

*“Pensées” is French for thoughts, reflections or meditations. In this case, poetry for the soul that not only informs, but forms. This collection of “pensées” are intended to be encouragement for the pastor as he or she begins their day.*

## **Pensées: A 40-Day Devotional for Pastors**

By D. Alan Baker

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# Pensées

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A 40-DAY DEVOTIONAL FOR PASTORS

D. ALAN BAKER

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First Edition

## CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	1
ONE THING .....	5
FIRST THINGS FIRST .....	9
DROUGHT FREE.....	11
THE SAME GRACE.....	13
GOD’S WORK, GOD’S SUPPLY.....	15
TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY .....	17
FOR THE LONG HAUL.....	19
PEBBLES .....	21
SHEPHERD OF SOULS .....	23
SEASONS.....	25
MUTUAL INVESTMENT MINISTRY.....	29
THE AUDIENCE OF ONE .....	31
THE WEIGHT OF GLORY .....	35
AMERICAN IDOLATRY .....	37
SNEAK ATTACK.....	39
FORWARD & BACKWARD.....	43
OUR FIRST AND GREATEST CARE.....	45
HEAD BOWED, HEART HUMBLE.....	47
COMMUNITY.....	49

MISTAKEN IDENTITY .....	51
PLAN A.....	53
OUR NEED FOR PLEADERS .....	55
BUT GOD .....	59
SOUND MINISTRY.....	63
UNDERSHEPHERDS .....	67
DEAD RELIGION.....	69
HIM.....	71
DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL .....	73
GRACE & GRATITUDE.....	77
TRIAL BY FIRE.....	79
GOD OF WONDERS .....	83
PASTOR-FOR-LIFE.....	85
DEATH BY ISOLATION.....	89
UNDERSHEPHERDS OF JESUS.....	91
GOD YEARNS.....	93
TRUTH ON FIRE.....	97
WHO WE ARE.....	101
THE GREATER PURPOSE.....	103
LIVING PARABLES OF JESUS .....	105
TRUE PASTORAL PRIVILEGE .....	107
MORE .....	111
A FILLED-UP SOUL .....	113
REFERENCES .....	115
ABOUT JOURNEY PASTORAL COACHING.....	117

## — Day 3 —

### THE SAME GRACE

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy, my true child in the faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” 1 Timothy 1.1-2*

#### *PENSÉE: GRACE*

Do you preach grace, Pastor? And do you preach it not only to others but to yourself?

Grace is what brought Jesus into the world, angels announcing His coming as “Good News”: “God News,” for all people. Grace is the God News that, though we are sinners, we can be reconciled to God. Grace promised in a manger. Grace delivered on a Cross.

Let us preach that grace – passionately, tenderly, even urgently. Let us extend to people God’s promise that whatever they have done, they can come home to Him.

Don’t make the mistake of assuming this offer of grace means overlooking sin. Not at all! How can it be grace unless the subject is also sin! If we are sin-free, we do not need grace, but because we are born sinners and are sinners saved by grace, we need grace not only at salvation but all the days of our salvation until we meet the Savior. Pastor, preach grace.

But don't only preach it in word. Preach it in heart and deed. How? First, be gracious, allowing God's grace to flow through you to others. Second, be grateful, letting God's praise flow from your heart to His. A gracious and grateful life is the evidence of grace at work in us.

Finally, let grace work in you. Let the grace you preach to others be your own possession and ongoing experience. Don't live only as a vessel of grace to others, but let that grace work in you. Let it comfort you when you are hurting. Let it forgive and cleanse you when you sin. Let it give you hope when you see no future. Let it convince you of God's love when you would condemn yourself for your past. Even more for your present.

Over the years, if you will let it, grace will be your best friend. And what a wonderful friend it is. It will continually identify your sins, not to condemn but to convict, cut away, and give you life in its place. God's grace will go to the same sins it has dealt with dozens of times and deal with them still again, because God is relentlessly working to renew you in Jesus, even in the most challenging areas of your heart. By God's grace, even in these places, Christ will reign!

Finally, grace is not about becoming comfortable with sin. It is about becoming comfortable with God's process of sanctification. Yes, you and I sin, but no, we are not failures; we are children of God, and our loving Heavenly Father is disciplining us for our good.

Over the years, as grace does its work, we come to embrace it for its sanctifying and satisfying work. We are sinners saved by grace, in constant need of a Savior. And it's ok. More than that, it's a wonder. It's good news! It's Immanuel, God with us.

