

GENERAL INFORMATION

"NEAR": 40 DAYS OF CONSECRATION - LOGISTICS & GUIDE

Consecration Dates: Monday, September 18, 2023 - Saturday, October 28, 2023

Thematic Scripture (What does it say?):

Psalm 73:28 ESV, 28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Meaning of Thematic Scripture (What does it mean?):

Seeing godless people thrive, even as they hatefully mock God, while believers suffer leads many people to a crisis of faith. This was the case for Asaph. The Bible includes several individuals named "Asaph," but the psalm titles likely refer to Asaph, son of Berechiah (1 Chronicles 6:39). He was a Levite appointed by David to worship before the ark (1 Chronicles 16:4–7). David later established his family as temple musicians (1 Chronicles 25:1–2). His descendants continued this role throughout the period of the kings (2 Chronicles 35:15) and again after the exile (Ezra 3:10; Nehemiah 11:17). Using exaggerated imagery, he complains to the Lord that it seems as if evil people have easy lives, while godly people suffer. Further reflection reminds Asaph that sin does lead to consequences (Romans 6:23), both in this life and the next. He confesses his sins of bitterness and resolves to trust God more deeply.

In this final verse of Psalm 73, Asaph counts his blessings. In contrast with the condition of the wicked far from God, Asaph knows it is good for him to be near God. The Hebrew word for "near" in this passage is translated as "a state of being close friends with someone." He acknowledges that God is his fortress. He trusts the Lord for safety and vows to proclaim all of God's works. Asaph concluded that those who are far from God and unfaithful will be destroyed, but those near God find joy and safety.



40-DAY HOLY CONSECRATION

Though he had nearly slipped in his confidence in God (Psalm 73:2), he now was reassured that God was keeping him secure. God was his Refuge (maḥseh, "shelter from danger"; Psalm 14:6; 46:1; 61:3; 62:7–8; 71:7; 91:2, 9). Nearness to God always helps believers maintain a balanced perspective on material things and the wicked. More importantly, nearness is the desired location of God for all believers.

Purpose (What does it say and mean to us?):

The purpose of a time of consecration is to set apart a person, thing, or place as sacred, holy or to dedicate to a higher purpose. This holy consecration is set time in preparation for the dedication to a higher purpose and deepening our relationship with the Lord. The observations of Asaph are not merely relevant to his life's experiences but to many believers as well. "It is good to be near to God..." Asaph began this psalm with, "But as for me, my feet almost slipped" (73:2). He finishes with, "But for me it is good to be near God..." What happened between verses? He encountered God in worship. In the presence of God, he found the truth, hope, and strength he needed. He allowed life's confusion to drive him to God, not away from him. Although the vicissitudes of life, the prosperity of the wicked, and the warfare caused by the Kingdom of darkness could cause one to experience spiritual distress, emotional instability, and doubt, being near the Father produces spiritual awareness, revelation, and increased faith in God.

"Near" speaks to the means of consecration and the closing of spiritual gaps in our relationship with the Lord. For six weeks, we will be intentionally focusing on the following areas:

- Drawing Near to God in Worship
- Drawing Near to God by Faith
- Drawing Near to God Physically
- Drawing Near to God Emotionally
- Drawing Near to God Mentally
- Drawing Near to God Consistently

Our means of consecration include variations of the following: fasting, prayer, worship, and fellowship.





"But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (Psalm 73:28 ESV)

Welcome to a time of awareness, advancement, and divine attraction! My wife, Lady Desiree, and I are elated about your decision to partner with us and your Christ Church Apostolic family in this opportunity in the presence of God. Christ's Church and Christ Church Apostolic were founded on prayer, fasting, and consecration. After the history afforded to us and its fruit in front of us, I would be unwise to uproot our foundation and anticipate positive results. Through revelation by the Holy Spirit and confirmation of the Scriptures, I have an overwhelming expectation for transformation, alignment, and empowerment. In short, I expect GOD! Just as Jesus allotted forty days for fasting and prayer in the wilderness before public ministry, Christ Church Apostolic postures herself to draw "Near" to the Father.

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The following pages serve as a guide in our time of corporate fasting. I have shared what we are corporately anticipating, but I want you to take a moment and consider your expectations for this time of consecration. Journal, voice record, or meditate on them through this experience. Exercise your means of chronicling and retaining your faith goals and specific prayer requests for you, your family, friends, church, and the future. Notate significant moments in the consecration when God answers a prayer, breakthroughs, revelations, and experiences in His presence. I welcome you to lay your requests and expectations on the altar for these 40 days if you desire.

