

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.

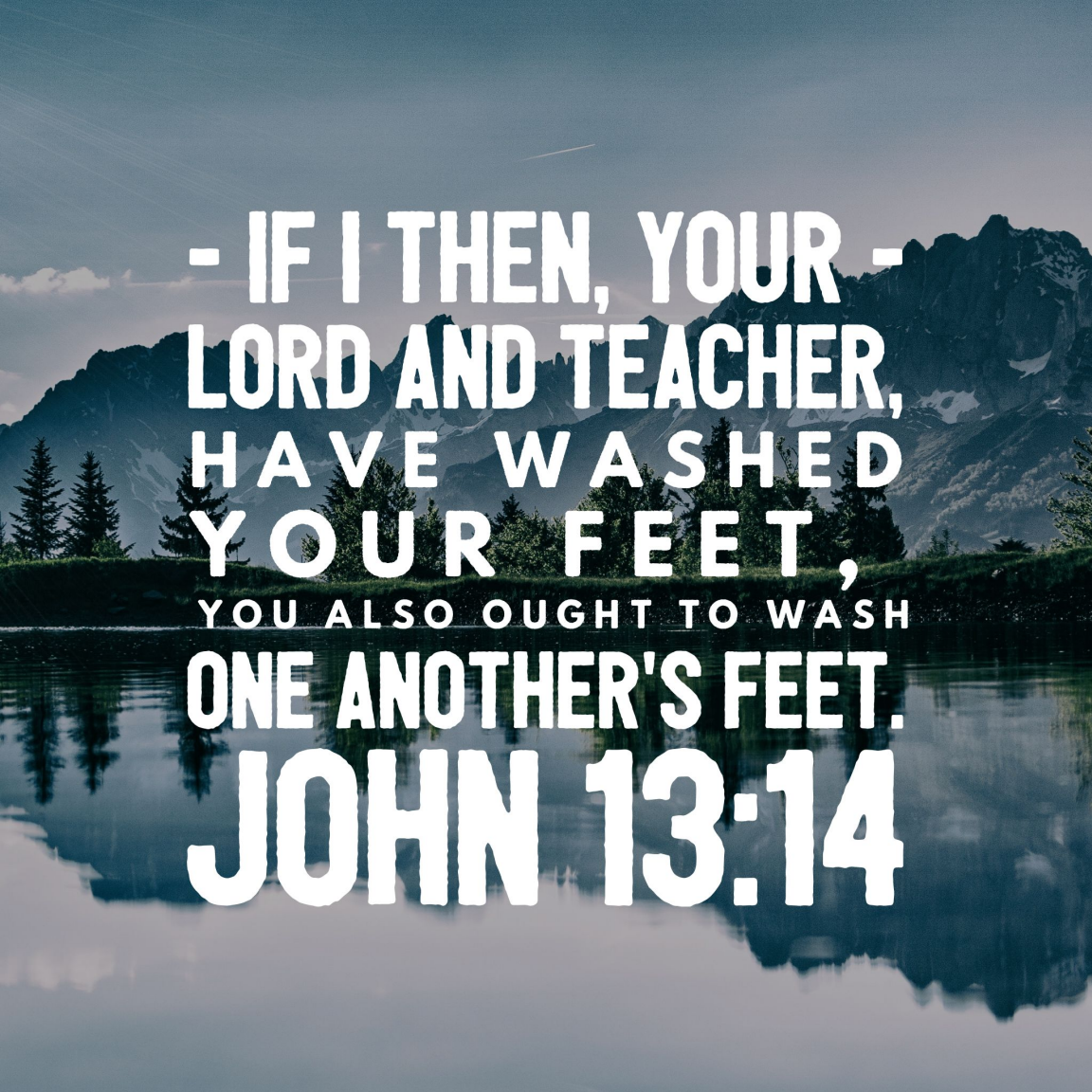
A close-up, slightly blurred image of teal-colored leaves, filling the entire background of the top half of the page.

BE THIRD

Sunday

God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, but be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.

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



- IF I THEN, YOUR -
LORD AND TEACHER,
HAVE WASHED
YOUR FEET,
YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH
ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.
JOHN 13:14

