

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Julie Russell

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

James 4:13-15

We should all make plans for our future. However, if we fail to put God in the middle of our plans, we will be disappointed and fail. There is no point in making plans, if God is not a part of it. Our future is in his hands. James 4:13-15 is not telling us not to make plans for our future, but to only realize that we must submit our plans and goals into the will of the Lord.

In the business world, many times you are given a task or goal to accomplish for a particular job. Often your plan of how to accomplish this goal must be submitted to management for approval. Management will then take your plans correct, refine, and change them in order to meet their desires and then give it back for the task to be completed. Truly this is how we should make plans in our life. First, seek God, in order that you may know the task that He has set before you, pray to God asking him to show His way, and then continue seeking God to make sure you stay on the right track for success in completing your mission. Be prepared for God to refine, correct or even change your plans. We must plan ahead, but hold our plans loosely. Put God's desire at the center of your planning and you will never be disappointed. Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

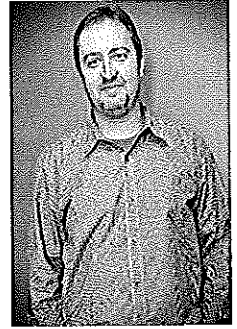
---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Kenny

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

*Genesis 22:17*

Last year, my family and I took a quick trip to the beach to check out a retreat facility for the Jr. High kids. The first morning we were there I walked out onto the beach to enjoy the beautiful weather. The water was crystal clear and the sky was bright blue, but it was the sand that caught my attention that day. When you really look at sand, you'll notice that it is made of millions of tiny granules. One granule by itself seems so minute almost non-existent, yet when joined together with other granules makes a grand and beautiful sight.

God promised Abraham that he would make his descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Now, that's a lot of descendants! Are you one of them? God blessed Abraham and He will bless you too, just look to the sand for assurance!

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Brother Craig

Esther 2:2-7;17-22

What an odd thing to do, right? I mean it just seems unfair for the King to be able to select a new queen without her having any opinion about it. Well, it probably would not work that way today and it does not mean that everything went smoothly then either. But, that is what happened and Esther was selected as the new queen. Wow, just an average girl selected to be a ruler's wife. I know I would be asking God some serious questions if it were me. God, why have you allowed this to happen to me? God, will you get me out of this? God, why am I here? There are a number of questions we ask when we find ourselves in unfamiliar places. What if we made the best of it? What if we taught ourselves to look for the opportunity to use that unfamiliar, uncomfortable situation for God's honor? When Mordecai discovered the plot to kill the king he went to the queen. Esther had a way out because she could have done nothing and allowed the king to be murdered. But this was not the heart of Esther, as we find out she went to the king, sparing his life, and giving the credit to her uncle and sparing the people of Israel. What we discover about Esther pretty early in her life is this: it was not all about her. When she could have elevated herself, she chose to lift her uncle up and have him receive the credit for what was done.

There is more to this story than Esther being a good person, but I wonder if today you will think of others before yourself. Try it! You might be the tool God uses to reach out to someone else.

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

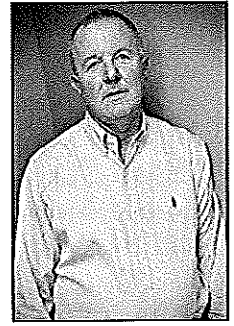
---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



**Brother Rick**

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

**Genesis 1:31**

The year 2011 was a year of disaster where we saw earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought, and wildfires around the world. Tension among nations led to severe famine in places such as the Sudan. The rise of violence was even felt here in our own community with law enforcement being gunned down while trying to maintain order.

I have been asked many times by unbelievers why a loving God allows these things to happen. What we experience each day is not what God created in the book of Genesis. We only see creation looking back from this side of the fall of man in the Garden. The Genesis account tells us what God created; He called "good." God used the word "good" 7 times in the first chapter of Genesis to describe His perfect creation. God created man with free will, and he (we) chose to sin against Creator God. The further you read in scripture from the creation account in Genesis, the more you find where the effects of sin became more evident in creation leading up to this very day in which we live.

The Bible teaches that we have been saved from the penalty of sin, but have yet to be saved from the presence of sin. As we live out this day, let's remember that God one day will restore His creation (Revelation 22:1) allowing us to live without war, pain, sickness, hunger, death, or separation for all eternity. What a day that will be!

