



Why Do 10 Days?

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Whenever we embark on a significant investment of time, energy, and resources, it is important to make sure that we understand the reasons and aims of our activity. The more sacrifice involved, the harder something is, the higher and greater the purpose must be in order to keep our hearts engaged.

10 Days is a part of God's larger plan to revive and unite the Church, save the lost, and ultimately, to prepare the way for His coming again.

Why Do 10 Days? Here are seven reasons for engaging in 10 Days:

1. Obedience: It's God's idea.

People often ask me about why I'm doing 10 Days. I always immediately gravitate to something very simple: "That's what the Lord told me to do." By that, I mean because of my calling experience in 2004, *I have to do this*. It is similar to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel". There is a compulsion of obedience laid on me (in particular).

My call to other believers would be to say "yes" for the same reason. If you believe that this is something God is calling His Body, the Church to in this season of history, then say "yes" because "It's His idea". Honestly, I'm not sure what harm will come of the church coming together to humble ourselves and seek to align with God's heart. If it is a deception of the devil, it's pretty well disguised!

As the people of God, we are all in different places and come from different backgrounds. If you're not one for people "hearing from God" in a contemporary context, there's plenty of Biblical material to draw our obedience from, starting with the well-known passage 2 Chronicles 7:14. As the people of God, He calls us to "humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from evil ways." Maybe finding a way to all do that together as a city-wide church (responding to His prayer for unity) would be a way to tangibly obey that scriptural directive.

Let us do 10 Days for obedience's sake: It is His idea!

2. Love: An extravagant gift to God.

While 10 Days is certainly a tool that's designed to increase the presence of God in a region, leading to revival, awakening, and transformation, there's actually another reason that's much more important. As I have discovered the hard way, getting our motivations out of order even in pursuit of worthy goals can have devastating results. At the root, 10 Days is meant to be a beautiful and extravagant love offering to our worthy God.

Think Mary with the perfume. Think David's desire to make God a house. Think Jesus in the temple, consumed by zeal for God's dwelling place. It is a heart of love for God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that should be our primary motivation for this time of consecration.

Burning with the fire of His Love

In 2005, less than one year after receiving the vision for 10 Days, I went through an incredibly painful burnout. I told God that "I quit". Truth be told, I felt God had let me down and that I had failed Him, and I hated the church, the very people I had been called to serve and love. For months, I was oppressed in my mind. It was like I could not remember anything good or anything that God had ever done. The only thought that kept me from losing my faith entirely was that I hated who I had become and vowed not to make any major decisions from this place of extreme anger, resentment, despair, and constant mental torment.

After moving across the country to attend seminary, God began to restore my soul through months of fresh revelation of the love of God, especially through the Song of Songs, a book of the Bible that had never been significant to me before this season. Now a year later, I was preparing to do 10 Days for the second time. As these preparations moved forward, I found it more and more difficult to suppress my fear. I was terrified. My soul was squirming around inside. I felt like a child who knows he is in big trouble. Explaining my fear, I told God: "Last time I did 10 Days, it took me nine months to recover—I'm just about recovered, but I'm worried what will happen to me if I do it again."

In this state, the Lord spoke to me very clearly:

"Last time you did it because you wanted something. This time do it because you love me."

It was true, the first time I attempted 10 Days, I wanted desperately to see unprecedented *revival in America*. I was willing to sacrifice everything that I had (and more) in faith to God in order to see that vision for sweeping revival fulfilled. However, when I offered all I had and God didn't respond as I hoped, I became embittered toward God and His people.

Subtly, I was engaging in *quid pro quo* dealing with God. "I'll give everything I have, but you give me this revival." However, God was not interested in my deal. He was looking for a free-will offering, the kind that He offers to us.

As I heard in my spirit, "This time, do it because you love me," an incredible sweetness washed over me. I saw (in my mind) a gazelle leaping quickly over the mountains, coming towards me. A peculiar image to some, for certain. However, immediately I know what God was saying to me through this peculiar, leaping stag. It was a reference to the Song of Songs.

In the writings of 18th century theologian Jonathan Edwards, he interprets the "gazelle on the mountains" in the Song of Songs to mean that when we begin to seek the Lord, revival will quickly come. So, I understood that if I would seek Him in the way of love, he would also bring the desired revival.

So, why should we do 10 Days?

We expect that there will be good results, but if we are focused on the results rather than the Father's love, we open ourselves up to disappointment and accusation. My story is not unique. I have seen many others experience similar things in their pursuit of the deeper things of God.