I encourage you to join Lady D and me in this spiritual journey from September 18 to October 28. I honor your commitment to becoming all God has called you to be. Bring your spirit, mind, and body into alignment with the Spirit of God, positioning yourself, your family, and your future draw "Near!"

> Pastor James Tyson Lead Pastor, Christ Church Apostolic





ABOUT FASTING AND PRAYER

"And when you fast..." (Matthew 6:16 ESV)

A MEANS OF GRACE

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement in the Church of England, described fasting and prayer in his 1746 sermon as a "Means of Grace." Wesley defined the means of grace as "outward signs, words, or actions, ordained of God, and appointed for this end, to be the ordinary channels whereby he might convey to men preventing, justifying, and or sanctifying grace." These are practiced privately and collectively, establishing and advancing "the mind that was in Christ" (Philippians 2:5).

WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is primarily defined as refraining from eating food; however, when fasting is exercised as a means of grace, it is beyond food. It is the abstinence from what is pleasurable to the flesh and what satisfies and keeps actively alive the natural appetite. For example, money, social media, shopping, food, and others feed the natural appetite. Fasting and prayer transform from simply abstinence and communication to having spiritual implications when the Spirit of God is infused in the process. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 17:21 KJV, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Fasting must be accompanied by prayer to transition it from natural to supernatural. You can go without food, but it will not be spiritual fasting. Fasting can never be spiritually meaningful without prayer.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is the believer's means of communication and contact with God, which helps strengthen and develop our relationship with Him. Prayer is two-way communication: we speak to God, and then we listen to hear from Him, sitting quietly in His presence.





Types of Prayer: There are different types of prayer for different circumstances. Jesus used different prayers for different needs and circumstances. We must be intentional as well to reap the best prayer benefits.

- 1. Prayer of Agreement Matthew 18:19
- 2. Prayer of Faith Mark 11:24
- 3. Prayer of Repentance 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 4. Prayer of Intercession Romans 8:26
- 5. Prayer of Praise Psalm 100:1-2
- 6. Prayer of Submission 1 Peter 5

THE ACTS PRAYER MODEL

This method of prayer serves as an outline or guide for prayer so you can organize your thoughts and requests. The acronym ACTS stands for adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. This model of prayer prioritizes our time with God, so we first approach Him with reverence (adoration), then repent of the sin in our life (confession), then express our gratitude to Him for all He has done (thanksgiving), and finally submit to Him our requests (supplication).

WHY FAST?

In Matthew 6, Jesus gave us specific directions on how to live as a child of God. That pattern addressed three specific duties of a Christian: Giving, Praying, and Fasting. Jesus said, "When you give," "when you pray," "when you fast." He clarified that fasting, like giving and praying, was a regular part of Christian life.

Unless it is an intentional discipline, many do not engage in a spiritual fast unless it is called corporately. Realistically, no one, however, can "put" you on a fast. Fasting is a self-imposed abstinence for a period of time. It must be voluntary, or it is ineffective. This is why many of our attitudes are upside down when it is time to fast because our perspective of this time of discipline is wrong.



40-DAY HOLY CONSECRATION

The attitude of the faster should be one of anticipation. We cannot view fasting as simply afflicting the body but rather freeing the spirit to hear, see, and understand the things of God. Bishop Norman Wagner once wrote, "To engage in a fast unto God against your will is a contradiction of terms; it is not an acceptable sacrifice." Fasting must be accompanied by resolve.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET DURING THIS FAST?

- 1. God Without Him and His direction, this time of consecration is not a spiritual sacrifice.
- 2. Faith Goals State your primary goal, then your secondary, natural, or temporal goal. What are you believing the Lord for?
- 3. Established Prayer Times I strongly urge you to try to pray not less than three times per day. First, pray in the morning; second, pray sometime in the afternoon; and finally, pray sometime in the evening. If eating three square meals daily is good for your health, then praying and feeding your spirit three meals daily has to be better for your spiritual health and wellness.
- 4. The Bible The Bible is God's operation manual for human life. When fasting, one should read the Bible more at this time than at any other time. Therefore, if you read the Bible ten minutes a day when you are not fasting, you should read it not less than 30 minutes daily. Consider downloading the YouVersion Bible App for daily devotionals, Scriptures, and topical studies.
- 5. An Appropriate Posture "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:16-18 ESV)





TYPES OF FASTS INVOLVING FOOD

FULL FAST. Drink only liquids – especially water. You may also take in clear broth and 100 percent fruit or vegetable juices on this type of fast to maintain your strength. You establish the number of days for your fast in your prayer time. Be sure to consult your doctor.