Prayer for today: Lord thank You for the promise of things to come.

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



**Brother Tim**

## Proverbs 8:10-12

I read where Henry Ford would have lunch with a person he was considering for a management position with his company. He did not have lunch for social purposes. The purpose was to make some observations. If the candidate salted his food before he tasted it, he was presumptuous. If he put salt on his meal after he tasted it, he was a thinker.

I also read where a company that made transmissions put in a bid for the transmission for the Model T Ford. When the bid requirements came back to the company, there were odd requirements for the box the transmission would be shipped in. The wooden box was required to be a certain size and dimension and it required holes drilled to a specific diameter in odd places. The company got the bid and later found out that the size and dimension of the box could be broken down and used to make the floor board of the model T.

Henry Ford was a thinker and when you and I think on His Word, we find knowledge and instruction. From these we gain wisdom. Man's wisdom no matter how bright one might seem to be will fail you. Seek the Lord's wisdom in the pages of scripture today. Share that wisdom with others around you and see what He will do in the life of those around you.

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Tracy Wills

Hebrews 12:5-7; Deuteronomy

Everyone has experience with boundaries and consequences. We were all children at one time and either had these in our lives or they were missing. There are varying degrees of both and having too many or too little can both cause issues. Parenting books will tell you all sorts of things but I think that the One that created us is the one that we should ultimately turn to for advice on the issue. He is our father and he has set both boundaries and consequences for us as outlined throughout scripture. The truth is that people both young and old really want and need boundaries. Can you imagine what our lives would be like if there were no laws set for people? A life without rules would be chaotic and scary. God's love for us is the reason for the boundaries He sets in our lives. He is the ultimate parent, putting loving limits on our behaviors and having consequences for those that do not follow His will for their lives. He is the example of how earthly parents should conduct themselves.

Dr. James Dobson has a book titled *Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions*. In the book, he tells of a "progressive" educator who felt that he needed to give the children more freedom at school. So the teacher had all the chain linked fence removed from their playground. Rather than feeling independent, the kids would stay huddled together near the center of the playground. Their freedom was inhibited by the absence of boundaries. Rules give us our security! Set some boundaries today for you and your family.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

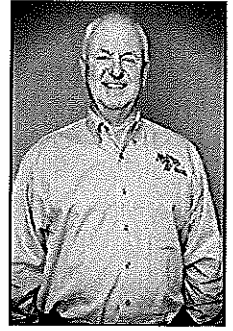
---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Brother Garry

Psalm 20: 7

Be careful where you put your trust! We have seen some loose the very things they had been trusting in as our economy has took a serious downturn over the last two years. The stock market, the job market, and even the housing market has shown us horses and chariots will let you down.

Yet right the opposite is to be said of God! He is on the throne and in complete control. So today, put your total trust in Him and His ability to direct our paths and protect our lives. He is both truth and treasure while chariots and horses are things and trash. One is eternal and the other is temporary.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Amanda Cobb

Psalm 29:11

There is an epidemic sweeping across our society today and causing major problems in every area of one's life. It is a disease called "Insecurity". Why do we put so much value on what others think? I feel like we need to have AA meetings every semester as a DT class. You know- Approval Addicts! For those of us who continually worry about what others think of us and our families. Just like any type of addict, approval addicts (AKA-Insecure people) look for their fix when they get shaky. They look for someone to reassure them that all is well and they are accepted. Did you know that *NO* amount of approval from others will keep a person permanently happy and secure?

True security comes from God and ONLY GOD. Most people who lack security also lack faith. It is time to trade your fear and insecurity in for trust and faith. God promises to make us secure if we will only let Him.

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Julie Russell

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Deuteronomy 11:26-27

“Obedience brings blessings and disobedience brings consequences.” This statement has been a constant reminder in my home since my children were very young. Just as parents must set rules and boundaries for their children, God has laid before us His rules and boundaries. Although there are countless reasons we should obey God, the main one is because He commanded us to. God’s rules are for our benefit, not to make our lives difficult. He knows what is best for His Children.

