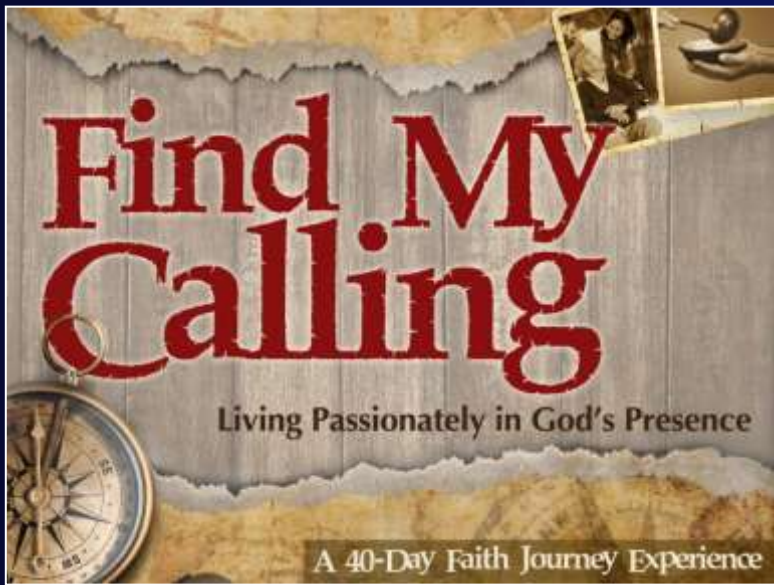


A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE



GROWTH

FIRST MELISSA



January 2014



January 2015



January 2016



January 2017



January 2018

40 Days
of FAITH





January 2019



January 2020



January 2021

**40 Days
of FAITH**



January 2022



During this 40-Day Faith Experience,
First Melissa challenges you to commit to:



GROWTH
FIRST MELISSA

Attend worship each Sunday

Attend a small group

Pray and study every day using the Daily Workbook
Attend Wednesday night 40-Day services each week



Why 40 Days?

The number “forty” + (time period) is mentioned at least 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

It's a number associated with testing and the hardships one must endure to become more spiritually aware.

The Number 40 in the Bible

- It rained for 40 days and nights when God wanted to cleanse the world and start over (Genesis 7:12)
- Noah waited another 40 days after it rained before he opened a window in the Ark (Genesis 8:6)
- Moses met with God on Mount Sinai for 40 days (TWICE) (Exodus 24:18 & 34:28)
- Moses' face shone after 40 days on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 34:29)
- The Israelite spies sent by Moses spent 40 days searching the Promised Land (Numbers 13:25)
- The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness, one year for each day the spies explored the Promised Land (Exodus 16:35, Numbers 14:33-34)

Sources: http://www.40day.com/40_in_the_bible.html and <http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/40.html>



Jesus was tempted in the wilderness

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan [River] and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for **forty days**, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. Luke 4:1–2



Jesus/Yeshua

Our Role Model for 40 Days of FAITH

- **F** Follow the Holy Spirit
- **O** Obey God's Word ("it is written")
- **R** Resist the devil
- **T** Trust in God's goodness
- **Y** Yield to the Father's will



A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE



GROWTH

FIRST MELISSA

What is spiritual growth?

- Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-growth.html>
- Spiritual growth is growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. - <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-is-spiritual-growth-according-to-the-bible/>
- The Bible pictures spiritual growth as a way of increasing beauty and purity in the lives of God's children. The object of the Christian's life is no longer himself, but the Lord Jesus Christ! - <https://www.biblword.net/what-is-spiritual-growth/>
- The life of God in us must grow and increase. This is true spiritual growth. - <https://blog.biblesforamerica.org/what-is-christian-growth/>



Our Prayer...

Our church family will
grow as disciples of Jesus.

How can we accomplish that?

Colossians 1



For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

Colossians 1:9 (HCSB)



40 DAYS THEME VERSE

so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and **growing** in the knowledge of God Colossians 1:10 (HCSB)



How do true disciples of Jesus live?