SELECTIVE FAST. This type of fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example of a selective fast is the Daniel Fast (Daniel 10), during which you remove meat, sweets, and bread from your diet and consume water and juice for fluids and fruits and vegetables for food.

PARTIAL FAST. This fast involves abstaining from eating any type of food in the morning and afternoon. This can correlate to specific times of the day, such as 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM or from sunup to sundown.





BEFORE, DURING, AND BREAKING THE FAST

Planning Your Fast

"Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5

Pray—Spend time reading the Bible before the fast. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your prayers. Write down your faith goals and specific prayer requests for your family, friends, church, and nation.

Commit—Pray about the fast you will undertake and commit to it beforehand. Ask God for grace to help you follow through with your decisions.

Act—Start eating smaller portions a few days before the fast. Avoid food high in sugar and fat. Plan to limit physical and social activities for the week of the fast. Ask someone to be your prayer partner throughout the fast.

While Fasting

"[Jesus] answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

Focus—Set aside time to work through the devotionals. Be ready to respond to God's Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Pray—Join at least one prayer meeting in your local church. Intercede for your family, church, pastors, nation, campuses, and missions throughout the week.

Replenish—During mealtime, read the Bible and pray instead. Drink plenty of water and rest as much as you can. Be ready for temporary physical weakness and mental annoyances like impatience and irritability.





Breaking the Fast

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14–15

Eat—Reintroduce solid food gradually. Your body will need time to adjust to a regular diet. Start with fruits, juices, and salad, then add more vegetables. Eat small portions throughout the day.

Pray—Do not stop praying! Trust God's faithfulness and timing. Carry your newfound passion for God throughout the year. Be in faith for God to answer your prayers.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are some of the most-asked questions about fasting from our friends and partners:

What if I have a medical condition?

Consult your doctor before starting any fast. Decide together what is possible. If your health condition prohibits you from fasting food, try fasting something else and concentrate on prayer and Bible study.

Can children fast?

The best way to show your children the power of fasting is to lead by example. If they want to participate in fasting or if you want to have a family fast, consider giving up desserts or soft drinks. In addition to giving up an item of food, you could also give up television as a family and spend that time reading and discussing Bible stories.

What is a "Daniel Fast"? (Resource and Further Details:

https://jamesriver.church/danielfast)

Read Daniel 1:12 and Daniel 10:2-3. The Daniel Fast is based on the prophet Daniel's fasting experiences as recorded in the Bible. The fast is a biblically based partial fast. According to Daniel 1, the results were: (v. 17) learning, skill, wisdom, spiritual understanding, favor, and better appearance! (v. 19) In Daniel 10, the fast resulted in answered prayer and spiritual insight. (vv. 11-12) One of the great things about the Daniel Fast is that you are not limited to any specific amount of food but rather to the kinds of food you can eat. There are three critical components to the Daniel Fast:

- 1. Only fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, whole grains.
- 2. Only water or natural fruit juice for a beverage
- 3. No sweeteners, breads, meat, eggs, or dairy products





What if I start and cannot finish out the fast ... have I fasted for nothing?

Seeking God through prayer and fasting is never a waste of time. When you make the effort, God takes notice. Just determine within your heart that you will make an even better effort next time. Alternatively, try finishing up with a partial fast.

I forgot and ate something that was not on my fast . . . do I need to start again?

No, think of fasting as a marathon rather than a sprint. Do not give up! If you fall, get up and keep trying. Conquering "king stomach" is complex, but you will make it.

Do I continue to exercise while fasting?

Moderate exercise is good. But it is best to always consult a doctor about fasting and exercise. If you are on a complete fast, you may not have the energy for a high level of exercise.

What if I have a manual labor job?

If you have a job that requires you to expend much physical energy, you may want to consider a partial fast that allows you to receive enough nutrition to perform your job.

Can my spouse and I be intimate during our fast?

Read I Corinthians 7:2-5, especially verse 5, which says do not deprive one another (of sexual relations) EXCEPT WITH CONSENT, for a time . . . that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer. So, the answer is yes. Scripture allows this for fasting and prayer, BUT only with mutual consent. If you are not married, please continue exercising the discipline of abstinence.





