would. They are removed from the Garden. They made the choice to play what they wanted over what God wanted. They wanted to decide what was good and what was right and what was true. And they lost the fear of the Lord.

But you know who had the fear of the Lord? It was the early church. As I was reading through this verse (this has been a few years now) this verse, in particular, has been sticking with me. It's one that I pray over myself, over my family, over our church. It is

that powerful. And I believe it is connected to what we are talking about today. Look at this in Acts, chapter 9, verse 31. It says:

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” (ESV)

I just want to share with you the picture that I believe that God laid on me. They were walking in the fear of the Lord in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. What does that look like?

Well, throughout Scripture you see that when anyone comes into contact with God, in the presence of God, they have a fear, they have a reverence. And a lot of times what happens is that they fall to their knees, immediately. They realize who they are, who God is, and it brings them to their knees.

And a lot of times even their eyes will shift to the ground. They will look down. It’s like, “You are a holy God, I am not. I have no business here. I shouldn’t be here. I don’t even know what to do. I can’t move. I can’t share this space with you. What you’re calling me to do, I can’t do. I’m just a human.”

And the picture that I’ve got, with these two going hand in hand, is as a people we fall because of the fear of the Lord, we recognize who He is and who we are not, and as we are standing there, kneeling, saying all of the reasons why we can’t, our heads are down, and it is like the Holy Spirit grabs us by the arms and picks us up.

And He says, “You are right. You are unworthy, but when you walk with Me, you are made right. You may not have the words to say but if you are with Me, I will give you the words to say. You may not have the power to do what God is calling you to do, but if you do it with Me, I will give you everything that you need.” When we do that, when we humble ourselves, we relinquish our need to be the ones who decide what is good, what’s bad, what’s evil, and what is true.

And we come to the Lord, and we say, “All the things that are within me, all of the things that I have believed are true, I’m offering them back and I’m asking tough questions. Is this true, because You’ve said it’s true? Is it true because the world said it’s true? Is it true because I just really want it to be true?” And what we’re going to do is we’re going to lay that down and we’re going to begin to seek wisdom. We’re going to start with the fear of the Lord.

The second thing:

WISDOM NEEDS SOMETHING TO WORK WITH

Wisdom needs something to work with. Right? Look at this in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 1:



“My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart.” (NLT)

Store them in my heart, hold onto them. Step one is, “I’m relinquishing my wants, my desire to decide what is good and right and true But that’s not enough. I’m relinquishing my control and saying, ‘I want what You say is right and what You say is true.’”

But you have to know what He said is right and what He said is true. That’s why the Scriptures tell us to store them in our hearts. To read His word, to bring it in and to adopt it as our own. Do we have that?

This is why we push daily Bible reading so hard and so often. It’s because we know that we want to store in our hearts what He says so that whenever we find ourselves in different situations, whenever we get hit or knocked down, what comes out, how we respond is with God’s word.

If you were here at the beginning of this series, Pastor Aaron just invited the church to join the reading plan that he’s doing. And church, 2,000 people said yes and started reading the Bible together—2,000.

And if you’re one of those 2,000 I just want to encourage you, it’s not enough to read it, it’s the storing, it’s the bringing it in. And the way that the Bible talks about this is meditating on it and memorizing it.

I don’t just read it in the morning, check the box, close it, and then I go about my life and the things that I want to do. No, when I read Scripture, I meditate on it all day. I think about what it means, how I’m going to live it out. And then I memorize it so that I have access to it. So, when the situation comes, I’m pulling from God’s wisdom, I’m not pulling from my own. Do you have that?

If we’re going to seek wisdom, another one of the things that it says is to live in light of eternity. To live in light of eternity—here’s what that means, Psalm 90, verse 12:

“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” (NLT)

The book of Ecclesiastes, which is wisdom literature, talks a lot about this. And basically, what it says is: This life is messed up. When you think it’s going this way, chances are that it’s going to go that way. When you think it should do this, it does that. There are so many difficult seasons and not to waste or to wish away the seasons, but to take every single day that you get as a gift and to value it and to treasure it—have gratitude for it.

There is this thing that happens when you’re younger... I think this is probably why younger people lack a little bit of wisdom because they don’t think about their life that way. Death is just a myth. It’s not real. People who are 30 are old. You know what I mean?

