

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.

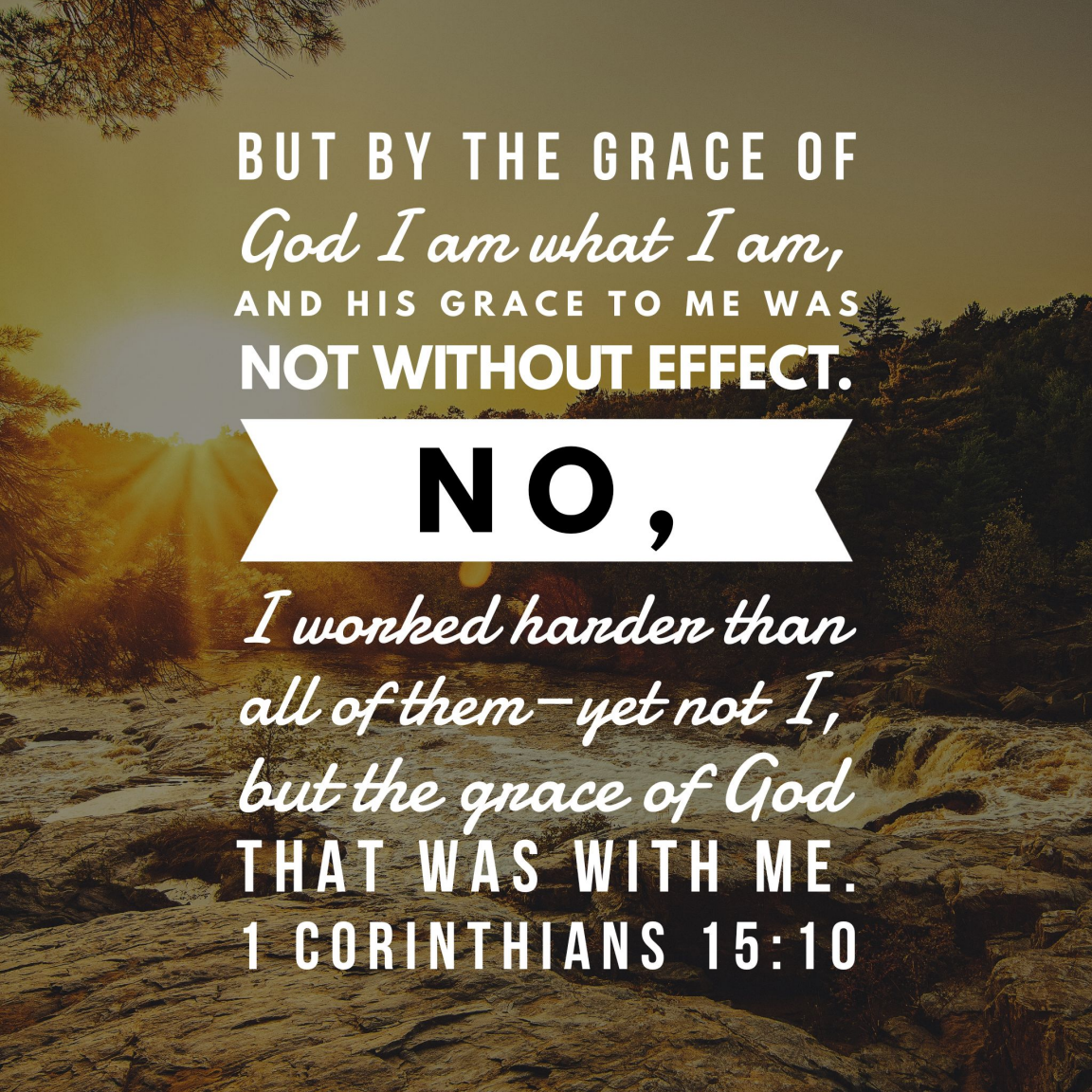


ASK FOR HELP

Sunday

Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and to be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can
Show Who You Really Are this week.



