

Throughout these last three years at Mt. Hope Church, we have focused on the importance of daily time in God's Word. We have said that there is no other way to find consistent victory in your life than to **capture the words** used against us by the enemy and **demolish** them. We bring them into **obedience** to Jesus Christ.

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**. We demolish **arguments** and every **pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every **thought** to make it obedient to Christ.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Jesus taught us that the church will prevail against the kingdom of darkness when we **stand together** in prayer and stand upon his identity. Speaking to Peter who had just proclaimed his bold faith in Jesus:

And I tell you that you are Peter [Greek = "petros," which means "rock"], and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it [Greek = "will not prove stronger than it"]. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:18-19

*I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if **two of you on earth agree about anything** you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where **two or three come together in my name**, there I am with them.*

Matthew 18:18-20

40 Day Prayer and Fasting Challenge with Verses of Victory:

For 40 days, would you join us in praying and fasting for God's provision and power to rest upon our church? Would you pray for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life, in the lives of people connected with our church, and for the direction and ministry of our church?

These verses have example prayers attached to them. Resist the temptation to just read these. Rather, read the passage from scripture out loud, carefully, slowly. Then, use the example prayer to help you pull out of the verse some ideas of how you could leverage this in prayer. But put the prayer in your own words and pray it out loud!

DAY ONE:

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psalms 1:1-3

- God, I delight in your Word...your counsel. I surrender any place in my mind where I am following the way of the sinful. I renounce the ideas and counsel of the ungodly in my life. I choose to meditate on your Word day and night. I believe and trust that you will bring prosperity to my endeavors as I meditate on your Word! In Jesus' name!
- God, pour out your Word into our church. Stir the people of Mt. Hope to be in the Word daily. Transform us by your Word. Reveal your Word to every one of us. Accomplish what you sent it to do in our lives! In Jesus' name!

DAY TWO:

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalms 4:8

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3

- Oh, God...you give me peace and sleep. I receive this peace in Jesus' name; I receive good sleep in Jesus' name. I trust in your to be my safety in all my circumstances. Where I am stressed, I surrender it to you, and I believe you for my help and comfort. I renounce anxiety and restlessness. I stand steadfast in my trust of you, and claim a sound, peaceful, stable mind and thought life. in Jesus' name!
- God, strengthen the people of Mt. Hope. Lead us to rest and steadfast trust. Make us a church that is completely dependent upon you! In Jesus' name!

DAY THREE:

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Psalm 139:1-5

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:13-16

- God, I thank you that you know every thought, every desire, every action, every initiative of my life. I thank you that you are with every detail of me. I confess that you have made me to be exactly as you desire. I renounce the lie of Satan that I am insufficient, broken, a failure, or incapable. I receive and stand in faith upon your intimate love over me. In Jesus' name!
- God, reveal to our church and our people the uniqueness you have created in us. Reveal to each of us the unique place we have in your church, and how the specific way you created each of us is for a purpose designed to build your church. In Jesus' name!

DAY FOUR:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

- God, I trust in you alone. I renounce my dependance upon my own understanding as all there is to truth, and I confess that your Word is more truthful than anything I can perceive. I confess that I have depended on my own understanding far too much, and I receive your wisdom. I acknowledge and confess that you are present with me in every moment and every circumstance, and I choose to trust you. In Jesus' name.
- God, lead our church to be a ministry of truth led by your Holy Spirit. Help us to make the leadership decisions in front of us by the wisdom and leading of the Spirit, and not by human understanding. Reveal yourself to us in our steps, our thoughts, our decisions, and our direction. In Jesus' name!

DAY FIVE:

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 1:18

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

- I confess that in Jesus' name, I am forgiven and cleansed entirely. No sin I have ever committed still has a hold on me. I renounce the lie that I am still marked and still defined by that sin. I confess that I am free, forgiven, cleansed, and accepted, in Jesus' name!
- God, cleanse us of any hidden sins, or any corporate sins that might be affecting our church. Wash us entirely in the gracious blood of Jesus for all that is wrong among us. In Jesus' name!

DAY SIX:

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.

Isaiah 30:15

- God, I rest in the grace and mercy of your salvation. I have given you my heart in repentance from my sin. Now, I sit quietly and trust. I renounce all shame and anxiousness over my past. I trust you to be my strength. In Jesus' name!
- God, as a people, as a church, we rest in you. We depend on you for our future. We submit ourselves to you. Help our pastor, our Elders, our board, our staff, and our leaders to rest solely and dependently upon you. In Jesus' name!

DAY SEVEN:

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

- God, I receive your wisdom and guidance in my life. I trust that you will speak to me of all that you desire for me to do. I will not stand in my own strength and understanding but will trust in you. In Jesus' name!
- God, reveal your specific direction to us. In particular with the building expansion we are exploring, reveal precisely each step, each provision, each decision to us. In Jesus' name!

DAY EIGHT:

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

- God, I receive your strength. I confess to you my weariness and weakness. I trust you to restore me. I renounce the lie that I am incapable, or that I have no strength left. My strength is not the issue; it is your strength, O God, in which I stand. I rejoice that your power is perfected in my weakness. I receive your power, your rest, your strength, your energy, your way in my life. In Jesus' name!
- God, pour out your strength into our church. Provide power for healing, for victory, for deliverance, for freedom. Strengthen us for the tasks ahead and renew us from our weariness. In Jesus' name!

DAY NINE:

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

Isaiah 54:17

- I rejoice that nothing the devil can forge against will prevail, for God is with me. Lord, I thank you that you will vindicate me. I renounce the lie that I must defend myself. I renounce any lie of the devil that seeks to hold me in fear. I am secure in the Lord Jesus Christ!
- God, protect us from the attacks of the enemy against our church and the people of our church. Deliver us from all evil, and from any evil spirits that are arrayed against us. In Jesus' name!