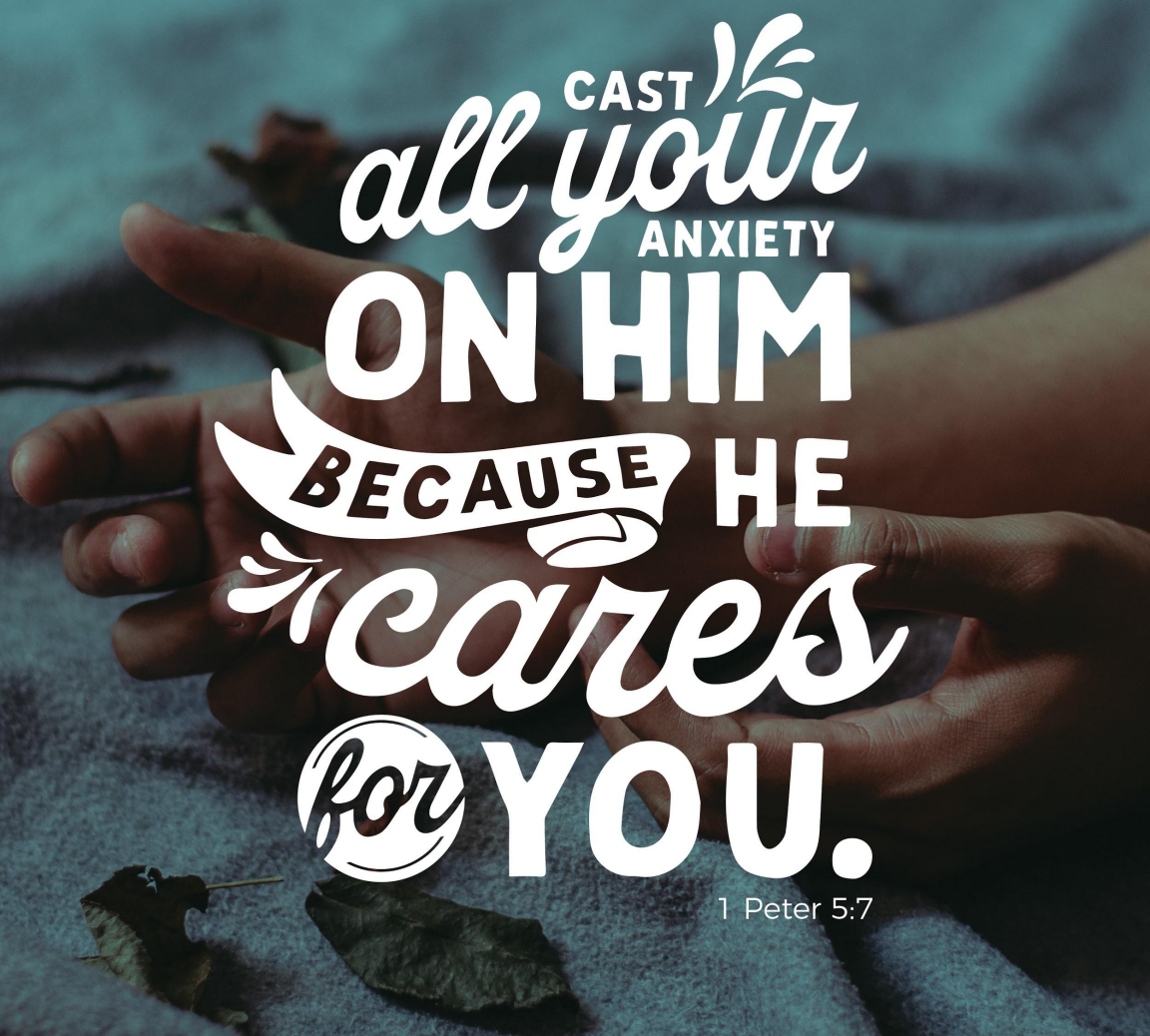
Monday

READ: John 13:6-17

THINK: To show His care and concern for them, Jesus welcomed His disciples into the home not only offering them water to wash, but by washing their feet himself. Jesus, being in very nature God, humbled Himself to the point of washing the dusty and sweaty feet of his disciples. When you set out to *Be Third*, you will find that actions that seem beneath you will become second nature.

PRAY: that God would break your pride to love others.

Be Third today.



CAST
all your
ANXIETY
ON HIM
BECAUSE HE
cares
for **YOU.**

1 Peter 5:7

Tuesday

READ: 1 Peter 5:1-7

THINK: When you are first, the worries and weight of the world fall on your shoulders. Things you cannot do are not done and the pressure builds. Cast your anxieties on God as the one who is able to overcome any obstacle. When you look to *Be Third*, you know that you are held in the mighty hands of God and He will accomplish His good will.

PRAY: through some of your anxieties and give them over to God.

Be Third today.



He WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN
AND WILL FORGIVE
THEIR SINS
AND RESTORE
THEIR LAND.
2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Wednesday

READ: 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

THINK: In our culture, when you speak in power and expectation, you are more likely to be served and answered. People use power to get their way. This just plainly doesn't work with God. He is not impressed by your clothes, job, grades, money, or ability to speak. It is those who come to God in humility who are heard. *Be Third* in your prayer life and know how great is our God.

PRAY: that you would see and know the face of God.

Be Third today.



Thursday

READ: Luke 14:7-14

THINK: God will humble those who lift themselves up and exalt those who live humbly. Imagine a moment when God turns to you and exalts you. Whether in this life or after, the Creator of all will lift you up in honor and glory. What a gift it will be to hear the words, “Well done good and faithful servant.” Don’t seek your own glory, *Be Third* and let God exalt you.

PRAY: that you would put more weight on God’s exaltation than people’s.

Be Third today.



when pride comes,
THEN COMES
disgrace; but wisdom
IS WITH THE HUMBLE.
proverbs 11:2

Friday

READ: Proverbs 11:2

THINK: Pride shuts out the insight and input of others but humility welcomes and invites it. A prideful person thinks they have all the answers but the humbly wise one knows how far they still have to come. When you begin to *Be Third*, you see the joy and the gift that others are in your life. Wisdom comes in seeking God first and honoring others above yourself.

PRAY: that God would help organize your life to *Be Third*.

Be Third today.



DO NOT THINK OF YOURSELF

MORE HIGHLY THAN

YOU OUGHT,

BUT RATHER THINK

OF YOURSELF WITH SOBER JUDGMENT,

ROMANS 12:3

Saturday

READ: Romans 12:3-8

THINK: This is the joy of the Gospel: you aren't good and you can't make yourself good. God can. The great freedom of faith is that we are not perfect and aren't expected to be. God invites us ever deeper into right living, but we are all in process. Do not think of yourself too highly, do not think you have made it, never think you can save yourself, and *Be Third*.

PRAY: God would help you see yourself as He sees you.

Be Third today.