

WAYS DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



GROW FAITH

Sunday

Take advantage of every chance you have to form your faith—through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you’ve gained with someone else.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God’s goodness and how you can *Grow Faith* this week.



JESUS MATURED
IN WISDOM

AND YEARS,

AND IN FAVOR
WITH GOD

and with people.

Luke 2:52

Monday

READ: Luke 2:41-52

THINK: We normally think of Jesus as the all-knowing God in a body, but for a moment think of him as a middle schooler. Even Jesus grew in wisdom, so why pretend like we have all the answers. When we *Grow Faith*, we humble ourselves before the daunting task of perfectly trusting God. There is always farther to go and more to discover, lean in.

PRAY: the Spirit would show you places your faith can grow.

Grow Faith today.



“IF ANY WANT TO
BECOME MY FOLLOWERS,
LET THEM DENY THEMSELVES
AND TAKE UP THEIR
CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.

MARK 8:34

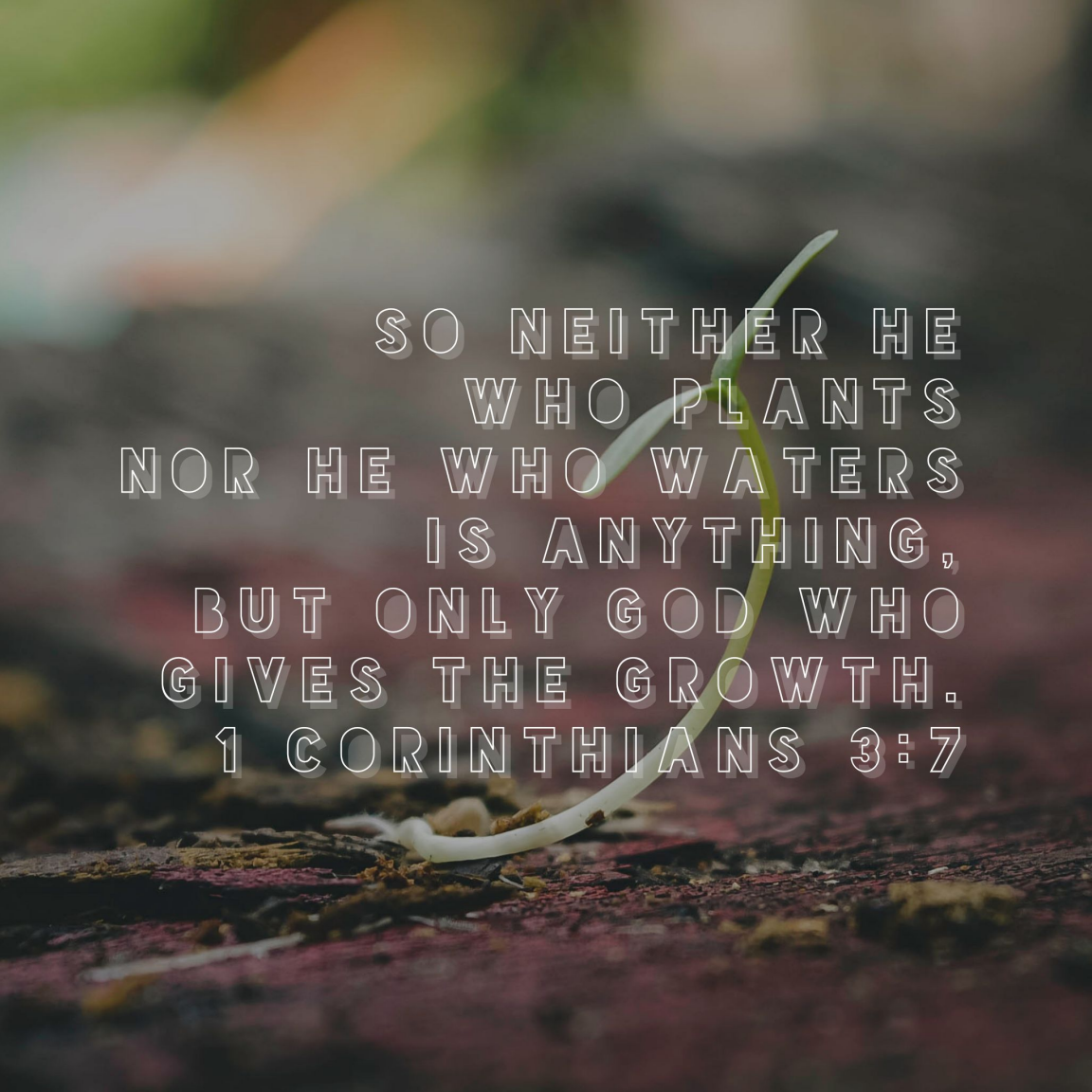
Tuesday

READ: Mark 8:34-38

THINK: Saying “Yes” to faith will involve saying “No” to something else. We each have desires which run counter to God’s will. Some of those desires are wicked, others simply do not coincide with His plans. Choosing to *Grow Faith* begins by taking our personal desires and plans and submitting them to Jesus saying, “Let it be with me according to your will.”

PRAY: through some of your desires and plans, and ask if they are what God has for you.

Grow Faith today.



SO NEITHER HE
WHO PLANTS
NOR HE WHO WATERS
IS ANYTHING,
BUT ONLY GOD WHO
GIVES THE GROWTH.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:7

