



Bethel



day 40

Thursday, February 27 | 2025

Be Still

Bible Reading: Psalm 46:10a

[Video: Pastor Jon Bosma]

In reality these 40 days are an act of submission and humility. It is us acknowledging the fact that we are not God. We don't have the whole picture. We don't know how everything is going to pan out. But we know God. He is God. He is the one true God. He is the creator of this world. He is sovereign. His knowledge is beyond our understanding, and so we submit ourselves to him. We want to trust in him.

Take some time to sit in silence. Set an alarm if that helps you focus. Our minds can be running in so many different directions. We can be so quick to try to solve our own problems, that we forget to pause and ask for God's guidance.

Be Still.... Breath in and breathe out. Repeat these breaths slowly a number of times. When you finally feel like your mind and body have calmed down and found focus, remember that God is God. Rest in his presence, and remind yourself that as long as he is God, we are in good hands.

Challenge: Go back and read what you have journaled over the last 40 days. Is there anything that God has been stirring in your heart? Consider sharing what God has put on your heart with others from Bethel. One of the best ways we can discern God's calling is by doing so in community. Let's see if God has collectively been working in us all the same way.

day 37

Monday, February 24 | 2025

Wisdom

Bible Reading: James 1:2-5; Proverbs 2:6; 16:16

James says that we should consider trials of many kinds a joy because they produce in us perseverance. This perseverance makes us mature and complete in the faith. We are nearing the end of our 40 days journey in prayer. There has been lots for us to consider during this time. But one thing that is important for us to realize is that the process itself is a healthy one for us. Taking the time to wrestle and discern God's calling for Bethel's future is a positive experience. This process alone makes us more mature in our faith. It has forced us to get a better sense of what our vision and values are as a church. Let's praise God today for the maturing in the faith that has taken place during this trial.

That being said, we still have not made any decisions on whether Bethel sells its building or not. And so we also look to James' word that says if any of you lacks wisdom you can ask for it and God will give it generously. Pray today that God would give us all wisdom, and that he would give wisdom to the leadership at Bethel, as we discern what God has next for us. He has a plan that is greater than any of ours. May he be the one to lead us.

Journal Notes:

day 38

Tuesday, February 25 | 2025

Yielding to the Will of God

Bible Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; James 4:7

Yielding is when you pause to give someone else the right away. When we talk about yielding to the will of God we are saying that we will pause our own agendas and let God's agenda take the lead. Proverbs 3 warns us against leaning on our own understanding. Instead, we need to trust in the Lord with all our heart. Not some of our heart. We can't hold onto some of it ourselves. This is not saying that we are driving the car and that God is in the passenger seat giving directions. We don't get to choose if we want to listen to God or not. God is the one in the driver seat, and we are not even in the passenger seat. We are way in the back just looking out at the road marks trying to figure out the direction God is taking us. And based on the direction, we can begin to imagine a destination, but in reality he will bring us to someplace way greater than we could ever expect.

Let's pray today that we can yield to God's will in our own life and in the life of the church.

Journal Notes:

day 39

Wednesday, February 26 | 2025

Thank God

Bible Reading: Psalm 23; John 10:11-15

As we approach the end of our 40 days of prayer, you are invited to stop and remind yourself who God is. He is our shepherd! In John 10 Jesus says that a good shepherd is willing to lay his life down for his sheep. And that is exactly what Jesus has done for us. He has laid his life down to protect us from sin and death. We have life in him. The Lord is our shepherd, and in him we lack nothing. Because of God's leadership in our lives we lack nothing. He is the one who guides us to green pastures. He is the one who guides us to quiet waters. He is the one who walks with us in the darkest moments of our lives.

Today, spend a few minutes thanking God for who he is. Thank him for his faithfulness. Thank him for our salvation. Thank him for his protection. Thank him for being the shepherd who leads us. Thank him for the fact that in him we lack nothing. The things of this world might disappear, but our relationship with Jesus lasts for eternity.

Song: "Psalm 23" by Phil Wickham and Tiffany Hudson

Journal Notes:

week 6

40 days of Prayer