Throughout God’s Word, He specifically points out the blessings that are a result of obedience. Some of these blessings are eternal life, peace, long life on earth, wisdom, happiness, friendship with God and protection. God’s desire is to reward his children when they are obedient. However, disobedience brings the opposite of the blessings that he wants to give us. Disobedience, in the end, leads to destruction. We must be obedient in all that we do. “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.” Luke 11:28.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



**Brother Kenny**

Romans 1:18, 19

My how times have changed! When I was a kid, Halloween was celebrated on one day. Today, it seems as if we celebrate all month long! We spend lots of money on horror movies and Haunted houses to have someone scare the pants off of us. My son, Kent visited a haunted house for the first time last year and paid \$15.00 to be frightened by people wearing masks and carrying around chain saws. Why do those things scare us so much when we know they're not real? God however, is real and the bible tells us to fear the Lord, but we don't. God is gracious and merciful, but He is also just! We need to have a healthy fear of His wrath because unlike Hollywood magic, He is the real deal!

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

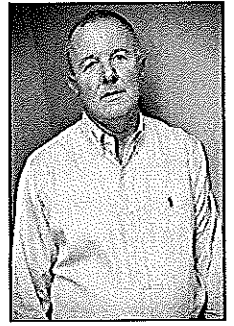
---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



**Brother Rick**

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

**Galatians 2:20**

On September 11, 2001, America was under attack. Planes had already hit the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington DC. The FAA was trying to ground all planes in US airspace. United Airlines Flight 93 would not respond, because it had been hijacked as well and was headed towards Washington DC. It had to be stopped, at all cost. There were two Air National Guard fighters scrambled to intercept the Jetliner, and their orders were to take it down before it could possibly crash into the White House. The problem was that they were not armed with missiles or ammunition. So, the only option was to crash their planes into the United Airline's passenger plane in order to save lives. We now know the passengers of Flight 93 made a valiant attempt to take back the plane, which resulted in crashing in Shanksville, Pennsylvania before finding its target and inflicting more death and destruction. The heroes of that day were willing to die so others could live.

The Bible teaches that Jesus died for us so that we can live eternally with Him. Galatians 2:20 teaches us that dying is a daily process for those who claim Christ. Not for salvation, but because of salvation. To crucify our flesh means to live a sacrificial life that puts Jesus first, others second, and ourselves last. To die is to live!

"It's not about you."  
Rick Warren

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Matthew 5:43-48

Brother Craig

I'll just be honest. When I think of loving other people my first thoughts are of people I know, and people who love me. In this passage Jesus is teaching and He says there is a law that the people knew saying it was right to hate you're enemy. Even though the idea of hating those who hurt you or treat you badly may seem fair and just it's simply not the way Jesus says we should think.

What? I am supposed to love, bless, do well, and pray for the people who I don't like and who don't like me? If you were asking that very question to Jesus He would reply by saying, yes. We are learning more about love in this passage and how powerful it can be when correctly applied. While we may not care for certain people God does and He wants them to turn to Him through Jesus. The difficult thing for us is to remove our own personal view of those who may not fit into our list of best buds. **Romans 5:8** tells us that God demonstrated His love for me and you, who were sinners against God, even while He knew we were sinners He sent His Son to die for us. He loved us that much!

What if we could love like that? Work on it today.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

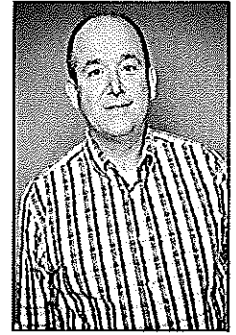
---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



**Brother Tim**

**Luke 13:1-5**

In July 1976, Israeli commandos made a daring raid at an airport in Entebbe, Uganda, in which 103 Jewish hostages were freed. In less than 15 minutes, the soldiers had killed all seven of the kidnappers and set the captives free.

As successful as the rescue was, however, three of the hostages were killed during the raid. As the commandos entered the terminal, they shouted in Hebrew, "Get down! Crawl!" The Jewish hostages understood and lay down on the floor, while the guerrillas, who did not speak Hebrew, were left standing. Quickly the rescuers shot the upright kidnappers.

But two of the hostages hesitated perhaps to see what was happening and were also cut down. One young man was lying down and actually stood up when the commandos entered the airport. He, too, was shot with the bullets meant for the enemy. Had these three heeded the soldiers' command, they would have been freed with the rest of the captives.

Salvation is open to all, but we must heed Christ's command to repent and make Him Lord. Otherwise, we will perish with the judgment meant for the Enemy. The three Jewish hostages would have made it home safely if they had only followed the command. Is He your acquaintance or is He Lord in your life? The difference is life and death.

