

2021

Year of Distinction

When you are marked with distinction, it means "excellence" has set you apart from others. It's not a prideful point of view, but a knowing inside that you were born for a greater purpose. As I was reading an event about the military transport ship, SS Dorchester, I came across the story of four outstanding Chaplains. As the Dorchester was hit by a torpedo and going down, these four Chaplains were assisting the soldiers with getting off the ship, helping them with life jackets, even giving up their own. The four stood together as ONE, knowing the ship was about to sink, yet appearing brave and confident for the young men watching. In the 1940's when denominations and races were segregated, these chaplains chose to set the example onboard and became friends. They knew if they were going to be victorious, they had to learn to work together. The young men were convinced there was something different about their bond of friendship. When it was time for the chaplains to sacrifice their lives for the sake of these young men, it was already set in their hearts what they must do.

In a documentary, survivors shared the amazing dedication of these four Chaplains. One said, "They lite the way for a New Kind of America". Is it time once again to "light" a new way?

We at Agape, SLO and Agape, Nakuru would like to begin our new year in pursuit of what the Lord has for our Churches, our Communities and our Nations. We are setting aside 21 days of Focused Prayer and Fasting, with ONE purpose in mind, to get the Heart of God.

Prayer & Fasting: As you prepare for these 21 days of separation, determine a quiet place and time where you can pray and spend time with the Lord. What you choose to Fast is between you and the Lord. "Sacrifice" means something different to each individual. We believe the Lord will make it clear.

Join us as we begin our journey as ONE body on Monday, January 4, 2020:

Day 1 - January 4, 2021
Healing of our Nations

Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The healing of any Nation is connected to the people of God turning from evil, repenting, and seeking the face of God.

Prayer Focus: Father help us to be Christians who portray your qualities and heal our land.

Day 2 - January 5, 2021
Cleanse our Nation in Preparation for Revival

Verse: Jeremiah 1:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹⁻¹⁰ Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."

The cleansing of our nations and our churches starts with us declaring God's Word and watching Him move.

Prayer Focus: Father cleanse our nations and our churches in preparation for revival, in the Name of Jesus.

Day 3 - January 6, 2021

Humility

Verse: Matthew 23:12 (NLT)

¹²But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

God is calling His people to a posture of humility. He wants us to truly humble ourselves before Him. If you have walked with the Lord for any length of time, then chances are you have been humbled by Him in some way. When God chooses to humble us it doesn't feel good, in fact a lot of times it hurts. In life it can be easier to have God knock us down a few pegs than for us to take it upon ourselves and completely surrender to Him and make the change.

This year God is calling on His beloved children to do hard things! He is asking us to set ourselves apart and completely surrender before Him. He is calling His children to a place of utter and complete Humility. He is asking us to choose to put Him above our own self importance, above every self created idol, and to truly die to our flesh. He wants us to see that pride has gotten the Church where it is and only when we fully surrender and humble ourselves before Him will we be free to move forward into the blessing He has for us.

Prayer Focus: Heavenly Father we thank You for the work You have done and continue to do in our lives. Lord, forgive us for allowing pride to come into our hearts and squeeze out the goodness of Your faithfulness and love. Guide us today as we choose to get to the end of ourselves, to surrender everything we are and everything we hope to be. Help us move beyond and surrender our self righteousness, our self importance, our idols, and the need to see ourselves exalted. Help us to see that pride is what is keeping us from the blessings you have for us. Today we choose to humble ourselves before you. We choose to lay it all down and follow you. We thank you God for your mercy and grace. We pray these things in Jesus mighty name, amen.

Day 4 - January 7, 2021
Fire Power

Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:1 (NIV)

¹ “When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.”