And then you get a little bit older, and you start to lose people, people who you love, people you thought would be here much longer. You experience things that are unfair. Things are taken from you that you thought would never be taken. And if you have wisdom, you begin to just measure your days and number them. And even though they get a little bit harder in some ways they get a little bit sweeter.

I was reminded of it this past week when downloading our Parent Cue App, which is an amazing resource our next gen has put together to help partner with families, with parents of how to raise up the next generation of disciples. It's all on the App. You create different profiles for all of your kids.

This is one of them. I love everything about it, except for this one line. Do you notice what it says on the bottom here? There are 286 weeks until she moves on to what is next. Who says she has a what's next? She's going to live with me forever. She loves me so much she can't picture a world without being in my house.

No, but when I read that it brought it down to me. It became real to me. Now, I'm just very intentional in our conversations. What do I want to do with the time that I have with her? It's numbered. What do I want her to experience? What do I want her to know? What I want to be able to do is put a timeline on it. It is going to grow me in wisdom. It's going to push me to grow in wisdom.

And the last thing that I will give you is Proverbs, chapter 13, verse 20. If you are seeking wisdom it says:

"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble." (NLT)

This should be in every high school in the country. I could not have given you a good reason for every dumb thing that I did in high school other than everybody else was going that way, so I just went too.

But the flip side of that is if you walk with the wise, you become wise. Once again, you wonder why we push this so often of finding your crew. Do life together.

There is this application side to wisdom. It's not just knowing things, it's living them out, it's sharing with one another. There is no way to listen to the word of God, to search His Scriptures, to see the life Jesus has for you and to think that there is any way possible that you can do it alone. You are being a fool, and you are going against the teachings of Jesus.

I would go as far as to say that if you don't have people in your life, godly people, not perfect people, but people who are seeking the wisdom of God and trying to apply it to their life, people who can push you back on to the path of wisdom, people who can pull you over here, people who can challenge and encourage you, people who you can serve and who can serve you—if you don't have people in your life you don't have a church, you have a spiritual Netflix account. And sometimes you catch a live recording.

But to be the church is to be inseparable from one another. It is to have people who are holding you, challenging you, encouraging you. There is so much wisdom you get from God. There is so much wisdom you get from prayer. There is so much wisdom you get from Scripture. But there is a big piece of wisdom that we are leaving on the table that comes from one another that you can't get anywhere else.

This is wisdom, living it out. Not just hearing the wisdom of God and storing it up but applying it to our life. These are the people who are wise. This is who Jesus says is wise. Look at this in Matthew, chapter 7, verses 24 – 27. He says, this is Jesus:

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (NLT)

So, Jesus describes two different people. Both of them heard His words. What made one wise and what made one foolish? One obeyed and one didn't.

Francis Chan has an amazing illustration of this. He says, “Imagine you have kids, and you go downstairs, and you find them and you say, ‘Hey, listen. I need you to go upstairs and clean your room.’” You are very clear. You make eye contact; they make eye contact. We know what is about to happen. You leave; they leave.

You come back 10 minutes later, and they are sitting on the couch. And you are like there is no way. “Hey, hey, hey. Didn't I tell you to go clean your room? There is no way you've already cleaned your room.”

And they said, “No, I didn't clean my room, but I did memorize what you said. You said, ‘Go clean your room.’” And you are like, “That is not what I meant. That is not what I needed you to do.”

“No, no. I didn't clean my room, but I did some studying, and I know how to say, ‘Go clean your room in the Greek.’” You're like, “That's fine. I think helpful maybe. But that's not what I asked you to do.”

“No, no. I know. I know. I didn't clean my room, but what I did was I called my friend and now every week we're going to get together and we're going to talk about what it would look like if we cleaned our rooms.”

For those who don't know, that's uncomfortable laughter because it's a little too spot on.

Isn't that usually what we do? We take the good things of God. We hear Him, we believe Him, but the wise are the ones who are not just hearers of the word, but doers of the word.

This was Jesus' frustration. He said:

"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" Luke 6:46 (NLT)

Jesus is inseparable from being Lord and Savior. He is Savior of us. He's saved us from our sin. He saved us for eternity. But He's also Lord. Meaning we hear His wisdom, His ways, His commands and then we do them. This is what makes us wise.

