

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.

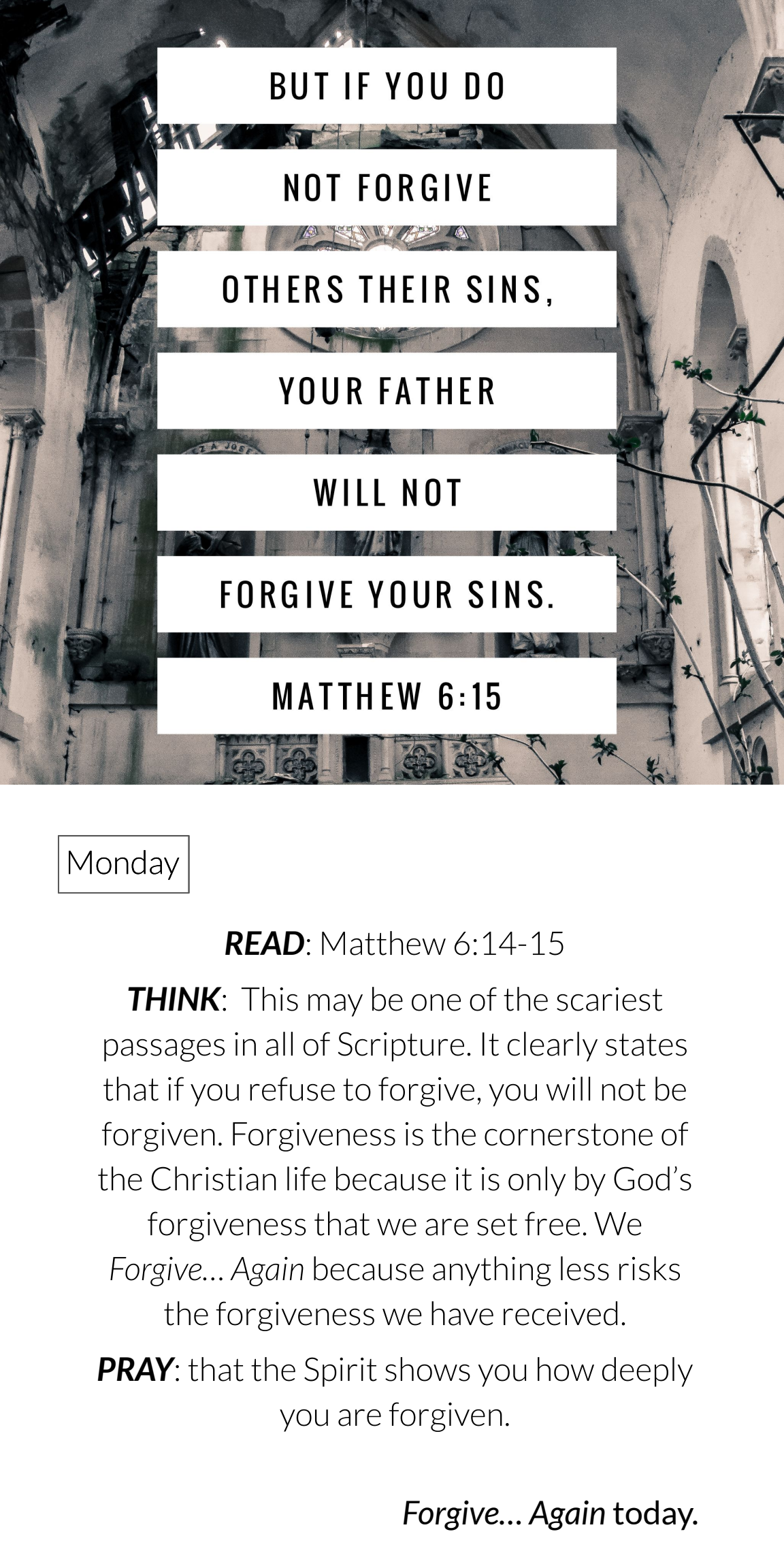


FORGIVE... AGAIN

Sunday

Just as God forgives us, heal relationships by extending forgiveness graciously and generously. Forgive everyone everything. Start by praying for those you resent or hate. Ask for every blessing you would want for the one you're struggling to forgive.

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



BUT IF YOU DO
NOT FORGIVE
OTHERS THEIR SINS,
YOUR FATHER
WILL NOT
FORGIVE YOUR SINS.
MATTHEW 6:15

Monday

READ: Matthew 6:14-15

THINK: This may be one of the scariest passages in all of Scripture. It clearly states that if you refuse to forgive, you will not be forgiven. Forgiveness is the cornerstone of the Christian life because it is only by God's forgiveness that we are set free. We *Forgive... Again* because anything less risks the forgiveness we have received.

PRAY: that the Spirit shows you how deeply you are forgiven.

Forgive... Again today.