DAY TEN:

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater; so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

- God, accomplish your Word in my life. I receive your Word as all truth; I confess it is more authoritative than anything I can perceive. Divide and discern within me the true attitudes of my heart. Reveal to me the places where I am walking in the flesh. Reveal to me your Holy Spirit. I renounce all the lies the enemy sends against me, and I stand upon the Word of God as my victory. In Jesus' name!
- God, powerfully spread your Word through the teaching ministries of Mt. Hope Church. Enable every teacher, small group leader, mentor, and friend within our church to speak the Word of God boldly. In Jesus' name!

DAY ELEVEN:

For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 57:15

- God, I confess to you the contrite humility of my heart. I renounce the lie of my insufficiency but choose the truth of humility before you. I renounce the pride and determination of my flesh and accept the strength of your Spirit with in me. Revive me, empower me, and strengthen me, in Jesus' name!
- God, help our church to be humble and contrite before you. Help us not fall to the trappings of human success or popularity. Help us not to pursue a worldly polish to our ministry. We submit ourselves to you and trust you for your power to come solely from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name!

DAY TWELVE:

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”

Isaiah 65:1

- Thank you, God, for revealing yourself to me. I ask you to do the same for my friends and loved ones who are far from you. Chase after them, call to them, and reveal yourself to them. In Jesus' name!
- God, reveal yourself to everyone in Loudoun County through our church and the many other churches like us who are seeking your face. Pour out a mighty awakening and revival in our county. In Jesus' name!

DAY THIRTEEN:

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

- God, I confess that I am blessed in my dependence upon you. I will not fear the challenges, shortcomings, needs, and insufficiencies in my life, for you are with me. I trust that you will bring forth supply into my life. I renounce worry and fear. I receive joy, peace, and confidence from you. In Jesus' name!
- God, we trust you for provision, resources, and strength to accomplish what you desire in our church. You are enough for us. We do not need the power of man. We will not fear the absence of resources. We trust you have enough to supply us all we need. In Jesus' name!

DAY FOURTEEN:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

- God, I thank you that your plans for me are good. I stand in your hope. I renounce the lie that my future is bleak. I trust that you are with me, and that you are working in my life towards good outcomes. I choose to seek your face, to seek for all of you. I give you all of my heart. In Jesus' name!
- God, we trust you for the direction of this church. Lead us. Reveal to us where you are taking us and what you want to do next within it. Mt. Hope belongs to you. Please do your work here among us! In Jesus' name!

DAY FIFTEEN:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the Lord has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope.

Lamentations 3:22-29

- God, I rejoice in your mercy and love for me that is constant and that is fresh every single day. I am not consumed, and I renounce the lie that the circumstances around me are too great. You are my portion—you are all that I need, and you are good to me in all things. I put my hope in you and wait patiently for your salvation from all my concerns. I wait quietly; I sit in silence and listen. I have hope in you. In Jesus' name!
- God, thank you for the healing you have brought to so many people at Mt. Hope. Continue to be the strength and deliverer of all of us. Rescue your people from the hardships that seek to consume them. Empower us to be a church of refuge and support to everyone in need. In Jesus' name!

DAY SIXTEEN:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:28-29

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16

- God, I receive the new work you are doing in me. You have changed my heart. You have taken out the hardness and placed in me a soft spirit. I receive your Holy Spirit within me. Move me, O God, to follow you in all my ways. Pour out your Holy Spirit over me and lead me in new directions. In Jesus' name!
- God, pour out your Holy Spirit in a mighty baptism upon Mt. Hope. Fill us with your Spirit in the same way you filled the early church! In Jesus' name!

DAY SEVENTEEN:

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm—my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.

Joel 2:25-26

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

- All the damage of my past has been restored by you, O God. Thank you for making me so brand new, that anything from my past no longer has a hold on me, and it no longer defines me. I receive the brand-new creation that you have formed in me. I renounce shame and I receive your new identity for me. I confess and rejoice that I am an entirely new creation—nothing of the old remains. All is made new, in Jesus' name!
- God, lead everyone who encounters Mt. Hope Church to a brand-new life. Restore the wounded and broken among us and through us! In Jesus' name!

DAY EIGHTEEN:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor... Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

Luke 4:18-19, 21

- God, I rejoice that you have come to set the captive free. Free my friends and loved ones. Give them sight to see the fullness of your Gospel. Set them free from all demonic oppression. I renounce the devil's blinding of their minds. Reveal yourself to them. I stand upon the fulfillment of the promise of scripture that you will set them free, in Jesus' name!
- God, anoint Mt. Hope Church to proclaim the Gospel in our community. Use us powerfully. Draw the broken, the oppressed, the needy to our church to receive the Holy Spirit's power and deliverance over them! In Jesus' name!

DAY NINETEEN:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:38

- God, I receive the abundance you want to pour into my life in return and in measure with my generosity. Use that which I give to others and to your work. I trust you to meet my needs where my own provisions are insufficient. In Jesus' name!
- God, pour out abundant provision for the physical needs of our church. If you indeed are leading us to an expansion of our facility, we trust you to supernaturally provide for the financial resources to do so. Lead me—speak to me—about what part I should play in sacrificing with generosity for our future! In Jesus' name!

DAY TWENTY:

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:18-19

- God, I rejoice that you have written my name in the Book of Life, that you have saved me. I stand in the joy of that salvation and receive the authority you have given me, in Jesus' name!
- God, overcome the enemy through Mt. Hope Church. We stand in your authority. In Jesus' name!

DAY TWENTY-ONE through FORTY: Repeat. Seriously... go back and read and pray the same verses and the same petitions each day. But this time, expand your thoughts and put fresh dependency on the Lord!