By reorienting our mindset to be "I am doing this because I love Him" and leaving the results in God's hands, we position ourselves to walk in both zeal for the Lord and wisdom from the Lord. We position ourselves to **burn with the fire of His love for the rest of our lives**, not just for a few short months or years.

3. God's Outlandish Promises

For the sake of argument, let's say God has some outlandish, impossible plans revealed in Scripture.

Just to take it a little further (for the sake of argument), what if his chosen means to achieve those outlandish plans, plans that are literally "above and beyond what we can ask, think, or even imagine", are the faith-filled prayers and actions of His people? In other words, what if the obedient Church is at the center of His plan to fulfill His promises?

I do not know about you, but I'd want to get serious about figuring out what He is planning and then aligning my entire life to fulfill those eternal purposes.

God's dealings in history are always dependent on divine grace working through human faith.

We see this clearly in Salvation ("by grace you have been saved, through faith"), but it is really a pattern for every good work that God does. God loves to partner—he loves to work with flesh and blood human beings in collaboration to bring about His goals. The entire Scripture is the story of this collaboration, from Adam to Abraham to the Apostles, culminating in the Son of God actually becoming a human being in order to break down every barrier between us and God.

And what is our assignment in this partnership?

Has He given us any idea as to these outlandishly great and good plans for us, for humanity, for the earth? "Pray like this...Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..." This prayer functions like a summary statement of all of God's good plans for us. Our assignment is to see His Kingdom grow and expand until the realm of earth is under His kind and generous authority just as the realm of heaven already is.

As Sons and Daughters of this great King, it is no wonder that we have an important role to play in the bringing about of this plan and it all begins in the **place of prayer**. As the cry of God's heart begins to penetrate our hearts, the Spirit of God begins to cultivate faith in us, allowing us to receive more and more of God's grace, leading to us becoming the answers to our own prayers.

There are four very specific areas of unfulfilled, Scriptural promise that 10 Days is meant to address. I have listed them below with Biblical Support.

Major Unfulfilled Biblical Promises: The 10 Days Prayer Focus

Promise 1: The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to every nation and ethnicity.

Scripture: Matt. 24:14 “The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole earth, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Promise 2: There will be unprecedented, supernatural unity among followers of Jesus.

Scripture: John 17:23 “Let them be one as we are one...that the world may know that you sent me and have loved them even just as you love me.”

Promise 3: There will be a global outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Joel 2:28-30 “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...Before the great and awesome day of the Lord.”

Promise 4: There will be Wide-Spread Salvation among the Jewish People.

Scripture: Rom. 11:12, 15 “If their loss means riches for the Nations, how much greater riches will their fullness bring...For if their [Israel, the Jewish people] rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

The Four Major Promises Summarized:

The Lord’s Prayer is a fitting summary of all these beautiful promises.

Scripture: Matt. 6:9 “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

4. City Transformation

In the early 2000’s, many in the west began to hear mind-boggling stories of God’s work in Asia, Africa, and South America. Not limited to conversions, healings, or other characteristics typically associated with revival, these new stories included miraculous and holistic transformation of entire towns, villages, and cities. Often the transformational impact would literally affect the land (earth), including plants, animals, the soil, water, and oceans.

Two key scriptures inform the transformational aspect of 10 Days:

First, the famous 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will heal their land.” As we have learned time and again from practitioners in non-western contexts, the “healing of the land” does not just apply to the people, laws, or customs of a nation, but goes deeply into the very healing of the soil, the ocean, the fish, the wildlife, the plants, the water, and the people as well. God is the creator of all, and as such has a redemptive heart for every part of His creation.

The Lord's prayer also informs our beliefs on transformation. Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom of God to come "on earth as it is in heaven". Clearly, the Kingdom of God coming on earth will impact and affect every area of life, starting in our hearts and flowing outward to our families, other relationships, governments, and relationships with plants, animals, and the earth.

10 Days is a Transformational Strategy.

In 2007, while learning from those experiencing transformation in Fiji, I was blown away from their strategy for transformation and its resemblance to 10 Days.

"We come into a village and we have the chief shut everything down for 7-10 days while the city devotes itself to prayer and repentance. After a while of doing this, 'God comes to town,' everything changes, and notable miracles become common."

If a city can stop for 10 Days to seek God, it is never going to be the same.

By the same measure, if we have a heart for true city transformation, we need to consider that what we have tried to date has not worked. However, if we will humble ourselves, while we can not guarantee specific outcomes or results, we can guarantee that God's grace will be poured out from heaven. Likewise, if we will walk in unity with other believers, not seeking our own interests, but preferring one another in honor and following Jesus' example when He washed the feet of His disciples, the world will acknowledge that Jesus is God's son (John 17:23).