*“A pastor needs the same grace he offers his people. He needs the same Gospel.” Le Prédicateur<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>3</sup> Journey Pastoral Coaching, Copyright © 2021

## **ABOUT JOURNEY PASTORAL COACHING**

Studies demonstrate that one of the healthiest habits any minister can have is walking with a mentor or pastoral coach. This is especially true for young ministers. Journey Pastoral Coaching is dedicated to helping young ministers build strong for a lifetime of healthy and effective ministry. Yes, we help them survive, but more than that, we help them thrive.

While other great coaching ministries focus on leadership skills or church growth, Journey focuses on the minister him or herself. Doing flows from being, so we talk first and most about being. We're convinced that as we build the minister, we build the ministry – and we do so for a lifetime of healthy and effective ministry.

Journey's approach is unique. Our members walk with a mentor who helps them develop depth as they benefit from the wisdom that only comes through experience. But JPC is more than a regularly scheduled call with a mentor. It is a coaching community in which members invest in each other through peer calls, resourcing, and offering pastoral care to one other. Our members make Journey a "mutual investment ministry," one that yields huge dividends.

Journey's approach is also unique in that our members do not pay for coaching; they "earn" it. They earn it by investing in each other as described above. Why do we take an "earn your coaching" rather than a "pay for it" approach? There are three primary reasons.

First, young ministers most want and need pastoral coaching but can least afford the expense. The early years of ministry often include



substantial student loan debt and entry-level salaries. So, rather than add to their burden, we remove it by providing mentorship and coaching without financial cost.

Second, churches served by young ministers can also find the cost prohibitive. While some churches are unwilling to invest in the lives and ministries of their young pastors, most churches want to steward them well but often do not have the financial resources.

Finally, the church at large faces a great leadership challenge in that the pulpit is aging at an alarming rate. Many young ministers find the stresses of vocational ministry overwhelming. Without the support of a mentor or coach, they give up and walk away. We at Journey believe God has called us to address this great need in the church.

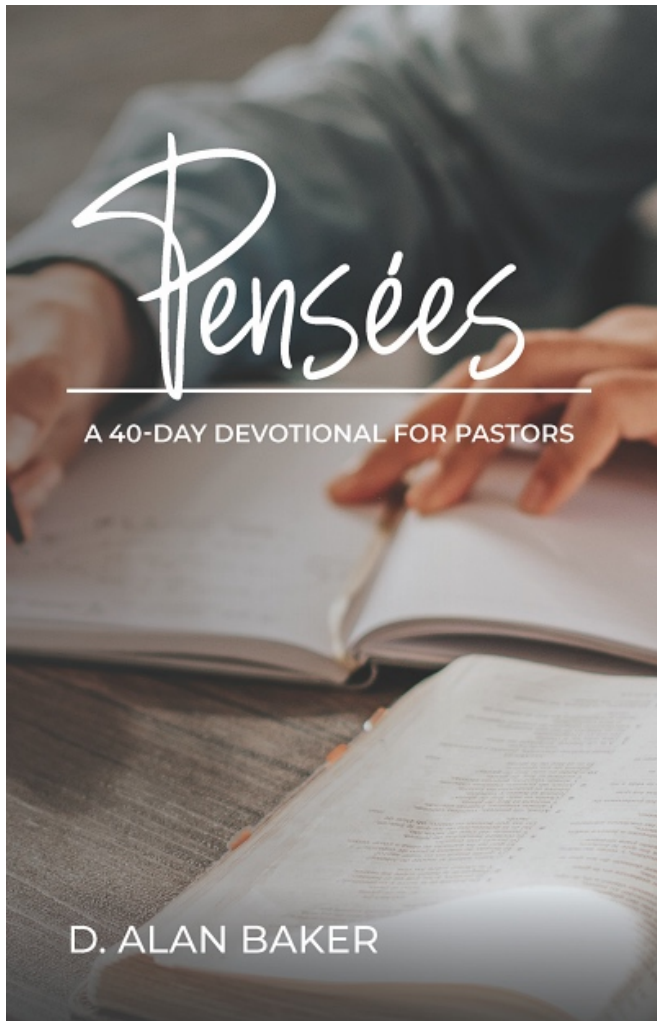
By providing “no-financial-cost” coaching to young ministers, we believe we are providing a needed service to young pastors, local churches, and the church at large.

We at Journey are able to carry out our mission thanks to the faithful generosity of our partners, churches, and individuals like you who support Journey with prayer and finances each month or with special one-time gifts.

At Journey, we help young ministers build strong for a lifetime of healthy and effective ministry. We invite you to become a part of their success story by becoming a Journey Partner.

For more information, please visit our website.





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