BUT BY THE GRACE OF
God I am what I am,
AND HIS GRACE TO ME WAS
NOT WITHOUT EFFECT.

NO,

*I worked harder than
all of them—yet not I,
but the grace of God*
THAT WAS WITH ME.
1 CORINTHIANS 15:10

Monday

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

THINK: You find personal growth through faith because Jesus helps. Sure, you work alongside Him, but it is by His work that you are made well.

Don't fool yourself into thinking you are a self-made person. You are who you are because God in His grace has chosen to work in you. *Ask for Help* because getting help is nothing new to you.

You have gotten it from God all along.

PRAY: that God would show you the ways He has been helping you.

Ask for Help today.



AND HE SAID, "JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN
YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM." LUKE 23:42

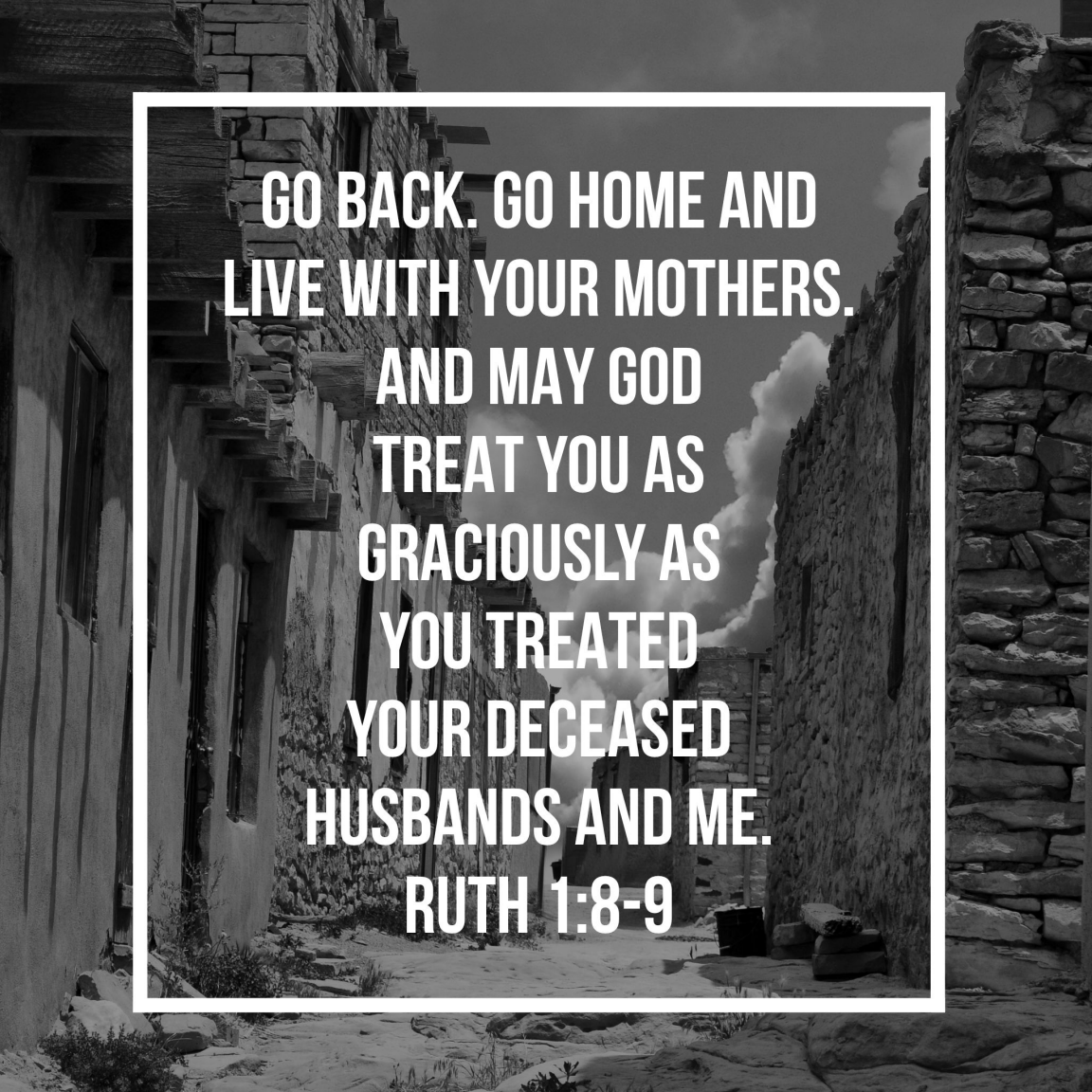
Tuesday

READ: Luke 23:42

THINK: Where would the robber be if he hadn't *Asked for Help*? Salvation begins with a choice to *Ask for Help*. Do not boast in your good morals or your good actions but in the strength of God which was made manifest in your life. When you chose to *Ask for Help*, God is faithful and God is merciful. He offers what you have not earned and you receive what you do not deserve:
a better life with Him.

PRAY: that God would shape your faith into what He needs it to be.

Ask for Help today.



GO BACK. GO HOME AND
LIVE WITH YOUR MOTHERS.