We read in James 5:16 that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. Don't we all want our prayers to make a difference? We want to pray and see change in our lives and the lives of others, complete overhaul in situations small and global. We want to see God move. If we are people of faith, one of the most powerful ways to see God move is through prayer. After King Solomon built the opulent temple as a place for the Lord to dwell and the people to worship, he gathered all of the people together to celebrate in epic fashion. Solomon prayed a prayer of praise and promise, dedicating the temple and the people. When he was done, fire fell from Heaven and filled the temple. God's presence was so thick, that the priests couldn't even enter. Let us dedicate ourselves - the temples in which He now dwells - to our God and watch Him fill us with a consuming fire. Want to make a difference? - let Him fill you with His fire.

Prayer Focus: God, when I pray, I want Your glory to come. I want Your fire to fall. I want Heaven to be made known on Earth as a result of my prayers so that people see You and know You and love You. May Your glory fill me - Your temple. May Your fire consume me, burning away the chaff and making me shine brightly with the glory of God. May “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.” Amen.

Day 5 - January 8, 2021 Truth

Verses: 1 John 1:6-7 (NIV)

⁶⁻⁷ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son purifies us from all sin.

Truth brings to light, illuminates, and clarifies that which is and cannot be denied. As opposed to a lie, which hides in darkness and disguises the truth.

Prayer Focus: Father, we ask you to reveal truth from Your word and shed light on areas that hinder our relationship with You. As we walk in the light, we trust your purpose for Agape will be revealed for 2021.

Day 6 - January 9, 2021 Will You Rise Up?

Verse: Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

As people of God, it is time for us to wake up from this "worldly slumber" that we have found ourselves in. Children of God, it is time to take a stand, no longer should we "blend in" with society. We were not called to be comfortable. The Lord has called us to rise up and be greater. Let us stop putting other things before God and sincerely seek Him for what He wants us to do. Let us set the standard for our society and be who God has called us to be. **WILL YOU RISE UP?**

Prayer Focus: Lord God, we ask You today for Your Holy Spirit to consume us like never before. Help us to get our own agendas out of Your way so that You can do what only You can do for Your people. Help us to see with our spiritual eyes and not our natural eyes or things etched in our brains by the world. Please let Your fire fall upon Your people today God. We will no longer accept the things of the world, we will no longer run, hide or take cover. Instead, we will start making spiritual sacrifices and decisions to better the Kingdom, our lives, and the world that we live in. Help us to be bold in You like never before, in the **MIGHTY NAME OF JESUS!** We need You God and we need You **NOW!**

Day 7 - January 10, 2021 Praying in Tongues

Verse: 1 Corinthians 14:2 (AMP)

² For one who speaks in a unknown tongue does not speak to people but to God; for no one understands him or catches his meaning, but by the Spirit he speaks mysteries [secret truths, hidden things].

When we pray in tongues our spirit is praying the perfect will of God (Romans 8:26-27). God our Father is a spirit so when we pray we are praying spirit to spirit. We do not understand in the natural what we are praying but God does. This then

through the leading of the Holy Spirit equips us with heavenly wisdom, understanding, discernment and direction in the natural. This is especially important in the times we are living not only do we need these things in our own lives but also for the church.

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit teach me to be more obedient and consistent to pray in tongues. (Set aside 5-10 minutes daily praying in tongues).

Day 8 - January 11, 2021 Find Your Place and Find Your Purpose

Verse: Ephesians 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

God has a plan for each of us. We are uniquely made and handcrafted by the Master Builder. We are to ask, seek and knock till God reveals His plans and purposes for our life. He has equipped each of us with gifts and talents in various capacities so we can be fitly joined together like a puzzle with each of us functioning in our talents at Agape and beyond. God wants and needs us to be healed so we can be used by Him to heal others. Dig deep in 2021 so God can use us to rescue others. The Master is calling and He has need of you.

Prayer Focus: Father we humbly come before Your throne of grace acknowledging that You are the potter and we are the clay. We know that we fall short but we also know that you are a loving, merciful and forgiving High Priest that has destined us for greatness. We ask Heavenly Father in Jesus name through the power of the Holy Spirit that You help us in 2021 to find the specific places, purposes, people and assignments You have for us this year. We welcome your correction, instruction and reproof so we can arise and build.