FASTING AND PRAYER INFORMATION

"And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry." (Matthew 4:2 ESV)

Please view the "Near" Playlist on Christ Church Apostolic's YouTube Channel for inspirational videos and encouragement.

Note: Bible Studies will remain on Wednesdays at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM EST

WEEK 1 (SEPTEMBER 18-SEPTEMBER 23): "DRAWING NEAR TO GOD IN WORSHIP"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), John 4:23-24, Psalm 95:6, Hebrews 12:28, Jeremiah 29:13, Isaiah 55:6, Psalm 145:18

Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Type of Fast: Social & Media Fast - Abstaining from all unnecessary communication, social interactions, gossip, negativity (sharing or receiving), displays of anger, phone calls, texting, social media platforms, television or streaming platforms, emails, secular music, and procrastination.

Note: This is inclusive of any form of socializing or media that is unrelated to pertinent business, job responsibilities, career, or unrelated to Christian television, videos, or music.

Duration: Entire week without breaks

Purpose: During Week I of consecration, we intentionally focus our minds, attention, and spirits on God. Often, during extended fasts like these, the attention is primarily on the absence of food, distracting us from the presence of God. Our goal is to eliminate the distractions that will prohibit us from maximizing this information by God. Additionally, we will focus on "practicing the presence of God" (Read *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence – available on Amazon). We will increase our awareness of God's presence and establish consistency in our daily worship.





Corporate Prayer Guidelines and Opportunities

What: Morning Devotion & Prayer (online only) Location: Christ Church Apostolic Facebook and YouTube pages Time: 5:00 am to 5:45 am EST Days: Monday – Friday

What: Corporate Prayer (Afternoon) Location: Christ Church Apostolic, 6601 North Grandview Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46260 Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST Days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

What: Corporate Worship and Prayer (Evening) Location: Christ Church Apostolic, 6601 North Grandview Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46260 and Online Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST Day: Tuesday

WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 24-SEPTEMBER 30): "DRAWING NEAR TO GOD BY FAITH"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), 2 Corinthians 5:7, Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:22, Proverbs 3:5-6

Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition. **Type of Fast**: Week 1 Guidelines & No red meats, sweets, bread, or dairy Primary Beverage: Water

Duration: Entire week without breaks





Purpose: During Week 2 of consecration, we are drawing near to God by faith. Faith is the currency of the Kingdom and an expected disposition of a kingdom believer. When Paul says we "walk" by faith, he is teaching us that true faith is the lifestyle and behavior of the believer. Therefore, everything in the kingdom is received by faith, and nothing is received without it. The key to drawing near to God by faith is the recognition that our faith is not in the works of God but in God.

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WEEK 3 (OCTOBER 1-OCTOBER 7): "DRAW NEAR TO GOD PHYSICALLY"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Genesis 2:7, 1 Timothy 4:8, 1 Corinthians 9:27, Daniel 1:5-16





Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition. **Type of Fast**: Week 1 Guidelines & Fruits and vegetables only (Daniel Fast) Primary Beverage: Water

Duration: Entire week without breaks

Purpose: During Week 3 of consecration, we are focusing our attention on drawing near to God physically. How you care for your physical body impacts your relationship with God. Truthfully, God only gives us one body to steward over. Our bodies are so important that the Lord calls them temples of God (see 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; 6:19–20). Our bodies are holy. Because our bodies are essential, our Father in Heaven wants us to take good care of them. He knows we can be happier, better people if we are healthy. Challenge yourself to physical exercise, a healthier diet post-consecration, and educate yourself on improved bodily habits.

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What: Corporate Worship and Prayer (Evening)

Location: Christ Church Apostolic, 6601 North Grandview Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46260 and Online

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Day: Tuesday

WEEK 4 (OCTOBER 8-OCTOBER 14): "DRAWING NEAR TO GOD EMOTIONALLY"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), Psalm 34:18, Proverbs 29:11, Proverbs 15:18, Ecclesiastes 3:4, Proverbs 25:28, Ephesians 4:26-27, 1 Peter 5:7

Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition. **Type of Fast**: Week 1 Guidelines & Fruits and vegetables only (Daniel Fast) Primary Beverage: Water

Duration: Entire week without breaks

Purpose: During Week 4 of consecration, we focus on drawing near to God emotionally. While we are spiritual beings, we are also physical beings. The book of Psalms proves that God leaves room in the human experience for our emotions. Healthy emotions will lead to freedom in the present and the future. The Lord says that during this week, He is present to heal from brokenheartedness, trauma, instability, depression, anxiety, and the overwhelming emotions that limit the depth of our relationship with Christ. Be prepared to address the undiscussed and unresolved. The Lord desires you to be whole!