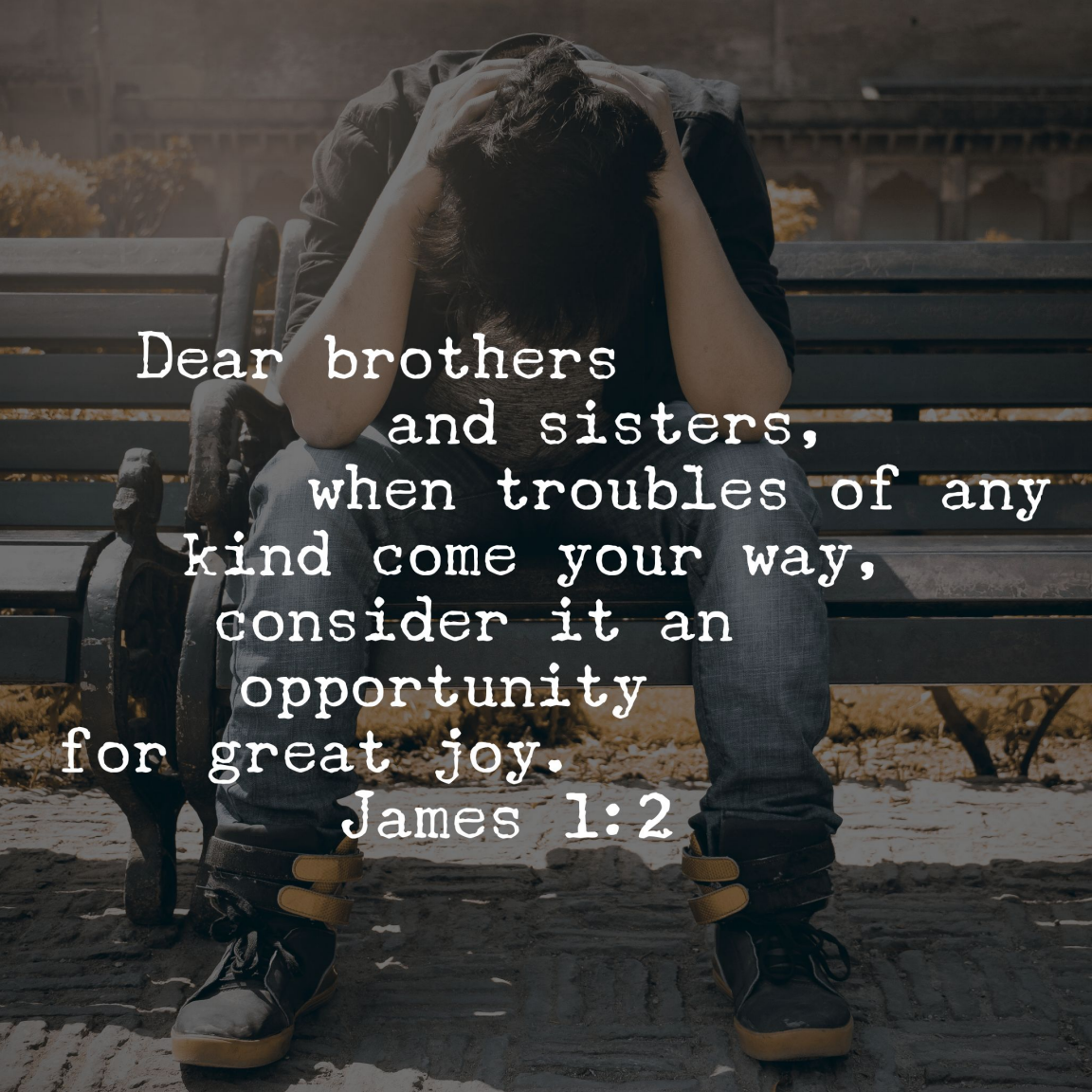
Wednesday

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

THINK: Don't get ahead of yourself. It is God alone who *Grows Faith*. Whether you are a gifted preacher who speaks to thousands or a gifted mother who prays with her kids, it is God who provides the growth. When you pray and work for someone to find faith, do not confuse your job with God's. You are called to sow and water, it is God's job to work out the rest.

PRAY: God would show you how He is in control.

Grow Faith today.



Dear brothers
and sisters,
when troubles of any
kind come your way,
consider it an
opportunity
for great joy.
James 1:2

Thursday

READ: James 1:2-8

THINK: It is often in adversity and trial when we depend on God the most. In these times, faith grows. Sometimes *Grow Faith* looks like attending a class or small group; sometimes it looks like attending to difficult family dynamics which have existed for years; and still other times it looks like asking where God is when things go wrong. Take every opportunity to *Grow Faith*, even those which may hurt.

PRAY: for an area in your life which tests your faith. Let God know your struggles.

Grow Faith today.



AND HE SAID, “HOW CAN I,
UNLESS SOMEONE
GUIDES ME?”