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Tracy Wills

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

## Genesis 33:1-11

The whole story of Jacob and Esau would make a great movie! When I read Genesis 25-33 I find myself thinking...Get OVER it Jacob and Esau! These two brothers were literally battling at birth. I would have loved to witness Jacob pulling on his twin brother wanting to be born first- how's that for comedy?! And I would say "poor mama" but she gets in on all the drama too as takes matters into her own hands and makes sure that Esau is left out of his Father's blessing- the betrayal and suspense! The anger between the two gets get worse and a plot to kill comes about!

Genesis 33:1-11 takes us years later into the story of their family. We see here that kindness and compassion is finally learned by the two brothers. HOW SAD that all that time had to pass between them! I am glad they worked all of it out in the end because it is a beautiful story of forgiveness and compassion. But I find myself feeling so bad for them that they did not GET OVER IT years ago. Families often let little things spiral out of control, days go by, weeks, months, years, lifetimes and what was once a little GET OVER IT seems much harder to conquer than it really is. Are you showing compassion and kindness to those that God has given to you for this life? Or do you have things that you need to GET OVER? As you read Genesis 33:4 ask yourself if there is anyone that you need to go to and have a Jacob/Esau GET OVER IT moment with. I think verse 4 would be the perfect ending to a great movie!

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

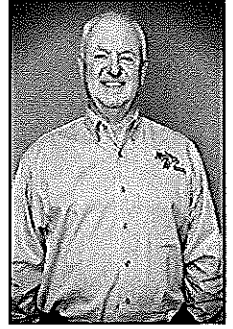
---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



**Brother Garry**

**Romans 6: 23**

Sin is serious business! The wages of sin is death. Heaven is a gift but the earned wages of sin is death. We live in a world today that laughs at sin. We encourage it and embrace and do not heed the warning of God's word.

We modernize sin and say it use to be wrong. We glamorize sin because movie stars, rock stars, and super stars do it. We rationalize and say it is somebody else's fault that I do these things. We civilize sin by giving it different names like affair or alternative life style or life partner. A skunk by another name is still a skunk and still stinks. We can change its name but not its wages and that is death. Only the blood of Jesus can change it s wages and our ways!

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Amanda Cobb

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Philippians 4:11-12

In today's world people are losing their jobs, their homes and much more. At times we have little control over our circumstances but we do have some say in how we face them. We have two choices; we can either complain constantly to everyone around us or we can do everything within our power to be content right where we are.

As we read about Paul's life in Philippians, we see that he went through seasons of plenty and seasons of need. Paul then tells us that he has learned the secret to being content in any situation and he shares that with us in Philippians 4:13 *I can do anything through him who gives me strength.*

No matter what season you are in right now, if you ask God to give you strength He will and you will have contentment like never before.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Julie Russell

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Matthew 16:26

There is a Greek myth that tells us of King Midas who was given one wish to be fulfilled. As he surveyed his options of what he could wish for, he thought of his great love for gold. He felt that if he could have all the gold he desired, his life would be complete. Therefore, his wish was that everything he touched would turn to gold. At first his joy was great, as he touched his saddle, his horse, and the entry gate to his palace and it all turned to gold. However, that joy quickly faded as his daughter came up from behind him to give him a loving hug. His daughter was now a gold statue. His heart ached for the wish to be reversed. He realized that it was not the riches of gold that truly made him happy, but love of those around him. His life was empty without love.

Although, this story is a myth, there is a great lesson in it. In this world today, where so much value is placed in material possession, we must realize that true joy is not in found in the car that we drive, the amount of money in our bank account or the prestige of our name. True joy is found in the love of God. Without God, our life is worthless. No amount of gold, silver, power, prestige or pleasure will compare to life filled with the God's love. "Do not store up for treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store for yourselves treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Kenny

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Daniel 3: 8-16

We have all heard the story about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These men stood up for God every day and God blessed them in everything they did. When God showers His blessings on our life, people want to attack us. The same was true with these men. God had put them over the providence of Babylon and the other men resented outsiders being in control. They wanted to take them out.