Corporate Prayer Guidelines and Opportunities What: Morning Devotion & Prayer (online only) Location: Christ Church Apostolic Facebook and YouTube pages Time: 5:00 am to 5:45 am EST Days: Monday – Friday



40-DAY HOLY CONSECRATION

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WEEK 5 (OCTOBER 15-OCTOBER 21): "DRAWING NEAR TO GOD MENTALLY"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:15-16, James 1:8, Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:2, Psalm 104:34, Proverbs 28:26, 1 Corinthians 14:20

Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition. **Type of Fast**: Week 1 Guidelines & Vegetables and Juicing only Abstaining from Food Time: 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST Primary Beverage: Water (may drink all day)

Duration: Entire week without breaks

Purpose: During Week 5 of consecration, we focus on drawing near to God mentally. One of our greatest assets is our mind. Proverbs 23:7 teaches us that as a man thinks, so he is. Therefore, how we live in our present, what we envision and produce in our future is a direct product of our thoughts. Surrendering our minds to God transforms how we think and our behavior to model that of Christ. Poor thinking has no dominion over you! During this week, God restores your mind, vision, dreams, and the reality of His purpose for your life.





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WEEK 6 (OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 28): "DRAWING NEAR TO GOD CONSISTENTLY"

Devotional Scriptures: Psalm 73 (entirety), Hebrews 7:25, Psalm 42:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9, 1 John 2:27, Daniel 6:10, Philippians 3:14, Deuteronomy 31:6, Psalm 33:11, John 10:27

Important: Foot Washing Service will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 12 PM and 7 PM.

Important: Holy Communion will be on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 11 AM.





Corporate Fasting Guidelines

Be sure to consult your doctor, especially if you have any medical condition. **Type of Fast**: Week 1 Guidelines & 1 meal per day (Please read "Break the Fast") Abstaining from Food Time: 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST Primary Beverage: Water (may drink all day)

Duration: Entire week without breaks

Purpose: During Week 6 of consecration, we focus on consistently drawing near to God. Consecration is not merely a set time, but it is a mindset. Therefore, drawing near to God must be a daily decision, corporately and individually. The value of this consecration will only be fully manifested through our consistency in the presence of God. Remember, to draw "near," as Asaph shares in Psalm 73, means "a state of being close friends with someone." Nearness is the desired location of God for all believers.

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DAILY CONFESSIONS: WHO/WHAT I AM IN CHRIST

- I am reigning in life by Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17)
- I am not looking at the things that are seen, but at the things which are not seen (II Corinthians 4:18)
- I am walking by faith and not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7)
- I am casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (II Corinthians 10:5)
- I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 6:14)
- I am rooted and grounded in love because Christ dwells within me (Ephesians 3:17)
- I am the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am a partaker of God's divine nature (II Peter 1:4)
- I am prosperous and in good health because my soul prospers (III John 2)
- I am being transformed by the renewing of my mind to prove the perfect will of God (Romans 12:2)
- I am healed by the stripes of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:24)
- I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ (Romans 8:37)
- I am the salt of the earth, and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13a, 14a)
- I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10) I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10)
- I am taking the shield of faith and quenching all of the fiery darts of the enemy (Ephesians 6:16)
- I am praying my desires in Christ and receiving them (Mark 11:24)
- I am like a tree planted by the rivers of water, and everything that I do prospers (Psalm 1:3)
- I am a temple of the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 6:19)
- I am given exceeding great and precious promises, and by them I partake of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (II Peter 1:4)
- The spirit of God leads me; therefore, I am a son of God (Romans 8:14)
- I am not walking after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1)





- I am receiving all of my needs met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)
- I am casting all of my cares upon Him because I know He cares for me (I Peter 5:7)
- I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3)
- I am blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out (Deuteronomy 28:6)
- I am an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17)
- I am increasing and abounding in love (I Thessalonians 3:12)
- I am being made perfect in every good work to do God's will (Hebrews 13:21)
- I am showing forth the praise of God (Psalms 51:15)