AND HE INVITED PHILIP
TO COME UP
AND SIT WITH HIM.
ACTS 8:31

Friday

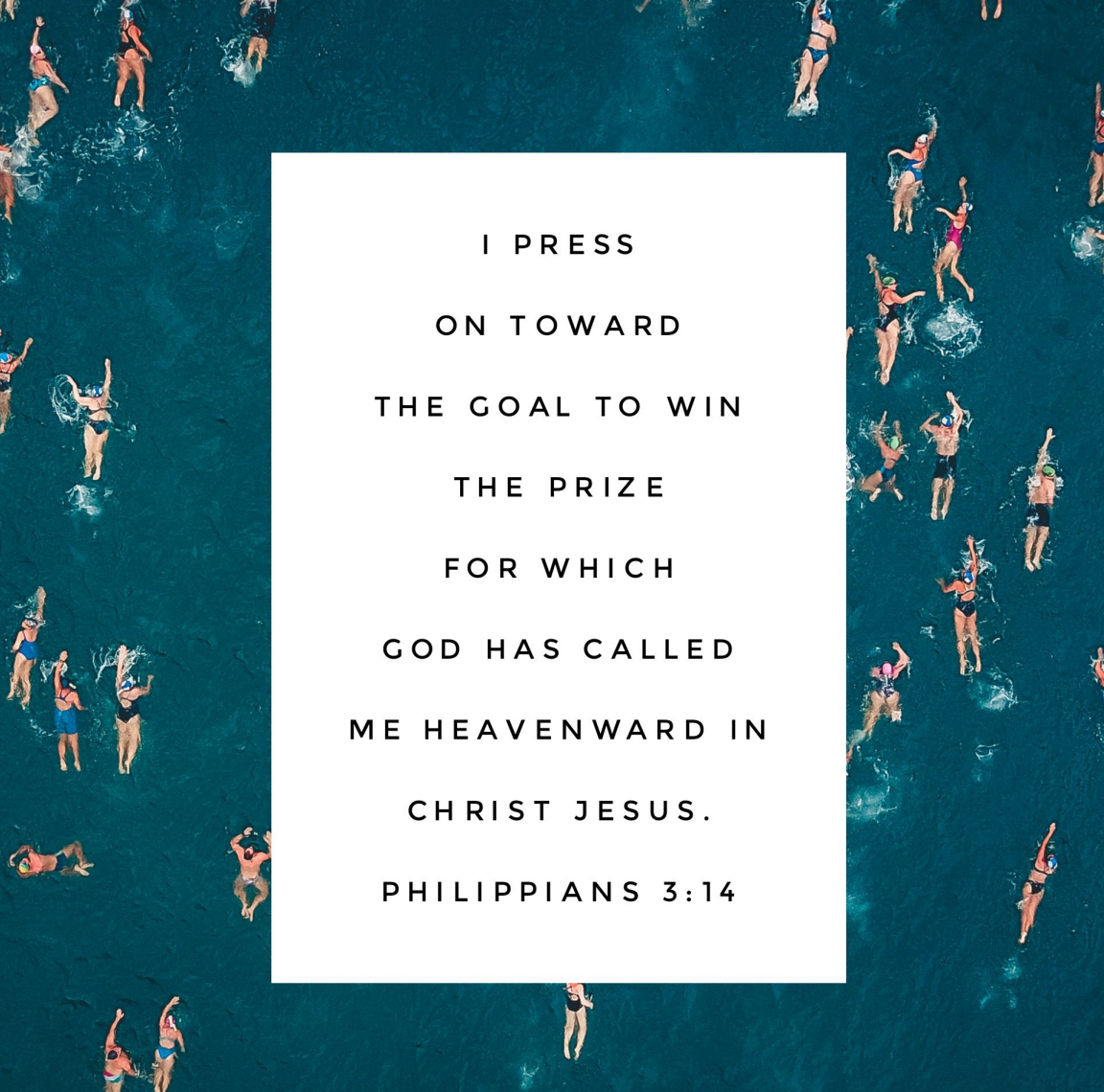
READ: Acts 8:26-40

THINK: An angel guided Philip to be in the right place to *Grow Faith* in the life of the eunuch. We are not merely guided by celestial beings, but by Holy Spirit Herself.* You are not in this alone, but if you call on the Spirit, She will guide you to places where you are needed. Lean on the Spirit and continually ask to be drawn into God’s work.

PRAY: the Spirit would put you in a position to share your faith with another.

*Prepositions with the Spirit are difficult and inaccurate. The Spirit has no gender, yet is a person. We chose “herself” and “she” this time, but that is no more precise than “himself” or “he.”

Grow Faith today.



I PRESS
ON TOWARD
THE GOAL TO WIN
THE PRIZE
FOR WHICH
GOD HAS CALLED
ME HEAVENWARD IN
CHRIST JESUS.
PHILIPPIANS 3:14

Saturday

READ: Philippians 3:11-16

THINK: We *Grow Faith* because we recognize that none of us have achieved the goal. We do not know enough, trust enough, pray enough, depend enough, live boldly enough, serve enough, connect enough, or experience God enough. And we never will. The goal may be far ahead, but press on because there is more and more richness of God in store for you. Press on and lean further into God.

PRAY: the Spirit would call you deeper into relationship. Confess what holds you back.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Grow Faith* this week.