And the wisest thing that you could ever do with your life is to place your faith in Jesus. It is to have a relationship with wisdom itself. And it's available. Look at this in 1 Corinthians, chapter 1. It says:

"God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself." You can have a relationship with wisdom itself. "Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, 'If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.'" 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NLT)

The wisdom of the world may be telling you that you won't be accepted. The wisdom of the world may be telling you that you don't have purpose, you are not enough. You are not good enough. Whatever that message is, can I just speak to you through the wisdom of God? You are made in the image of God. You are worthy to be redeemed. God, Himself, left heaven for you, wrapped Himself in flesh and bones, lived the perfect life that you couldn't live even if you tried.

He went to a cross for me and you and died, paying the penalty that we owed. And then rose three days later defeating sin and death, having authority over heaven and earth.

He has extended an invitation to me and you to have a relationship with Him. And all you have to do is want it. You have to believe that He is who He said He is. Place your faith in Him. Trust what He says goes. Die to yourself and you will be given new life. That is wisdom. That only makes sense from a spiritual stance. It is wisdom that you accept and believe is true by faith.

You can. Thousands of us have. Don't leave here today without talking to someone. There are people at every campus at the front of the stage who would love to meet with you after the service.

So, put it all together:

Wisdom is recognizing where God is at work, aligning with Him, and actively partnering in His ongoing work

That's what wisdom is. Recognizing where God is at work. Wisdom was used to architect this whole universe. God has a plan from the beginning to the end. He's been doing something unique in every single season. He is alive and He is active.



Our goal is to see that and then to align our hearts to His, “God, what do You want to do? God what does Your heart beat for? God, what does Your heart break for? God, who do you want to serve in this season? God, what do you want me to lay down in this season? What do you want me to start in this season?”

“Who do you want me to love in this season? I don’t want to love them. Oh, you want me to love them so I’m going to love them.

“Oh, I used to believe that my whole life, I thought that that was true. You’re telling me it’s not true. I’m going to lay that down. I’m going to trust that what You say is true.”

So, everyone in our church, we’re about to step into a unique season. I want to invite you into it. It is a season of prayer and fasting. We are just coming before God and we’re saying, “God, Your ways are higher than ours. You have wisdom that is beyond us. We don’t just want to do what we want to do. We don’t want to just play church. God, we want to align to the work that You are doing now.

“We know that you are at work. God, we want to see that work, we want to join You in it. We want to align with it, and we want to partner to see it happen in our lifetime. God, we want revival.”

And the Bible says that if you want wisdom, if you want that, ask for it. That’s what James said in chapter 1, verse 5:

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.” (NLT)

So, that’s what we are taking Him up on in this season. We’re coming before our heavenly Father in 21 days of prayer and fasting and just seeking Him, asking Him to reveal His will, asking Him to reveal what He wants us to do in this season.

Maybe I’ve already lost you at 21 days of prayer and fasting. You’re like, “I’m not eating for 21 days? That’s not what it is. Most of us give up a meal, usually lunch because breakfast is the most important meal. No, we usually give up a meal. And when you give it up, it’s not just about not eating, you are replacing that. You are emptying yourself physically so that you can fill yourself spiritually. You are stopping these things so that you can start these things.

Some of us fast from social media or Netflix or alcohol or sweets—whatever it is we are emptying ourselves of those things that once used to fill us. And now we are redeeming that space and saying, “We’re spending this time seeking the Lord and His wisdom and what He wants for us in this season.”

That’s what fasting is. And prayer goes hand in hand with it. Maybe you are like, “I’ve never prayed before. I usually don’t know what to say. I say the same things every single time—21 days of prayer sounds exhausting.”

We thought you might say that. We created this guide that will walk you, day one through 21, through your fasting experience, through your prayer experience, all built around the Lord's prayer.

And I'm telling you, if you have the Lord's prayer, you will have enough to have a fruitful and powerful prayer life for the rest of your life. It just walks us through it.

We got this prayer because the disciples of Jesus were so curious. They'd never seen anyone pray like Jesus. They'd never seen anyone have power like Jesus. and they came to Him, and they said, "What do You talk to God about? How do You pray all night all morning all day? What are you saying up there?"

And then He gave them (and us) the Lord's Prayer. And I'm telling you, here's what we are believing. If we, as a church, step into this season, if we have the fear of the Lord, if we dedicate these 21 days to prayer and fasting, we will see God move. We believe that with every part of our heart.

