

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 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.

WELCOME CHANGE

Sunday

Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring. What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing new things.

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



“THE LORD HAS BROKEN
THROUGH MY ENEMIES
BEFORE ME LIKE A

BREAKING FLOOD.”

THEREFORE THE NAME
OF THAT PLACE

IS CALLED
BAAL-PERAZIM.

2 SAM 5:20

Monday

READ: 2 Samuel 5:17-21

THINK: Baal-perazim means “Lord of breaking through.” For David, the Lord broke through the strength of his enemies, but the enemy is not a neighboring tribe anymore. The enemy is everything which stands in the way of God’s Kingdom of justice and wholeness. Our Lord is continually breaking through the way things *are* in order to bring about the way things *should be*. We look forward to and *Welcome* that *Change*.

PRAY: God would give you eyes to see where He is breaking through.

Welcome Change today.

AND NO ONE PUTS NEW WINE INTO OLD WINESKINS.

if he does,

THE WINE WILL BURST THE SKINS—AND THE WINE

is destroyed,

AND SO ARE THE SKINS.

but new wine is for fresh wineskins.

MARK 2:22


Tuesday

READ: Mark 2:18-22

THINK: When religious leaders get angry with Jesus that the disciples aren't fasting, one of his responses is this: no one pours new wine into old wineskins. God has poured out a new Spirit on His Church, on us, and we must be made new to be indwelt by the Spirit. *Welcome Change* as God undertakes the process of renewing us to be the community and witness He needs.

PRAY: that the Spirit would be at work in our church to make us new.

Welcome Change today.



THERE SHOULD
BE A CONSISTENCY THAT
RUNS THROUGH US ALL.
FOR JESUS DOESN'T CHANGE—YESTERDAY,
TODAY,
TOMORROW, HE'S ALWAYS TOTALLY HIMSELF.
HEBREWS 13:8


Wednesday

READ: Hebrews 13:7-10

THINK: We do not change for change's sake and there are some things which never change. Do not be deceived, Jesus is the same; God's will and God's heart are the same. While God might be doing a new thing, He is still the same God. Only *Welcome Change* which holds firm to the witness of Jesus Christ and only strike against novelty which parts from His ways.

PRAY: the Spirit would help you discern between God's new work and people's ideas.

Welcome Change today.

A silhouette of a person with long hair, seen from the back, looking out at a bright sunset or sunrise. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, and the person's dark silhouette is in the foreground.

SO THE WORD BECAME HUMAN
AND MADE HIS HOME AMONG US.
HE WAS FULL OF UNFAILING
LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.
**AND WE HAVE
SEEN HIS GLORY,
THE GLORY OF THE FATHER'S
ONE AND ONLY SON.**
JOHN 1:14