Many years ago, I had a boss who would ask the same question every Monday morning, "Well did you give God or the church all you money yesterday?" He did not like the fact that I served God and went to church. He wanted me to follow the worldly ways that he had been following for years. People will attack you for what you believe in, but we do not have to bow down to their worldly way. We need to stand up for God every day. We are not outsiders in this world. God created this world for us. Today stand up for Christ in everything you do.

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Matthew 6:5-13

Brother Craig

Out of all the nations on the planet there are none that are blessed like the United States. We have so many freedoms and so few real problems. We are able to get what we want most of the time, but what about when we don't get what we want. As we think about God providing for our needs what do we say to Him when we need something? Do we simply say give me this and that? Do we really ask for things or are we usually giving God an order to fill like a waiter who takes your order and you expect them to bring exactly what you have ordered. So how should we ask God about things in our life? Jesus tells us how we should pray or how we should think when we pray. A few things found in Matthew 6:9-13 to keep in mind when you pray:

- **Acknowledge** God for who He is. Father, all-powerful, wonderful, provider
- **Accept** His will and way for your life. His will should be what we align our will with.
- **Acquire** only what you need. The prayer of Jesus says you only ask for the things you need.
- **Abandon** anything not pleasing to Him. Every day is a day you will need to lay things down.
- **Allow** Him to direct your life and avoid temptation. Remove yourself from tempting situations.

These are just a few things to help you focus more on God when you pray and less on yourself.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

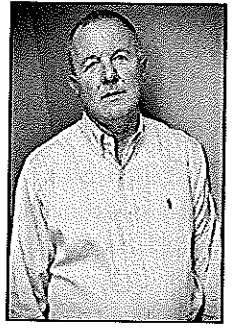
---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Rick

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

2 Samuel 11:1-2

David had enjoyed a season of success as king of Israel, only to give in to the flesh. The decision David made turned out to be costly for himself, his family, and the nation of Israel.

Tommy Walker is a contemporary Christian song writer and worship leader. I read an interview regarding when Tommy was on a national tour with his band. Under normal circumstances Tommy's wife would travel with him, yet for this one night he was alone. Upon entering his hotel room Tommy shared that he was drawn to the TV and the little box on top. He knew that if he gave in to the temptation to watch that he would sin against the very God that he lifted up in worship that night. After battling the desires of the flesh Tommy picked up his Bible, instead of the remote, and began to read how Jesus had died for him. From that night of Bible study Tommy wrote a song that we all know and sing – "That's Why We Praise Him".

We as believers must be careful that we guard our eyes as they often can be the gateway to our heart. It took one look for King David to be drawn into sin. Let's shield our eyes, as we guard our heart.

Prayer for today: Lord, may I not allow my eyes to turn my heart away from You.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Tim

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Revelation 3:20

Whenever you hear the doorbell ring or there is a knock at the door, the next thing you do is to look and see who it is and then you answer the door. You will then allow the guest into your home and you will most likely be a very gracious host to that person. At some point in time however you begin to wonder when they are going to say their goodbyes and leave.

Whenever a person accepts Christ, it is normal and expected for them to want to look to see who is at the door before they open it. Upon discovering who is there you invite Him in as an invited guest. That is the point that too many people make a terrible mistake. A guest would most certainly enjoy most everything in my home, a guest would receive honor and consideration for whatever they may need but they are still only a guest. When we open the door of our heart and invite Christ to come in, we are not asking Him in to be our guest. We are transferring ownership of our home, our life and everything we have to Him. We give Jesus the keys to our heart and He now becomes the owner and decision maker. Our purpose becomes a servant with the responsibility to conduct the affairs of the home as the new owner directs.

Who holds the keys to your home? Is He a guest or is He the owner or is he still knocking?

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Tracy Wills

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Mark 1: 29-34

We find here that Simon's mother in law is sick at home with a fever. They left the synagogue and went to her at once. It is great to know that our God isn't just at church with us on Sundays and Wednesdays. He makes house calls and heart calls. He is right where we need Him whenever we need Him. He resides in the rooms of our hearts and the rooms of our homes if we allow Him to. Often times we do not bother to call upon Him until there is trouble within or we are overwhelmed by circumstances. Is there a sense of Christ's activity in your heart and home?