We are going to step into this season and there are going to be things that we didn't think were possible being made possible. There are going to be these truths that we thought were true, that we built our lives around that are going to be exposed and they are going to be knocked down.

There are going to be addictions that we have worked through and struggled with for our whole lives and we're going to offer them to God and He is going to answer our prayers.

We are believing, in faith, that that is the kind of power that is available. And we are coming together, corporately, believing. We are seeing glimpses, in our city and around the world, that revival is creeping in, that God's kingdom is advancing. People are accepting the gospel and giving their lives to Jesus.

And we don't believe that God is done. So, we are stepping in and interceding for the church, interceding for God's lost kids, believing that this is the season where they will be found, believing this could be the season where everything turns.

And we know that with the move of God, with revival, comes resistance. And we know that there is an evil one who is going to stand against us. We know that there are going to be obstacles. We know that there is going to be persecution. We know that there are going to be flare-ups. But, right now, in faith, as we begin this we are speaking in the name of Jesus, that what He has called us to, nothing can stop us, even the devil himself.

All of that is in the Lord's Prayer. And maybe you've never heard it prayed like that before. Maybe it was just something that was memorized or something that was said before a game. But is it in your prayer life? Every line is a heading for a new prayer. This is a skeleton outline that we fill in with words that are unique to us every single day.



So, as we begin this we're going to begin it together by praying the Lord's Prayer together. So, at all of our campuses would you just stand to your feet. I'm going to lead us in a time of prayer. The Lord's Prayer.

And if we take this over these next 21 days and we memorize it and we meditate on it, and it flows from our heart we will be a different people by the end of these 21 days.

We will have strength that we didn't have before. We will have power that we didn't have before. We will have wisdom that we didn't have before, but it starts with the fear of the Lord and trusting that we will be met by the comfort of the Holy Spirit, seeking wisdom, seeking Him, seeking His ways and being willing to die to ourselves.

So, right now to begin that process I just want you to close your eyes and bow your head and join us as we pray together.

"Our Father in heaven may your name be kept holy May your Kingdom come soon. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation,

but rescue us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 NLT

Father, You are gracious Father. You are wisdom itself. God, we come to You believing that only You have the answers, only You have true wisdom. Everything else is changing and fading and new today and gone tomorrow, but you are steadfast. You are faithful. What You say is real. You have the keys to eternal life.

You are holy. There is none like You—all powerful, all knowing. You set this thing in motion. You know how it is going. From a good creation to our rebellion to the fall, God, You are redeeming and restoring all things. You have a plan. And, God, unless we connect with You we will never see it. So, God, we ask You to show us. God, show us Your ways.

God, we pray that Your kingdom come soon. God, I pray that Your kingdom come now, that Your kingdom would fall. God, that Indy and around the world would be transformed, unrecognizable.

That heaven would inhabit this space, and Your children would be ambassadors. That You would partner with us, and we would have the privilege of introducing our lost brothers and sisters to the love of God, to the life-changing, saving, gospel of Jesus Christ.

God we pray for Your will. I pray over these 21 days our will goes somewhere to die and, God, Your will remains. Not what we want. What do You want, Lord? And, God, I pray that as we go, even if it doesn't look how we think it should, God, give us faith to remain faithful. Give us faith to stay on that path. God, don't let us begin to believe that we know



what it should look like. God, we trust You in Your wisdom to take us where You want to take us.

And, God, I pray right now in the name of Jesus as we call for revival as we seek Your face, as we humble ourselves, as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, as revival sparks, we know resistance is waiting. So, I pray in the name of Jesus that the acts of the devil, any demon, anything that is against You, God, would be brought to its knees. God, I pray that revival would move forward.

I pray that the name of Jesus would go from here to the end of the earth. God, we don't want to put You in a box. I don't know what I don't know. I don't know exactly what You want us to do. But I just want to say, we're open to it.

God, lead us in this moment. Let us be Your faithful few—a remnant that You have pulled. God, pour out Your grace and Your strength and Your power. God, come what may, it doesn't matter. We believe that in the name of Jesus, the wind can come, the rain can fall, but our house is built on a bedrock, our house is built on the blood of Jesus Christ.

God, I pray that You carry us from this moment. Carry us through these 21 days and beyond into all eternity. Jesus, it is in Your perfect and holy name we pray. And the church says: Amen.