INSTEAD, BE KIND
TO EACH OTHER,
TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER,
JUST AS GOD THROUGH
CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU.
EPHESIANS 4:32

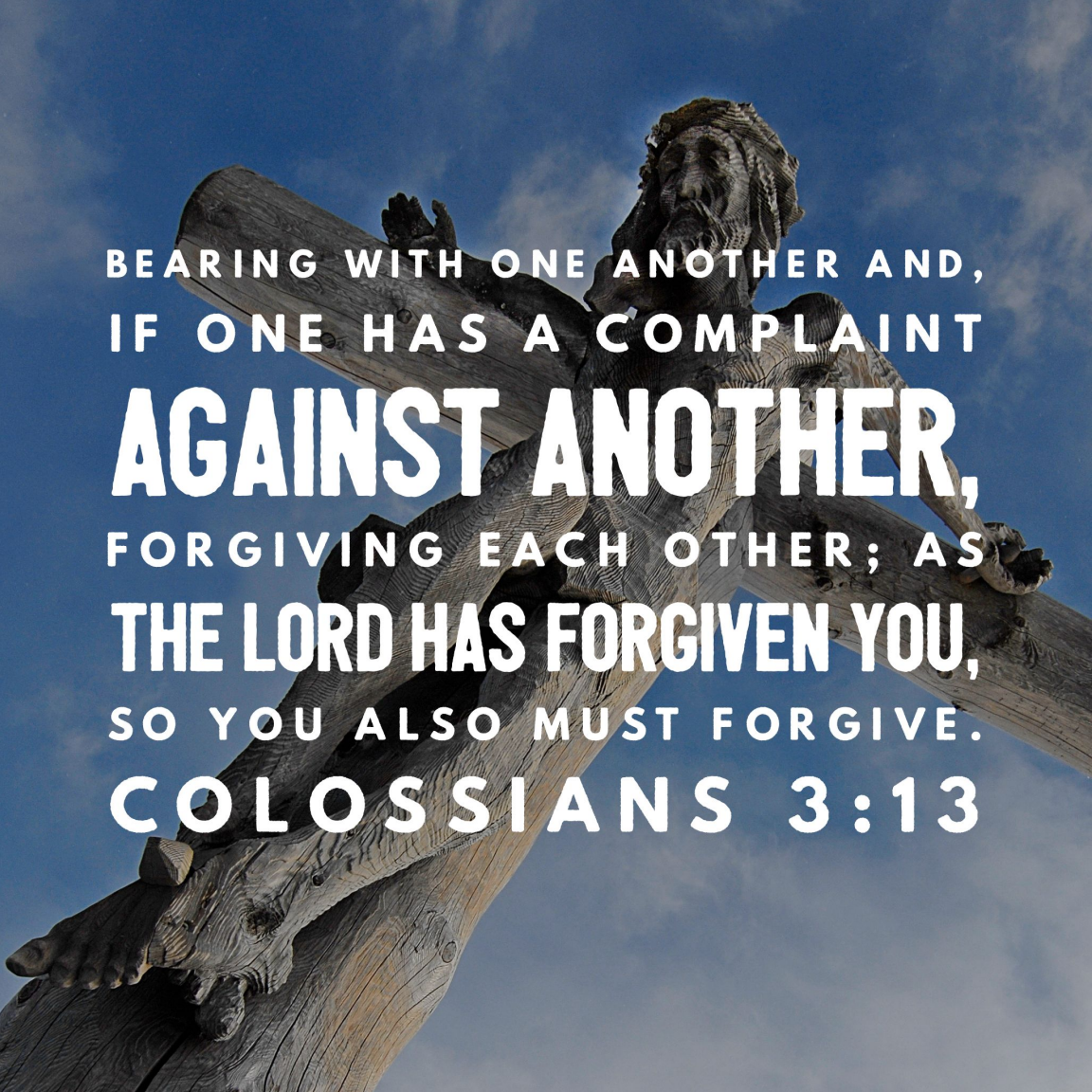
Tuesday

READ: Ephesians 4:29-32

THINK: God's commands are always for our good. The call of a Christian life is a call to live in the way that is best for you. When you *Forgive...Again* you are released from bitterness and anger. Would you rather hold on to frustration, hurt, and vengeance, or be released from them? *Forgive... Again.*

PRAY: that God would root out any bitter or vengeful thoughts in your heart.

Forgive... Again today.



BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER AND,
IF ONE HAS A COMPLAINT
AGAINST ANOTHER,
FORGIVING EACH OTHER; AS
THE LORD HAS FORGIVEN YOU,
SO YOU ALSO MUST FORGIVE.
COLOSSIANS 3:13