Colossians 1:10

- 1) walk worthy of the Lord
- 2) fully pleasing to Him
- 3) bearing fruit in every good work
- 4) **growing** in the knowledge of God



GROWTH – Teachings for 40 Days

- G
- R
- O
- W
- T
- H



GROWTH – Teachings for 40 Days

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R
- O
- W
- T
- H



Our Father **GIVES** us all we need

People are tempted to worship the gods of the world because they wonder what those idols could **give** them.

We are always looking for someone or something to **give** us meaning in life.



Our Father **GIVES** us all we need

Spiritual growth involves serving God faithfully with what we DO have.

We cannot grow spiritually if we are always longing for what we DON'T have.



The Bible teaches that the
Heavenly Father is a

GIVER



Biblical words for “give” and “gift”

- נָתַן *natan* Hebrew verb
- δόμα *doma* Greek noun
- χάρισμα *charisma* Greek noun
- δώρημα *dorema* Greek noun
- προσδίδωμι *epididomi* Greek verb
- δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb
- χαρίζομαι *charizomai* Greek verb

Where do good GIFTS come from?

Every good thing **given** [δόσις *dosis*

Greek noun] and every perfect **gift**

[δώρημα *dorema* Greek noun] is from

above, coming down from the Father of

lights, with whom there is no variation

or shifting shadow. James 1:17



Q: If a relationship with the Heavenly Father through Jesus the Messiah offers us THIS, why do we constantly seek THAT?

A: Because our culture and the enemy of God have convinced us that walking with Jesus ROBBS us or PREVENTS us instead of GIVING us EVERY GOOD THING.



Will the Heavenly GIVER listen to me?

Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be **given**

[δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8



What kind of GIVER is the Lord?

Jesus said, “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will **give** [προσδίδωμι *epididomi* Greek verb] him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not **give** [προσδίδωμι *epididomi* Greek verb] him a snake, will he?”

Matthew 7:9-10



What kind of GIVER is the Lord?

Jesus said, “If you then, being evil, know how to **give** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] good **gifts** [δόμα *doma* Greek noun] to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven **give** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] what is good to those who ask Him!” Matthew 7:11



How do I connect with the GIVER?

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7



What does the GIVER know?

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9



The GIVER has purposes for His GIFTS

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11



Experience the Presence of the GIVER

“For you will go out with **joy** and be led forth with **peace**; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of **joy** before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12



What GIFTS is God able to give us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely **give** [χαρίζομαι *charizomai* Greek verb] us all things? Romans 8:32



What GIFTS is God able to give us?

God the Heavenly Father wants His children to learn and grow and become more like Jesus.

The Righteous God cannot give anything that contradicts His holy nature or character or Word.

As the Source of Truth God cannot lie or deceive or mislead.



How do we know what GIFT to ask for?

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who **gives** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to all generously and without reproach, and it will be **given** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to him.

James 1:5



What GIFT is the key to all other GIFTS?

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself **gives** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to all people life and breath and all things; Acts 17:24-25



What GIFTS demonstrate my heart?

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will **give** [נָתַן *natan* Hebrew verb] you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

*Once my heart has been changed by Jesus, my desires and requests begin to change.



What GIFT do we all desperately need?

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I **give** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to you; not as the world **gives** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] do I **give** [δίδωμι *didomi* Greek verb] to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” John 14:27



What is God's most important GIFT?

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** [χάρισμα charisma, Greek noun] of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23



What does God **GIVE** His children?

- Every perfect gift (James 1:17)
- What is good (Matthew 7:11)
- All things (Romans 8:32)
- Wisdom (James 1:5)
- Life and breath and all things (Acts 17:25)
- The desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4)
- Peace (John 14:27)
- Eternal life (Romans 6:23)



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Our Father **GIVES** us all we need

so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and

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Colossians 1:10