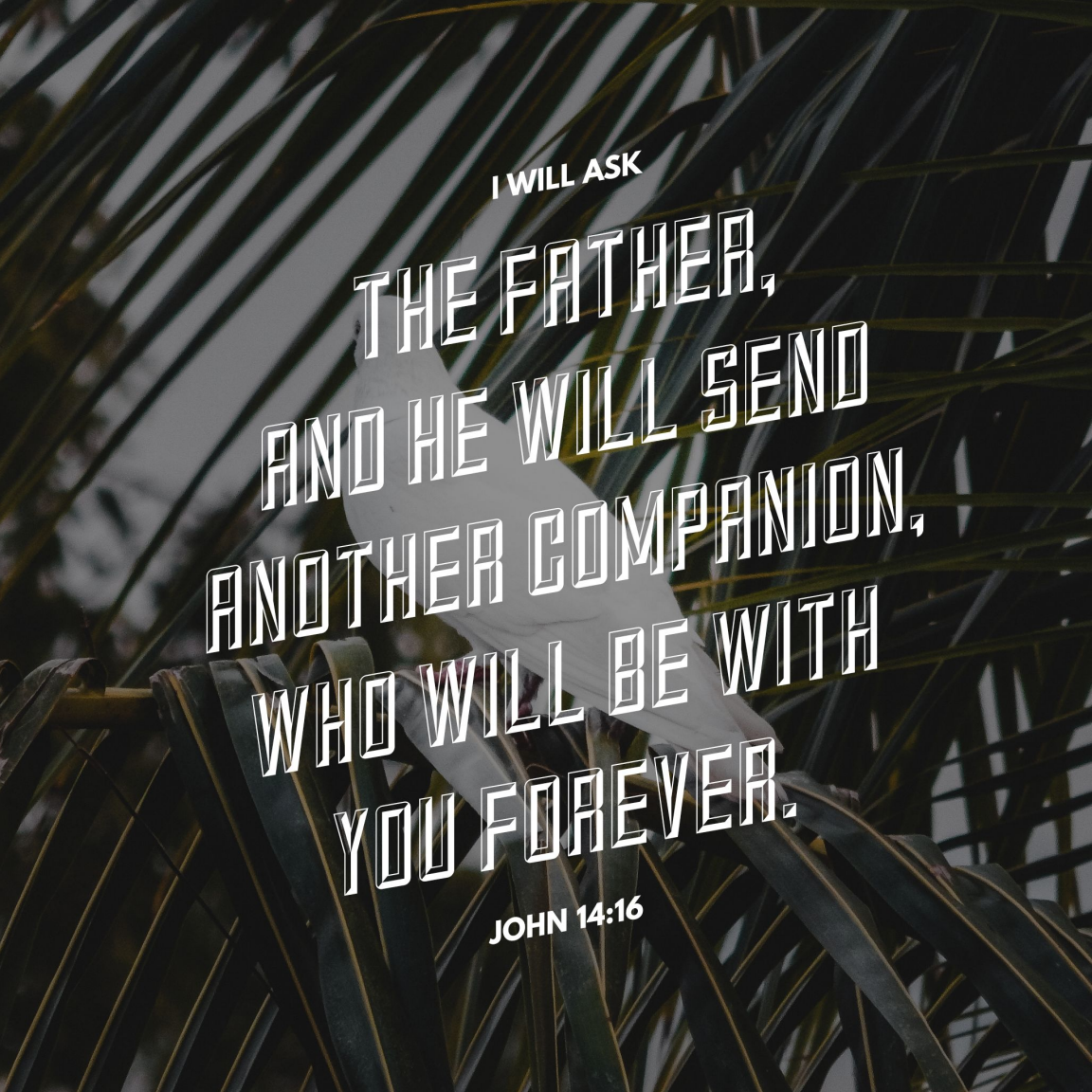
Thursday

READ: John 1:1-14

THINK: There once was a time when God becoming a human was new and unprecedented in the history of the world. Imagine you lived at that time and Jesus, a man you could see and touch, told you He was God's son. When God does new things, it can be hard to accept, but they are wonderful to behold. *Welcome Change* because God's most powerful acts are new and unexpected.

PRAY: God would help you see Him in unexpected places.

Welcome Change today.



I WILL ASK
THE FATHER,
AND HE WILL SEND
ANOTHER COMPANION,
WHO WILL BE WITH
YOU FOREVER.