AND MAY GOD
TREAT YOU AS
GRACIOUSLY AS
YOU TREATED
YOUR DECEASED
HUSBANDS AND ME.
RUTH 1:8-9

Wednesday

READ: Ruth 1:8+9

THINK: Like Orpah, when we need help, we often push people away so that they cannot see our need. Maybe it is pride, maybe it is not wanting to be a burden or a bother, maybe it is thinking yourself unworthy, but that is not the way of the Church. When you *Ask for Help*, people will know you aren't perfect. It might be a burden, but that burden is carried gladly by people who love you and who find you worthy.

PRAY: that the Spirit would give you the strength to ask for help when you need it.

Ask for Help today.



FOOLS ARE HEADSTRONG
AND DO WHAT THEY LIKE;

WISE PEOPLE
TAKE ADVICE.
PROVERBS 12:15

Thursday

READ: Proverbs 12:15

THINK: Astute readers of Proverbs continually ask, “Am I a Fool?” Fools always think they are right.

Fools trust themselves most. Fools hide their choices so they don’t need to hear others thoughts on them. Are you a fool? Have you been a fool? The joy of the church is that there are faithful believers around you who can help you find what is right and where God is leading you. Do not miss this gift. Do not be a fool. *Ask for Help.*

PRAY: and ask for God to build a community around you that you can depend on.

Ask for Help today.



FROM

THE ROOF HE SAW

A WOMAN BATHING.

THE WOMAN WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL,

AND DAVID SENT SOMEONE

TO FIND OUT ABOUT HER.