Day 9 - January 12, 2021 Greater Love

Verse: John 15:13 (BSB)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Most of us will not be required to lay down our life for a friend. However, Christ tells us what a great showing of love this is and He demonstrated this by laying down His life for each of us. Let us display the love of Christ by our actions towards others.

Prayer Focus: Lord God, as we begin a New Year, may we allow the example Christ set when He laid down His life to be a guide for us. Help us to put the needs of others before our own in obedience to your Word. We know that loving others pleases You and will result in blessings from on high. As the death of Christ ushered in the Holy Spirit, may our loving one another bring an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Body of Christ.

Day 10 - January 13, 2021 Covenant

Verse: 1 Samuel 18:3 (ESV)

³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

Covenant is a strong and binding agreement between two parties that involves the making of promises with practical applications. Covenants are not easily broken and they are intended to last for generations. There are two types of covenants: between God and men and between man and man.

Prayer Focus: Lord, You have given us a beautiful example of a covenant relationship in the account of Jonathan and David, Their mutual agreement was based out of the love they had for one another. So, Lord, in this New Year, we ask for a fresh and new impartation of Your love into our hearts. We want to love one another as You have loved us. Lead us to those that we are to enter into enduring covenant relationships with and that will help us walk into the destiny You have for us. In Jesus name we pray, amen!

Day 11 - January 14, 2021 Mastering Your Emotions

Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ASV)

⁵casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

If we want to win in life, we must master our emotions. The strategy of the enemy is to try to get us to be moved by our emotions, instead of only being moved by the Word of God. Our emotions are controlled by what we think. We have to SPEAK OUT LOUD immediately to those thoughts or imaginations and cast them down. We can't fight thoughts with thoughts. We must fight thoughts with words. We must keep God's Word before our eyes and make the choice if we are going to win in our thought life.

Prayer Focus: Father God, I thank you that I have authority over the enemy and my thought life. Satan, my mind is off limits to you. I am mighty through God and I pull down every stronghold in my mind that does not agree with your Word. I uproot every thought and SPEAK OUT LOUD what your Word says about every situation. Glory to God, I have victory in every area of my life. I declare that the power of life is in my Words and I speak your Word only.

Day 12 - January 15, 2021 The Fullness of Identity

Verse: Matthew 16:15 (AMP)

¹⁵ He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

What makes the Lord's question to his disciples of the utmost importance? It is this: The key to the identity of Jesus, in turn, unlocks the key to our identity and seals the Truth in agreement before God. We are the sons of God, being transformed into the image of the Son of God. We are one with Him.

Who do you say that YOU are? How much in agreement is your confession with the Word of God? Jesus kept very active in His constant confession of who He was and what His God-given purpose was on the earth. His identity and purpose, constantly kindled and stoked into fire, compelled and propelled Jesus to move in the flow of God's Spirit where He was being who He was and doing what He was sent to do. This 2021, as we fast and pray for God to move, let Him move on a Body that is to

confess God's vision of who you are in His Word over yourselves and each other to build yourselves up into the Truth of who you really are! All of creation is groaning even now as it is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God. You are the ones that will free creation from its bondage to decay. You will call Life into dead things.

Prayer Focus: Father, in this new year, we declare in agreement with your Word, that we are the sons of God being revealed to serve you and this dying world to see your salvation and your longing heart for those lost and wandering without the Shepherd. Let us be as Jesus, His identity fully realized in us, and us flowing in His victorious life as we do what we see Him doing and say what we hear Him saying. For your glory, Father, let the glory of Jesus truly be revealed in us and through us to a world truly searching for what it does not know. Let the world find you through your sons, AMEN.

Day 13 - January 16, 2021 Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding

Verses: Proverbs 2:1-5 (CSB)

¹⁻⁵ "My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, listen closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding; furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God."