Luke 4:39 NIV also tells of the account of Simon's mother in law. It says here that "he bent over her and rebuked her fever". WOW the bedside manner of Jesus! He didn't just stand over her from above as if He was checking off a list of symptoms. We know that He could have healed her from the front porch if He had wanted to. Instead He came and bent down where she was. This is a picture of a close encounter and of a physician with deepest concern for the one that was sick. He loves us and doesn't care where we are at or what condition we are in. Contagiously sick in our sins- He will still come to where we are. This woman was in no condition to seek help herself but the Savior came to her. Does your heart or home have a fever? Unresolved conflicts, unfaithfulness, un-forgiveness, disobedience, financial issues, relationship struggles? Call the great physician for a heart or house call today.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

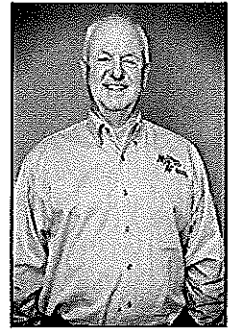
---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Brother Garry

I Kings 22: 34

A certain man fired an arrow at random. They did not know where it went! However, God did because he guided that random arrow into the breast plate of wicked King Ahab. That unknown Syrian soldier never knew what he had done or how successful he had been that day on the battlefield.

He just did what all soldiers are supposed to do, shoot all the arrows in the quiver. I'm sure someone asks him how it went today. "Well I shot all my arrows!" Do you know that's all God asks of you and I. Just shoot all your arrows and learn the guidance system is up to Him. Our success depends much more on the shooting than the aiming. So today let em fly and trust God to do the rest.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Amanda Cobb

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

II Corinthians 11:3

I don't know about you, but I hate snakes. They are slimy, sneaky reptiles that give me the chills. As I was reading about snakes one day with my boys, I was stunned at the facts I learned. The more we read the more I realized that we had snakes in our house! No, not the actual reptiles, but snakes that attack our families every day. The Copperhead computer, the Python PODS & PADS (I-pods and I-pads), the Rattlesnake radio and the Tiger-snake television invade our homes every day.

Non-venomous snakes' teeth are designed for grabbing and holding. Wow! Can you see the similarities in snakes that crawl around in your backyard, compared to the ones inside your home? Satan (the biggest snake of all) has been using technology to "grab" people and put "holds" on them like never before. Pornography, chat rooms, explicit movies and music are just a few that slither their way into our homes if we are not careful. Look around your home today and see what steps you can take to keep your family from being snake bit!

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Julie Russell

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Psalm 96:4

With the mountains in the distance colored with the beauty of fall, the wind blowing, and the birds singing, I am overcome with the magnificence of God and His creation. Our God is so worthy to be praised. His love is never ending and his grace and mercy never fails. Our God remains constant. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)

Satan tries to derail us in praising our Savior. He tries to convince us that the world is only filled with sin. If you listen to the media for any length of time, they will have you believing that there is no good in our world today. But our God is still working today. His love, his miracles, and his mercy take place each day. The same God that commands the seasons to change, who places the sun in the sky each morning, who keeps the planets in perfect order, and who sprinkles beauty on the earth with each flower, still reigns! His love endures forever. Praise him today because He is worthy to be praised!

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Kenny

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Exodus 3:5

Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is Holy Ground. This is a sign of reverence in a holy place. Can you imagine what was going on in Moses' head? He had seen a burning bush and heard God's voice. When God told him to take off his shoes, you know they had to be dirt because Moses was in the field working. He probably had dust, or mud on his shoes.

What's on your shoes today? We walk around with dust, mud, and even gum on our shoes. This can be a symbol of the sin we carry around with us in our life. The dust is like sin that sneaks up on us, getting into the cracks of our shoes. The sin is there, but we don't know how long it's been in our life, or how it got there. Mud represents the next sin. We know how it got there; we just didn't watch where we were going. Mud makes a mess. It gets all over us and everything around us. The last sin we can step in is the gum. I hate this more than anything. This sin sticks to you and you have to fight to get it off. Look at your shoes today and see what you have on them. Just remember God is with you and you are standing on Holy Ground.

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start your day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Psalm 54:1-7

Brother Craig

So when was the last time you thanked God for your life? It is rare for you and me to be in positions where we think we may die. For David it was quite another story as there were enemies who wanted to take his life. What do you think you would do if people wanted to hurt you? Here we find David praying and asking God to help him. This is an example of God providing for David and for you and I as well. It is very important that we understand God is watching over us and is providing for our needs. We often get this mixed up when we ask for things we do not need and never get them. God has not said we could not have things we want, but He has said that He would provide what we need. Often our motives for asking God are wrong and our prayers are filled with stuff we do not need. David's prayer about his life being saved makes my request seem very shallow.