God is moving in incredible ways around the globe, transforming entire cities and nations through the gospel. It can happen in your city as well. 10 Days is a strategy to see transformation happen and be sustained year after year.

5. It is Personal.

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, there are 10 young women who are attendants at a wedding feast. Five of them bring extra oil—five do not. All ten of them fall asleep. All ten are burning their lamps and run out of oil. However, five have reserve stores and are able to enter in when the voice of the bridegroom is heard.

Tragically, the other five are excluded due to their lack of oil.

Consider this—all 10 were pure (virgins). All 10 fell asleep. All 10 ran out of oil in the waiting. So far, all 10 virgins are totally equal and the same. However, only five of them had reserve stores of oil at the ready. This oil was not something that could be shared or transferred—the foolish virgins had to go and get their own.

Oil is one of many images in Scripture that describes the Holy Spirit. In particular, oil speaks of the intimate, personal knowledge of God that comes through communion with the Holy Spirit. This is something that every believer has—but, as we are warned in this parable, it's not enough to have oil for today—we need to have oil at the ready for when the bridegroom comes.

10 Days is a time to experience breakthrough in terms of our communion with the Holy Spirit.

It is also a time to store up, to “buy oil”. It is through times of consecration like this that we develop the kind of intimacy with God that is spoken of through the parable of the virgins.

No one else can get this oil for you.

The “prayer people” cannot bring you this oil. You have to get it yourself. 10 Days is a time to begin to store up oil in preparation for the wedding feast that is coming. In light of this parable, we understand that there is both an opportunity here to store oil, but also a dire warning to not be caught off-guard.

6. Beautifying the Bride

It is incredible how highly Scripture regards the church, especially in light of how messy the reality is on the ground. The overarching message of Scripture, from Genesis 1-Revelation 22 is about a wedding that’s coming between the son of God, the Second Adam, and His wife, the Church.

Needless to say, the Bride is going to look great for the wedding. Consider the following Scripture:

Ephesians 5:25-32, “Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her that He might sanctify her and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that she should be holy and without blemish...”

No doubt about what we are reading here—before the Son of God returns for this wedding, we will be seeing a morally and spiritually pure church washed clean by the word of God, completely rid of any deformity, and without blemish. That is a high standard—but it’s the standard God has committed himself to in the word.

Much of our church life is lived with assumptions based on unbelief that this will never happen or that somehow this purification process will happen sovereignly without our participation and partnership.

10 Days is a strategy to move the church from where it is today into this reality—**it is 10 Days to be “washed in the word” to be “sanctified” and cleansed**. And as we know from all our experience with God’s people and with ourselves, there is a lot of washing to do. But, God is able!

Revelation 19:7 describes the wedding and the bride this way: *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*

Once again, the climax of history is centered on the coming of the God-man and servant-king/judge to marry a Bride who has “made herself ready”. We have a responsibility to ‘make ourselves ready. These last two points, “Getting oil” and “beautifying the Bride”, are both parts of an even greater reality, a reality that is perhaps the most important reason of all to do 10 Days. *Jesus is coming.*

7. Return: Jesus is Coming!

The story of history is speeding towards a climax—the return of Jesus the Messiah to rule, reign, and make all things new. It is the story of a wedding—the Kingly husband is coming to marry His bride: “And He shall reign forever and ever!”

Scripture has a wonderful name for the people of God: we are called *“those who love the day of His appearing”*.

We are those who are watching and waiting, longing, and mourning for His coming. At times, we feel this longing acutely in spirit, in soul, and even in our bodies. We are strangers and sojourners in this evil age, but we are anticipating with great hope a new era of history under the leadership of the “Lamb who was slain.”

Before the first coming of the Christ, there were people like Anna, a widow who spent all her time in fasting and prayer, and Simeon, a prophetic man who heard from the Lord that he would see the Messiah. As Scripture shows us over and over, when God wants to do something on the earth, he does it in partnership and in communication with His people.

Do we imagine that the second coming will be any different than the first? No, but rather we have a calling to enter into the same kind of watching and waiting for the Messiah that Anna and Simeon modeled as we anticipate an even greater salvation!

10 Days is a strategy of prayer, fasting, and longing focused on the Return of Jesus.

It's a time to acknowledge that while we have received “grace upon grace” through the Holy Spirit, we're experiencing the physical absence of the most important person in our lives. It is a way of acknowledging through a powerful act: humility that is unified, fervent, extended, that the only solution to the problems of this world lies in our Messiah. It is a way of saying half-measures, man-centered, and man-made solutions will not do.

10 Days is a season of consecration, mourning, and longing worthy of a great King. May we be found ready when He returns!