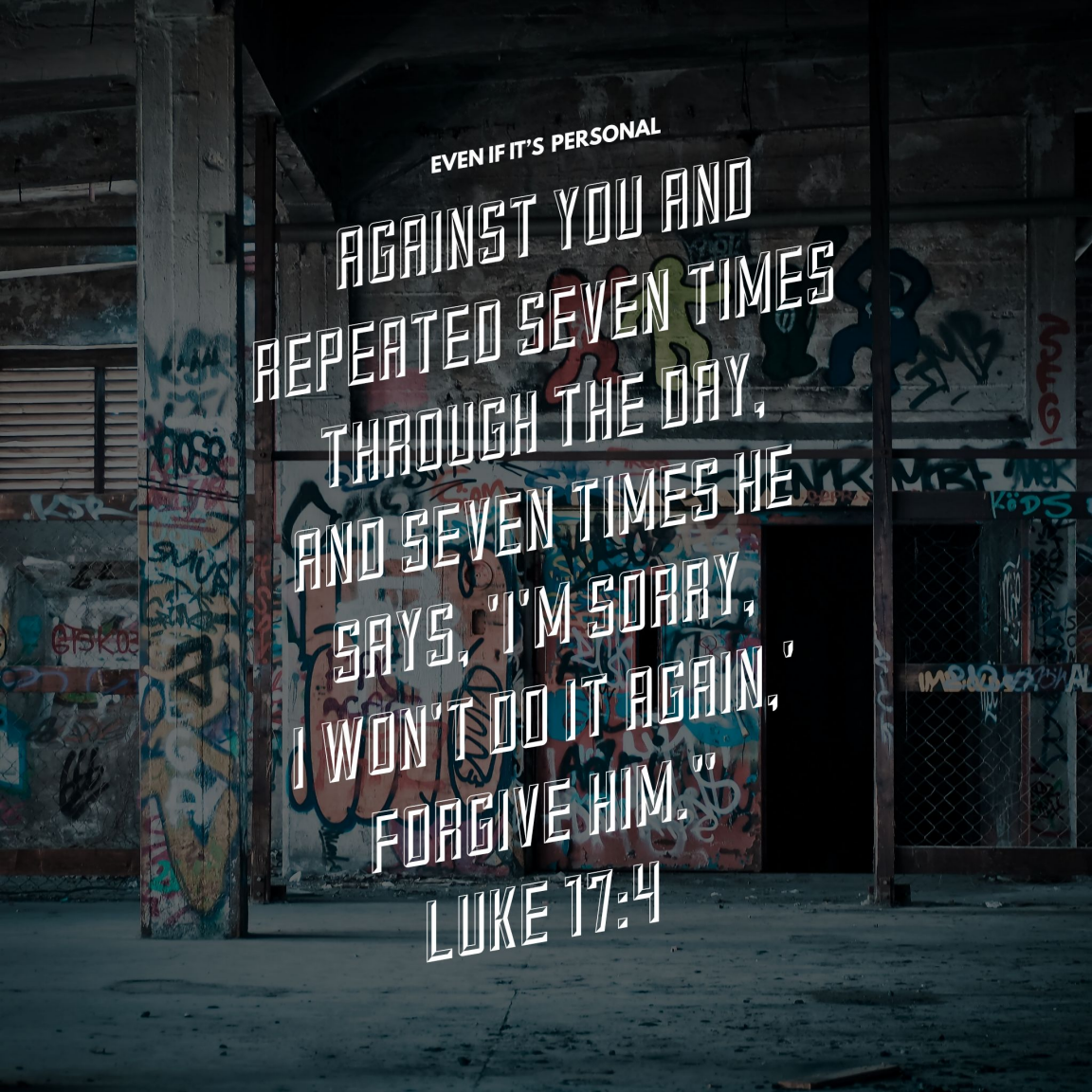
Wednesday

READ: Colossians 3:5-14

THINK: The people around you have faults and so do you. “*Forgive... Again*” means that there is space to mess up, screw up, and to be faulty. Yes, we work towards perfection; but your spouse, your church, your kids, your friends, and you, yourself, are all a work in progress. Forgive as Jesus forgives you and expect to *Forgive...Again*.

PRAY: for those who rub you the wrong way.

Forgive... Again today.



Thursday

READ: Luke 17:3-6

THINK: It is worth clarifying that *Forgive...Again* is not the same as “be a doormat” or “let people sin.” We are a community of people trying to live out God’s ways. When your fellow Christian wrongs you, don’t just ignore it. Go to them and *Speak the Truth with Love*. If they repent and ask forgiveness, be ready to *Forgive...Again*.

PRAY: that God would help you forgive.

Forgive... Again today.



I SWEEP

AWAY YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS
FOR MY OWN SAKE
AND REMEMBER YOUR SINS
NO MORE. ISAIAH 43:25

Friday

READ: Isaiah 43:25-28

THINK: Aren't you glad God remembers your sins no more? As a kid, we learned "Forgive and Forget," yet somewhere along the way that sounded like letting people off too easy. When you repent, God doesn't even remember what you did wrong yesterday. When you *Forgive... Again* debts are not crossed out to be referred to later. They are blotted out as if they never existed.

PRAY: the Spirit would give you a short memory for debts.

Forgive... Again today.



HE HAS RESCUED US
FROM THE POWER
OF DARKNESS
AND TRANSFERRED
US INTO
THE KINGDOM OF
HIS BELOVED SON,
COLOSSIANS 1:13

Saturday

READ: Colossians 1:9-14

THINK: Without forgiveness, there is only darkness; there is only the old you trapped in sin and moving towards death. You were freed from the brokenness of your past, and you live in Jesus' New Kingdom. The law in the New Kingdom isn't "an eye for an eye" anymore, it's *Forgive...Again*. Live in the New Kingdom, live out the new law, *Forgive...Again*.

PRAY: the Spirit would make forgiveness second nature to you.

Forgive... Again today.