W/A/S 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.



Sunday

Ask first for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do.
Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

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

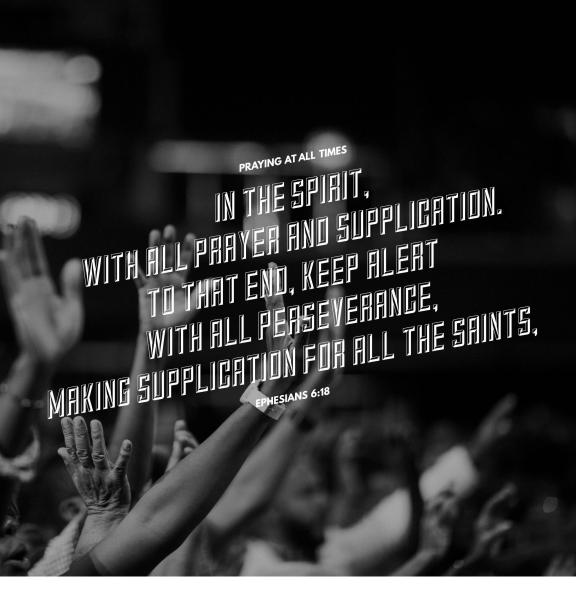


Monday

READ: Proverbs 3:5-6

THINK: God will direct our paths. Like the pillars of fire and cloud through the wilderness, God will lead the way. God led Pharaoh through dreams, Abraham through angels, and prophets through insight. That same Spirit of the living God dwells in each one of us. Pray First and Pray Again because you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with you and will guide you wherever you go.

PRAY: that you would see the Spirit's leadership this week.



Tuesday

READ: Ephesians 6:18-20

THINK: It is easy to think that when there is nothing else to do, we can pray. Paul has a different view. Like a night watchman, we must keep alert. Prayer is not the last ditch effort; it is the first line of defense against the enemy. Be alert. Pray First and Pray Again because the devil prowls like a lion waiting to devour. It is the power of God called into action by prayer that keeps him at bay.

PRAY: for a sister or brother Christian whose faith is struggling.



Wednesday

READ: Matthew 6:9-15

THINK: This prayer speaks our hope that this world becomes more and more as God would will it. We pray that our actions and our kingdoms begin to mirror God's kingdom. It might feel so far from reality that it isn't worth praying, but God is about the work of renewing this world. Pray First and Pray Again because God's kingdom takes time, but each baby step towards it is a great ioy.

PRAY: for this world to begin to look like God's Kingdom.



Thursday

READ: John 10:22-30

THINK: Do you know the shepherd's voice?
You can discern God's nature by studying the
Bible, but you can only know His ways
through intimate relationship. Through
regular times like you are taking right now to
be with Him in prayer and Scripture, we draw
close to Jesus. When you Pray First and Pray
Again, you learn how God works in this world
and in your life. In short,
you learn His voice.

PRAY: you would hear God's voice.



Friday

READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

THINK: Two words: pray continually. Prayer is not the space between "Dear God" and "Amen." A life lived in relationship to God is prayer. Offer your life as that living prayer. Raise silent praises and petitions to Him wherever you go, or simply enjoy His presence. Pray First and Pray Again so you can seek His presence in everything you do.

PRAY: without saying amen, so that you remember to pray continually.



Saturday

READ: Philippians 4:4-9

THINK: Prayer rightly orients work in your life. When we pray or when we choose Sabbath rest, we acknowledge that there is a greater power than us. We pray, not because we are out of options, but because for God, all things are possible. Don't worry about what you can or can't do, Pray First and Pray Again and find that God is active and willing.

PRAY: through your anxieties and acknowledge that God is in control.