



*Series Title—Spiritual Growth*  
*Part Three—Calendar Clock Commitment*  
*Matthew 26:40-41*  
*Pastor Dan Turpin      WestCoastChurch.com*

*Objective Sentence: Everyone can grow spiritually by making nine commitments outlined in the Scriptures. [ 1. Where it all begins [2. Give Your Full Attention] [3 Calendar Clock Commitment].*

***In order for you to grow spiritually you must...***

- #1. **Make a Calendar Clock Commitment** (Daily Minimum Prayer Requirement)  
*Matthew 26:40-41 NKJV* Then Jesus came to the disciples and found them sleeping, *and* said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- A. *Pastor Dan:* (1) Prayer is that time we set aside in our lives whereby we nurture relationship with God and allow God to nurture relationship with us. (Prayer is that time that we set aside in our lives and pour our heart out to God and wait in His presence until He pours His heart to us. (*Madame Guyon:* The only way to heaven is prayer).
1. **Prayer is a life; it’s not a luxury** (E.S. Jones)
  - a. *Matthew Henry:* Prayer is the soul’s blood. (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 AMP* Rejoice always and delight in your faith; <sup>17</sup> be unceasing and persistent in prayer; <sup>18</sup> in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.
  - b. *Romans 8:5* Those who live according the flesh set on their minds on the things of the flesh and they who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

- c. *Charles Spurgeon:* We must remember that the goal of prayer is the ear of God. Unless that is gained, the prayer has utterly failed. The uttering of it may have kindled devotional feeling in our minds, the hearing of it may have comforted and strengthened the hearts of those with whom we have prayed, but if the prayer has not gained the heart of God, it has failed in its essential purpose.
  - d. *P.T. Forsyth:* The worst sin is prayerlessness. *C.H. Spurgeon:* Neglected prayer is the birth-place of all evil. *Adam Clarke:* Those who pray not, know nothing of God, and know nothing of the state of their own souls.
  - e. **Proverbs 15:8** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord but the prayer of the upright is His delight.
  - f. *Sadhu Sandar Singh:* Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself.... The true spirit of prayer does not consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with Him. (**John 15:4-5, 7**) *E. M. Bounds:* The purpose of asking is to receive. The aim of seeking is to find. The goal of knocking is to arouse attention and get in. The answer to prayer is the part of prayer that glorifies God. Unanswered prayers are dumb oracles that leave the praying ones in darkness, doubt, and bewilderment. It is the answer that brings glory to God's name. (**1 John 5:14** This is the ....)
2. **Prayer is where everything begins and ends in the Spirit.** *Nothing that God is going to do will happen without prayer* (**Joel 2:28-29** It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (**Acts 2:1-4**) When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord<sup>[a]</sup> in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. **Acts 2:14-15** Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.
- a. *E. Stanley Jones:* If you ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit ... you must offer yourself to Him. You ... cannot ask for the Holy Spirit and not involve the gift of yourself. There is no love between persons unless there is mutual self-surrender. If either withholds the inmost self, love is blocked.
  - b. *Pastor Dan:* Tongues is a supernatural language of prayer enabling you to communicate with God on His level of understanding in Spirit and Truth.
  - c. **Luke 3:15-17** Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or* not, <sup>16</sup> John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire. **John 7:37-38** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and

drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- d. **1 Corinthians 14:4** He or she who speaks in a tongue edifies himself or herself ...)  
**Jude 20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit
- e. *Strongs and Eerdman:* Edify means to build up ... it is used metaphorically in the sense of promoting spiritual growth and the development of character.
- f. *Pastor Dan:* Praying in tongues is one of our offensive spiritual weapons that we have been given to use in warfare against the devil. **Ephesians 6:16-17 NKJV** ... Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God **v 18 NLT** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on all occasions; stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.)
- h. **Ephesians 2:13** For God is working in us giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.
- g. **Romans 8:26-28** The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings and utterances that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that all things work together of good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
- h. **Mark 16:17** These signs shall follow them that believe they will speak with new tongues.

*Closing and Invitation:* Once the Lord spoke to my heart saying, “Whatever is kept alive by prayer will never die. Whatever depends upon prayer for its existence will not die.”

The Lord once gave me this Message in Tongues with the Interpretation, “I have come to smooth out your rough places and I have also come to you to rough up you smooth places. I have come to smooth out your rough places unless you become discouraged and give up. I have come to rough up your smooth places least you become complacent and let up.