These are 3 things that are vital in life. Whether you turn on the TV look on social media, someone or something is always trying to give you its version of these things. It's important especially in these times that we are careful where the "source" of these things is coming from. We need to be careful about what words and voices we are letting into our lives; which "commandments" we are adhering to. We need to know HIS voice and with that become and remain attentive to His words. Let's go after what He is saying and build our lives on solid foundations.

Prayer Focus: God, we are thankful that we are in You and You are in us. We know that in You is all wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Everything we could ever possibly need in this life is in You. May we continue to grow and continue to pursue grace and wisdom. We pray that our knowledge and understanding of You increase in these days we're in, and for the days that are to come, In Jesus name. Amen.

Day 14 - January 17, 2021
Stand Strong with Courage

Verse: 1 Chronicles 28:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God - my God - will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.

King David, a mighty man of God as we have read in God's Word, depended on God as a teenager, killing a lion, a bear and Goliath. He was encouraging his son Solomon, not to be discouraged or dismayed. He tried to assure Solomon that he was able to do the work of building the temple, as long as he acknowledged God and served him whole heartedly. I want to encourage and exhort you to put God first even in your difficult times. Be set apart. Maybe you are asking, how do I do that? Strive everyday to read your bible, pray, seek, wait and listen for God's direction. Solomon needed his father to come along side of him and speak into his life. It's God's desire to be with you, to encourage you to go forward. Be strong and courageous. Years ago, in my time with the Lord, one morning I heard, "We need Jesus and each other", so powerfully. So I'm encouraging us to go forward together. Go higher in the things of God in this new exciting year.

Prayer Focus: Dear Lord, I acknowledge I need your help to place the courage to carry out my new assignments from you with excellence and with a thankful heart. Amen

Day 15 - January 18, 2021
Forgiveness

Verses: Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)

¹²⁻¹³ Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

The act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. To forgive means to pardon; spare someone. To relieve someone of the burden of their offense.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."

The forgiveness we are called to extend to others in verse 13 flows from the Fruit of the Spirit described in verse 12.

Prayer Focus: Father we pray this year we will be fruitful in forgiveness, letting go of our anger, grudges and offenses. We pray that we will be able to forgive quickly so that Your grace and mercy in us will flow like rivers of living water, constantly. In Jesus name.

Day 16 - January 19, 2021 Raise Up A Mighty Move of God's Spirit at Agape

Verse: Acts 2:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Book of Acts, Kingdom Message, 2nd Pentecost, New Wine Skins

Prayer Focus: Dear Father God, thank you for forgiving us of all our sins, for our complacency and focus on our world. We pray that the heavens open up over Agape, that the Holy Spirit be renewed in us, that You manifest Your Spirit with healings, deliverances and lives changed. We thank You that You pour out your Spirit onto all flesh, that we see a mighty move of Your Spirit in our congregations. Lord, thank You that You prepare us and Agape for this great move. You knew us in our mother's womb and thank You for each one of us accomplishing our destiny.

Day 17 - January 20, 2021 Unity

Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

Unity is the state of being united or joined as a whole. Being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord of one mind. Unity gives us courage, power and strength. Unity always supports and helps. If anyone works alone, there can be a chance of defeat. But through team work, chances of success increase. We can accomplish so much on our own, but together we can create a movement that brings tangible change and a future of hope.

Prayer Focus: Lord in 2020 we had so much division in our Churches, families and community, due to Covid-19. We ask that you surround this country and cover us with Your mighty hand. We pray for unity in our land. In spite of our differences, in 2021, help us to be willing to stand strong together and live out our days with compassion and grace. We will walk in the authority You have given us. United we stand, divided we fall.