As we talk to the Lord today let's try to deepen our conversation with Him by seeking His will. Try to avoid asking for things and focus on following His way. David said Lord keep me. Could we trust Him with those words today and forget about what we think we need and simply rest it in His hands knowing He is able to keep whatever is in His hands.

**Personal Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

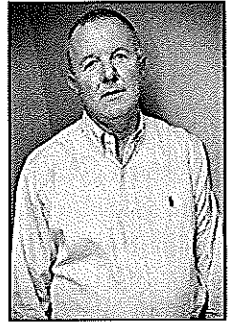
---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Brother Rick

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

Luke 14:16-24

Every fall, in the state of Alabama, college football fans begin to fill the stadium of their favorite team. Tickets can be hard to come by, and very expensive depending on the game. I recently heard about a business man who bought a number of his clients' tickets to a game that included a catered meal. All that was required of the clients was show up at the appointed time and then enjoy the game. Even though the entire game day experience was paid for, there was one client who, without a valid excuse, did not even bother to attend.

While this was rude to say the least, this is a picture of how some people respond to the Gospel. We have all been invited to feast at the Table of Grace that has been prepared by our Lord, but sadly we know not everyone will accept the offer of eternal life by trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The point I want to make today is that while some may reject the invitation, this does not remove our responsibility to, "Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in." Let us use this day to share with someone what our Savior has prepared for all who will come.

Prayer for today: Lord, I accept Your invitation, and may I pass Your invitation on to someone else today.

## Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.



Brother Tim

I John 4:4

Whenever we attempt to make a difference for Christ it will be met with difficulty. Whenever we cross into enemy territory we will draw fire from the army of the adversary. Remember, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4b)

Whenever ministry seems unrewarding and an uphill battle, that is often when you are doing the most good. We can do nothing on our own but through Christ we can overcome the world. Often when we are being "successful" at ministry, we begin to take credit for ourselves. Sometimes we need an attitude adjustment. Persecution and oppression simply causes us to rely even more on Him.

The tree becomes stronger whenever there is drought and whenever the root system is strained for lack of water; the roots are driven deeper into the ground. We too are driven deeper into the ground of God's Word whenever drought and stress afflict us.

If you are being harassed by the enemy, just know that you must be drawing the attention of the enemy. The message we share becomes more fruitful when it is born out of obedience to His Word and suffering for His name.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.

# 12 STEPS TOGETHER



Tracy Wills

**A Fresh Start...** Today is another new day, a day that you want to begin in the right way. Go ahead and start you day off right now by thanking God for your new life, and turning your attention toward Jesus Christ.

**Give it All...** Now that you're focusing on Christ, try to make every part of your day today, a moment that will glorify Him.

John 8:12

Most people do not feel scared or fearful when standing alone in the sunshine of day. Standing alone in the darkness of night has a very different feeling. You could be in the exact same place but the nature of the light and darkness makes your situation feel different. This is true for our physical and spiritual lives as well. In the light of Jesus, our situations do not feel the same as those that are standing in the darkness of his absence. I am thankful that He is the light of the world and that because He lives within me I have the light of life. We are born from the darkness of our mother's womb into the light of the world. That is such a beautiful picture of our salvation. We were all once in the darkness of our sins and when we were reborn as Christians we were delivered into the light of life. In His light we have a choice as to whether or not we allow darkness to creep back into our hearts and lives.

I once had a five year old boy tell me that he would get scared at night because he would see things that scared him when he would close his eyes. After talking to him longer and thinking back to how much he loved video games, I linked the problem to a game the child was playing. It was full of zombies and killing. The child had been allowed to play the game for hours at a time and the damage had been done. From birth we begin with a clean slate brain.... perfect opportunity to not fill our minds with garbage. At a young age, people begin giving us pieces of garbage that we may or may not ask for. It could be something that is scary, vulgar, or just not appropriate. The child's mind could not process the things he had seen in this game because of the darkness of it all. Guard your heart and mind from the things of darkness and let the things of light shine within them.

Personal Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Take Time...** Use this time to talk to God and try hard to dedicate this time to talking with Him about the things He has revealed in your life today.