JOHN 14:16

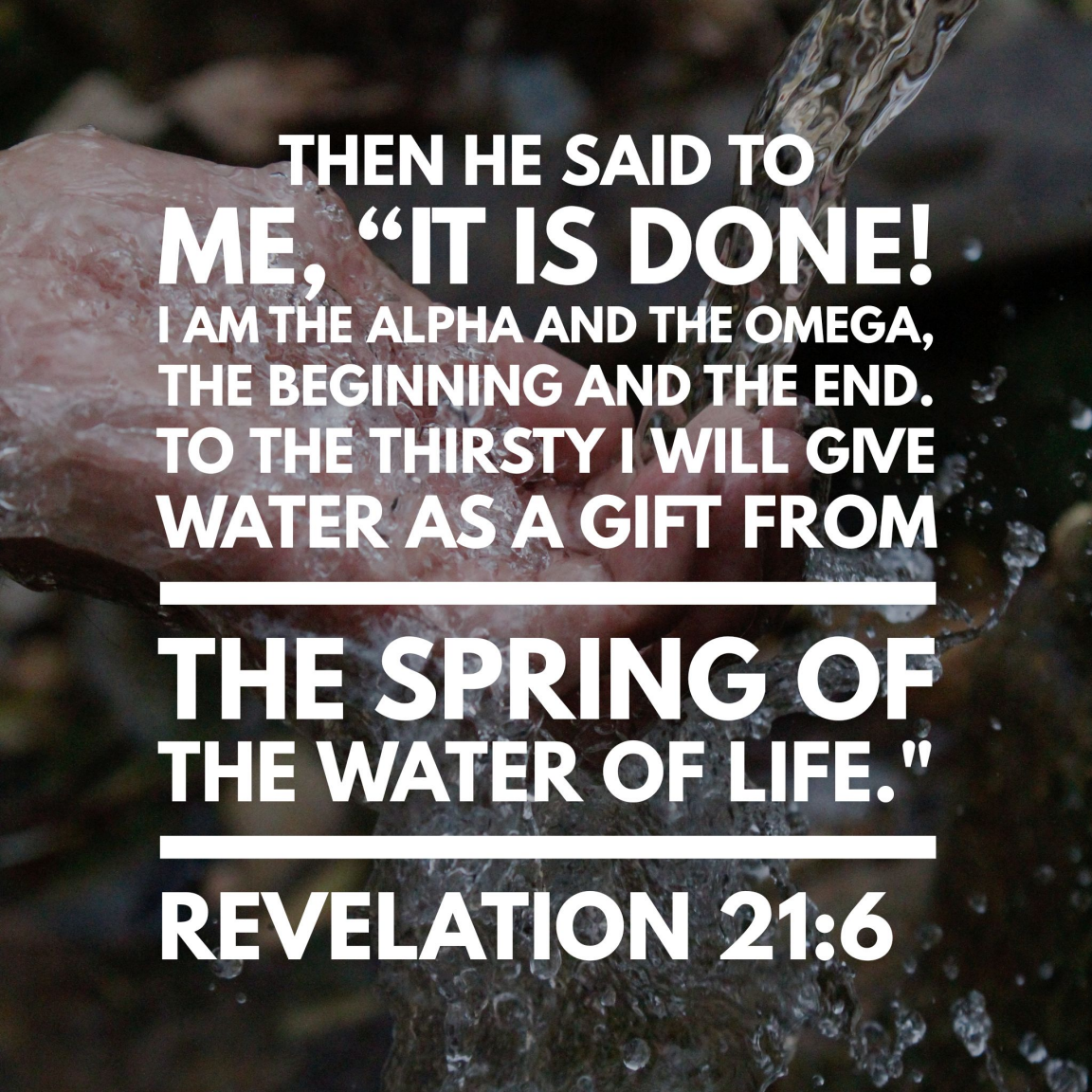
Friday

READ: John 14:15-21

THINK: Just as with Jesus' incarnation, there was a time when the Holy Spirit living in and with humans would be unheard of. The High Priest was able to enter God's presence once a year, yet in the Holy Spirit, God's presence is with us everyday and everywhere. When you *Welcome Change*, you break free of old patterns and find God's empowering and joyous presence in your life here and now.

PRAY: for the Spirit to use you to do a new and powerful thing in your world.

Welcome Change today.



**THEN HE SAID TO
ME, "IT IS DONE!
I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,
THE BEGINNING AND THE END.
TO THE THIRSTY I WILL GIVE
WATER AS A GIFT FROM**

**THE SPRING OF
THE WATER OF LIFE."**

REVELATION 21:6

Saturday

READ: Revelation 21:1-8

THINK: We hold out hope for a day when all things are made new; when the earth is lit by the light of God's goodness and grace and we can dwell with God in perfect unity. While that day is yet ahead of us, we can *Welcome Change* as God makes this world into a redeemed earth. His work is mighty and it is good, but it is only a taste of what is to come. *Welcome Change* now, but hope for the day when our Lord returns in fullness.

PRAY: that you could put your hope in God's return more than anything else.

Welcome Change today.