Day 18 - January 21, 2021 Prepare and Strengthen Your Nets

Verse: Matthew 9:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Jesus went out proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God - God's outstretched arms (Isaiah 65:2) - healing every disease and affliction. When He saw the crowds HE HAD COMPASSION on them because they were harassed and helpless...Then He said to His disciples, the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out..."

Ready yourselves to give an answer, to explain the Hope within you (1 Peter 3:15).

Prayer Focus: Here I am, Lord! Send me according to Your pleasure. 1) Give me Your Heart for the lost, 2) I repent/rid me of the blocks that hinder, 3) Teach me to be a skillful fisherman. Lord's response: Come my children, take my yoke (of training) upon you (afresh) and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble of heart (I will lead you)...Come let Me show you their condition - have My Compassion...

Day 19 - January 22, 2021

Be Courageous

Verse: John 16:33 (AMP)

³³ I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world." [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

"Unprecedented" is an adjective used hundreds of times in the media over the past 12 months to describe 2020. It has been a year like NO OTHER! Almost every arena of society has been in turmoil this year - socially, politically, medically and spiritually. We have all watched the polarization of people around us as the pressures from the issues facing us challenge our loyalties and core values. The world has changed in 2020. Like never before, the warning Jesus gave His disciples 2000 years ago seems so relevant right now. He said in John 16:33 Amp, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace. In the world you have tribulation, and distress and suffering..."

The Greek word for tribulation is thlipis - pressure, oppression, stress, crushing and squashing. The Word is used for crushing grapes for juice or olives for oil. It is an outward physical force pressing down upon us to squeeze out anything it can. Like never before, I have felt my joy, purpose and peace being tested this year - with times of confusion and even discouragement. I've seen friends going through difficult health issues as well as financial and family challenges. It's been difficult to watch. But there is hope!

Jesus finishes His declaration by promising, "be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world. My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding." John 16:33. Wow, what a promise!

Prayer Focus: Heavenly Father, You said in Your Word that, "No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken or enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word - He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you (me) be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He has in the past and is now and will always, provide the way out as well, so that you will be able to endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].

1 Cor. 10:13 Thank you for courage and boldness to make a stand for truth and love in this season! Thank you for the power of Your Holy Spirit in my life as He matures and strengthens me to be faithful to my commitments and to use my gifts for God's Glory. Thank you for the grace to walk in victory in my life, Amen!

Day 20 - January 23, 2021 Magnify the Lord

Verse: Psalm 34:3 (NKJV)

³ "O' magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

The word magnify means literally "to make great", and then to make great in the view of the mind, or to regard and treat as great. All of life rests on our soul's response to God. Are we minimizing Him? Or are we magnifying Him?

Prayer Focus: Father God, we're so thankful that in the mist of last year's calamities, trials, losses, danger and sorrows, we still call You our healer, deliver, provider, protector and for all these things we magnify Your great name.

Day 21 - January 24, 2021 One Thing

Verses: Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

⁴²⁻⁴⁷ They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

When I dream about the future of Agape, I dream about the church described in this passage. This church was alive. This church was a vibrant and connected body of believers. This church was filled with faith, hope, and love. This church was dedicated to the Lord and to one another. This church was powerful. This church

enjoyed serving and working together. This church was fruitful and growing. This church was having fun. This church didn't depend on buildings, political climate, or production value. This church focused on a few simple things that everyone could join. This church shared meals together: they invited each other over for dinner and fellowship. This church shared ministry together: they prayed, they were devoted to Scripture, and they sang praises to God. This church shared mission together: they gave to those in need, they preached the Gospel, and they saw many signs and wonders. That is my dream for Agape.

Prayer Focus: Heavenly Father, we see your vision for the New Testament Church! Mold us into a local church that looks and feels like what we read in the book of Acts. Help us grow in the Spirit and the simple disciplines of the early church, so that we may become the kind of people who can consistently announce, embody, and demonstrate the kingdom of God. Show me one thing I can start doing today to bring us closer to this reality. In Jesus' Name, Amen!