2 SAMUEL 11: 2-3

Friday

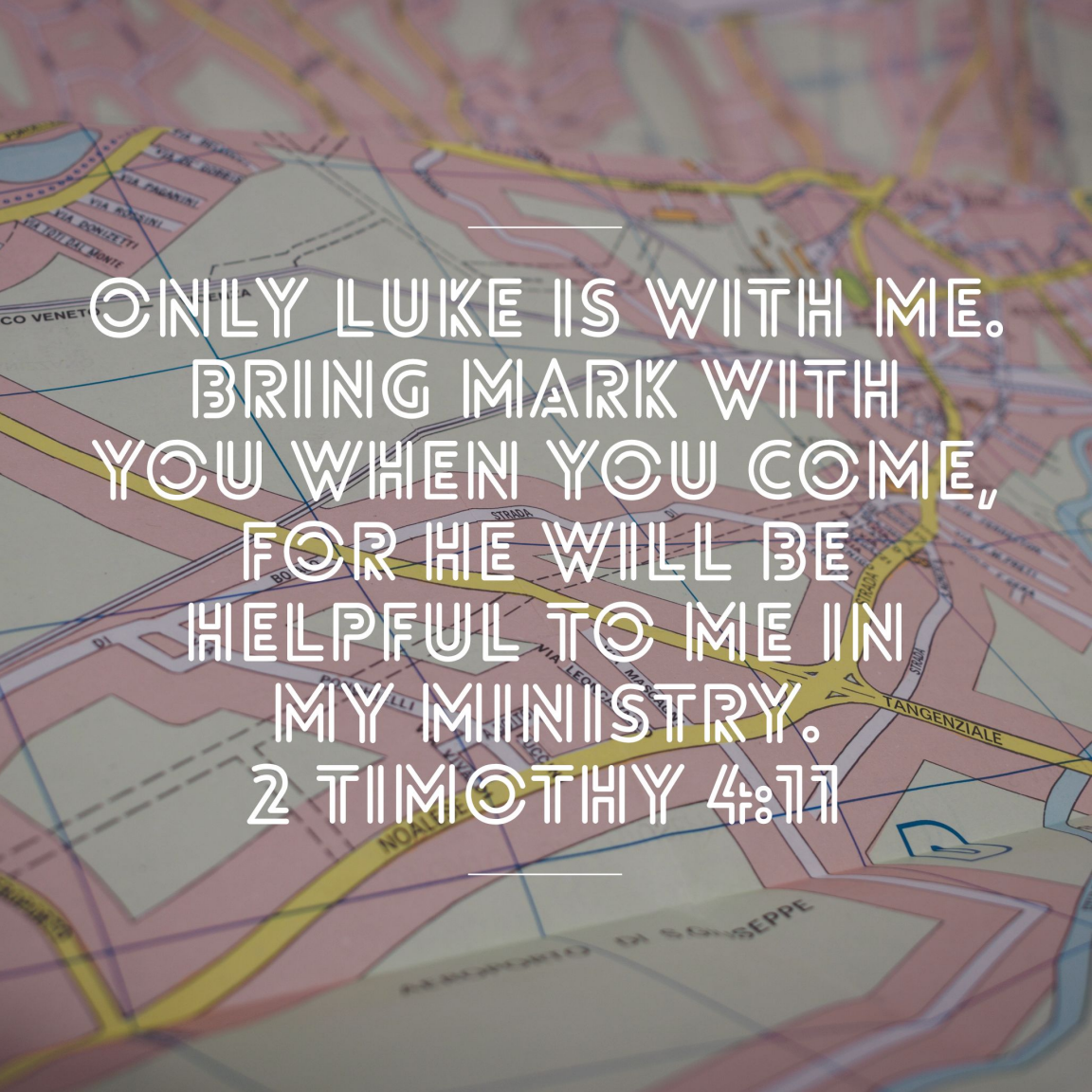
READ: 2 Samuel 11: 2-27

THINK: There is a moment between seeing Bathsheba and sending for her, where David found himself tempted. Instead of revealing his weakness and *Asking for Help*, he pressed on in his own hidden council. Maybe he worried what people would think if they knew he was tempted to adultery.

Maybe he just wanted to sin without anyone stopping him. Don't be David. In temptation, even embarrassing or scandalous temptation, *Ask for Help*.

PRAY: that the Spirit would convict you of your unwillingness to ask for help.

Ask for Help today.



ONLY LUKE IS WITH ME.
BRING MARK WITH
YOU WHEN YOU COME,
FOR HE WILL BE
HELPFUL TO ME IN
MY MINISTRY.
2 TIMOTHY 4:11

Saturday

READ: 2 Timothy 4:9-18

THINK: Sometimes *Asking for Help* is asking for a helper. Paul is under no delusion that he can accomplish the ministry he has been entrusted with alone. He needs the support and help of his fellow Christians. Do not go it alone. Whether you are struggling in your job, your family, or your faith, Ask *for Help* and see what can be accomplished together.

PRAY: that God would put people in your life like Luke, Mark, and Timothy to be helpers.

Ask for Help today.